

Blueprint

SILVERTHORNE

12,777'
8,730'

Parks, Open Space & Trails Master Plan Update 2014



Introductory Remarks

The Town of Silverthorne has been making big strides lately. With the recent adoption of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan (“Blueprint Silverthorne”) and its focus on revitalization of the Town’s downtown core, there is a sense of renewed vigor and community spirit. Recreation can play an important role in supporting this revitalization. For those who live here, recreation, culture, and the outdoor lifestyle are part of the community fabric. The Town has nurtured this through the development of its high-quality parks, open spaces, and trails. The Town has also recognized that its recreational resources appeal to a wider audience—including the many visitors who come to Silverthorne for its many shopping options and events. It is this recognition, above all, that shapes this Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan. It is the recognition that through the support of high-quality recreational resources that first-and-foremost meet the needs of locals, new opportunities can be realized that benefit all who come to the Town of Silverthorne whether to live, work, stay or play.



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1. Introduction

Purpose of the POST Master Plan

Parks and recreation, spending time outdoors, incredible scenic views, and family atmosphere are all integral to life in the Town of Silverthorne (Silverthorne or Town). They are the reasons why many people move here, choose to visit, or buy second homes here. Especially in its recent history, parks, open space and trails have shaped the Town's physical form, identity and quality of life.

The Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan is the Town's guide for future investment in parks, open space and trails. A detailed inventory of current facilities provides a snapshot of what exists today and how those resources are serving the present-day population. Analysis of those resources, coupled with current trends and desires, reveals opportunities that may improve service levels and the ability of the Town to recapture the costs of providing outstanding facilities and programs to its residents. Lastly, the POST Master Plan includes goals, recommendations and guidelines that will guide decision-makers to invest in projects that meet the community's vision for parks, open space and trails in Silverthorne.

Why Update?

The last POST Master Plan was adopted in 2001. Much has been accomplished in the last thirteen years, and much has also changed. Our nation has only recently emerged from an economic recession that had palpable impacts on public investment, particularly on parks and recreation resources. New trends in sports and recreation have emerged that didn't exist at the time the last plan was written. In addition, the population has changed; new residents and families have

moved in, ages and demographics have changed, and overall needs and priorities are different than they were in 2001.

The POST Master Plan is a supporting document to the Town of Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan: Blueprint Silverthorne. The two documents work in tandem to promote parks, open space and trails resources that, first and foremost, serve local residents and add to Silverthorne's quality of life. Updated earlier in 2014, the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan also identified the role of those resources in sustaining local businesses and Silverthorne's economy by drawing in residents of greater Summit County and tourists. The POST Master Plan further explored those opportunities with the community and includes recommendations that meet both objectives.

What Makes this Update Unique?

With new trends in activities and sports, there are also new trends in how communities view parks, open space and trails resources. This is especially true in mountain communities where effective populations are much larger than simply their year-round residents. This presents challenges in providing excellent services, but also opportunities. Parks and recreation can serve to draw people into a community, for specific activities and events that cost money to participate in, or for activities that are free but encourage people to spend time in-town at restaurants and shops.

The Town of Silverthorne strives to provide outstanding parks, open space and trails to its residents. The Town also realizes the potential economic development benefits that may come from drawing in visitors, and that those benefits can help offset the cost of providing resources and facilities

to locals. This plan addresses those opportunities and the implications of embarking on such an approach.

Public Engagement

First and foremost the Town of Silverthorne's parks, open space and trails must serve the community. As such, this master planning process included extensive public engagement, to insure that the community's opinions are heard and needs are addressed. The following summarizes the various aspects of the public engagement process undertaken to support the development of the POST Master Plan.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE (JUNE 26)

The public open house was met with enthusiasm from the Town of Silverthorne community. The open house was part of the second annual "Family Fun Night" at Rainbow Park, held on Thursday, June 26, 2014. Overall, approximately 120 people of all ages participated. Participants discussed existing conditions and future opportunities for parks, open space and trails by participating in a green dot exercise in which participants used green dots to show support for a project or activity, or by drawing typical travel routes on a large floor aerial map of the Town.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP (JULY 14)

The public workshop was held on Monday, July 14, 2014. Approximately 50 Town of Silverthorne residents and non-residents attended the workshop to give input on parks, open space and trails improvements. The workshop was the culmination of the initial information gathering phase for the POST Master Plan. Major themes discussed were the great outdoors, public places, sports and athletics, new trends, water, and connectivity and trails. Potential opportunities were also presented to the community for discussion.

SPANISH OUTREACH

A number of community groups and organizations were contacted during the POST Master Plan process for their perspective and vision for the Town of Silverthorne's parks, open space and trails. One group that represents a significant portion of the Town's population (28 percent) is the Latino community. A number of avenues were used to reach out and inform the Latino populations about the public events

and community survey. Informational flyers were translated into Spanish, which were posted at the Town of Silverthorne Recreation Center, Town Hall, and the Pavilion, and handed out at Rainbow Park soccer fields. A translator was also available for questions at the June Open House and July Workshop. In addition, announcements were placed in weekly bulletins to spread the word at Our Lady of Peace Church and the Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witnesses, and sent through their email lists to get the word out.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Thirty-five stakeholder interviews were conducted with various agencies, homeowners associations, community groups, sports clubs, and individuals, including the following:

- » Representatives of the skateboarding community
- » Summit County Pickleball Club and representatives of the pickleball community
- » Representatives of the tennis community
- » League for Animal & People of the Summit (LAPS)
- » Summit Biking Association
- » Maverick Sports
- » Summit Fat Tire Society
- » Representatives of the Nordic skiing community at the Raven Golf Course
- » Raven Golf Club at Three Peaks
- » Silvana's Community Garden
- » Continental Divide Land Trust
- » Summit Stix Lacrosse Club
- » Summit County Youth Baseball
- » High Country Soccer Association
- » Cutthroat Anglers
- » Trout Unlimited
- » Americans with Disabilities/NorthWest Colorado Center for Independence
- » Blue River Ball Fields/Metropolitan Denver Water Authority
- » Silverthorne Elementary School
- » South Maryland Creek Ranch
- » South Forty
- » Blue River Valley Ranch Lake Association
- » Town of Silverthorne Economic Development Advisory Council
- » U.S. Forest Service
- » Town Staff (Facilities Manager/Director, Senior Equipment Operator, Lead Park Maintenance)



accessible wilderness **art in the park**

walkable downtown **indoor activities**

stewardship partnerships

safe crossings of Hwy 9 locals-serving

protect the watershed

family outdoor playground
farmers market

views

wildlife

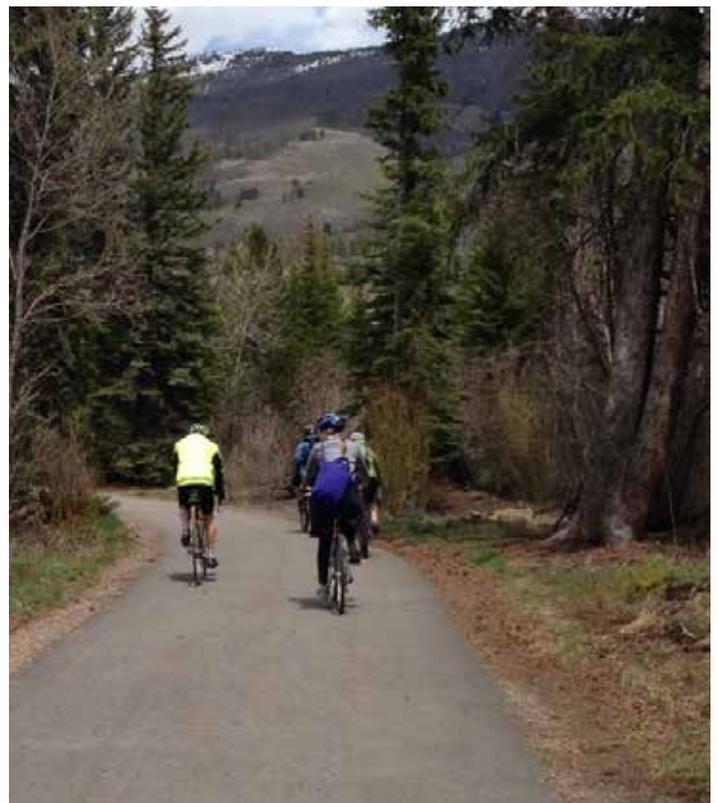
education

complement
Downtown **plaza**

affordable
year-round
tourism
neighborhoods

overlook the Blue

open space gems
chain of lakes



SILVERTHORNE PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, AND TRAILS (SPORT) COMMITTEE

SPORT was involved throughout the process. In addition to providing input throughout the planning process, they also served as “Plan Ambassadors,” reaching out to a broader cross-section of residents and gathering their input. In the end, this document serves as their guidebook for making recommendations for future investment, and their input was critical to creating the most effective, enduring document.

SITE TOURS

Town Staff and members of the SPORT Committee conducted two half-day site tours with the planning team to get a first-hand look at existing resources. First, a bike tour of existing parks and trails gave the team a close up of how well each site and connection to the site are functioning in the context of surrounding neighborhoods and destinations. Secondly, an open space tour (by van) allowed the team to visit nearly all of the open space properties throughout the community to gain perspective on the values of each (scenery, recreation, as a buffer between nearby uses, water quality and ecology, wildlife, etc.).

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community survey was conducted to gather public feedback on the Town of Silverthorne parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, programs and other community investments. The survey was available in English and Spanish, and was conducted using two primary methods: 1) an invitation-only mail-back survey (with the option to complete the survey online), and 2) an open web survey. The first method was used to ensure statically valid results based on a random sampling of residents.

For the invitation-only survey, 2,000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of Silverthorne residents (and residents of the nearby area, but outside the formal town limits) in June 2014. At the end of the survey period, 217 mail surveys were returned and 50 respondents chose to complete the survey online for a total of 267 responses to the invitation-only survey.

Silverthorne also publicized an open web survey for residents to provide feedback. The unique link to this survey enabled the results to be tabulated separately from the invitation-only surveys that were completed online. A

total of 213 responses to the open link online survey were received.

The total of 480 responses to the survey were completed and weighted by age to ensure appropriate representation of Silverthorne residents according to the US Census. The respondent profile was generally quite representative of the Silverthorne area community, including those who live within Silverthorne limits and those who live outside Silverthorne town limits. Seasonal residents or second homeowners are represented, as are renters. A variety of ages, incomes and family types are represented in the results. By incorporating an invitation-only survey response, this ensured a random sampling of the community and their feedback.

How to Use this Document

This plan is both a reference tool to examine the existing conditions of the Town of Silverthorne’s parks, open space and trail facilities, and a road map for where we would like to go in the future as a community. Each chapter serves a specific purpose. Chapter 2 provides an in-depth summary and analysis of Silverthorne’s existing resources, including a look at comparable communities, walkability and the market assessment. In addition, Chapter 2 summarizes the common themes from the public engagement process, and investigates the opportunities for tourism-related recreation. Chapter 3 states the goals and objectives for the parks, open space and trail resources, which are aspirations that the community has for the future and will guide the community when making decisions about potential opportunities. Chapter 4 presents the Master Plan projects and implementation strategies to be accomplished in the future.

The Appendices provide support materials and include: Appendix A: Market Assessment; Appendix B: Tourism-Oriented Recreation Opportunities Assessment; Appendix C: Public Engagement Summary; Appendix D: Operations and Maintenance; Appendix E: Maps; Appendix F: Project Implementation Information; and Appendix G: Resolutions.

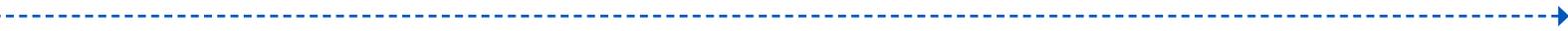
Special Articles

Topics and ideas that deserved recognition, but didn't necessarily fit the structure of the policy document are provided as "articles" in Chapters 2, 3, and 4. They offer valuable perspective on current areas of interest from the community, opportunities, or challenges in an informal, editorial tone.

These "articles" include:

- What is Open Space?
- Big Idea: Silverthorne Tour "Trail Map"
- Creating Synergy between the Economy and Recreation
- The 2014 Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan Update: Economic Development and Recreation
- Tourism-Oriented Recreation and Mountain Destinations





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Blue River

2. Existing Conditions and Analysis

Parks, Open Space, and Trails Inventory

The Town has continually made significant investment in its portfolio of parks, open space and trails. The following inventory summarizes the resources and facilities found in Town today. The current inventory is graphically depicted on the Existing Conditions figure.

PARKS

At present, the Town maintains six parks that serve the diverse needs of residents and visitors alike. These parks range from the larger and more diverse “community parks” to the smaller “pocket parks” that primarily benefit local neighborhoods. Below are brief descriptions of each of these parks, including the key recreational resources they contribute to the community.

COMMUNITY PARK

RAINBOW PARK

Rainbow Park is the community’s largest park, with 12 acres (7 acres of which is developed parkland) of outdoor enjoyment for everyone in the family. Rainbow Park is located adjacent to the Recreation Center at 430 Rainbow Drive. Parking is available in the front and back Recreation Center lots and in a smaller parking area next to the skateboard park.

The park has diverse recreational resources. A popular park feature is a concrete (paved) pathway that encircles the park (three laps equals one mile). The pathway is perfect for adult fitness, parents with strollers, youngsters with tricycles and bicycles or a relaxing stroll with a dog on leash. For young children (5 and under), there is a castle-themed tot lot area.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Playground
- Tot lot
- Restrooms (seasonal and year-round)
- 4 picnic pavilions with BBQ grills
- Skateboard park
- Multi-purpose playing field
- Basketball court
- 2 tennis courts
- 4 sand volleyball courts
- Concrete walking track and soft surface trail
- Sledding hill in winter

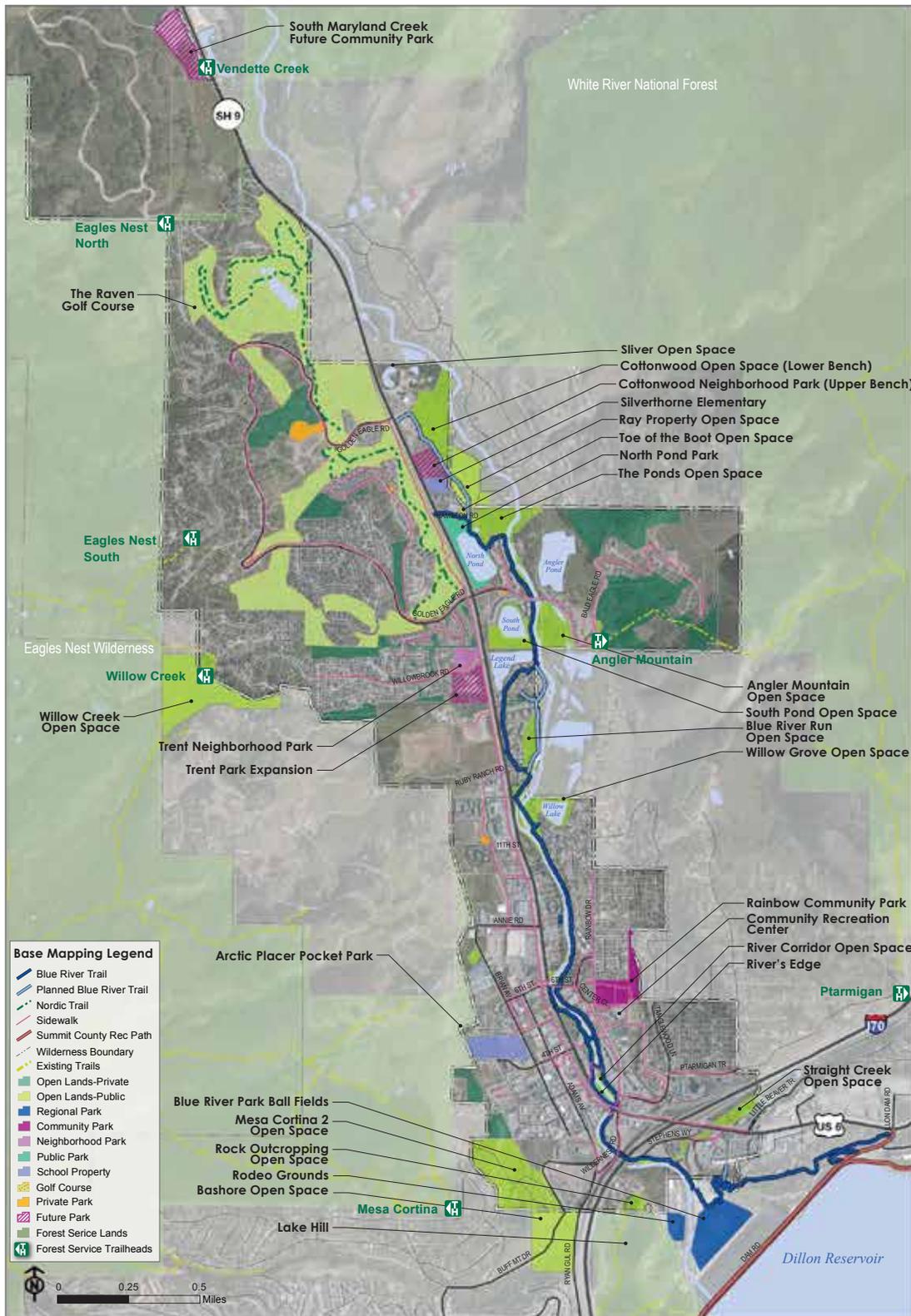
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

TRENT PARK

Trent Park is located at the entrance to Willowbrook neighborhood, at the intersection of State Highway 9 (SH 9) and Willowbrook Road. The 3.8-acre park has a pirate-themed play structure that is popular with the neighborhood children, as well as families that drive there from other areas. There is also a kids’ fishing pond that is stocked annually for youth ages 14 and under to fish for free, with no need for a fishing license. Trent Park has become a popular place to play pickleball; the tennis courts are striped for both sports. There is also a youth league baseball field, which separates the park area from the bathrooms.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Youth league baseball field
- Picnic pavilion
- Restrooms (seasonal)
- Fishing pond
- 2 tennis and 4 pickleball courts (shared)
- Playground



Existing
Conditions

Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan Update 2014

SE GROUP

See full-size 11x17 map in Appendix E.

POCKET PARK

ARCTIC PLACER PARK

Arctic Placer Park is 1 acre in size and has a small covered picnic area and children's play structure. No parking is available, so it primarily serves the immediately surrounding neighborhood. Arctic Placer is located at the end of Polar Court, west of 6th Street off of SH 9, near the old elementary school site. While it is adjacent to National Forest lands, there is no parking or formal trails providing forest access; only a steep social trail that heads directly up the drainage.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Picnic pavilion
- Playground

SPECIAL USE PARKS

RIVER'S EDGE

Built in 2012, River's Edge is located west of SH 9 just north of the Interstate 70 (I-70) Interchange. It has walking paths, picnic tables and benches, providing access to the Blue River within close proximity to the Outlets and its restaurants. It is located along the Blue River south of the Town Center and Silverthorne Pavilion area. This area is featured prominently in the recently adopted Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan.

Key Recreational Resources:

- 2 picnic tables
- Blue River Trail access
- Fishing access

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Located next to the Recreation Center, Silvana's Community Garden was brought to life in 2008 by the hard work and dedication of community volunteers and continues to operate solely on a volunteer basis. Silvana's Community Garden, a 0.25 acre area, was created with the intent of inviting individuals and families from all backgrounds to come together to grow produce, flowers and herbs in a friendly and encouraging environment. With 33 raised and in-ground plots varying in size, this working garden welcomes all members of the community regardless of gardening experience.

NORTH POND PARK

North Pond Park is a 5-acre park located directly south of the Silverthorne Elementary School at the intersection of SH 9 and Hamilton Creek Road. It is a unique mountain wetland and pond area and is home to nesting osprey and quality catch and release fishing. Non-motorized boating is permitted, as well as dipping your feet (or body) in the water for a quick splash. In the winter, the pond is open for skating, although there are currently no skate rentals available. North Pond Park is home to a number of special events such as a triathlon and pond hockey tournament. Most recently, North Pond Park has become a popular destination for stand up paddleboarding.

The park has a small pavilion that is used year-round for small events or gatherings, hosts children's summer camps, and serves as a warming hut during the winter.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Parking and access for Blue River Trail
- A small pavilion
- Picnic pavilion
- Outdoor fire pit
- 2 fishing docks, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) fishing access

PLANNED FUTURE PARKS

There are three parcels of land within the Town that are currently allotted to become community or neighborhood parks. While each have conceptual plans in place, all went through a different process that may or may not have been vetted through public input.

The planning team has considered how each of these planned parks can best serve the community, in light of today's vision, goals, and trends.

SOUTH MARYLAND CREEK RANCH

A conceptual plan for South Maryland Creek Ranch was completed in 2005 as part of the neighborhood's planned unit development approvals. The 20-acre site was envisioned to include multi-purpose turf playfields, two sledding hills, a children's adventure area with a "ranch" theme, a comfort station and observation deck, and a warm-up area among other features.



What is Open Space?

“Open space” is a comprehensive term that can mean different things across organizations, jurisdictions, or individuals. Most people think of open space as natural, undeveloped lands that are special in some way—they may be scenic or indicative of an area’s heritage (e.g. agricultural lands), create separation between communities or land uses, or provide areas for wildlife to thrive. Open space areas and associated buildings may be open for recreation and educational purposes. For a tourism-driven community, open space can be powerful on a variety of levels to preserve rural/mountain identity, promote areas for recreation, and reinforce quality of life.

There are a variety of tools used to protect open space, each with different variations on permanency, and costs and benefits to land owners. A conservation easement is a common tool that landowners can use to remove development rights in perpetuity from a property in order to realize significant tax benefits. Conservation easements may be useful for private or public lands. Conservation zoning or overlays are also tools used by municipalities to protect open space areas which are not entirely permanent, but are very deliberate and tedious to change nonetheless. Other tools may include Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) or Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs, in which land owners essentially redirect density from areas desired for conservation into areas desired for development. Private-public partnerships are often part of creative solutions to protect open space.

Theoretically, there are many available funding sources. However, some local funding for open space is essential to building a full-scale program with a reliable and predictable revenue stream, including funds needed for operations, long-term management and maintenance. Such funding includes a dedicated sales tax, lodging taxes, or dedicated property tax.

Development, and thus, the park at South Maryland Creek Ranch, was stalled as a result of the recession. As plans for its neighborhood have evolved, so too has the Town's vision for parklands. Chapter 4 offers guidance on how this area may best serve the community under its new vision and needs for the future.

TRENT PARK EXPANSION

The area directly south from Trent Park, across Willowbrook Road, is known as the Trent Park Expansion Area. It is approximately 8 acres in size. Though conceptual plans, which included a multi-purpose field, were drawn in 2004 by private developers, its master plan has not been vetted through a public process.

COTTONWOOD PARK

The "upper bench" of Cottonwood Park is located north of Silverthorne Elementary School and south of the Joint Sewer Authority (JSA), and future Lake Dillon Fire Department and Town Public Works sites. A conceptual plan for the park completed in 2003, included a multi-purpose field, a ball field and a playground. However, that plan is dated and was not vetted through a public process.

OPEN SPACES

The Town has been active in assembling a patchwork of 215 acres of open space properties within the community. Some of this open space has been acquired through the efforts of the community itself. Other areas have been established as open space through the planned residential development process. Regardless of how established, the presence of open space in the Town supports long-held community values and can enable future opportunities for recreational use and enjoyment. Each of the existing open space properties within the current portfolio are described below. These areas are also shown graphically on the Existing Conditions figure.

COTTONWOOD LOWER BENCH

Cottonwood Lower Bench is a 20-acre parcel located along the Blue River just north of the Silverthorne Elementary School. The property, which is adjacent to the Blue River, contains wetlands, large cottonwoods and open meadow areas. Approximately 60 percent of the property is in

the floodway (approximately 380 feet across property); wetlands are located on south end with minimal vegetation on the property except for along the river. It is called the lower bench as this mostly level site sits 20 or 30 feet below the adjacent land to the west. The area offers scenic views of the Blue River corridor.

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY SLIVER

This 0.6-acre (30-foot wide) strip of property is located between the Joint Sewer Authority (JSA) and the Town's northeastern boundary, northwest of Cottonwood Natural Area. It was acquired from the Forest Service in order to provide additional buffering for the JSA from neighboring land owners. The property has a minimal amount of floodway, no wetlands and is located adjacent to the Blue River.

RAY PROPERTY

The Ray Property is comprised of two parcels, totaling approximately 11 acres, located within the South Forty subdivision east of the elementary school. The Town purchased the parcels jointly with Summit County, in August of 2013, with open space purposes in mind for the wetland portion of the property. It is envisioned that the upper bench could be utilized for other uses such as continuation of the Blue River Trail, a trailhead, or other uses as mutually agreed upon by the Town and Summit County. Approximately 80 percent of the property is covered by wetlands and is mostly vegetated. It is adjacent to the Blue River, but the floodway is not located on the property.

TOE OF THE BOOT

This parcel is a remnant from the land trade that created the tract on which Silverthorne Elementary has been built. It is approximately 1 acre and is adjacent to the Silverthorne Elementary School. Cottonwood property is located to the north, and the Blue River and the Ray Property are located to the east. This area is currently used for overflow parking for the elementary school. No floodway, wetlands or significant vegetation is located on the property.

THE PONDS

The Ponds property is 18 acres located on either side of the Blue River to the east of North Pond Park and north of The Ponds Townhomes. The property is mostly wetlands with thick vegetation. The area along the west side of the Blue River is accessible from the Blue River Trail and anglers can make their way through the willows to fish along the Blue River. The portion along the east side of the river is surrounded by private land which makes the river nearly inaccessible by land. The floodway runs parallel to and on either side of the river and has wetlands in the northwest corner. Vegetation is mostly around the Blue River and in wetlands.

SOUTH POND

South Pond is approximately 11 acres located between SH 9 and the Blue River south of Bald Eagle Road. Easily accessible from the Blue River Trail, this pond is open to anglers and offers trail users a spot to rest and enjoy magnificent views of Buffalo and Red Mountains to the west. The property has minimal floodway, potentially includes wetlands, and is adjacent to the Blue River. Vegetation on the property is for the most part located around South Pond. Access to this open space is only by the Blue River Trail (i.e., no parking). It provides limited recreational access to South Pond while preserving the natural characteristics of this open space.

ANGLER MOUNTAIN

Angler Mountain Open Space is approximately 11 acres bordered on the west by the Blue River and Bald Eagle Road to the north and east. To the south are private open space areas associated with the Blue River Valley Ranch Lake Estates Association neighborhood. The Angler Mountain Open Space contains several acres of woodland along the Blue River. Access to the parcel and riverside woodland area is from Bald Eagle Road but there are no developed trails or access points.

BLUE RIVER RUN

Located between the Blue River Run multi-family housing development and the Blue River, this 8-acre parcel was dedicated to the Town by the Blue River Run developer for the future realignment of the Blue River Trail. The property is adjacent to the Blue River, has floodway along the river

(approximately 150 feet wide) and is mostly wetlands. Vegetation cover is located near river and in wetlands.

WILLOW GROVE OPEN SPACE PARK

Willow Grove Open Space Park is a 15-acre property located on the Blue River, at the end of Mesa Drive, approximately 0.75 mile north of the Recreation Center. It is home of the Tammy Lynn Jamieson Memorial Bridge, a clear span bridge that crosses the Blue River. Park features include a small pond with a walking trail and docks, a horseshoe pit, picnic tables, a gazebo, and fishing access. The Blue River Trail passes through, making this parking area an ideal starting point for trail users. Willow Grove Open Space was conserved in partnership with the Continental Divide Land Trust through a conservation easement. The property has floodway along the river (approximately 170 feet wide), has minimal wetlands and has vegetation near the river and lake.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Blue River Trail and Willow Grove Open Space Park parking and access
- Restrooms
- Picnic facilities
- Soft surface trail around Willow Lake
- Fishing
- Boating

WILLOW CREEK HIGHLANDS TRAILHEAD

Willow Creek Highlands Trailhead is a 2-acre property located on the western side of the Silverthorne town boundary. It has minimal wetlands, no floodway and is well vegetated. It is adjacent to Willow Creek County open space which connects to USFS Wilderness Area.

RIVER CORRIDOR OPEN SPACE

The River Corridor properties are a combination of six parcels for a total of 15 acres starting at the Silverthorne town boundary near the Outlets north through the Town Core and encompass the Blue River as it flows out of the base of the dam to the north. These stretches of river contain the Blue River Trail and numerous picnic tables and benches for stopping and enjoying the river. Nearly the whole property is located in the floodway or wetland because it is adjacent to and on either side of the Blue River,

River's Edge and the Blue River Trail. Vegetation is located near river and in wetlands.

STRAIGHT CREEK

This open space is comprised of four separate parcels for a total of 6 acres which contain the Straight Creek as it leaves the I-70 Right of Way and flows downstream into the Blue River. Most of the property is floodway and wetlands and has minimal vegetation.

MESA CORTINA 2

This 32-acre property is located in the southwest corner of Town, adjacent to the Mesa Cortina subdivision. Access is via Buffalo Mountain Drive. No floodway, wetlands or significant vegetation exists on the parcel. The land is predominately steeply sloping sagebrush meadows. It is currently zoned for residential development on the southwest corner, but the property does have a significant, steep side slope that proposes slope stability issues.

BASHORE

This property is jointly owned by Summit County, the Town of Silverthorne, and the Buffalo Mountain Metro District. The parcel is located on either side of Buffalo Mountain Drive just south of the Town's border. Approximately 22 acres in total, the Bashore Property is adjacent to other County open space property. There are minimal wetlands, no floodway, and minimal vegetation (mostly on southern side of property).

ROCK OUTCROPPING

The Rock Outcropping is a 3-acre property located near Blue River Ball Fields and Rodeo Grounds, with the National Forest to the south. It is visible from many areas of Town. This very steep, rocky piece of land contains no floodway, wetlands or significant vegetation.

TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

Whether it's a walk down the street or venturing off to explore the vastness of the White River National Forest, the trail and trailheads within Town serve both locals and visitors as a way to get outside and enjoy nature. Trails within the community take on a variety of forms from simple natural walking paths to paved multi-use paths. They provide connectivity between parks, open space

and neighborhoods. The existing network of trails and trailheads within the community are discussed below and are graphically depicted on the accompanying Existing Conditions figure.

BLUE RIVER TRAIL

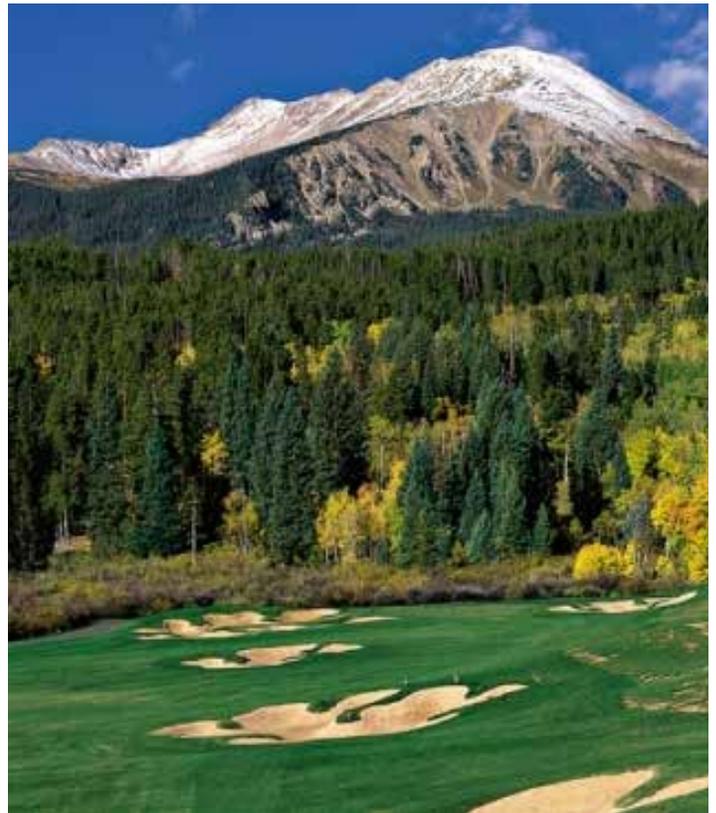
The Blue River Trail is Silverthorne's recreational backbone and link to the county-wide paved trail system. The trail is ADA accessible and open to non-motorized uses. The trail begins at the top of the Dillon Dam and ends at North Pond Park, with plans to extend it northward through the Cottonwood Park area. Along the way, it passes by the Outlets, Town Center, the Silverthorne Library, the Recreation Center, Rainbow Park, and Willow Grove Open Space Park. Some of the most spectacular views of the Blue River can be seen from the trail. Numerous public fishing access points are available, along with many benches and picnic areas. Popular trailheads include North Pond Park, Willow Grove Open Space, Town Hall, and the Recreation Center. The Blue River Trail is unique to the Summit County Recreation Path system because it is a meandering, family-friendly paved trail. It is largely free of faster-moving cyclists, who prefer to take on-street routes through Silverthorne on their way northward to Ute Pass.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Walking
- Biking
- Fishing
- Birding

ANGLER MOUNTAIN TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD

The Angler Mountain Trail is a local connection to the Ptarmigan Trail, located on the White River National Forest. Angler Mountain Trailhead is located inside Town boundaries, within the Angler Mountain Ranch subdivision. The trailhead is located east of the intersection of SH 9 and Bald Eagle Road, approximately 0.5 mile on the right. A fairly steep elevation gain leads to amazing views of the Town and the Gore Range. The connector trail goes on for approximately 2.5 miles and 1,200 vertical feet gain to reach the Ptarmigan Trail. Along the way, up to 60 plants are marked with name plates adding an education piece for hikers. Once reaching the Ptarmigan Trail, hikers can



continue an additional 3.5 miles to reach Ptarmigan Peak, elevation 12,498 feet.

The Angler Mountain Trail is restricted to hiking only. Other recreation user groups could be provided access from this trailhead location to improve overall connectivity with the National Forest.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Hiking
- Parking
- Informational signage

WILLOW CREEK TRAILHEAD

Willow Creek Trailhead is located within the Town near the top of the Willowbrook neighborhood, approximately 1 mile west of the intersection of Willowbrook Road and SH 9. The Willow Creek Trail traverses through Summit County's Willow Creek Open Space before entering the White River National Forest and the Eagles Nest Wilderness area.

This 2-acre parcel was acquired by the Town in 1999 from the developer in order to create and maintain the Willow Creek Trailhead. The property is adjacent to a larger, 38-acre open space parcel owned by Summit County.

The Willow Creek Trail is a local connection to the Mesa Cortina and Gore Range Trail systems. These trails offer beautiful views of Lake Dillon, Silverthorne and the Williams Fork Range. South Willow Creek Trail is approximately 0.25 mile in length before hikers enter the White River National Forest and the Eagles Nest Wilderness. From there hikers can continue to South Willow Falls or Red Buffalo Pass. Willow Creek Trailhead also connects to the Ditches Trail (about 20 yards from the trailhead) which then connects to North Willow Creek Trail. North Willow Creek Trail takes hikers further north on the Gore Range Trail where they can continue on to access Willow and Salmon Lakes. Hikers can also connect North and South Willow Creek Trails with the Gore Range Trail to make a longer loop from the parking lot.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Parking
- Picnic pavilion
- Informational signage

EAGLES NEST TRAILHEADS

The North Eagles Nest trailhead is located in the Three Peaks neighborhood at the intersection of Hunter's Knob and Game Trail Road. The trail links to the Eagles Nest National Forest and the Wilderness areas beyond, and provides a portal to the National Forest on the northwestern portion of the Town. Trail access is currently limited because there is no available parking at this trailhead.

The South Eagles Nest trailhead is located on Two Cabins Drive. The trail links to a series of trails that lead to the Eagles Nest Wilderness area of the National Forest. Trail access is currently limited because there is no available parking at this trailhead.

VENDETTA CREEK TRAILHEAD

Vendette Creek Trailhead is a proposed trailhead that is a component of the South Maryland Creek Ranch subdivision. The trailhead is planned near SH 9 with trailhead parking and would require an approximately 1 mile hike to gain access to the National Forest. The Forest Service has permitted a trail on the Forest extending from the subdivision onto the National Forest connecting to the Gore Trail at the junction to Salmon and Willow Lakes.

PTARMIGAN TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD

Ptarmigan Trailhead is located outside the Town in Summit County. This is a well-known trailhead for the Summit County community. Trail improvements (grade reductions) should be considered to improve mountain biking rideability and recreational experiences on the National Forest. From the Ptarmigan Trail, opportunities for a larger trail system could be considered.

MESA CORTINA AND SALT LICK TRAILHEADS

Mesa Cortina and Salt Lick Trailheads are located outside the Town boundaries in Summit County, southwest of the Town. These trailheads and the trails provide residents of Silverthorne and Summit County opportunities to enter the Eagles Nest Wilderness. A network of unauthorized multi-purpose social trails have been developed in this area outside of the Wilderness boundary. The network of multi-use trails in this area range from beginner to expert, however, mountain biking is not allowed Wilderness Area.

The area could be improved with better signage and trail maintenance.

OTHER RESOURCES

THE RAVEN GOLF COURSE

The Raven is an 18-hole golf course that winds its way through the Eagles Nest and Three Peaks subdivision. The golf course is open to the paying public during the summer. During the winter months the golf course offers two groomed Nordic trails that are free and open to the public. Trail grooming occurs several times per week, however not on a defined schedule. No restrooms are available.

SILVERTHORNE ELEMENTARY FIELDS

The Silverthorne Elementary School contains a large playground and multi-purpose field. The field and playground are open to the public during hours when school is not in session.

BLUE RIVER BALL FIELDS AND RODEO GROUNDS

Blue River Ball Fields and the Rodeo Grounds function as an important location for sports in Summit County. The land is just outside of the Town of Silverthorne town limits, behind the Outlet stores on the south side of I-70, is owned by Denver Water, and is managed by Summit County.

While ownership will not change, the management of the land for recreation does have the potential to evolve over time. The facilities also have potential for improvement; Denver Water reserves the right to remove use of the land for a variety of reasons at any time, so significant investment in infrastructure to accommodate new activities must be carefully considered. Ultimately, Denver Water is the decision-maker on what facilities, improvements, and activities may be pursued at this site.

Key Recreational Resources:

- 4 adult league regulation baseball fields
- 4 shelters
- Connection to the Blue River Trail
- Fishing access along the Blue River
- Events area on the west side of the Blue River known as the Rodeo Grounds for the rodeos that were once held here; today the Rodeo Grounds are used for 4H.



Recreational Needs Assessment

Evaluating the current conditions and functionality of the Town of Silverthorne’s recreational resources and facilities is a critical component of this update. As part of this assessment, it is also helpful to gauge how the Town compares to mountain communities of similar size and context, and to identify gaps for future improvements and opportunities.

Two quantitative methods—1. Community Comparison and 2. Walkability and Connectivity—were used to analyze the Town of Silverthorne’s parks, open space and trails resources.

COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES

Five communities were profiled as part of the community comparison benchmarking analysis. It was important that those selected had relevance to the Town of Silverthorne, as a mountain community driven by recreation and tourism, and affected by seasonality, public lands, and second homes. Also importantly, each community that was selected has a unique commonality with the Town of Silverthorne that made it valuable to include, which are explained below.

The communities included:

- **Breckenridge:** Breckenridge was chosen because of its similarity in size and location, its complementary relationship to the Town of Silverthorne within Summit County, and its success in working collaboratively with the U.S. Forest Service to leverage resources.
- **Avon:** Avon was chosen because of its size, location along the I-70 corridor, and role in the Vail Valley in providing year-round recreation to locals within a tourism and resort environment.

- **Carbondale:** Carbondale was included in the 2001 Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan and it was included again because of its size and function as a year-round support community to its more resort-focused neighbors, Aspen and Snowmass.
- **Steamboat Springs:** Steamboat Springs was selected because of several unique parallels that it has to the Town of Silverthorne. It has the Yampa River and Core Trail (similar to the Blue River and Blue River Trail) and is a ranching community with a state highway running through the downtown.
- **Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District:** WECMRD serves the communities of Eagle, Edwards, Gypsum, Bond, McCoy, Cordillera, Lake Creek and Wolcott. It was included because of its relationship to the entire valley, as the Town of Silverthorne effectively serves many more in Summit County than simply its residents.

Information regarding community statistics (size, population, density), inventory of facilities, and level of service was collected. As is a trend in parks planning nationwide, level of service has become less indicative of how well parkland acreage is serving a mountain community. This is likely because parklands do not fit neatly with a park category such as “neighborhood” or “community” park, but rather serve a unique function for both residents and visitors. Nonetheless, running a typical LOS calculation across the comparison communities indicates similarities (with the exception of Steamboat Springs, likely due to size and role in the region).

Silverthorne POST Master Plan Community Comparison Analysis						
	Town of Breckenridge	Town of Avon	Town of Carbondale	City of Steamboat	Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District	Town of Silverthorne
Population (2010)	4,540	6,447	6,427	12,088	~ 25,000	3,887
Area (sq miles)	5.0	8.0	2.0	10.1	840.0	3.2
Multi Use Fields	1	2	3	9	7	1
Bike Parks	Pump Track	0	Skills Park and Pump Track	BMX and Skills Park	BMX	0
Skate Parks (sq ft)	18,000	0	17,300	8,000	8,600	13,500
Paved Trails and Paths (miles)	3.6	8.0	3.8	6.2	--	5.1
Community Parks (acres)	12.5	22.0	7.3	234.3	--	4.4
Neighborhood/Pocket Parks (acres)	3.7	2.0	53.7	120.9	--	19.8
Total Parkland (acres)	16.2	24.0	61.0	355.2	--	24.2
Combined Parkland LOS	3.6	3.7	9.5	29.4	--	6.2

LEVEL OF SERVICE AND INDICATORS

Level of Service (LOS) is a typical indicator of how well a community is serving its existing neighborhoods found in traditional parks planning. While LOS standards are still in use, the emphasis has been shifting towards use of comparative analysis (between communities with similar demographic, contextual and recreational trends) and the importance of quality within parks and recreational resources. This is especially true for mountain communities, whose park resources function quite differently and play different roles in the community than in suburban year-round places. Thus, instead of comparing the Town of Silverthorne to a national standard (1 acre per 1000 residents for neighborhood parks; 5 acres per 1000 residents for community parks, etc.), it is more useful to gauge it against the five communities in this analysis. Furthermore, the Town's parks (and other mountain communities') do not fit exactly within the rigidly defined categories of neighborhood or community parks, so it is more beneficial to look at them collectively for how they are serving the entire town and those who are visiting.

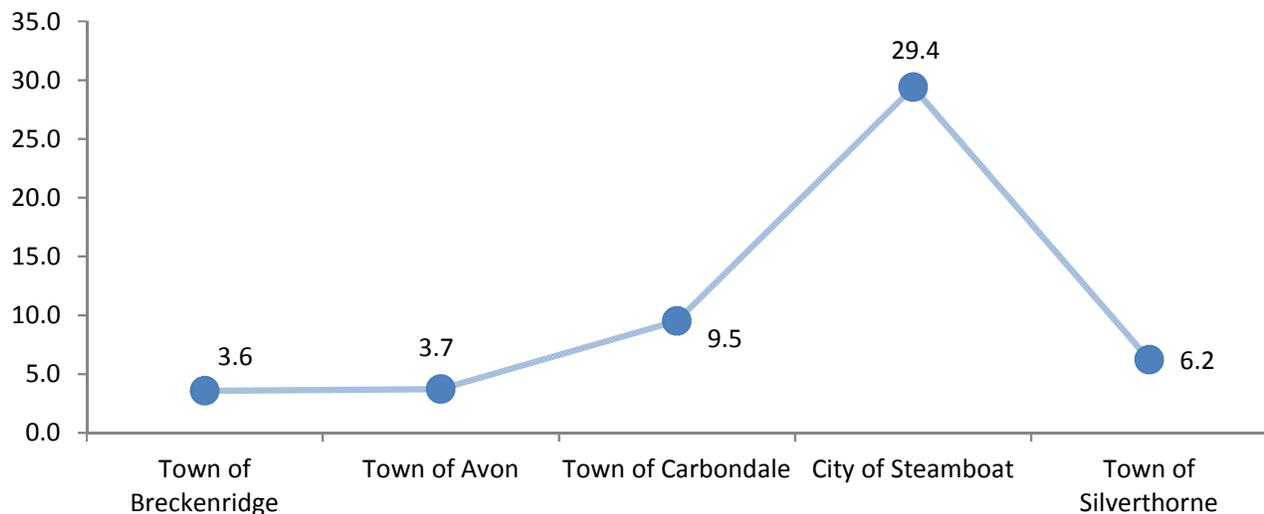
Based on this analysis, the Town of Silverthorne's LOS is consistent with, or exceeding, other comparable mountain communities. Steamboat Springs is the one anomaly, which may be attested to its larger size and role in the Yampa Valley.

Looking more closely at the provision of facilities and amenities, the Town of Silverthorne also measures similarly with its comparison communities. With the exception of Steamboat Springs and WECMRD, which serve larger populations, the other communities had between one and three multi-use fields; the Town of Silverthorne currently has one at Rainbow Park, but has ready access to the four ball fields at Blue River Ball Fields.

Each community does have a recreation center with aquatics, which is a tremendous year-round asset for residents of the Town of Silverthorne and greater Summit County. Silverthorne's skate park is comparable in size to other communities, but compared to Breckenridge's new renovation, may be falling behind by Summit County standards. One identified gap is that the Town has no bike amenities—pump track, BMX, or skills parks—which are a growing trend that all other communities, except for Avon, have invested in.

Looking at paved trails, the Town of Silverthorne provides 5.1 miles (Blue River Trail). This is consistent with its counterparts, which average 5.4 miles of trails.

Level of Service
(parkland per 1,000 people)



CONCLUSIONS

In addition to the comparison of indicators, four conclusions were drawn from that the comparable communities research:

1. Partnerships with local non-profit and for-profit organizations.

Partnerships in mountain communities are a major asset, particularly when partnering with developments to provide public access to a high quality resource or with local non-profits to accomplish a joint goal. Partnerships strengthen community facilities and offer a higher level of service to its residents that might not otherwise be possible.

The Town already embraces partnerships, but could expand them to leverage more volunteer time and agency support. For example, the Town could partner with the U.S. Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Youth Corp for trail improvements to create a more seamless gateway into the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas.

2. Create a vibrant epicenter.

Another theme that emerged was the importance for communities to identify a central location in town, as a place for residents to gather and visitors to experience what the communities have to offer. Nottingham Park in Avon and Riverwalk in Breckenridge are two strong examples of this. Nottingham Park serves its residents with multiple activities in a central location.

The recently adopted Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan supports the creation of a vibrant epicenter in the Silverthorne Town Core area. For example, one goal states, “Promote outdoor places for people to gather, including green spaces, outdoor plazas, pedestrian streets, children’s play areas, and outdoor seating to infuse energy and activity throughout the Town Core. It is a priority to create spaces with views and access to the Blue River” (LU 2 TC.4). Rainbow Park and the Recreation Center are clearly the flagships of recreation in the Town of Silverthorne, and this should be reinforced into the future, especially as downtown redevelops and there is potential for synergies between commercial activity, events, and additional

public spaces near the Blue River. Connectivity and branding will be two ways to create and reinforce those synergies.

3. Emphasize defining characteristics and identity.

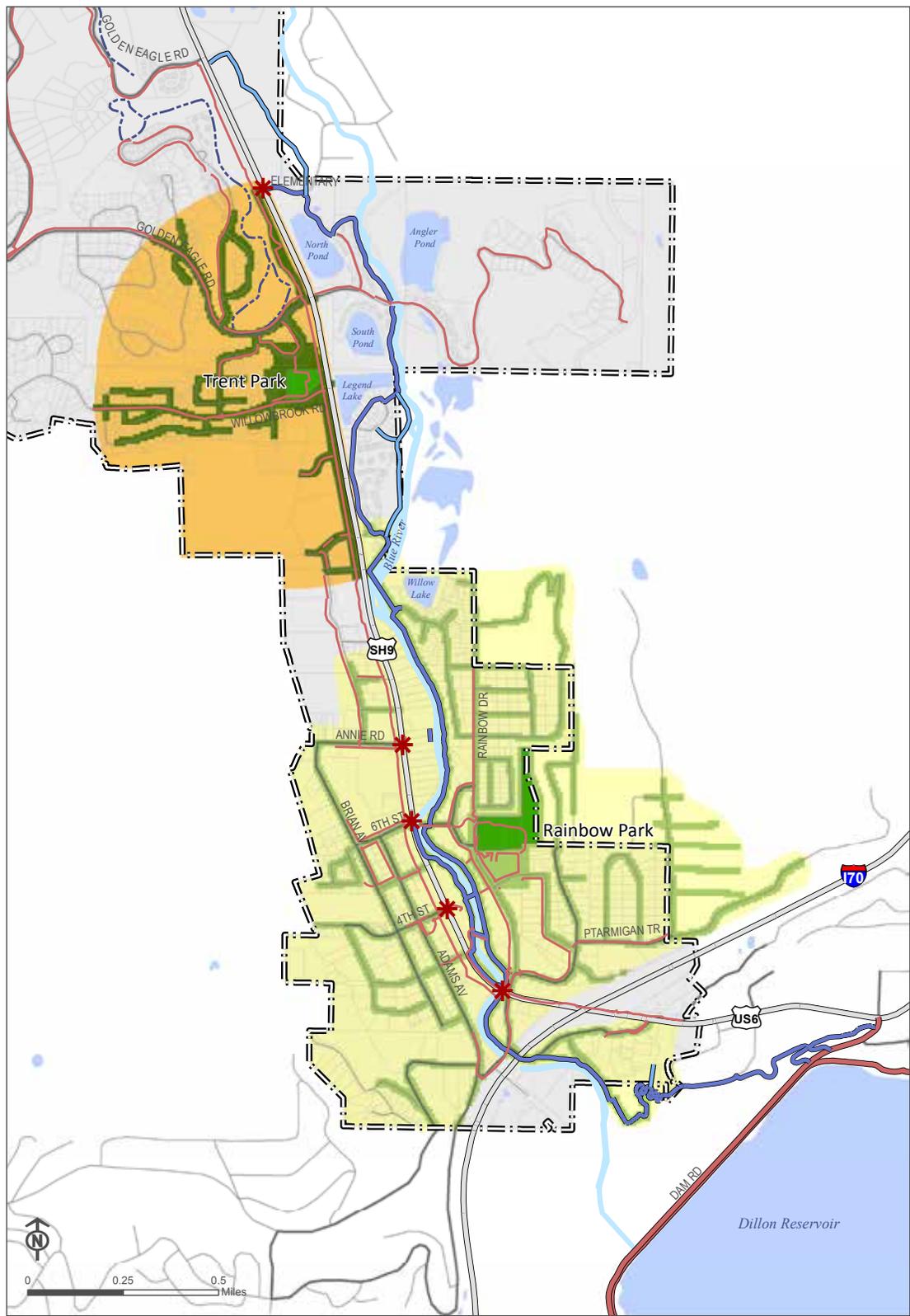
Especially in mountain communities, a unique recreation experience and community identity is critical. What is it that draws people to live or spend time in a place like the Town of Silverthorne, Carbondale, Breckenridge, etc.? Most often, people are seeking out a different lifestyle or experience that they cannot get in a large city or the suburbs. And there is good reason—mountain communities have scenery, water resources, and outdoor settings that its suburban counterparts do not.

The Town of Silverthorne has an opportunity to build an identity around the Blue River, its chain of lakes and ponds, its unique open spaces and incredible views, and ranching heritage that no other place in Summit County has—it is unique to the Town of Silverthorne.

4. Impacts of the economic recession.

Each community included in this analysis noted the lack of improvements made to parks, open space and trails and the inability to maintain standards in the last 5 years due to the recent economic recession. Town and city officials have held off on improvements and have generally veered away from trying to achieve strict parkland standards simply due to lack of funding and staffing. Many noted that this trend is beginning to shift and officials are encouraged by the uptick in growth over the last two years.

In the Town of Silverthorne, as development projects continue their steady increase, this POST Master Plan will be an important guide to prioritizing new facilities and open space areas.



Town of Silverthorne
 Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan
Walkability Analysis

- Town Boundary
- Parcels
- Signaled Crossings
- Blue River Trail
- Planned Blue River Trail
- Nordic
- Sidewalk
- Summit County Rec Path
- Park
- Neighborhood Park- 0.5 mile
- 0.5-mile route
- Community Park- 1 mile
- 1-mile route



See full-size 11x17 map in Appendix E.

WALKABILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

Rainbow Park and Trent Park serve their surrounding neighborhoods. Because of their varying size and range of facilities, different walkability radii were used. A summary of each park, its methodology, and its walkability are summarized here.

Pocket parks (Arctic Placer) and tot lots were not included in the walkability analysis because they serve their immediate vicinity, have very limited facilities, and in many cases, are private.

RAINBOW PARK

A typical service area for a community park is 1 to 2 miles. For this analysis, 1 mile was used because of Rainbow Park's size and because colder weather and snow for much of the year shorten the typical walkable/bikeable distance. At a size of roughly 12 acres (7 acres of which is developed parkland), it is smaller than what is normally considered a community park, but given its role in Silverthorne as the flagship park, its adjacency to the Recreation Center, and its array of facilities, it certainly functions as such. Rainbow Park is well-connected to the neighborhoods on the east side of the Town (Willow Grove, Ptarmigan) because of a logical, gridded street pattern, and the Blue River Trail. Connectivity to the west side of Silverthorne is constrained by SH 9, but the highway is not a complete barrier. There are four signaled crossings (Annie Road, 6th Street, 4th Street, and Rainbow Drive—which includes an underpass on the Blue River Trail) that do serve neighborhoods on the west side of SH 9. During the winter months though, this distance can be formidable, leading to a partial, seasonal gap in service for this part of the Town of Silverthorne.

The greatest gap in service is between the Willowbrook neighborhood, on the west side of SH 9, and Rainbow Park. A convenient, safe connection to the Blue River Trail near Willowbrook Road would allow Rainbow Park to fall right at the edge of the 1-mile service area, and well within a 2-mile service area. The safe alternate currently is to cross at the Elementary School (Hamilton Creek Road) and walk or ride the Blue River Trail south, which adds an extra mile to the trip, therefore making this route too long to be considered walkable.

TRENT PARK

A typical service area of a half-mile was modeled for Trent Park, and it is evident that due to the lack of signaled crossings on SH 9, from a walkability standpoint Trent primarily serves the Willowbrook neighborhood and a portion of Eagles Nest. For residents of the Ponds and other neighborhoods immediately to the east, the closest signaled crossing is at the Elementary School (Hamilton Creek Road), which is a half-mile from Trent Park.

A safe crossing at Willowbrook Road and SH 9 would essentially double the service area of Trent Park from a walkability and bike-ability standpoint. The crossing should be considered in conjunction with a connection to the Blue River Trail.

COMMUNITY-WIDE CONNECTIVITY

In addition to the Walkability Analysis, overall connectivity within the community was examined. Because of its compact size, the Town of Silverthorne is fairly well connected, though there are some constraints to being truly walkable or bikeable, depending on where you live. SH 9 is a barrier to movement, except where there are signaled crossings, as noted in the Walkability Analysis. This is exacerbated during the colder months, when reasonable walking and biking distances and visibility are more limited.

The Town of Silverthorne has made incremental improvements to sidewalks and bike lanes or routes in recent years, but there are still areas to improve or complete. The community voiced interest in completing the sidewalk networks on both the east and west sides of SH 9 to encourage more fluid pedestrian movement within neighborhoods and between key destinations, such as large employment or shopping centers and transit. With the majority of these being located on the west side of SH 9, Adams and Brian Avenues are critical routes for improvements in both directions of the roads (there have been bike lanes added, but not in both directions or throughout the grid). Sidewalks and bike routes intersecting the Blue River Trail must also function seamlessly and should continue to be thoughtfully designed in the future. Two intersections in need of improvements and identified most often by the public were at the intersection of Stephens Way and Wildernest Road (where the Blue River

Trail crosses Wildernest Road), and 4th Street and the Blue River Trail. Both intersections were identified because of the difficult access to the Blue River Trail from sidewalks, particularly while cycling.

Open Space Assessment and Strategic Framework

As part of this POST Master Plan, it is important to classify existing open space properties in light of community values and to establish a strategic framework for future acquisition and management of the open space portfolio.

OPEN SPACE DEFINED

The Town of Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan identifies several broad land use policies (LU 1.5, LU 4.1- LU 4.4) that clarify the defining characteristics of open space within the community. These characteristics include:

- Public – open spaces are outdoor places that directly benefit the broader public.
- Conservation/Preservation – open spaces act as greenspace that maintains or preserves areas of natural resource, scenic or cultural importance or supports hazard mitigation efforts within the community.
- Buffering – open spaces provide effective buffering between areas of high environmental resource sensitivity (wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife habitats, steeper slopes, etc.) and adjacent land uses.
- Access – open spaces support meaningful access to the outdoors for residents and visitors of the Town of Silverthorne.

EXISTING OPEN SPACE RESOURCE VALUE ATTRIBUTES TABLE

Open Space Properties	Natural Resource Significance	Scenic Significance	Adjacency	Recreational Connectivity	Hazard Mitigation	Natural Buffering
1) Cottonwood Natural Area (Lower Bench)	x	x	x	x		x
2) Joint Sewer Authority Sliver	x			x		
3) Ray Property	x	x	x	x	x	x
4) Toe of the Boot	x	x	x	x	x	x
5) The Ponds	x	x	x	x	x	x
6) South Pond	x	x	x	x	x	x
7) Angler Mountain Open Space and Trailhead	x	x	x	x	x	x
8) Blue River Run	x	x	x	x	x	x
9) Willow Grove	x	x	x	x	x	x
10) River Corridor	x			x	x	x
11) Straight Creek	x					x
12) Willow Creek	x	x	x	x	x	
13) Mesa Cortina 2		x				x
14) Bashore		x	x	x	x	
15) Rock Outcropping		x	x			

- Recreation – open spaces function as part of an integrated recreational system.

Based on this, and for the purposes of the POST Master Plan, open space is generally defined as **“an outdoor area designated for resource conservation and management, for outdoor recreation, or for public access and civic use.”** What is important to consider in this definition is the balance between resource conservation and recreational uses. Open space is distinguished from parks by a generally greater emphasis on resource conservation and a more limited scope and scale of developed recreational infrastructure.

OPEN SPACE VALUES AND ASSESSMENT

The value that open space provides to the Town is highly variable and complex. Each open space property or area has unique qualities that may resonate differently with different individuals. Some areas provide multiple benefits, while others may be more singular in the values they bring. Regardless, each open space area contributes something to the community and identifying these contributions is critical to ensuring those qualities are managed effectively in the future.

Based on the broad public input received in the development of the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan as well as input gathered in the development of this POST Master Plan, the following “resource value attributes” for open space are established:

- Natural Resource Significance – the degree to which the open space supports significant natural resources such as wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife habitats, forest lands, etc.
- Scenic Significance – the importance of open space in maintaining undeveloped ridgelines, in supporting scenic views from within Town or providing vistas of important scenic views.
- Cultural Significance – whether the open space is identified as an area of cultural or historic importance or a potential to host relocated historically significant structures (use resources such as the Summit Historical Society to preserve features from Silverthorne’s past).
- Adjacency – the proximity of the open space relative

to other conserved lands; whether town-owned or controlled, private open space, Summit County Open Space or National Forest lands.

- Connectivity – the importance of open space for expanding existing trail networks or in providing new trail connectivity.
- Recreational Function – the capacity of open space to support public recreational use including both active and passive uses.
- Hazard Mitigation – the role of open space in managing flooding, providing stormwater retention or aquifer recharge, and/or wildfire protection.
- Natural Buffering – the function of open space to act as a naturalized buffer between land uses.

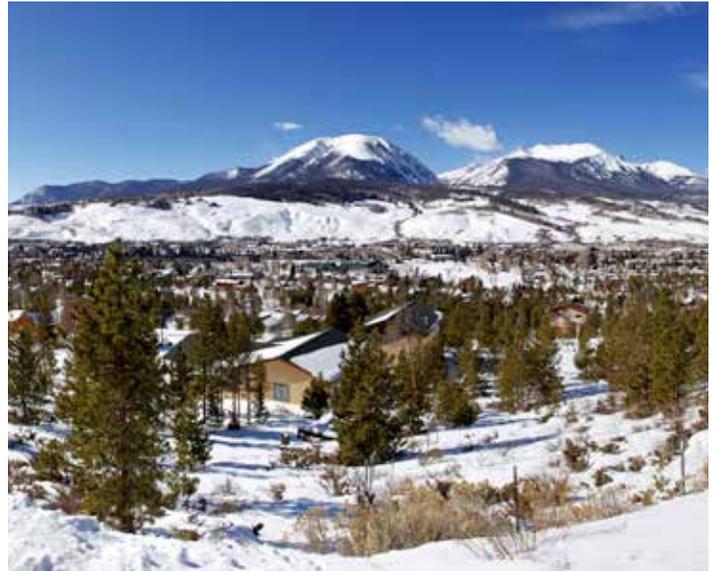
The existing inventory of open space parcels has been evaluated based on these resource value attributes and are shown in the Existing Open Space Resource Value Attributes Table.

As the table shows, many of the existing open space properties share common resource value attributes. This is not surprising. Much of the existing open space within the Town of Silverthorne is consolidated in areas of identified natural resources and scenic importance.

No attempt to weigh the various resource value attributes has been made at this level of evaluation. Every existing open space area has a unique “blend” of attributes that combine to establish its role on the overall open space portfolio. Recognizing how these resource values contribute to the role an open space plays in the overall system is important when considering specific proposals and/or management objectives for each open space parcel.

A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OPEN SPACE

The Town is surrounded by significant open space, including lands managed as part of the White River National Forest. Future development within the Town of Silverthorne is constrained by the existing built pattern and significant development constraints such as steep slopes, river/riparian crossings, wetlands and limited road access. In fact, the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan’s Future Land



Use (“Community Blueprint”) Plan identifies most of the undeveloped portions of Town as either low or medium residential. For the POST Master Plan to be most effective in guiding the Town of Silverthorne forward related to its management of existing and/or future acquisition of open space, it needs to establish a strategic framework. The tenets of this framework are:

1. Always consider the resource values supported by the open space when developing specific proposals or defining management objectives.

2. Use a three-tiered functional classification approach for management of open space. The tiers relate to the expected level of use for an open space.

» Tier 1: Areas expected to remain generally undeveloped and whose primary function would be for resource conservation. These areas should have a high dominance in natural resource, scenic, natural buffering or hazard mitigation value attributes. These areas would function largely as preserves and public access may be restricted to protect critical resources.

» Tier 2: Areas where limited passive recreation and/or outdoor educational uses are possible while maintaining the largely natural state. Open space identified as Tier 2 would function as natural areas where significant emphasis is placed on maintaining the identified natural resource, scenic, natural buffering or hazard mitigation values.

» Tier 3: Areas where improvements for recreational use are likely, particularly as part of efforts to expand overall system connectivity. These areas function essentially as greenways; interconnected linear open space linked by natural or limited surfaced trails, which preserve significant identified natural resource, scenic, natural buffering and/or hazard mitigation values. Some “park-like” features may be included in these areas. Development of specific proposals within a Tier 3 should be undertaken with the greatest emphasis on stewardship.

3. Maximize opportunities to expand the function of existing open space to more broadly address community values (i.e.,

finding ways to enhance recreation, habitat, conservation etc.) within existing open space parcels.

4. Prioritize adjacency to the Blue River, National Forest or other existing open space when defining management objectives for existing open space parcels or in the acquisition of new open space parcels.

5. Prioritize the acquisition of new open spaces that are multi-dimensional in the resource value they bring to the community.

6. Provide latitude in policy to consider “other” opportunities for open space acquisition that, while still reflective of identified community value, may take advantage of unique circumstances to set aside parcels for future consideration.

7. Fully explore the role that partnerships might play in managing or acquiring open space parcels.

8. Evaluate private open space or set asides associated with planned residential development in light of this framework and consider where private open space resource value and function might align with broader community objectives.



Market Assessment

A comprehensive market assessment was conducted by RRC Associates, an independent consulting research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The market assessment defines resident demographic profiles, visitor trends and volumes, and a broad analysis of existing regional amenities and attractions in the Summit County area. This research qualifies and quantifies the opportunity for the broader community's recreation needs (greater Summit County, Denver/Front Range weekend visitors, and destination visitors), and provides a context for understanding the current and potential role for the Town's parks, open space and trails.

The information below summarizes the key findings and observations of the assessment. The full market assessment report may be found in Appendix A.

KEY FINDINGS

Small Local Population. The full-time resident population of Silverthorne is 3,867, according to the 2010 U.S. Census American Community Survey (these figures are for the Town of Silverthorne, and do not include surrounding unincorporated areas). The population of the Town of Silverthorne has been flat for the past four years, while the population of Summit County has grown slightly, from 26,246 in 2009 to 27,753 in 2012. The small local population of Silverthorne belies a large influx of second homeowners and visitors throughout the year, peaking at an estimated 10,000 people during major holiday periods (Christmas and 4th of July). This includes full-time, part-time/second homeowners, and visitors. The variation in the size of the population (residents plus second homeowners plus visitors) during the year creates different levels of demand for parks and recreation services.

Definition of User Segments. Three major parks and recreation user groups are summarized below.

Residents of Silverthorne

- **Full-time residents:** Silverthorne has approximately 3,867 full-time residents, with a reasonably diverse demographic mix (see Second Home Proportions and Resident Demographic bullets below).
- **Part-time residents/second homeowners:** At peak times (Christmas and 4th of July),

approximately 1,626 part-time residents/second homeowners are in the Town of Silverthorne.

Summit County Residents

- **Full-time residents:** Summit County has approximately 27,753 full-time residents (including the Town of Silverthorne).
- **Part-time residents/second homeowners:** Approximately 58,975 during peak times (including the Town of Silverthorne second homeowners).

Summit County Visitors

- **Overnight visitors:** A very important group, the transient overnight visitor varies by season of the year, but comprehensive estimates of the size of this group are not available. Hotel and short-term condo rentals make up the bulk of overnight visitors in Summit County.
- **Day visitors:** Day visitors, primarily from the Denver and surrounding Front Range markets, are also an important group, but estimates of their numbers are not available.

Second Home Proportions. The Summit County Assessor records indicate that approximately two-thirds (68 percent) of the total residential properties in the County are under non-local ownership (second homes). The Town of Silverthorne has the lowest proportion of non-local ownership (second homeowners) in the County, at 30 percent, with approximately 70 percent as primary homeowners; the complete opposite of the broader trend in Summit County.

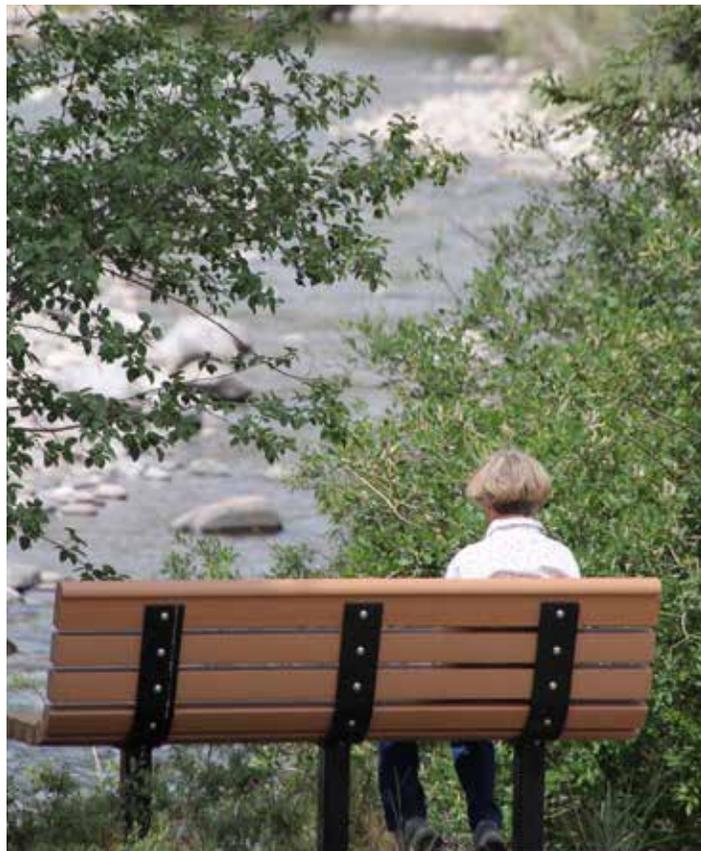
Seasonality of Traffic, Lodging. Colorado Department of Transportation traffic numbers indicate that traffic counts on area roads peak in July and March, with troughs in April and October. Lodging stats for the Town of Silverthorne show somewhat different peaks – December and March, with low levels of lodging activity in the April/May and October/November periods. These numbers indicate the times of year when the Town might have the greatest opportunity to connect with visitors, especially in areas proximate to and visible from area highways.

Silverthorne Taxable Sales Increasing. Levels of taxable sales in the Town of Silverthorne continue to increase, showing the strength of the Outlet stores along with the big box retailers on SH 9. These retailers are a critical source of

funding for the Town for a variety of services, including the parks, open space and trails resources.

Colorado Welcome Center. The Colorado Welcome Center in the Town of Silverthorne is the state's newest welcome center for visitors to the state. The welcome center hosted nearly 100,000 walk-ins during 2013 and is currently ahead of that pace for 2014. This resource is an exceptional avenue for connecting with visitors to the area. Silverthorne could work closely with the welcome center to distribute information about the variety of activities available in the Town.

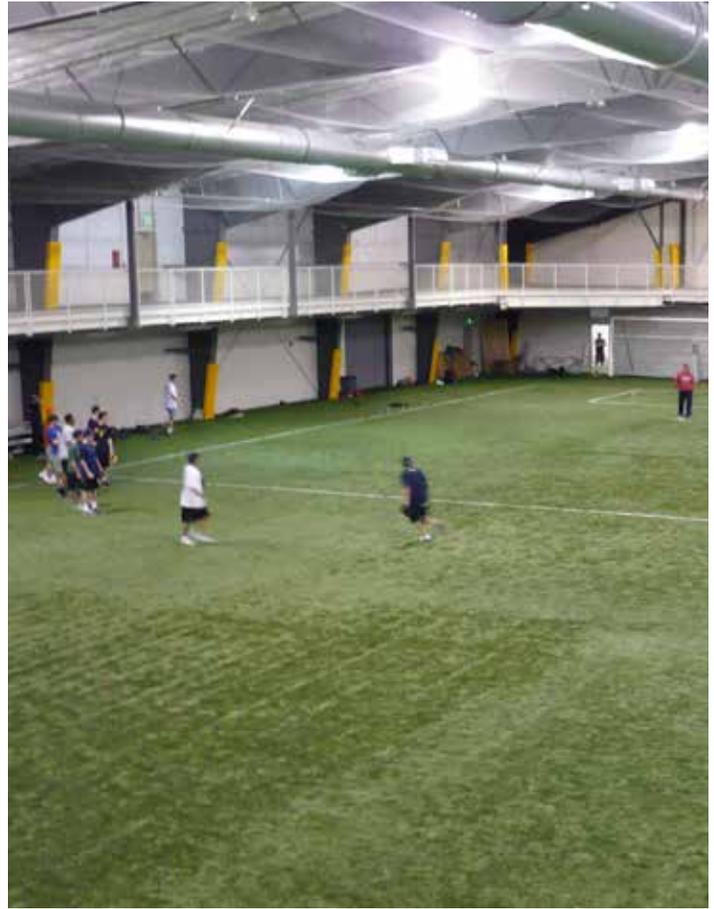
Resident Demographics. The demographic statistics of residents of the Town of Silverthorne show a few observations of note. First, 28 percent are Hispanic or Latino, a group that needs to be included in discussions about parks and recreation. Second, the household income stats shows a moderately high level of income, suggesting some level of disposable income. Third, the age distribution is largely centered between 25 and 64 years old, with few residents over the age of 65.



OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following observations and recommendations provide a guide for the Town as it positions itself for the greatest opportunity for success.

- **Priority of Local Population.** While Silverthorne hosts second homeowners and visitors throughout the year, the full-time resident population is the priority for parks and recreation facilities and programming. Serving this user group first and focusing on their needs should be the priority, while second homeowners and visitors will also benefit from these amenities and programs.
- **Non-local users.** The Town of Silverthorne has a special mix of current and potential users for its parks and recreation facilities: full-time locals, residents of other communities, second homeowners, day visitors and overnight visitors. While the needs of the full-time residents are primary, these other user groups are important. At certain times of year, there is capacity to absorb these other user groups. Certain events might be designed for local residents, while others might be more targeted at second homeowners and visitors.
- **Importance of Blue River.** The Blue River is a major feature through the middle of Town. Knowledge of and access to the Blue River is well-known among locals but less so among visitors. The bike path, fishing, and other recreational activities are all uniquely available along the Blue River.
- **Wide Variety and Number of Events and Activities.** Summit County communities and resorts have a broad wealth of activities, events, festivals and concerts. Many of these activities are focused during the summer and winter periods of the year. The Town of Silverthorne should consider carefully how potential expanded programs and additional activities might blend into this crowded landscape.



Big Idea: Silverthorne Tour Trail Map

Silverthorne is a well-known regional shopping destination for tourists and full-time residents of Summit County. Not as many people though are familiar with Silverthorne’s incredible recreation resources that can’t be found anywhere else in the area. These resources are as integral to the community’s quality of life as the Outlets and retail stores are to the economy, and with strategic marketing and education, could begin to define Silverthorne in a more prominent way.

One great example of this is the Blue River Trail, as it connects several parks, open space areas, and water bodies. It is a family-friendly outdoor experience that cannot be found elsewhere in Summit County, and one that would appeal to a broad spectrum of residents and tourists. The Blue River Trail is meandering and safe for people of all ages and abilities, highly scenic, and easily accessible between key destinations. Trail users can venture just a short distance or travel the full distance (approximately 3 to 4 miles).

The Town can play an active role in promoting this experience through a town “trail map”. This could utilize the Blue River Trail as the backbone, but also extend to other areas beyond its primary corridor (with safe connections from the main route). Maps would inform people of the route, destinations, and may also include small prizes for children who visit all locations (park ranger badge, etc.).

One thing is certain in Summit County, especially during the summertime: people, and especially families on vacation, are looking for things to do and places to explore. Silverthorne has them, and a tour map would let people know that they are there!

Tourism-Oriented Recreation Opportunities Assessment

The strategic framework for this POST Master Plan seeks to fully consider the tourism-oriented recreation opportunities for the Town in concert with satisfying the recreation needs of local residents. As a mountain community, Silverthorne exists within a larger mountain tourism destination. The mountain resorts, originally conceived as venues for skiing, have evolved over time to become epicenters for year-round recreation. The communities have also evolved, resulting in increased full-time residency in the County as well as second home ownership and annual visitation.

Summit County has an effective population that is much larger than simply its year-round residents. Each group, and the varying demographics within each group, have a wide range of recreational needs, and the numerous activities, programs and events offered throughout the County will appeal to different audiences.

The Town has already carved out a niche for itself in the regional economy. Its many retail establishments and outlets attract regional visitors and serve some of the retail needs for Summit County. The Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan seeks to expand upon this by developing a new Town Core which, among other things, will expand and diversify the retail and commercial offerings. The Town's position as the gateway to Colorado ski country gives it unique opportunities to make a first impression. Considering its role as a regional gateway and attractor the consideration of a specific recreation policy would seem to provide some unique opportunities.

Silverthorne strives to provide outstanding parks, open space and trails to its residents, first and foremost. Parks and recreation can also draw visitors into a community, for specific activities and events that cost money to participate in, or for activities that are free but encourage people to spend time in-town at restaurants and shops. The Town also realizes the potential economic development benefits that may come from drawing in visitors, and that those benefits can help offset the cost of providing resources and facilities to locals. The goal is to have Silverthorne's parks, open space and trails provide an outstanding recreation resource for its residents as well as attract visitors to Summit County.

The process of identifying tourism-oriented recreational opportunities within the Town's parks, open space and trails, involves an evaluation of a number of interconnected factors. These factors are listed below and described in greater detail in Appendix B.

- **Residents and Stakeholders:** The Town must first and foremost provide outstanding parks, open space and trails to its residents. To do this, it is critical to understand the needs, desires and concerns of the local community.
- **The Recreation Marketplace:** This includes understanding the population volumes and demographics of residents and visitors, as well as what is already being offered throughout the County that would appeal to the various user groups.
- **Positioning and Brand Identity:** In a competitive environment all players strive to present an experience that differentiates them within the marketplace. All opportunities must in some way reflect what makes Silverthorne different and unique within Summit County.
- **Land Use Considerations:** Future opportunities must exist within the context of Silverthorne. This requires an understanding of the Town's existing and future parks, open space and trails, but also circulation and land use patterns, and the community's vision and goals for future development.
- **Economic Impacts:** Future opportunities must consider the balance between capital costs, community value, and revenue opportunity. This includes a realistic evaluation of visitation potential.

Creating Synergy Between the Economy and Recreation

Being a recreation-oriented community, there are unique opportunities for Silverthorne to create synergies between parks, open space and trails and economic development. First and foremost, those resources benefit local residents. They also contribute to the tourism experience as destinations for recreation and events, and by encouraging them to stay at local hotels or explore downtown. The former may lead to direct revenue through user fees, while the latter is a driver of secondary revenue (i.e. sales tax) that is a result of increased visitation.

There are a variety of opportunities that are included in the POST Master Plan Update that recognize and promote this relationship, such as: a regional sports complex that is suitable for tournaments; a community winter sports area for revenue-generating activities and training; destination parks that have unique features that visitors will seek out and locals can enjoy—dog park, bike skills park/pump track, disc golf, and an expanded skate park; a family-oriented bike path (i.e., the Blue River Trail) and an enhanced trail network extending beyond town limits and complementing nearby National Forest lands, namely Eagle’s Nest Wilderness.



Public Engagement: Themes Heard from the Community

Throughout the development of the POST Master Plan, public engagement has been an integral part because of the strong support the community has for these resources. A number of stakeholder meetings, two public meetings, a community survey and numerous other resources were used to gather input from the community about parks, open space and trails in the Silverthorne area. Five major themes emerged from the public engagement process including: the Blue River, Rainbow Park, Connectivity, Build Upon and Improve What's Working, and Finding a Balance (Locals and Visitors).

THE BLUE RIVER

The Blue River is an exceptional resource not only for Silverthorne, but also for Summit County as a whole, including visitors. There is no other experience quite like it, which many feel should be preserved and enhanced because of the views, wildlife habitat and wetland values along the river. The Blue River's status as a Gold Medal trout stream is vital to drawing in anglers to the Town of Silverthorne, which has far-reaching economic impacts. Local leaders in the fishing, business, and natural resources communities and the local government recognize that placing a priority on keeping the Blue River watershed healthy is collectively important. Surrounding landowners also care deeply about preserving the character, wildlife value, and in some cases privacy, along the Blue River. The community survey reiterated the importance of the Blue River noting the most important projects to be completed over the next 5 to 10 years were the completion of the Blue River Trail and adding neighborhood connections to the Blue River Trail. In terms of the degree to which current programs and facilities are meeting the needs of the community, the Blue River Trail was the highest ranked by respondents to the survey.

RAINBOW PARK

Rainbow Park is the year-round epicenter of recreation in the Town. It provides space for a wide variety of interests—soccer, playgrounds, picnicking, sledding, skateboarding, tennis, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and more. People are generally very pleased with Rainbow Park and use it frequently (i.e., results of the community survey indicated that Rainbow Park was used at least once in the past twelve months by a majority of households). Suggestions for improvements related mostly to facilities and operations, such as: parking (lack of), bathroom capacity, safety, vandalism, and connectivity to the Recreation Center. Ideas for improvements include the area to the south of the current skate park, which is underutilized and would be ideal for expansion of the skate park, and expansion or consolidation of the grill/picnic areas. Looking more broadly, stakeholders voiced interest in improving neighborhood connections from the west side of SH 9 to the Blue River Trail.

CONNECTIVITY

Many community members brought up the desire to improve and enhance the connectivity of the Town's parks, open space and trails and connectivity to surrounding Forest Service lands. In several cases, the locations/destinations are in place, but the connection to get people there is not or parking is not available. The need for improved walkability and non-motorized transportation routes within the Town was the most important trails and transportation improvement recognized in the community survey. Other notable trails and transportation improvements identified in the survey were to improve trail connections within town, improve trail connectivity with trails outside of town and improve the safety of highway crossings.

As discussed in the walkability analysis, SH 9 is a significant barrier for residents who live west of SH 9 that wish to access major amenities on the eastern side of SH 9 such as Rainbow Park and the Blue River Trail. One example of this would be getting people who live in Willowbrook across SH 9 to the Blue River Trail. There are several ways to do this, but they are not extremely appealing and are somewhat indirect (e.g., following the highway north or south to a signaled crossing). Another potential area for improvement would be to improve connectivity for those living in the



Sierra Madre and Blue River apartments; many children and adults travel to Rainbow Park, but it is a significant distance and involves several high-traffic areas (e.g., Brian Avenue, Adams Avenue and SH 9). This area may also be underserved from a level of service standpoint and parkland acreage.

The Blue River Trail is an excellent backbone from which to build future connections, including trails and on-street bike routes. Additionally, there are well-known routes that people use along roads that could be improved by the addition of sidewalks, and be formalized into bike routes (e.g., road cyclists cutting through town in order to link up to SH 9 and ride onward to Ute Pass).

BUILD UPON AND IMPROVE WHAT'S WORKING

The goal of the POST Master Plan is to identify new opportunities and needs, but also analyze existing conditions to identify what is working and areas for improvement. Through this process, in addition to hearing many great ideas for improvements, it was discovered that several of the parks and trails in Silverthorne currently provide a high level of service to the community. For example, in the community survey the Blue River Trail, Willowcreek Highlands Trail, North Pond Park, and Angler Mountain Trail were highly rated in terms of meeting the needs of the community. In addition, the survey found the Blue River Trail, the Rainbow Park concrete pathway, the North Pond Park sandy shore and walking path, and the Angler Mountain Trail were used at least once in the past twelve months by a majority of households. These findings reiterate the high level of parks, open space and trails use and the need for additional amenities in Silverthorne.

FINDING A BALANCE: LOCALS AND VISITORS

Many community members had specific suggestions for improvements, with the overall theme being that in addition to serving the community the Town of Silverthorne has an opportunity with this plan to bring more people into the community to recreate and enjoy the outdoors. The current parks, open space and trails system provides the foundation from which to base future opportunities, while also offering more in terms of a park system (chain of parks, chain of

open space, chain of lakes) and a contributor to the Town of Silverthorne's identity. Residents did voice concerns over how improvements would impact existing conditions, costs, parking and traffic, and quality of the recreation experience for locals. The POST Master Plan must strive to find the balance between these community needs and the opportunities to attract visitors.

From a standpoint of developed recreation, having more locations and facilities for sports such as baseball, soccer, and lacrosse would open up the opportunity to host large tournaments and camps. From a tourism perspective, having regional destinations such as highly accessible open space areas for picnicking and fishing, a well-equipped dog park, a family-oriented bike trail, or a bike park would appeal to people on vacation and seeking things to do. While open to attracting outside visitors, residents expressed concerns around increased traffic in residential areas, and indicated a desire to limit outside use to the more southern areas of town. In terms of trails, most people—either residents or visitors—just want to take a walk and get outside. Increasing the diversity of trails within Silverthorne would form the connective tissue between its outstanding destinations for people to enjoy. Lastly, many people value the open, scenic qualities of Silverthorne, and believe that identifying and preserving those open space properties should be a priority.

The information gathered from the community survey indicated high levels of support for park, open space and trail amenities such as a dog park, mountain biking and a community gathering or festival space. When the community survey asked about potential funding for future activities, the most commonly supported mechanism was user fees for non-residents or visitors. Some support was also seen for a temporary sales tax increase, the creation of a special recreation district, a new dedicated sales tax, and a general sales tax increase.



3. Goals and Objectives

This chapter conveys the aspirations of the community for future management and investments in parks, open space and trails resources through Goals and Objectives. While Chapter 1 introduced the process and reason for the update, and Chapter 2 examined current conditions, trends, and opportunities, Chapter 3 defines the direction for the future. Chapter 4 then builds off of that direction to identify specific projects and implementation strategies to set the plan in motion.

As this is a policy document, the Goals and Objectives provide guidance for decision-makers and Town leaders in the development of Silverthorne’s POST resources. Furthermore, they support the policies of the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan. Given this, an important focus of these POST policies is to consider the economic potential of parks, open space and trails improvements and maximize their fit within the broader economic development objectives presented in the Comprehensive Plan. To do this, the Goals and Objectives must consider the needs of both Silverthorne residents and potential visitors.

Goals focus on a particular idea or direction for resources. The **Goals** are oriented toward development, design, and implementation of POST amenities. They describe “what to do.” **Objectives** are oriented toward specific characteristics related to achievement of the Goal. They outline “how to do it.”

I. OVERALL POST GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Provide outdoor amenities that offer progressive recreational opportunities and provide learning experiences, or “gateways,” to new recreational experiences. Promote the Town of Silverthorne’s brand identity as a “Gateway to Recreation.”

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Promote park, open space and trail design that supports the exploration and appreciation of the surrounding natural environment.
- B. Explore opportunities for wild play, introductory experiences of activities, and skills development.
- C. Include opportunities for passive recreation that supports the enjoyment of the natural environment.
- D. Facilitate opportunities that encourage exploration of new activities (e.g., equipment rentals, skills camps, special events, educational programs).
- E. Support exploration of progressive recreational opportunities with relevant programming (e.g., outdoor classroom as a form of recreation, Nordic ski terrain, etc.).
- F. Consider the appropriate range of recreation activities within the different town districts. For example, while nature-based activity may be suitable along the northern Blue River Trail corridor, more “amusement” type recreation activities may be appropriate in the Gateway District, where the captive audience may seek a break from the shopping experience. These types of activities may also be more visible and create a “wow” factor that attracts attention of guests arriving on I-70.

Goal 2: Recognize the potential appeal and local benefits of multi-season parks, open space and trails within the context of a tourism-driven community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. POST development should enhance the Town of Silverthorne brand identity as a gateway to mountain recreation.
- B. Integrate POST planning with other Town of Silverthorne planning efforts.
- C. Consider the potential need for additional facilities to serve non-resident users (i.e., signage, parking, rest rooms, Town-wide trail map).
- D. Foster opportunities for secondary revenue generation by considering adjacency of POST amenities to commercial development.
- E. Incorporate art, history and cultural resources into POST designs to celebrate the unique qualities of the Town of Silverthorne.
- F. Use partnerships to provide additional attractions within the POST recreation network.
- G. Encourage local recreation-oriented businesses to support POST initiatives.
- H. Promote partnerships with land owners and businesses to encourage the addition of recreation activities and attractions within the Gateway and Town Core districts.

Goal 3: Coordinate the development of POST components to build a network of outdoor recreational opportunities within the Town boundaries and connect those opportunities to recreation and values beyond the Town boundaries.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Carefully integrate the POST network so that it is readily accessible from homes, places of employment and key destinations.

- B. Prioritize the development of new POST amenities that improve the connectivity of recreational activities.
- C. Wherever feasible, establish connections between POST amenities using the Blue River Trail.
- D. Ensure that future larger-scale residential developments include POST components that continue connectivity within the community. Development plans should illustrate proposed connectivity to existing and/or proposed POST networks.
- E. Pursue partnerships that will enhance the POST network.

Goal 4: *Whenever feasible, use state-of-the-art design and high quality fixtures and furnishings.*

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Select durable materials that are sustainable, resource efficient, and non-toxic for new construction and replacement of old facilities.
- B. Create highly visible access points with informational signage that provides relevant/critical information related to the use and enjoyment of the POST network.
- C. Install interpretive features that highlight the Town's unique features including its history and surrounding natural environment.
- D. Incorporate public art installations within POST locations. Particular focus should be given to the Blue River Trail corridor and the Gateway and Town Core districts.

Goal 5: *Encourage environmentally sensitive design in order to minimize impacts to each site's natural characteristics.*

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Identify distinctive scenic areas where viewing opportunities or view corridors could be established.
- B. Identify environmentally-relevant areas that could become an amenity through the use of innovative design techniques.
- C. Where practical, avoid construction in environmentally sensitive areas.
- D. Identify key areas with high quality native vegetation, wetlands, or wildlife habitats, and manage them to reduce invasive, non-native species.
- E. Utilize non-irrigated landscapes, native species, and low maintenance plant materials when feasible and appropriate for the designated use.
- F. Manage POST features to prevent overuse that could result in irreparable damage to natural landscapes.

Goal 6: *Promote projects and designs that expand access to the POST network.*

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Ensure design plans meet all applicable Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- B. Prioritize projects that address identified gaps in recreational access.
- C. Consider use of the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) to enhance trail access and use for a wide variety of users, including older populations, inexperienced trail users, families and people with disabilities.



The 2014 Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan Update

A hallmark of the recent Comprehensive Plan Update (2014) completed by the Town of Silverthorne was movement forward on the idea of expanding local economic development opportunities. This was most notably expressed through establishment of a “blueprint” strategy for creation of a new downtown core. As envisioned by the community, the new downtown would capitalize on the strong regional draw of existing commercial enterprises and broaden the appeal to create a true destination experience. With its greater diversity of commercial uses, expanded urban fabric and enhanced pedestrian connectivity across the highway, the new downtown core will position Silverthorne to offer something truly unique in the region.

To fully realize this possibility, economic development must fully consider recreation and culture as integral parts of the puzzle. While the Comprehensive Plan clearly embraced the idea of improving connectivity and engaging the Blue River, it did not speak specifically to how this might be achieved. It is the Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan that can help more fully explore these elements. The Rainbow Bridge connecting the new downtown core to Rainbow Park is symbolic of this interconnect; expanding visibility of and access to recreational opportunities which support broader economic development goals.

Recreational opportunities should not be focused solely on meeting the needs of locals. But when considering them, be open to broadening their appeal to non-resident visitors. When devising programs or thinking of new events, ask how those opportunities might support your retail community. Recognize that what might be good for connectivity might also be good as a place to play and explore. Consider recreation and culture as key elements of your economic development strategy; they are an important part of making a great community.

All this must be done in balance to ensure what the community holds most close is not compromised. But where practical and possible, allowing recreation and culture to be lenses through which the local economy is seen, can help support a more vibrant and dynamic community that fully welcomes its visitors.

Goal 7: Promote the visibility of, and access to, the Town's POST network through a comprehensive wayfinding system that communicates to all transportation users.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Develop a comprehensive wayfinding plan that directs visitors in vehicles to the POST network especially Blue River Trail access points.
- B. The wayfinding system should reinforce the Town's identity as a recreational gateway.
- C. Establish a signage system to clearly communicate location of Town facilities, POST amenities and commercial/shopping areas to trail and alternative transportation users.

II. PARKS GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Design and build parks and recreational facilities that integrate with, and enhance the quality of the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Consider the Town's "gateway to recreation" brand when developing new or refurbishing old park facilities.
- B. Establish connections between parks to create a community-wide network of amenities.
- C. Ensure that all future larger-scale residential development includes a park or open space component.

Goal 2: Understand and address community needs regarding current and potential park uses.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Use relevant community data to guide selection of park amenities.
- B. Maintain meaningful public engagement as projects from the POST Master Plan are implemented.
- C. Make decisions with consideration of the varied needs of the community, with an emphasis on facilities and amenities that serve multiple uses.
- D. When practical, seek partnerships to assist in meeting community park needs.

Goal 3: Develop and maintain parks at a level of service that is appropriate for the location and type of use.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Establish standards and management plans, and annually assess the need for maintenance and renovation.
- B. Provide adequate staffing, maintenance and operations funding to maintain acceptable standards, and adjust to keep pace with the addition of future parks.
- C. Manage parks to prevent overuse and irreparable damage.

Goal 4: Provide sufficient park acreage to meet the needs of current and future populations and recreational demands.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Regularly survey residents and visitors to provide clarity on the ongoing recreational demands of the community.
- B. Consider comparable mountain communities when determining thresholds for additional parks and facilities.
- C. Ensure that future larger-scale residential developments include a park component that reflects the demand of the proposed bed base.
- D. When determining recreational demands consider the increased user population resulting from non-resident users.

Goal 5: Development of new parks and recreational facilities should be designed in conjunction with the existing trail network to ensure they promote accessibility from surrounding neighborhoods and commercial development.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. New facilities should expand upon and enhance the existing POST network.
- B. Development plans should illustrate connectivity of proposed parks to proposed development and existing trail networks.
- C. Emphasis should be placed on connections between proposed parks and the Blue River Trail.



III. OPEN SPACE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Create an interconnected network of open space that complements the Town's recreational objectives and acknowledges and celebrates the natural environment and culture of the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Identify critical areas to be prioritized for conservation and preservation, including environmentally sensitive areas, scenic view and wildlife corridors, riparian areas and wetlands, river corridors, natural filtration and storm water drainage areas, and other community-valued natural resources.
- B. Ensure that all town-managed open space properties are maintained in accordance with their functional classification and in consideration of their recognized resource value attributes.
- C. Prioritize the acquisition of new open spaces that maximize connectivity to existing open space resources, or are adjacent to National Forest System lands.
- D. Strive for a diversity of function (nature preserve, greenway, etc.) within the Town's open space portfolio.
- E. Periodically identify community needs and desires to inform and prioritize new and expanded open space resources through surveys, engagement with the SPORT committee and community outreach efforts.
- F. Encourage the creation of private open space, established through the planned residential development or subdivision process, that enhances the Town's overall open space strategy.
- G. Consider an "adopt-an-open space" program to promote a sense of community ownership and vesting in long-term stewardship.

Goal 2: Promote the use and enjoyment of open space through the development of context-sensitive recreational amenities consistent with the POST Master Plan.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Communicate the value of town-managed open space and the importance of land stewardship through interpretive educational features.
- B. Conduct detailed inventories of critical or sensitive habitats and important natural or cultural resources prior to advancing site-specific recreation projects.
- C. When implementing site-specific recreational projects, establish relevant management objectives for affected open space considering identified resources.
- D. Develop recreational uses within open space properties with the utmost of care and avoidance of identified critical or sensitive habitats.
- E. Monitor the results of project implementation against site-specific management objectives to ensure conformance, and improve future project development.

Goal 3: Foster cooperative working relationships with adjacent communities, Summit County, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and others who share common interest in open space preservation and management.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Understand the open space plans and objectives of other regional partners and determine where shared interests exist for improving the overall regional system for residents and visitors.
- B. Proactively communicate with regional partners so that unique opportunities for acquisition of important open space are not lost.
- C. Partner on grant funding applications to improve chances of success and to leverage financial resources.

IV. TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Establish and maintain a highly integrated and safe network of multi-use trails that link parks, open spaces, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, activity centers, and transportation centers.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Establish the Blue River Trail as the recreational “spine” of the Town of Silverthorne, and maximize connectivity to the trail.
- B. Supplement the trail network with an on-street bikeway and sidewalk system that ties to the multi-use trail network at key locations.
- C. Strive for no home to be more than ½-mile from a multi-use trail with safe on-street bicycle and sidewalk connections to trails.
- D. Wherever feasible, trails should be grade separated from street traffic using safe underpasses and overpasses traversing Highway 9 and other high traffic routes.
- E. Create a signage and wayfinding system to designate the network.
- F. Create gateways at key locations within commercial areas to facilitate access into the trail network.
- G. Provide signage throughout commercial areas to indicate the location and proximity of the trail network.
- H. Developers should illustrate trail design and connectivity for new residential developments during the planning and permitting process.
- I. Development plans for new commercial uses should address connectivity to existing trail networks.

Goal 2: Encourage a variety of trail types and experiences that appeal to a wide range of residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Provide both paved and unpaved trails to accommodate different user groups.
- B. Establish trails in a variety of settings. They can provide an experience, connect places of interest, or serve both purposes.
- C. Establish a variety of trail lengths that encourage exploration of recreational activities in the POST network, and provide a range of recreational experiences from short to day long outings.
- D. Provide rest stops at regular intervals with seating and interpretive features.
- E. Place rest stops and picnic areas in locations that have long distance views, are adjacent to scenic open space, and allow for additional recreational activities.
- F. Look for opportunities to connect to regional trail systems (i.e., the Summit County Recreational Pathway and USFS trail network) to support a continuous network that extends beyond the Town of Silverthorne.

Goal 3: Encourage sustainable design of trails in order to minimize impacts to natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Utilize current standards for trail surface design that responds to specific location and ground conditions. The Town of Silverthorne has developed a set of trail design standards based on the recommendations of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). While design standards provide specific guidance on the development of new trails within the community, any future design and implementation process should consider other potential guidance such as the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines, the Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) (1991) where applicable.
- B. When practical, avoid trail construction through environmentally sensitive and/or habitat areas.
- C. Design the trail system in response to type and volume of use, to avoid user conflict and overcrowding.
- D. Use permeable pavements, recycled materials, locally manufactured and/or available materials, and low energy requiring technologies, as possible.

Goal 4: Establish and maintain an active partnership with the USFS that promotes access to public lands.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Create “win-win” USFS trail projects that balance both ecological and recreational values of public lands.
- B. Recognize the value of designated Wilderness areas surrounding the Town. Promote the close proximity to this public resource through educational efforts and interpretive signage at trailheads and on trails. Consider outdoor classroom spaces if or where feasible.
- C. Provide stewardship of USFS lands through proper trail planning, design, regulations and signage. Stewardship can also entail the proper decommissioning of social trails.
- D. Support the USFS in educating the public on the ecological impacts of building social or “bandit” trails.
- E. Partner with stakeholders to fund local trail projects.

Goal 5: Use nationally accepted Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) standards to guide decision-making for design and construction of bicycle routes.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Seek to attain and maintain BFC designation for the Town.
- B. Encourage local businesses to provide bicycle friendly amenities and participate in programs such as the Bicycle Benefits Program (<http://bb2.bicyclebenefits.org/#/home>).
- C. Work with developers during the permit review process to ensure adequate accommodation of bicycles, consistent with BFC standards.



North Pond Park

4. Master Plan

Introduction

The POST Master Plan includes the following projects, which are also graphically depicted on the Master Plan figure and described below. These projects reflect issues and opportunities identified by Silverthorne residents and stakeholders. They are also responsive to the findings of the Needs and Opportunities Analysis methods which addressed walkability and connectivity, level of service, and how Silverthorne compares to similar mountain communities. In addition to project description, who the project serves (local, visitor or both) and the implementation timing (immediate, short-term, or long-term) are defined. Implementation timing is not meant to be specifically defined; however, in general terms, immediate refers to implementation in 0 to 2 years, short-term from 2 to 5 years and long-term at 5+ years. ***The POST projects identified are not listed in order of importance.***

In addition to community-oriented projects, there are a number of projects that respond to tourism-oriented recreation opportunities and are consistent with resident and stakeholder sentiment from the Needs and Opportunities Analysis findings. These factors include the Summit County marketplace and Silverthorne's unique attributes (brand) and position within this market, land use considerations and economic impacts, as defined within the findings of the Tourism-Oriented Recreation Opportunities Assessment.

Overarching themes to consider for all projects is whether adequate bathroom and other amenities are provided at parks, trailheads or generally where people gather; whether the parks, open space and trails are secure and people feel safe; and whether on-street parking can be provided, at the least during daylight hours, particularly at trailheads.

It is important to note that master planning may be required prior to implementation of these projects, including but not limited to the Cottonwood Neighborhood Park Master Plan, Downtown – Riverfront Park Master Plan, Open Space Trail Network Master Plan, Blue River Trail Access Master Plan, Blue River Corridor Alternative River Crossings Master Plan, and Highway Crossings Master Plan. Additionally, the POST projects and concepts identified in this Master Plan are those the planning team believes can and should be implemented in the next 10 years. Other projects and concepts were presented by the public and/or considered by the planning team. However, through the consideration of a variety of physical, economic and social variables, the planning team has defined the appropriate POST projects that best balance these variables.

Estimates of site improvement costs are provided to inform the user (Town, public, developer, etc.) of what each POST project entails and will hopefully ensure that funding is allocated to improvements efficiently. Cost estimates are drawn from the State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards produced by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), materials from the Town, and from the experience of SE Group in designing and overseeing the construction of similar facilities in comparable communities. These estimates are specific to Colorado communities that are at, or less than, 10,000 in population and represent the best available cost data for each project. As the DOLA Planning Standards document was published in 2003, cost estimates have been updated to 2014 dollars using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It must be noted that site improvement costs can vary widely depending on the specific project, the project site, materials, and other factors. Therefore, the cost information contained in this POST Master Plan should be used only for estimating purposes and not necessarily for determining actual bid prices for a specific site improvement. In addition, operations and maintenance considerations and potential funding sources can be found in Appendix D.

SYSTEM-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Although project-specific implementation strategies are provided for each project in the Master Plan, some strategies should be carried out across the POST system to facilitate implementation of this Master Plan. The following are specific actions that should be considered, and are not listed in order of priority.

- Pursue state, federal and non-profit granting and funding opportunities for park improvements.
- Explore community support for additional funding sources for POST projects, such as property or sales taxes, and development impact fees.
- Encourage community participation in development of all planning and construction documents to ensure the completed projects serve the needs and values of the community.
- Explore creation of a land dedication ordinance and a revised development impact fee to support the creation of new parks and trails associated with new development in the Town. Ensure both the design and construction of new facilities is considered.
- Prepare an annual progress report to ensure the goals of the POST Master Plan are being met.
- Establish a POST planning protocol to ensure new projects are consistent with the POST Master Plan across agencies and Town departments.
- Maintain strong partnerships with the USFS, Summit County, neighboring communities and other state and non-profit organizations.
- Create performance measures and site-specific plans for the management of the open space parcels to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Partner with the school district to disseminate information about recreational opportunities, programming and events for children within the Town.

ICON LEGEND

 Develop New Park	 Equipment Rental
 Future Regional Recreation Complex	 Existing Trailhead
 Future Kayak Park	 Potential Trailhead
 Town Green Event Space	 Serving Locals
 Public Space	 Serving Visitors
 Enhance Open Space	 Serving Both Locals and Visitors
 Upgrade Existing Park	 Implement Immediately
 Preserve Open Space	 Implement in Short-Term
 Blue River Trail Public Access	 Implement in Long-Term
 Blue River Trail Neighborhood Access	 Ongoing Implementation
 Alternative Blue River Crossing	 Future Implementation
 Potential Highway Crossing	 Multiple Unknown Variables; Can Not Determine Accurate Cost
 Improve Trailhead/Trail	

Master Plan Projects: Parks

Rainbow Community Park

PARK ACREAGE:

12

COST RANGE:

\$225,000
to
\$360,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS

Silverthorne's primary park should continue to operate at a high level of service and meet the demands of its users. First and foremost to serve locals, county-wide residents second, and visitors third. Based on the Rainbow Park Master Plan and community needs analysis, standard maintenance and improvements should be made. These include improving existing bathrooms, improving field maintenance, and improving the skate park rock wall drainage. In addition to these projects, the Town should strive to build upon Rainbow Park by allowing and promoting food trucks, addressing security issues, and allowing parking on Rainbow Drive.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. SKATE PARK EXPANSION

The skate park expansion is a well-justified project based on the age of the existing skate park, its community importance, and new trends in skate park design. One consideration should be made to allow bikes in the park.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- The Master Plan for this site is completed; Construction documents need to be prepared.
- Seek partnerships with local businesses to bring in food trucks.
- Develop and implement security protocols.
- Explore parking policies.
- Explore policy changes to allow bicycles to use the skate park.

Trent Neighborhood Park

PARK ACREAGE:

4

COST RANGE:

\$70,000
to
\$140,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. MOVE BATHROOMS

Trent Park is centrally located in Silverthorne and currently serves the northwest neighborhoods. Improvements at the park should include moving the bathroom to a more convenient location (i.e., closer to the tot lot) to better serve Trent Park users.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. IMPROVE FISHING POND

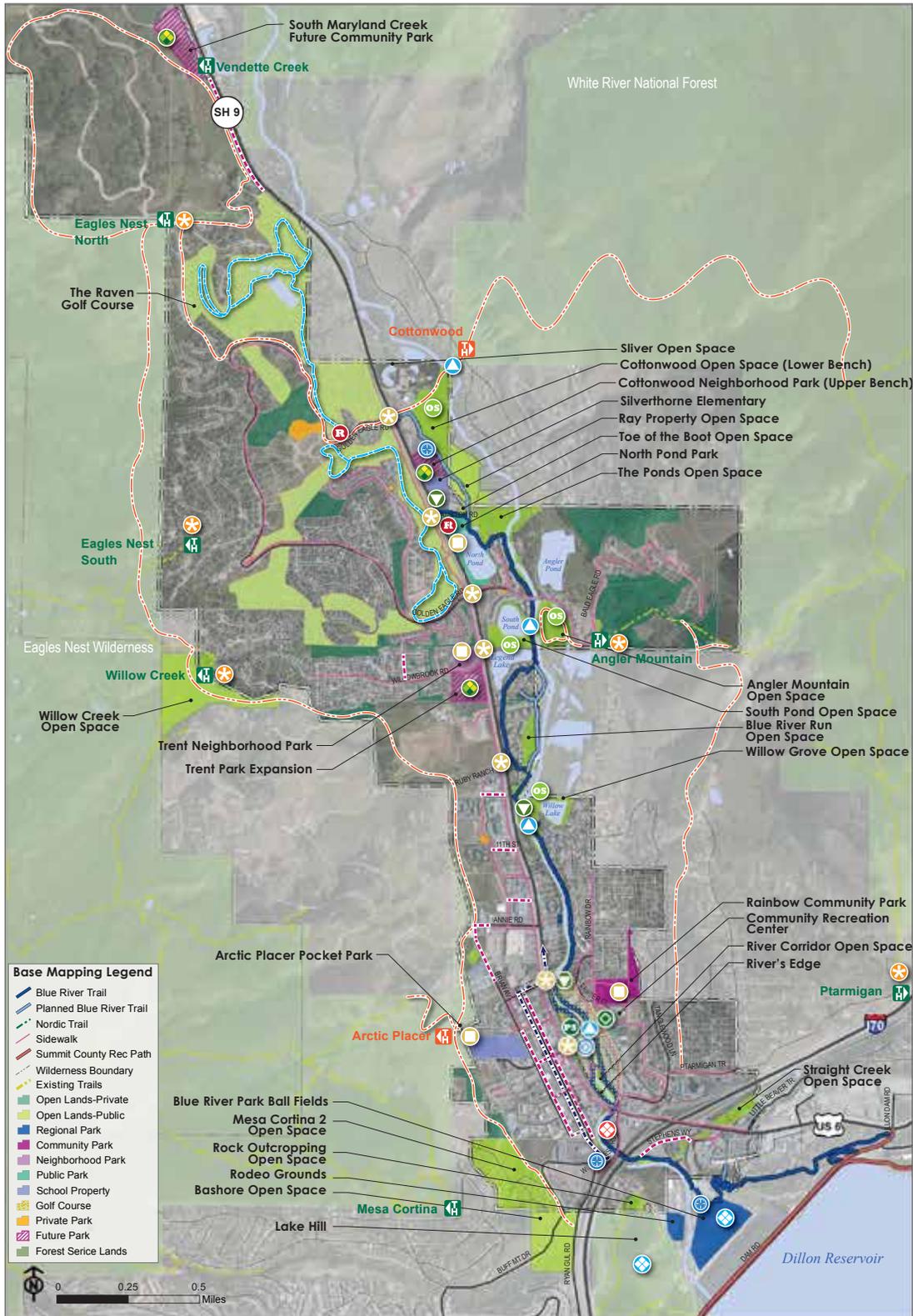
The fishing pond at Trent Park should also be improved. It is an important asset for locals' recreation because it allows free children's fishing. The pond's inlet culvert needs replacement and should be replaced.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Consider the Trent Park Expansion plans when implementing improvements to the existing Trent Neighborhood Park to ensure a cohesive user experience.
- Partner with the school district to raise awareness for the outstanding children's fishing opportunity at Trent Park and explore the possibility of children's programming or events at the site.
- Pursue grant funding through the Fishing Is Fun Program.



Master Plan

- Develop New Park
- Future Regional Recreation Complex
- Future Kayak Park
- Town Green Event Space
- Public Space
- Enhance Existing Open Space
- Upgrade Existing Park
- Blue River Trail Public Access
- Blue River Trail Neighborhood Access
- Alternative Blue River Crossing
- Potential Highway Crossing
- Improve Trailhead/Trail
- Equipment Rentals
- Town Core Area See: Riverfront Park Detail
- Existing Trailhead
- Potential Trailhead
- Develop New Sidewalks
- Formalize Bike Route
- Develop Nordic Trails
- Develop Multi-use Trails

SE GROUP

See full-size 11x17 map in Appendix E.

Trent Park Expansion (Future Park)

PARK ACREAGE:



COST RANGE:

\$475,000
to
\$710,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



The property south of Trent Park (across Willowbrook Road) is the location of a new park known as Trent Park Expansion. Trent Park and Trent Park Expansion will eventually function as one park. When this occurs, the Willowbrook Street crossing will need to be evaluated to ensure a safe street crossing. Conceptual plans were developed in 2004 including a multi-purpose field, however, other amenities are proposed.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. NEIGHBORHOOD-SERVING

DOG RUN/PARK

A neighborhood-serving dog run would address an immediate need for a dog-friendly area in context with the surrounding neighborhood.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD

Trent Park Expansion would be an ideal central location for a multi-purpose field and would be a long-term opportunity to serve the future Smith Ranch development.

SERVING: TIMING:



C. SMALL BIKE PARK

A small bike park or pump track (bike course with berms, bumps and jumps) should be considered to serve the immediate community needs adjacent to the Willowbrook neighborhood. This could be as minimal as a dirt track to a more elaborate park with built features.

SERVING: TIMING:



D. ADD PARKING

For the new community park, additional parking needs to be considered commensurate with anticipated use.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Revisit the 2004 conceptual plan for the site through a collaborative public process to ensure the expansion plan serves the needs and values of the community.
- Prepare construction documents.
- Consider the planned bike park at Cottonwood Neighborhood Park and the planned dog park at South Maryland Creek Ranch (SMCR) to ensure complementary recreational opportunities are provided at each location.
- Utilize Development Impact Fee funding.

South Maryland Creek Ranch Future Park

PARK ACREAGE:

20

COST RANGE:

\$565,000
to
\$815,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. REGIONAL DOG PARK

A regional dog park would serve a long-term need and market gap for a destination-style dog park for locals, and as a draw for Summit Country residents and visiting dog owners. The design of the park should include wildlife-friendly fencing and overall functionality. The dog park could be designed with the potential to host dog events or combine with the disc golf course.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. DISC GOLF COURSE

Disc golf is an underserved activity in Silverthorne (Peak One Disc Golf Course in Frisco is heavily used). A disc golf course at South Maryland Creek Ranch could be built with minimal vegetation removal or construction and would be complementary to the gateway nature of this site.

SERVING: TIMING:



C. HERITAGE PARK AND GARDENS

SMCR community park is an opportunity for Silverthorne to create a unique park experience in the highly visible area adjacent to SH 9. The character of this parkland should be based on the history of SMCR, creating an appealing destination for both locals and visitors. It is important to control this landscape as an entry feature for the northern entry to Town. This parkland could incorporate historical features, including reclaimed barns for a potential equestrian facility. This would add to the appeal of the landscape while also adding a unique and historically relevant recreational activities for both the community and guests.

SERVING: TIMING:



D. PLAY STRUCTURE

SMCR community park also needs to provide basic services to the surrounding neighborhood, especially because of its location to other community parks.

SERVING: TIMING:



E. MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD

A multi-purpose field at SMCR would provide a long-term opportunity to serve the yet-to-be-developed northern neighborhoods (i.e., South Maryland Creek Ranch, Oxbow Ranch). A multi-purpose field should be considered here when there is sufficient demand for additional fields.

SERVING: TIMING:



F. VENDETTA CREEK TRAILHEAD

The USFS trailhead will be located off of SH 9. An approximately 1 mile path will be developed through the community to access USFS lands and will include trailhead parking.

SERVING: TIMING:



G. SLEDDING HILL

Consider including a sledding area in the final park design, if feasible.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Revisit the 2005 conceptual plan for the site through a collaborative public process to ensure the park will serve the needs and values of the community.
- Prepare construction documents.
- Maintain the connection between the development of the park with the development of the South Maryland Creek Ranch Neighborhood Planned Unit Development (PUD) in terms of both need and funding.
- Engage Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the development of the dog park to ensure the protection of wildlife.
- Seek partnerships to explore the possibility of dog-related events at the site.
- Explore a partnership with the Summit Historical Society in the development of interpretive information and programming at the proposed Heritage Park and Gardens.
- Engage the USFS on the development of the Vendetta Creek Trailhead and Trail.
- Pursue Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grant Program funding.
- Pursue State Historical Society Funds.
- Utilize Development Impact Fee funding.

Cottonwood Neighborhood Park (Upper Bench)

PARK ACREAGE:



COST RANGE:

\$220,000
to
\$420,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. BIKE PARK

(PUMP TRACK OR SKILLS PARK)

The bike park at Cottonwood Park would provide a new attraction and destination on the Blue River Trail. The location would be close to the elementary school and existing multi-use field, creating a “multi-use” community destination for the primary user group (local children). The bike park would also be an attraction for visiting families that may be staying in the Silverthorne area (i.e., attraction is limited, and not competitive on a county-wide basis). If or when demand dictates and in conjunction with SH 9 crossings, this could replace the small bike park at the Trent Park Expansion.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. ROPES/CHALLENGE/ AGILITY COURSE

Explore the need for an un-manned ropes or challenge course that the Elementary School could use as a play structure.

SERVING: TIMING:



C. INTERPRETIVE OVERLOOK

Develop an interpretive overlook area as part of the Blue River Trail extension to observe the Cottonwood Lower Bench open space and to educate visitors of the natural resources of the Blue River.

SERVING: TIMING:



D. MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD

The Town and the Elementary School have already come to an agreement with regards to management of the existing multi-purpose field and proposed multi-purpose field on Town land. In addition to field maintenance, other agreements could include parking on weekends or after school hours, bathrooms during events or tournaments, and improved snow removal.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare site master plan and construction documents.
- Consider the planned bike park at Trent Park Expansion to ensure complementary recreational opportunities are provided at each location.
- Engage the school district throughout the planning and development of the site to ensure compatibility and use of the park by the Silverthorne Elementary School.
- Engage the Elementary School to develop outdoor educational opportunities within the community, including at Cottonwood Neighborhood Park, and on the National Forest.
- Pursue Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grant Program funding.

North Pond Park

PARK ACREAGE:

5

COST RANGE:

\$30,000
to
\$45,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. ICE AND WATER SPORTS RENTALS

North Pond Park is heavily used. To complement and expand existing usage of North Pond Park, the Town should provide skate rentals during the winter and stand up paddleboards and/or kayak rentals during the summer. This may require a small new structure for rental equipment storage during the off-season.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. CONCESSIONS

Due to the heavy use at North Pond Park, there is an opportunity to service users with food and beverages out of the small pavilion.

SERVING: TIMING:



C. EXPAND THE NORTH POND BEACH

Residents already enjoy the small North Pond beach area. The Town should consider creating a beach on the northwest side of North Pond based on existing use.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare construction documents.
- Explore partnerships with independent vendors for the concessions and rentals at the site.
- Consider all users of the site and seek to minimize user conflict between beach-goers and dogs.

TYPICAL RENTAL EQUIPMENT COSTS

Ice skates, Nordic skates, kayaks and stand up paddleboards are considered for rental at North Pond Park. Rental equipment costs will depend on the number of skates, boards, or kayaks purchased. Ice skates suitable for rent would cost about \$50 per pair, stand up paddleboards would cost about \$1,000 per board and paddle, and kayaks would cost about \$800 per boat and paddle. It is recommended that the Town purchase between 50 and 100 pairs of traditional ice skates, 10 to 20 pairs of Nordic skates, 5 to 10 stand up paddleboards, and 5 to 10 kayaks. Total cost for all rental equipment is estimated between \$13,000 and \$26,000. Site improvement costs for the rental building are included in the improvement cost for North Pond Park, but rental equipment costs are not.

Arctic Placer Pocket Park

PARK ACREAGE:

1

COST RANGE:

\$90,000
to
\$150,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Arctic Placer is a small park in need of upgrades. It should be brought up to current standards; however, no expansion is planned.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. PARKING

Due to the minimal lack of parking at Arctic Placer, parking should be allowed during daylight hours in the cul-de-sac.

SERVING: TIMING:



C. USFS TRAILHEAD

A social trail currently exists out of Arctic Placer up the drainage to USFS lands in the Mesa Cortina area. This trail should be formalized and improved to protect the drainage and serve as a connection from the Town Core to the Silverthorne Loop Trail and USFS lands.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare construction documents.
- Engage the USFS on the planning, permitting, design and implementation of the trail at Arctic Placer.
- Explore parking policies in the cul-de-sac at Arctic Placer.

Downtown - Riverfront Park

PARK ACREAGE:

30

COST RANGE:

\$275,000
to
\$820,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



The Core Concept Study (see Riverfront Park Concept Master Plan figure) found in the 2014 Comprehensive Plan illustrated a vision for the establishment of a vibrant, walkable downtown area that is attractive for both residents and visitors. Vibrancy requires people, and attracting people requires things to see and do, and places to hang out. The Comprehensive Plan outlined a number of ways this can be achieved through recreation-oriented development within the Town Core area. The POST projects outlined below build upon this vision: by focusing on public spaces along the river, creating a public events space, highlighting access to the Blue River Trail, and providing things to do and see along the trail, and creating a river-based attraction. The POST Master Plan assumes the creation of a recreation overlay district, called the Riverfront Park, which will focus on and identify specific recreation-oriented development within the Town Core area.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. TOWN GREEN OR EVENT SPACE

SERVING: TIMING:



The Town Green or Event Space would be a flexible outdoor space within the Town Core District, which may serve a variety of uses depending on the needs of downtown (e.g., festival/market/parking areas). As identified in the Comprehensive Plan (LU 2 TC.9). This space would contribute to a vibrant downtown area that attracts and entertains visitors.

B. PUBLIC SPACE

SERVING: TIMING:



The Public Spaces are outdoor places for people to gather, including green spaces, outdoor plazas, pedestrian streets, children's play areas, and outdoor seating to infuse energy and activity throughout the Town Core. It is a priority to create spaces with views and access to the Blue River. As identified in the Comprehensive Plan (LU 2 TC.4). This could include river access areas, as suggested in the Core Concept Study. Fishing access should be considered for all users from clearly signed river access locations, with ADA accessibility, to provide a unique opportunity for locals and visitors.

C. BLUE RIVER TRAIL SPACES

AND POCKET PARKS

SERVING: TIMING:



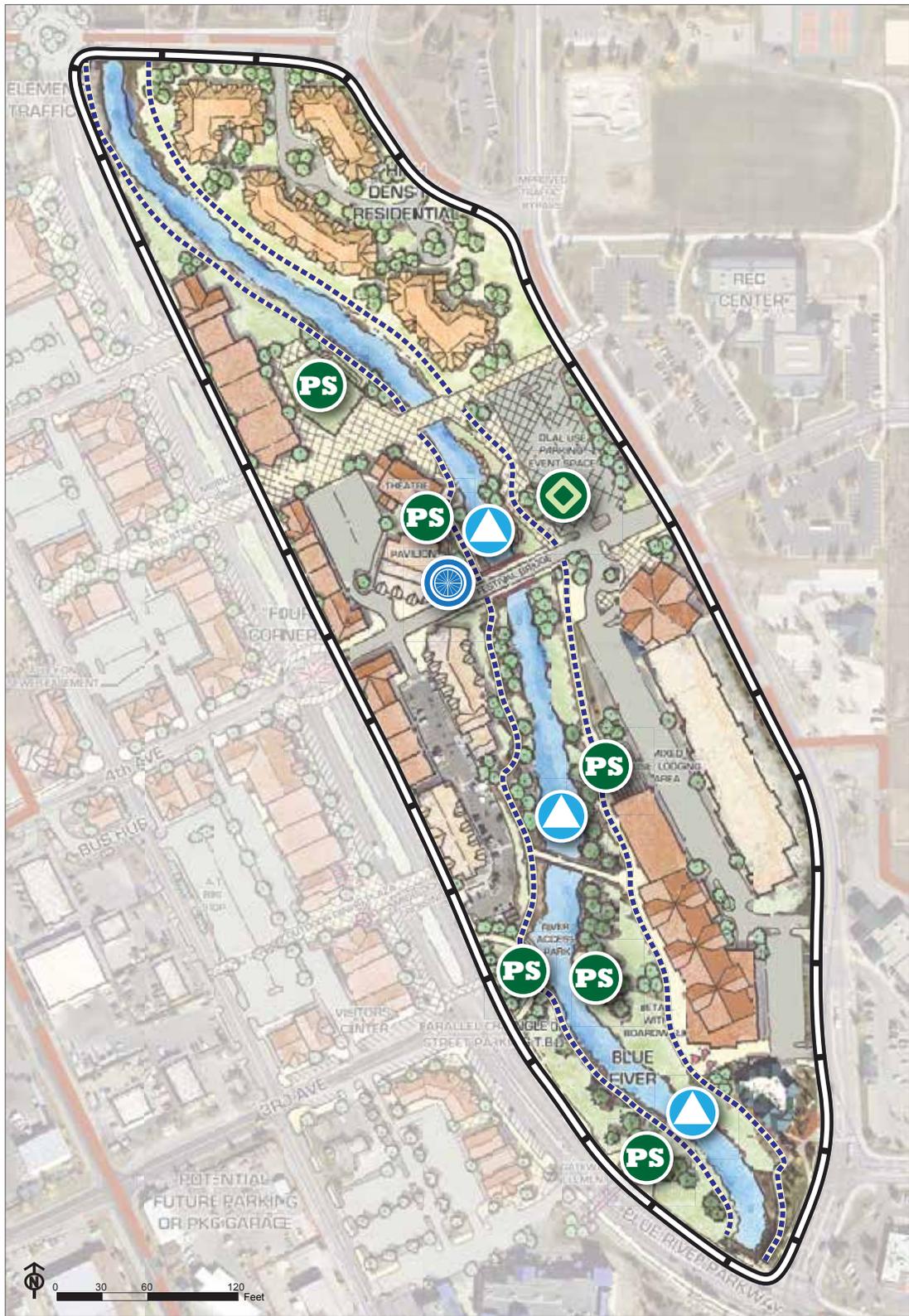
The Blue River Trail already provides a great opportunity for people to recreate in a beautiful location. Small "pocket" areas should be developed along the Blue River Trail for benches or wildlife watching areas that are unique, blend with nature, promote recreation and potentially showcase art.

D. ALTERNATIVE RIVER EXPERIENCE

SERVING: TIMING:



An Alternative River Experience is a fun, easy attraction that features the Blue River while not adversely affecting the natural environment. The River Experience provides a unique way to enjoy the Blue River, adds animation to the Downtown, and creates a revenue-generating attraction for the Town Core area. This could be as simple as a zip line or a cable crossing, or more complex to include a series of river crossings (zip lines/rope bridges/cable crossings) as well as aerial/challenge course-type activities occurring on the river banks. This would require designated space to locate activities and landing structures on both sides of the river. The beginning and end of this experience should relate to the Downtown and be visible from high-traffic public gathering areas and retail activity.



Blueprint
SILVERTHORNE
 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan Update 2014

Master Plan
 Riverfront Park Concept

- Public Space
- Town Green Event Space
- Blue River Trail Gateway
- Alternative Blue River Crossing
- Riverfront Park Area
- Blue River Trail

SE GROUP

See full-size 11x17 map in Appendix E.

Downtown - Riverfront Park (cont.)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Create a Riverfront Park recreation overlay district.
- Prepare site master plan and construction documents.
- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas.
- Seek public-private partnerships to promote the Town Core area as a center of both recreational and community activity within the Town.
- Explore partnerships to create and expand upon signature Town events held at the Town Green.
- Utilize both the 2014 Comprehensive Plan and the 2014 POST Master Plan to guide the development of the Town Core area. These documents are intended to work in concert to produce a vibrant, high-traffic downtown in Silverthorne.
- Conduct financial and market analysis for the Alternative River Experience.
- Explore partnerships with independent vendors for the Alternative River Experience.
- Explore the range of options for the management and operation of the Alternative River Experience.
- Pursue Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE ALTERNATIVE RIVER EXPERIENCE

Municipal development and operation of revenue generating facilities and amenities may be organized and structured in several formats. The initial determination for the municipality to make is if the envisioned operation will be designed, financed, developed and operated internally or externally—or in combination. In many instances, municipal organizations are unwilling or uninterested in becoming the entrepreneur but would like the facility or service to be offered within their community. In these instances, consideration of a concessioning arrangement is logical. Concessions may be structured in two primary ways. In the first situation, the municipality would seek an external entity to provide a full “turn-key” business; design, finance, construct and operate the planned amenity/facility. In the second situation, the municipality would design, finance and construct the facility and only concession the operations of the amenity. The following section discusses the advantages and disadvantages of each of these scenarios:

TURN-KEY CONCESSION:

As described above, under this structure the municipality would seek an entrepreneur to independently develop and operate the facility – working within the municipality’s guidelines for development. This structure places all of the risk of developing the activity upon a third-party and in-turn requires a much more substantial commitment from the developer. Consequentially, the expected return to the developer would need to be substantially higher and it may be difficult (or impossible) to attract a concessionaire to a marginally lucrative facility/amenity. The advantage to the municipality is that they would not incur the risk or burden of providing the planned facility.

CONCESSION OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED FACILITIES:

Municipalities may find additional project control and oversight is afforded through developing the infrastructure internally and seeking a third-party to subsequently operate the amenity. The approach may allow the municipality to concession the activity for a shorter duration, maintain a higher level of project control, change arrangements as necessary, and attract local established businesses to the operation. Clearly, the downside to this approach is that the municipality bears the burden (and risk) associated with funding the initial capital investment.



Tourism-Oriented Recreation and Mountain Destinations

In addition to the stunning scenery, a main attraction of mountain destinations is that they offer an endless array of recreational pursuits. While historically this was focused on winter recreation, the trend has shifted; recreation is year-round. Whatever the activity, program or event, these multi-season offerings must be consistent with the mountain experience, which is what brings visitors in the first place.

Activities offered at mountain destinations are often gravity-oriented to take advantage of the mountainous terrain (e.g., alpine coasters, zip lines, mountain biking), or activities that allow unique interactions with the natural environment (e.g., hiking, chairlift rides, canopy tours, Segway tours). Programs may include sports and fitness, health and wellness, education, and arts and crafts. Events celebrate the mountain lifestyle, with orientation toward sports (e.g., races), arts & entertainment, and food. As a collective, the multi-season recreational offering presents an array of both active and passive recreation, to appeal to the broadest array of visitors.

Mountain resorts are often the primary venue for mountain-oriented activities, as they are well suited to entertain large volumes of public visitation. Mountain resorts already have significant infrastructure in place including parking, guest service facilities, rest rooms, and food service. Resorts are not typically located in full-time residential neighborhoods, so the impacts of public use – traffic, noise, lights – are less conflicting with the residential experience.

Mountain communities may also contribute to the multi-season recreation landscape, by providing unique activities, programs and events not found at the larger resorts. This may occur by taking advantage of unique site features not found elsewhere. The Frisco Adventure Park was able to establish a major tubing venue, because unlike the resorts they had a site with terrain that was suitable for such activity. Coupled with a highly visible site that was naturally buffered from surrounding residential uses, this provided the town with a unique revenue-generating venue. Regardless of the opportunity, mountain communities must achieve a balance between encouraging outside visitation and satisfying the recreational needs of their residents.

Gateway District

PARK ACREAGE:

na

COST RANGE:

\$5,000,000
to
\$10,000,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. COMPLEMENTARY

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

This is a unique area of Silverthorne in that its location allows for more intensified activity, lighting and noise. The Town should promote private development of “amusement” type recreation activities in the Gateway District to provide activities for the captive audience that may be looking for a break from the shopping experience or a reason to exit I-70. This may include an ice rink made from artificial ice, to allow for spring, summer, and fall skating, or a sledding hill.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. LAKE HILL GRAVITY PARK

Community year-round gravity recreation site on adjacent USFS lands.

The gently sloping terrain, combined with the visibility from I-70 and proximity to the Gateway area makes this a suitable area for some type of year-round, gravity-oriented summer and winter recreation. Consider the “wow” factor.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Ensure the zoning of the Gateway District (non-USFS lands) is compatible with development of “amusement” type recreation activities.
- Partner with the Urban Renewal Authority to explore incentives for the private development of complementary recreational activities in this district. These could include tax increment financing, public utility rate breaks, infrastructure improvements, or participation in the Business Improvement Grant Program, the Enhanced Sales Tax Incentive Program, and the Silverthorne Energy Smart Program.
- Explore acquisition of adjacent land to promote efficient use of the Lake Hill site.
- Engage the USFS on the development of natural resource-based recreational opportunities at the Lake Hill site.
- Explore partnerships with independent vendors for the Lake Hill site.
- Conduct financial and market analysis for the Lake Hill site.

Adjacent Opportunities - Gateway District

PARK ACREAGE:

8

COST RANGE:

\$700,000
to
\$3,000,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. BLUE RIVER BALL FIELDS

The Ball Fields are an important community amenity to both the residents of the Town and Summit County located outside of Silverthorne Town boundaries. The Town should pursue collaboration with the County to improve the existing condition of the fields to encourage continued use.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. RODEO GROUNDS REGIONAL PARK

Although not within Town boundaries, the Rodeo Grounds are a highly visible part of this area. Activity would create a visual draw to visitors arriving in Summit County via I-70. The Town should pursue partnerships to host events in this area to support the creation of this visual attraction.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Explore a cooperative agreement with the County and Denver Water.
- Pursue collaboration with the County to improve the existing condition of the fields to encourage continued use.
- Pursue partnerships to host events in this area, to support the creation of a visual attraction.
- Explore partnerships with independent vendors for the concessions at the site.

Other Resources - Raven Golf Course

PARK ACREAGE:

232

COST RANGE:

TBD

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. NORDIC TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Nordic trails at the Raven are a modest but important amenity to the community. To increase the level of service, the Town should add consistent grooming, expand programming and solidify the growing Nordic user base in Silverthorne. During the winters, restrooms, concessions, and programming/events should be a priority.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. FAT BIKING AND SNOWSHOEING

Fat biking and snowshoeing are two growing activities the Town could provide to fill a gap in the County and provide in conjunction with programming and events to promote the facilities.

SERVING: TIMING:



C. SLEDDING HILL

During the winter, the Raven has the potential to offer a great sledding hill. The Town should pursue necessary insurance upgrades to provide for this amenity.

SERVING: TIMING:



D. CONCESSIONS

To increase level of service at the Nordic facility, food, beverage and equipment rentals should be offered out of the clubhouse. Increased operational cost may include up to 2 full-time employees.

SERVING: TIMING:



E. EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP

WITH THE RAVEN GOLF COURSE

SERVING: TIMING:



The partnership between the Town and the Raven Golf Course has been beneficial for both parties to-date. A more significant partnership or license agreement to jointly promote the Town of Silverthorne image, community events and other opportunities should be pursued with the Raven Golf Course.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Build upon the existing cooperative agreement between the Raven Golf Course and the Town to pursue additional opportunities at the site.
- Explore partnerships with independent vendors for the rentals and concessions at the site.
- Pursue insurance upgrades to provide for community sledding at Raven Golf Course.

TYPICAL RENTAL EQUIPMENT COSTS

Fat bikes and snowshoes are considered for rental at Raven Golf Course. Rental equipment costs will depend on the number of bikes and snowshoes purchased. Fat bikes suitable for rent would cost about \$800 per bike and snowshoes would cost about \$100 per pair. It is recommended the Town purchase between 10 and 20 fat bikes and 20 to 30 pairs of snowshoes in various sizes. Total cost for all rental equipment is estimated between \$10,000 and \$19,000.

Kayak Park

PARK ACREAGE:

1

COST RANGE:

\$500,000
to
\$700,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Designed to be located between Wildernest Road and SH 9, behind the Outlets, the kayak park would have 3 structures for kayakers and rafters. The Town has already secured the necessary water rights to pursue the project.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Revisit the 2013 Blue River Whitewater Course Conceptual Design for a kayak park through a collaborative public process to ensure the park serves the needs and values of the community.
- Prepare construction documents.

Master Plan Projects: Open Space

As part of determining projects for inclusion in the Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan, open space properties in the Town of Silverthorne have been ranked on a three tier classification system. A “1” Indicates the property should be kept relatively undeveloped or wild. These properties will have high wildlife, wetlands or floodplain value to the community and function as resource conservation. A “2” indicates limited passive recreation and/or outdoor educational uses. This may include a soft surface trail or structures that blend with the natural environment. A “3” indicates developed park-like features that are consistent with the natural surroundings. This may include a hard surface trail, “wild play” structures, picnic areas or park benches.

Site improvements to the open space parcels primarily consist of a trail network that would connect the parcels and create a cohesive outdoor experience through the Town’s varied natural areas. This would include soft surface trails, portions of boardwalk trails (to protect sensitive environments), and limited recreational amenities, such as interpretive and wayfinding signs. The cost for developing this trail network is accounted for under “Trails and Connectivity” Master Plan Projects. Likewise, the highway crossings and river crossings discussed for the open space parcels are also addressed in that section. The Angler Mountain and Willow Grove parcels include specific cost estimates for the more park-like site improvements.

In order to implement the Open Space Master Plan projects, the implementation strategies for the open space trail network, discussed under “Trails and Connectivity,” should be carried out. Performance measures and site-specific plans for the management of the open space parcels should be created to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development. Land management partners for the open space parcels, such as the County, the Continental Divide Land Trust (CDLT), and USFS, should be engaged to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the partner.

Cottonwood Natural Area (Lower Bench)

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

20

COST RANGE:

See Open Space Trails Network and the Loop Trail

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

Cottonwood Natural Area is valued for its high quality natural resources and location next to the Blue River. The property should be maintained for its ecological values while encouraging limited (passive) recreational and interpretive activities (i.e., boardwalk trail). It should connect with adjacent County open spaces to promote a more regional network of passive open space, and connect with potential USFS trail (i.e., future Cottonwood trailhead) and future Silverthorne Multi-Use Loop Trail. The implementation of projects should be tied to the development of Cottonwood Park and the completion of the Blue River Trail.

TIER:
1-2

TIMING:
S

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.



WILD PLAYGROUNDS

Wild playgrounds are places for children to explore what is referred to as *nature play*. It is a learning process to engage children in working together, to develop physical skills, to exercise their imaginations, to begin to understand the workings of the world around them. These playgrounds are defined as a designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences.¹



¹ 2014. Moore, R. *Nature Play & Learning Places: Creating and managing places where children engage with nature*. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation Version 1.2.

South Pond

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

11

COST RANGE:

See Highway and River Crossing

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

South Pond Open Space is envisioned as an open space connection hub, with no parking or motorized access, that preserves the natural characteristics of the open space. It could provide the Willowbrook neighborhood connectivity to the Blue River Trail via a proposed highway crossing and connect with Angler Mountain Open Space via an alternative river crossing.

TIER: 2-3
TIMING: S

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Blue River Trail Access Master Plan and construction documents.
- Prepare Blue River Corridor Alternative River Crossings Master Plan and construction documents.
- Prepare Highway Crossings Master Plan and construction documents.
- Engage the Colorado Department of Transportation in the design and construction of the SH 9 crossings.
- Full implementation should be contingent on SH 9 highway crossing.

Angler Mountain Open Space

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

11

COST RANGE:

\$155,000
to
\$210,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

Angler Mountain Open Space could transition from open space to a natural parkland to allow the community to explore unique settings in Town and engage in the surrounding environment. Angler Mountain Open Space is a potential location for an alternative river crossing (discussed in “Blue River Corridor”) to connect with South Pond Open Space, and then on to the Willowbrook neighborhood via South Pond and a future highway crossing (discussed in “Highway 9 Crossing and Connections”). Angler Mountain Open Space is the potential location for a “wild” playground and treehouse park due to its unique and natural setting. Additionally, the site is suitable for limited in-Town camping to match the “gateway” concept of this POST Master Plan. Angler Mountain Open Space would connect to the Angler Mountain Trailhead with a spur trail to provide clear connectivity. Connection with adjacent open spaces, including open spaces to the north, should be a priority to promote open space connectivity.

TIER: 3
TIMING: I

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.
- Prepare wild playground construction documents.

Ray Property

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

11

COST RANGE:

See Open Space Trails Network

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

The property is jointly owned between Summit County and the Town of Silverthorne, and is currently designated for open space and a segment of the Blue River Trail.

TIER: 1-2
TIMING: L

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.
- Engage the County in the development of the Open Space Trail Network Master Plan to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the County.

Toe of the Boot

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

1

COST RANGE:

See Open Space Trails Network

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Toe of the Boot is located near the Silverthorne Elementary School and North Pond Park. A future Blue River Trail connection is planned to connect North Pond Park and Cottonwood Park through this property. Future use should be consistent with adjacent open space properties, Ray Property and The Ponds.

TIER: 3
TIMING: S

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.
- Prepare Blue River Trail Access Master Plan and construction documents.

The Ponds

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

18

COST RANGE:

See Open Space Trails Network

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Ponds property has high quality natural resources and is located next to the Blue River, the Blue River Trail and North Pond Park. The property should be maintained for its ecological values while encouraging limited (passive) recreational and interpretive activities (i.e., boardwalk trail). It should connect with other open spaces to promote a more regional network of passive open space.

TIER: 1-2
TIMING: S

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.

Blue River Run

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

8

COST RANGE:

See Open Space Trails Network

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

Blue River Run contains a floodway along the Blue River and most of the parcel is wetlands. To protect these resources, the property should be preserved as a natural buffer between the proposed Blue River Trail and Blue River Run residences.

TIER: 3

TIMING: S

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories to protect environmental quality on the parcel.

Willow Grove Open Space Park

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

15

COST RANGE:

\$5,000 to \$10,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

Willow Grove should be managed to preserve the existing use of the open space (i.e., parking, trail around lake and viewing platforms) and potentially add or improve picnic tables, additional docks and simple games (i.e., horseshoes). Improve directional and informational signage. This site has a conservation easement which is monitored by CDLT.

TIER: 2-3

TIMING: S

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Blue River Trail Access Master Plan and construction documents.
- Engage the CDLT in the development of the Blue River Trail Access Master Plan to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the County.

River Corridor

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

15

COST RANGE:

\$0

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

These properties should be preserved for their natural riverbank and stream channel while also enhancing river access and associated recreation along the Blue River Trail.

TIER: 2-3

TIMING: S

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Blue River Trail Access Master Plan and construction documents.

Straight Creek

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

6

COST RANGE:

\$0

IMPROVEMENTS:

OS

SITE DESCRIPTION

Straight Creek is adjacent to I-70 and due to the floodway and wetlands on the parcels should be preserved in its natural condition.

TIER:

1

TIMING:

L

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories to protect environmental quality on the parcel.

Willow Creek Highland Trailhead

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

2

COST RANGE:

See Silverthorne Loop Trail

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

Willow Creek Highlands Trailhead is adjacent to County open space which connects to USFS Wilderness Area. This parcel should be managed consistent with the County open space.

TIER:

2

TIMING:

L

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Engage the County and the USFS in the management of the site to meet the open space goals for both the Town and property partners.

Joint Sewer Authority Sliver

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

0.6

COST RANGE:

\$0

IMPROVEMENTS:

OS

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Sliver property provides a buffer between the wastewater treatment plant and future development. No development is proposed but the property is rated a 2 to 3 tier ranking for the potential for future river access.

TIER:

2-3

TIMING:

L

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.

Mesa Cortina 2

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

32

COST RANGE:

See Silverthorne Loop Trail

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

Mesa Cortina 2 is currently assigned development density, but the property does have a significant, steep side slope that creates potential slope stability issues. The property should be rezoned and remove the density that currently exists. This parcel should be managed consistent with the County open space.

TIER: 1 TIMING: L

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories to protect environmental quality on the parcel.
- Explore rezoning of the property to protect from slope stability issues.

Bashore

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

22

COST RANGE:

See Silverthorne Loop Trail

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Bashore open space is jointly owned with the County and the Buffalo Mountain Metro District (BMMD). This property could be the location of future multi-use trails and trailhead. This site has a conservation easement which is monitored by CDLT.

TIER: 2 TIMING: L

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.
- Engage the County and the BMMD in the development of the Open Space Trail Network Master Plan to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the partners.

Rock Outcropping

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

3

COST RANGE:

\$0

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

A complex history with the Barber property (adjacent property) prevents significant development in this area, but the property could become part of the future Lake Hill development site.

TIER: 3 TIMING: L

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Consider this parcel when engaging the USFS on the development of natural resource-based recreational opportunities at the Lake Hill site.

Land Acquisitions

OPEN SPACE ACREAGE:

TBD

COST RANGE:

TBD

IMPROVEMENTS:

OS

OS

Acquisition of lands with the priorities of:

- 1) adjacency to the Blue River/Blue River Trail corridor;
- 2) expanding existing open space corridors;
- 3) protecting significant natural resources;
- 4) focusing on parcels neighboring USFS lands;
- 5) community buffers;
- 6) preserves view corridors.

TIER:

1-3

TIMING:

○



Master Plan Projects: Trails and Connectivity

Blue River Trail Public Access

LOCATIONS PROPOSED:



COST RANGE:

\$50,000 to \$75,000
Per Access Point

IMPROVEMENTS:



GENERAL DESCRIPTION FOR PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO THE BLUE RIVER TRAIL

The Blue River Trail is a great venue for family-oriented activity, and is a great attraction for Summit County residents and visitors. As such, there is need for “gateways” for the public to access the Blue River Trail. These access points would provide parking, restrooms, bike racks and informational signage regarding the opportunities along the trail (picnic spots, water sports, scenic open space, significant flora/fauna, public art, access to other parks or parts the community, etc.). These areas should be sited to optimize exposure to commercial activity, to encourage crossover visitation (shoppers see the trail, and trail users see the shops) as well as provide opportunities for refreshment and food service to trail users. This could also be a location to rent bikes, or provide a bike share station. A partnership with local businesses could provide some of these services close to the Blue River Trail. These access points can also serve Silverthorne residents, who are comfortable biking along the trail but not the route between their house and the trail (i.e., those with young children who are concerned about traffic).

BRT PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

1) COTTONWOOD ACCESS

This will be the northern end of the Blue River Trail and the site of the future bike park. While this location is less “public” than the others, it is important to provide a “gateway” at either end of the Blue River Trail experience. This northern access point to the Trail could also occur at North Pond, which has existing parking and restrooms.

SERVING: TIMING:



2) TOWN CORE ACCESS

This location builds upon the synergy of the Downtown (“Four Corners”) area of the Town Core District (i.e., the 4th Street bridge/ Recreation Center corridor), and the recreation activity occurring in the Riverfront Park area. Promote the Town Core access point with signage off SH 9 and other major gathering places within the Town of Silverthorne.

SERVING: TIMING:



3) OUTLET (GATEWAY DISTRICT) ACCESS

This location is within the Gateway design district (Gateway Commercial zone), where there is a critical mass of visitors due to the outlets. It is also a place where a lot of visitors are already parked. This location must be visible from all areas within this district, either directly or through signage, to educate visitors of the opportunity for an alternative trail experience, and entice shoppers along the Blue River Trail to the Town Core area.

SERVING: TIMING:



4) SOUTH ACCESS

This location may be the focus of future public activity and current location of the Blue River Ball Fields. It provides parking opportunities, and is the location where the Summit County bike path intersects with the beginning of the Blue River Trail.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare Blue River Trail Access Master Plan and construction documents.
- Engage local businesses to maximize exposure of the trail to customers of the local businesses and exposure of the local businesses to trail users.
- Engage community members, artists and local organizations to facilitate the creation of community art for the public access sites.
- Explore partnerships with local businesses to provide refreshment, food service and bike share/bike rental services to trail users.
- Engage the County to ensure a cohesive experience for users of the Blue River Trail and the Summit County bike path in terms of signage, mapping and wayfinding efforts.
- Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for a combined Blue River Trail Project that encompasses public access sites, neighborhood access sites, trail extensions and connectors, and trail and sidewalk intersection improvements.

Blue River Trail Neighborhood Access

LOCATIONS PROPOSED:

3

COST RANGE:

\$5,000 to \$10,000
Per Access Point

IMPROVEMENTS:



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS POINTS TO THE BLUE RIVER TRAIL

The Blue River Trail is a great venue for family-oriented activity, especially for young families living in Silverthorne. Because the Blue River Trail runs through Silverthorne, important access points have been identified to provide access to various high and medium density residential areas and subdivisions. These access points are integral to the overall connectivity in the Town of Silverthorne. This should include improved signage on SH 9 to access points, and parking.

BRT NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS POINTS

SERVING: TIMING:



1) NORTH POND PARK

North Pond Park currently offers residents a variety of activities throughout the year. It currently functions as a “gateway” to the Blue River Trail, by providing parking and access from the north. Maintaining this access point to the Blue River Trail is critical to the surrounding neighborhoods, especially when coupled with an improved signaled crossing of SH 9 at Hamilton Road.

2) WILLOW GROVE

SERVING: TIMING:



Willow Grove, ideally located on the Blue River Trail, currently functions as a gateway to the Blue River Trail by providing parking, bathrooms and access to the trail in a central location. Willow Grove should continue to be a key access point to the surrounding communities.

3) TOWN HALL

SERVING: TIMING:



Town Hall is centrally located and is right off the Blue River Trail. This access point should continue to be a major access point to the Blue River Trail and the surrounding residences.

4) OTHER SUBDIVISIONS CONNECTIONS

SERVING: TIMING:



See Highway 9 Crossings and Connections.

OVERALL: IMPROVE INTERSECTION OF SIDEWALK AND TRAIL

SERVING: TIMING:

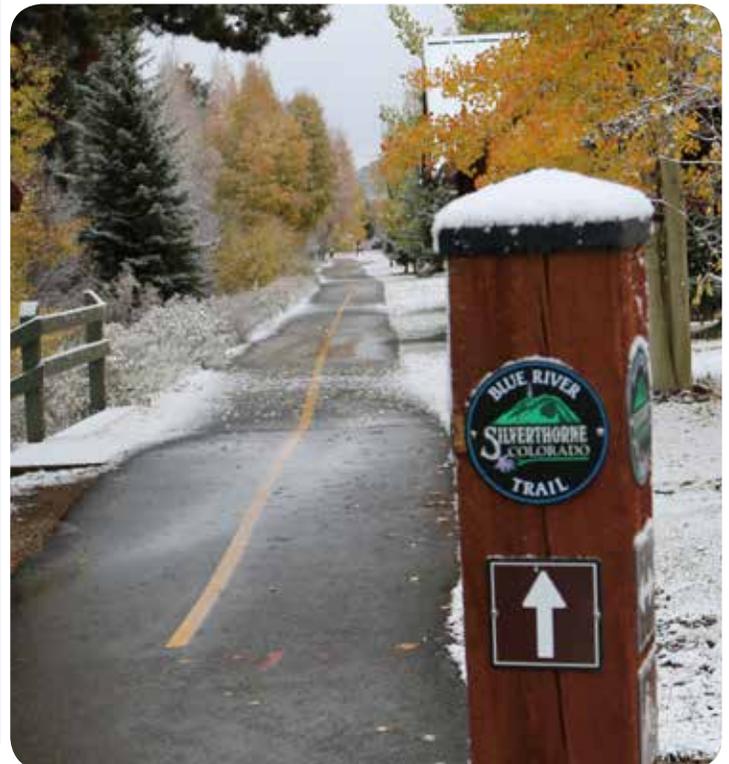


Improve the abrupt intersections/ access points of the Blue River Trail at:

- 1) Wildernest Road
- 2) The Recreation Center
- 3) Hamilton Creek Road

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare Blue River Trail Access Master Plan and construction documents.
- Encourage community participation in the development of the access points to ensure the completed projects serve the needs and values of the community.
- Engage the Colorado Department of Transportation to improve signage on SH 9.
- Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for a combined Blue River Trail Project that encompasses public access sites, neighborhood access sites, trail extensions and connectors, and trail and sidewalk intersection improvements.
- Explore parking policies at the access points.



Planned Blue River Trail Extensions

LINEAR MILES:



COST RANGE:

\$175,000
to
\$250,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Plans have been developed to extend or add connectors to the Blue River Trail in the following three locations:

1) COTTONWOOD TO

NORTH POND PARK

The Blue River Trail extension is planned to continue to follow the Blue River north from North Pond Park through the Toe of the Boot, Ray and Cottonwood Upper Bench areas to terminate at Cottonwood Park.

2) BLUE RIVER RUN

The Blue River Run extension would move the current location of the Blue River Trail from Blue River Circle and Legend Lake Circle to along the Blue River. Developing this section of trail would add to the overall experience of the Blue River Trail and increase safety by re-routing to an off road alignment.

SERVING: TIMING:



SERVING: TIMING:



SERVING: TIMING:



3) CONNECTOR TO SUMMIT PLACE

SHOPPING CENTER

The Blue River Trail connector would start on the switch backs coming down Dillon Dam and end at the Summit Place Shopping Center. This would provide convenient access to the Highway 6 area and Dillon.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare construction documents.
- Engage the County and the Town of Dillon to ensure a cohesive experience for users of the Blue River Trail and the Summit County bike path in terms of signage, mapping and wayfinding efforts.
- Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for a combined Blue River Trail Project that encompasses public access sites, neighborhood access sites, trail extensions and connectors, and trail and sidewalk intersection improvements.

Open Space Trail Network

LINEAR MILES:



COST RANGE:

\$25,000
to
\$40,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

The Open Space Trail Network would connect a series of open space properties to create an overall experience through natural areas. This is an opportunity to celebrate the beauty and ecology of Silverthorne's natural areas, specifically Cottonwood, Ray, The Ponds, Angler Mountain, South Pond, and Willow Grove open space areas.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.
- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas.
- Engage land management partners for the open space parcels, such the County, the CDLT, and USFS, to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the partner.

Blue River Corridor Alternative River Crossings

LOCATIONS PROPOSED:

5

COST RANGE:

\$50,000 to \$150,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. ALTERNATIVE RIVER CROSSINGS

A series of less developed alternative river crossings are proposed to complement the fee-based Alternative River Experience envisioned for the Riverfront Park. The general theme should be for more developed activity or crossing to be located near Town Core and progressively getting less developed toward Angler Mountain and Cottonwood open space areas (i.e., a zip line at Town Core and un-manned bridge crossing at Angler Mountain).

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare site master plan and construction documents.
- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas.
- Conduct financial and market analysis for staffed and revenue-generating river crossings.
- Explore east-west directional opportunities for trail connectivity from neighborhoods to open space parcels to the Blue River Trail and USFS trailheads, utilizing sidewalks, highway crossings, natural surface trails and alternative river crossings.
- Explore partnerships with independent vendors for revenue generating river crossings.

ALTERNATIVE RIVER CROSSINGS

Alternative river crossings could provide unique opportunities to engage the Blue River through the use of cable-supported pedestrian bridges, hard cart crossings and zip lines. These could range between **\$50,000 and \$150,000 per crossing**. These crossings should provide important pedestrian connections for locals as well as add unique attributes to the Town to build upon the Silverthorne Brand as a distinctive and attractive regional gateway. The alternative river crossings could provide an outstanding recreation resource for Town residents as well as attractions for visitors to Summit County.



South Maryland Creek Ranch Community Park

LINEAR MILES:

2

COST RANGE:

\$10,000 to \$20,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Given the size of the SMCR property, an interpretive trail will serve to tie together activities and facilities, and weave in features from Silverthorne's agricultural history.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Integrate the interpretive trail into the South Maryland Creek Ranch Master Plan and construction documents.
- Maintain the connection between the development of the trail with the development of the South Maryland Creek Ranch Neighborhood Planned Unit Development (PUD) in terms of both trail alignment and funding.

Highway 9 Crossing and Connections

LOCATIONS PROPOSED:



COST RANGE:

\$10,000 to \$50,000
Per Crossing

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. GOLDEN EAGLE ROAD NORTH & SH 9

SERVING: TIMING:



The new signal crossing would serve the Three Peaks and Eagles Nest neighborhoods, and connect them to Cottonwood Park and the Blue River Trail.

B. HAMILTON CREEK & SH 9 (NORTH POND)

SERVING: TIMING:



The improved signal crossing is currently the only crossing for the Silverthorne Elementary School and North Pond Park. It should be improved to increase safety of this crossing.

C. GOLDEN EAGLE ROAD SOUTH & SH 9

SERVING: TIMING:



The new signal crossing would serve Willowbrook, Eagles Nest, The Ponds and Angler Mountain areas, and would easily tie into the Blue River Trail.

D. TRENT PARK-SOUTH POND SH 9 CROSSING OR OVERPASS

SERVING: TIMING:



This intersection was identified as a possible overpass location because of its central location and proximity to Trent Park, Angler Mountain Open Space Park and South Pond. This location is more immediately convenient to Willowbrook and is closer to Town than Golden Eagle Road South which would maximize improvement to overall parkland level of service. There are drainage and wetland impacts to consider on the east side of SH 9.

E. RUBY RANCH & SH 9

SERVING: TIMING:



The new signal crossing would serve communities on both sides of SH 9 by providing improved access to parks and trails.

F. 6TH STREET & SH 9

SERVING: TIMING:



An improved signal crossing at this location would serve communities on the west side of SH 9 and the Town Core vicinity. It would provide neighborhood and Town Core access to the Blue River Trail as well.

G. 4TH STREET & SH 9

SERVING: TIMING:



An improved signal crossing at this location would serve communities on the west side of SH 9 and the Town Core vicinity. It would provide neighborhood and Town Core access to the Blue River Trail as well.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare construction documents.
- Engage the Colorado Department of Transportation in the design and construction of the SH-9 crossings.
- Explore installing an interim surface crossing at Trent Park-South Pond and SH-9 to assess usage before moving forward with a more developed overpass.
- Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.

HIGHWAY 9 OVERPASS

Pedestrian overpasses completely separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic and provide safe pedestrian accommodation over often impassable barriers, such as highways, railways, and natural barriers such as rivers. Overpasses consist of different types of structures, including bridges, and are generally very expensive, though some cost savings can be realized depending on the materials used. Overpasses (excluding bridges) have a cost range from \$150 to \$250 per square foot or \$1 million to \$5.5 million per complete installation, depending on site conditions. Given the cost difference between a signaled surface crossing (\$10,000-\$50,000) and an overpass and the potential drainage and wetland impacts at the location, the Town should consider a phased implementation for the Trent Park-South Pond and SH 9 crossing. The Town could install an interim surface crossing at the location and collect relevant crossing usage and traffic data before moving forward with a more developed overpass.

Town Core and Vicinity

LINEAR MILES:



COST RANGE:

\$115,000
to
\$585,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



COMPLETE SIDEWALK NETWORK ON COLLECTOR AND ARTERIAL STREETS

SERVING: TIMING:



The walkability analysis revealed key areas where sidewalks would promote connectivity between existing Silverthorne parks and resources. Particular attention was focused on sidewalk development in the east-west direction because historically much attention has been given to sidewalk development in the north-south direction. In addition, the Town Core area was identified as a critical area for new sidewalk development, specifically Adams and Brian streets, to improve overall connectivity in Town. A complete streetscape design should be developed with focus on the Town Core area. Below are key locations where sidewalk should be developed. Note: segments are not listed in order of priority.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. SIDEWALK SEGMENTS

1) Along SH 9: From South Maryland Creek Ranch/Vendette Trailhead to Game Trail Road

SERVING: TIMING:



2) North Chipmunk Lane: From East Rabbit Court to Willowbrook Road

SERVING: TIMING:



3) 9th, 11th and 13th Streets: Between SH 9 and Adams Avenue

SERVING: TIMING:



4) Brian Avenue and Annie Road: Missing sections on Brian Avenue north of 6th Street to intersection of Annie Road and on Annie Road east

SERVING: TIMING:



5) Adams Avenue: From 6th Street to existing sidewalk on Adams Avenue to the south

SERVING: TIMING:



6) Brian Avenue: From 5th Street to end of Brian Avenue

SERVING: TIMING:



7) 4th Street: Missing sections from SH 9 to the west

SERVING: TIMING:



8) 3rd Street: From SH 9 to the west

SERVING: TIMING:



9) Stephens Way: Fashion Lane to Blue River Trail

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare construction documents.
- Explore installing an interim surface crossing at Trent Park-South Pond and SH-9 to assess usage before moving forward with a more developed overpass.
- Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.

USFS New or Improved Trails and Trailheads

LINEAR MILES:

11

COST RANGE:

\$90,000
to
\$150,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. SILVERTHORNE MULTI-USE LOOP TRAIL

SERVING: TIMING:



The Silverthorne Multi-Use Loop Trail encompasses the Town of Silverthorne and provides a variety of mostly existing access points for residents to either use for a quick evening jog, day hike or bike ride on this soft surface trail.

- 1) Vendette Creek TH to Eagles Nest North TH Loop
- 2) Eagles Nest North TH to Cottonwood Park TH
- 3) Eagles Nest North TH to Willow Creek TH
- 4) Willow Creek TH to Arctic Placer TH/Bashore Open Space
- 5) Lower Ptarmigan Trail to Angler Mountain TH
- 6) Cottonwood Park TH to Ptarmigan Trail

B. COTTONWOOD TRAILHEAD

SERVING: TIMING:



In Cottonwood Park, a new trailhead should be considered to connect to USFS lands. This trailhead and trail project would provide connectivity to Angler Mountain and Ptarmigan trails. A key feature of the trail and trailhead would require a river crossing, potentially a rope bridge, to cross the Blue River.

C. WILLOW CREEK TRAILHEAD

SERVING: TIMING:



Improved signage from SH 9 to this popular trailhead is key for inviting visitors to use Silverthorne's great amenities. The Town should consider a limited amount of overnight parking at this location (possibly requiring a permit).

D. EAGLES NEST NORTH TRAILHEAD

SERVING: TIMING:



This USFS trail is heavily used and is located off Hunter's Knob Road. The trailhead at this location should be formalized and allow daytime parking.

E. EAGLES NEST SOUTH TRAILHEAD

SERVING: TIMING:



This USFS trail starts out of the cul-de-sac off Middle Park Court. Again, the trailhead should be formalized and allow daytime parking.

F. ANGLER MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD

SERVING: TIMING:



Improved signage from SH 9 will help inform visitors of its location, and improved signage at the trailhead will help guide and educate users.

G. ANGLER MOUNTAIN TRAIL

SERVING: TIMING:



Mountain bikes are currently not allowed on the Angler Mountain Trail partly because of steep sections and narrow trail. The trail design (widened or trail separation) should allow for multiple uses. This would expand the mountain biking opportunities in Silverthorne and create a loop with the Ptarmigan Trail.

H. PTARMIGAN TRAIL

SERVING: TIMING:



At the Ptarmigan Trail, the Town should coordinate with USFS to maintain and improve the trail, including grade reductions and better signage from Town. A possible mountain bike loop can be developed from an old road; however, this road is significantly degraded and is in need of repair.

I. VENDETTA CREEK

SERVING: TIMING:



This trailhead off SH 9 will be developed as the community of South Maryland Creek Ranch is developed to provide access to the existing trail to the west of the development.

J. ARCTIC PLACER TRAILHEAD

SERVING: TIMING:



Arctic Placer currently has a social trail leading up to the Mesa Cortina area. The trail and trailhead at Arctic Placer should be redeveloped and formalized and developed as an access point to the Silverthorne Loop Trail.

K. MESA CORTINA AND SALT LICK AREA

SERVING: TIMING:



Explore partnership with the USFS to regulate existing social trails in the Salt Lick and Mesa Cortina area. The Town should find strategies to decommission and reclaim trails where appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Engage the USFS to improve trails and trailheads throughout the Town.
- Build relationships with volunteers and local user groups to advocate for improved USFS trails and trailheads in and around Silverthorne.
- Conduct ecological inventories within project areas.

Brian and Adams Avenues

LINEAR MILES:

1

COST RANGE:

\$3,000
to
\$5,000

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. PROMOTE CYCLING BY-PASS

Cyclists who are heading northward to Ute Pass do not travel on the Blue River Trail. A formalized bike route would also contribute to Silverthorne's overall bikeability for locals and commuters and endorse Silverthorne as a bike-friendly city. This can be the first phase of developing an on-street bike network. Install separated bike lane along Adams Avenue from 6th Street to Wilderdest Road, or install separate bike lane along Brian Avenue from intersection with Adams Avenue and Wilderdest Road north to Annie Road.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Prepare on-street route planning through SPORT or another town sub-committee.
- Prepare construction documents for the separated bike lane.
- Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

USFS Trails

LINEAR MILES:

TBD

COST RANGE:

\$10,000 to \$15,000
Per Year

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A. PROMOTE CONNECTIONS TO EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS AND PTARMIGAN PEAK WILDERNESS

Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness provides a variety of recreational and educational opportunities. The first step is to improve signage to trailheads from SH9 or central locations in Town. Interpretive or educational programs could be sponsored through the Town when possible.

SERVING: TIMING:



B. BECOME AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO USFS GATEWAY TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

The Town should pursue a partnership with the USFS. There is a readily available opportunity to become more of a liaison between volunteers, user groups, and the USFS to promote "Silverthorne trails" regardless of owner or manager. Focus should be on trail management, signage and education, particularly for the existing social trail network around Silverthorne.

SERVING: TIMING:



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Engage the USFS, volunteers and local user groups to promote "Silverthorne trails".
- Contribute to an annual maintenance fund through the USFS to ensure high quality public lands trails are maintained.

Master Plan Projects: Future Projects

Lake Hill Ski Area

ACREAGE:

100

COST RANGE:

TBD

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

The idea of transforming Lake Hill into a ski area, something similar to Steamboat Spring's Howelsen Hill, has been proposed for a number of years in Silverthorne and Summit County. The facility has been envisioned to be a winter sport training facility center with ski-jumping, cross-country skiing, and downhill skiing. Although it is possible, there are a number of regulatory requirements to fulfill in order to develop a ski area in this location on USFS land and next to the Dillon Dam.

SERVING: TIMING:



Field House

ACREAGE:

~5

COST RANGE:

TBD

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

A field house was identified early in the planning process because Silverthorne is situated in the mountains where families are looking for indoor recreational areas and activities. The field house could fulfill a regional need for a year-round facility, could draw a wider audience for regional sports training and competition and could be flexible, functional space (e.g., transform gym into theater or event space). The proposed location was at the Blue River Ball Fields or Rodeo Grounds.

SERVING: TIMING:



Williams Fork Mountain Bike Loop

LINEAR MILES:

TBD

COST RANGE:

TBD

IMPROVEMENTS:



SITE DESCRIPTION

Mountain biking in and around Silverthorne is limited due to the USFS Wilderness boundary in close proximity to Town; however, a mountain bike trail was proposed during the public engagement process for Ptarmigan Trailhead to Ute Pass/Williams Fork. This is an ideal location for a mountain bike trail in Silverthorne and the community supported the idea. It fills a gap in the mountain biking realm in northern Summit County, especially given the climate (one extra month on either side of the season) and existing trails to build upon. Implementation of this project would be a challenge because of multiple land management boundaries and rugged topography.

SERVING: TIMING:





Appendix A: Market Assessment

The following information can be found in Appendix A:

- **SILVERTHORNE LOCATION AND POPULATION INFORMATION**
- **SILVERTHORNE AREA TRAFFIC VOLUMES**
- **SILVERTHORNE VISITOR SPENDING**
- **SILVERTHORNE VISITOR DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES**
- **CURRENT INVENTORY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**



Appendix B:

Tourism-Oriented Recreation Opportunities Assessment

This evaluation will illuminate where, within the broader tourism-oriented recreation spectrum, the Silverthorne POST Master Plan should focus.

RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Great care has been taken throughout this POST master planning process to listen to and understand the ideas and concerns of Silverthorne's local population. Significant points to consider when thinking about tourism-oriented recreation opportunities include:

- **Open Space:** Town residents put a high value on scenic open space and want to protect the resource, which for many includes limiting access.
- **Public versus community use:** Many voiced the desire to keep more widely accessible public oriented activities limited to the southern parts of Town (i.e., the Gateway and Town Core districts), and are concerned about encouraging public uses into their parks.
- **The Blue River:** This is a highly valued resource for the community, which many feel should be preserved and enhanced. In addition, surrounding landowners are concerned about the preservation of the scenic character, wildlife value, and in some cases privacy along the river.
- **Connectivity:** Many stakeholders brought up the desire to improve and enhance the connectivity between Silverthorne's parks, open space and trails.

THE MARKETPLACE

Silverthorne has a complex mix of current and potential recreation users: full-time locals, residents of other communities within Summit County, second homeowners, day and overnight visitors. While activities related to parks, trails and open space must first consider local resident use, there may be opportunities for additional use by second homeowners and visitors. In addition, the Summit County recreational marketplace is complex, and Silverthorne should consider carefully how potential activities might blend into this crowded landscape.

- There is a tremendous amount of multi-season recreation activity in Summit County. All of the larger communities in Summit County, including the ski resorts, offer an array of activities oriented toward tourism visitation. Activities are typically clustered together, to create a "critical mass" of things to do which heightens the appeal as an attraction. The communities and resorts also offer many programs and events throughout the ski season and summer months. Summit County residents can, and do take advantage of all of these offerings. Silverthorne should seek to complement rather than compete with these other activities, and look for opportunities to provide something that is unique and not found elsewhere in the county. This includes providing unique recreation facilities for Summit County residents as well as visitors.
- A majority of recreation activity occurs in high traffic or visibility areas; in the communities where guests are

staying, or close to where the transient population is. The population of Silverthorne is comprised of 70 percent full-time residents and 30 percent second home owners, and overnight accommodations in the town are limited. The majority of visitors to any recreational offering in Silverthorne would likely be staying somewhere else in the County. A recreational activity targeted toward the tourism audience would have to be unique to draw visitors away from activities that are more convenient to where they are staying.

- Silverthorne’s climate is notably more moderate than elsewhere in the County; spring comes sooner, and the snow arrives later in the fall. This reputation as the “banana belt” of Summit County should be amplified when considering options for offering recreation activities to the broader Summit County audience.
- The POST Master Plan is focused on recreational activities, rather than programs and events. It is important to note however, that tourism-oriented recreation opportunities may include a broad spectrum of things to do including programs and events related to recreation, arts and culture. There are many programs offered through the Silverthorne Recreation Center which are very popular with both Silverthorne and Summit County residents. The Town also offers a number of arts and cultural events targeting the local population, and works to schedule events during down season months when surrounding communities and resorts have less programming scheduled (i.e., to complement not compete).

POSITIONING AND BRAND

Summit County is a mountain tourism destination. As a major driver of visitation, recreation will be an inherent part of any brand identifier within the County. It is part of the DNA. That said, each area within the County has distinctive characteristics, allowing for the marketing of unique brands within the broader destination.

The Town of Silverthorne is a mountain community. The distinction of community is important: 70 percent of the Town’s population is year-round residents, unlike the remainder of Summit County (30 percent). People live

here! This is important when looking at tourism-oriented recreation opportunities, as the needs of the resident population must be considered first and foremost.

The perception of the Town of Silverthorne within Summit County is somewhat “bipolar”; while many residents of neighboring communities and visitors to the County know it as a retail powerhouse, members of the community see a very different side. To venture beyond the Gateway District is to discover a community that is characterized by its connectivity to the mountain environment through scenic views, open space and the water resources of the lower Blue River Valley.

The Town of Silverthorne should seek to embrace and enhance both aspects of its character. The Gateway District is dominated by high density retail development, which attracts a broader regional visitor to Town and drives significant sales tax revenue. The Town’s position on I-70 as the gateway to Summit County, coupled with the high visibility that the Gateway District has from the interstate, affords tremendous opportunity to attract the attention of arriving visitors. The remainder of Town’s more natural character and accessible connectivity to the mountain and river environments may be less visible, but also has the ability to be a major attractor – and gateway to recreation for local and visiting families, as well as differentiate the Town from the rest of Summit County. The Blue River Trail and its adjacent parks and open space provide the foundation for this differentiation, providing a unique family-oriented experience found nowhere else in the County.

While these two characteristics are very different, they are not necessarily conflicting. Interconnecting the two provides an opportunity to present gateways into a broad spectrum of recreational attractors. There is a saying in mountain communities that many residents “come for the winter, but stay for the summer.” While the first experience of many Town visitors may be within the Gateway area, provide the opportunities for them to stay and experience the “other side” of town. Consider the Gateway District as the high-energy attention grabber, but also as a gateway to the more subtle recreation offerings. In turn, these more nature-oriented activities offers families a variety of gateway experiences related to mountain recreation.

LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS

The physical resources that comprise the Town of Silverthorne's parks, open space and trails network can be the venues for any future activities that will attract visitors. It is important to understand the complexion of each component as well as their context within the larger community framework, so that additional visitation does not adversely affect the resident user experience. This includes anticipating the additional needs for parking and access, and the potential for increased volumes of traffic and noise in and around the venues. Conversely, understanding the context of parks, open space and trails relative to highly visible public areas will lead to the identification of opportunities that allow recreation to contribute to the vitality of these public spaces. Key land use considerations are listed below.

- **Rainbow Park:** Rainbow Park is the year-round epicenter of recreation in Town, and is part of the Civic Triangle (area between the Pavilion, Town Hall and the Library, and the Recreation Center and Rainbow Park; this term was used in the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan) that surrounds the Four Corners center of town (central intersection identified in the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan, located at 4th Street and SH 9). The park provides space for a wide variety of interests, and is used by a broad base of the local and Summit County community. Opportunities for additional facilities to be located within the park are limited due to its size constraints. That said, due to its proximity to downtown, opportunities to play a more public role should be considered as long as the community's use is not compromised.
- **Blue River Trail:** The Blue River Trail creates a spine of recreation activity through the Town, and links together several parks and open spaces. Unlike the Summit County bike path, the Blue River Trail is designed for leisurely bike riding, and is ideal for a family experience. The trail offers a unique bike riding experience found nowhere else in the County. It is a valued recreational amenity of Silverthorne residents, and would be a popular attraction for other Summit County families as well as families vacationing in the area.
- » The parks and open space areas along the trail create numerous opportunities for additional activities and picnicking.
- » The Blue River Trail also provides connectivity between the more public areas of the Gateway and Town Core districts and the rest of the parks and open space along the trail. This creates opportunities to bring visitors into the trail network, and to bring visitors on the trail network to these commercial districts.
- » The northern extent of the Blue River Trail will end at the new Cottonwood Park. There is an opportunity to create a public trailhead location for the trail at this park.
- **The Town Core District:** The 2014 Comprehensive Plan designated the Town Core to be a vital hub of future commercial activity, with the Four Corners being a central intersection and the Blue River a key feature. Tying recreation into this high activity core area will be a key contributor to its success as the vibrant center of town. Staging recreational activities in this downtown environment would encourage and facilitate broader public use.
- **The Gateway District:** The Comprehensive Plan identified the Gateway District as an inviting entry-point for Silverthorne. Given the high visibility of this area from I-70, it also has the ability to be a gateway attractor for visitors driving into Summit County. In the process of enhancing this "front door", attention should be paid to creating a gateway into the recreation resources, particularly the Blue River Trail.
- **Future Park Expansions:** South Maryland Creek Ranch, Cottonwood Park and Trent Park will provide opportunities to provide additional POST amenities to serve the existing and future residents of the Town of Silverthorne.
- **Blue River Park Ball Fields/Rodeo Grounds:** This area appears to be part of the Gateway District of the Town of Silverthorne, though it is not within the town boundaries. This area is highly visible and adjacent to the heavily trafficked outlets area close to the gateway;

as a recreational venue it could accommodate high levels of public activity, as traffic and noise would not be an issue. Connectivity between this complex and the Gateway and Town Center districts would be critical to maximizing secondary revenue opportunities.

- Lake Hill: The area adjacent to the Blue River Park Ball Fields/Rodeo Grounds also presents opportunity for more public-oriented recreation. Again, connectivity between this recreational facility and the Gateway and Town Center districts would be critical to maximizing secondary revenue opportunities.
- Connectivity to the National Forest: Proximity to the National Forest is a major benefit to residents and visitors, alike. Not only does the White River National Forest provide the scenic backdrop for the community, the National Forest affords the community countless opportunities for recreational and educational pursuits. Congressionally designated Wilderness areas surround the Town and overall community. These areas should be acknowledged for the experiences of remoteness and solitude they provide. Note, mechanized travel is prohibited in Wilderness areas. The proximity to National Forest lands also affords means for the community to enjoy the public lands. Trailheads and parking areas should be sized to accommodate the appropriate amount of users. Signage from SH 9 and within neighborhoods leading to trailheads should be visible and informative to encourage exploration of the Forest.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Economic development is an important component of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan. The Town of Silverthorne recognizes that in addition to being integral to Silverthorne residents' way of life, recreation also presents an opportunity for economic development in the future by drawing more people into the community. Part of the impetus for this POST Master Plan is to explore these opportunities. Understanding the implications of the following considerations is critical to this evaluation.

- Anticipating Public Use. Given the recreation-related economic development goals of the Town, it is important that proposed recreation improvements consider their contribution to economic activity. Determining whether a location for a proposed recreational activity is suitable for additional public use should include an analysis of the proximity of other revenue generating venues (stores, coffee shops, restaurants), as well as ease of public access (parking, restrooms). In Silverthorne these suitable locations will predominantly occur in the Gateway and Town Core districts.
- Revenue Potential. Revenue generation related to recreation may occur through primary (direct) revenue or secondary (indirect) revenue sources. Primary revenues are those generated from user fees or from the rental of necessary equipment, and are generally easy to quantify. Once the revenue potential is known it is possible to determine a return on investment by comparing it against capital and operating costs.
- Capital and Operating Costs: The success of primary revenue generating activities depends on capital and operating costs being in alignment with revenue potential. Typically, this is found in attractions that are part of a greater critical mass of activities; very attractive in the marketplace and able to achieve high visitation levels; and have value that commands a price to participate. A lack of certainty of these factors introduces a high degree of risk to the enterprise. Given the highly competitive nature of the Summit County marketplace, and the "power centers" of attractions provided by the resorts, there is significant risk when considering primary revenue generating endeavors.
- Secondary Revenue: Secondary revenue generated by recreation is much more complicated and harder to quantify. From a recreation perspective, these revenues are generated through encouraging people to visit Silverthorne for a particular activity and/or to stay longer once they are in the community. If they come to town to recreate, or stay longer because of

a recreational opportunity, they are more likely to spend money at local businesses:

- » Buying equipment (i.e., a bike tube or a helmet);
 - » Grabbing a snack before hitting the trail, or having lunch/dinner after an activity;
 - » Continuing to shop at the outlets because of the ability to take a break and recreate, or to provide other members of the family an option to recreate instead of shop.
- Resident versus Non-resident User Fees: Respondents of the community survey noted a preference for paying for additional recreation activities through non-resident user fees. The implication of this response is that residents have some expectations of no or low-cost user fees to participate in recreation activities. Discounted resident user fees could, depending on participation rates, lower the primary revenue generation potential and adversely affect the return on investment.
 - Capital Investment: Establishing a primary revenue-generating activity requires an up-front capital investment. There is also investment needed when considering secondary revenue generation through enhanced recreational opportunities. For example, to encourage additional visitor use of the Blue River Trail, the Town of Silverthorne would need to invest in creating inviting trailheads at key locations.
 - Public versus Private Enterprise: Additional recreational activities may be provided through partnerships with local businesses. The Town of Silverthorne may also establish partnerships with outside entities to promote recreation opportunities that may not be within the Town's boundaries but provide a benefit to the community.



Appendix C: Public Engagement

The following documents are included in Appendix C:

- **JUNE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY**
- **JULY PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY**
- **STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS SUMMARY**



Appendix D: Operations and Maintenance

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards provides estimates for ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) costs of parkland in small communities in Colorado. In general, parkland in Colorado is expected to require between 17 and 21 hours of weekly O&M labor per acre in season. The annual O&M cost per acre of parkland is estimated to be between \$23,000 and \$28,000. Each acre of parkland is estimated to require between 0.2 and 0.3 full time equivalent (FTE) O&M employment positions.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES IN REVENUE GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Planned activities that have the potential to generate revenue are expected to cover their O&M costs through revenue generated by the amenity and are not included in the analysis. Based on experience with other similar projects and observations of actual operations, overall O&M expenses for the proposed revenue generating activities are estimated to be approximately 45 percent of total revenues. In general, operations and maintenance expenses would include the following: direct labor (and labor burden: payroll taxes and benefits), costs-of-goods-sold, routine facility maintenance/janitorial, utilities, fuel and power, insurance, bank processing fees, and general supplies. While specific operations and maintenance costs do vary by amenity, they are typically found to range from as low as 20-30 percent or high throughput activities with low labor requirements, to as high as 70-80 percent for low throughput amenities with high labor requirements. Additionally, facilities such as food and beverage and retail typically carry a 45-50 percent burden for the costs-of-goods-sold.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

USER FEES

Community survey respondents most commonly supported user fees for non-residents or visitors as a potential funding source for future POST activities. While some of the planned projects include the potential for user fees and revenue generation, not all expenses, particularly site improvement costs, can be provided for through user fees.

SALES/PROPERTY TAXES

In addition to user fees, some support was seen in the community survey for a temporary sales tax increase, the creation of a special recreation district, a new dedicated sales tax, and a general sales tax increase. The Town could consider an increase in either sales or property tax for POST projects and programs. Tax increases of this nature are most often passed as bond issues, which allows for the Town to go into debt to finance construction and repay the bonds as revenues are collected.

LODGING TAX

Silverthorne currently has a lodging tax of 2%. If so desired, the Town could consider increasing this tax to help fund POST projects.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES

An impact fee is an assessment on development used to pay for its proportionate share of the impacts to public facilities. Some communities assign a standard dollar figure to the public sites, some use a park, trails and open space development impact fee, some give the developer an opportunity to arrive at a fee value based on projected impact, while others allow for the dedication of parkland, or fee-in-lieu, in place of the impact fee. A full spectrum of

leisure services which contain costs for recreation centers, trails and open space, in addition to parks, has been included in some communities' development impact fees. Existing POST impact fee structures could be altered to create additional funding sources for POST projects.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

This is a revenue source derived from the Colorado lottery. Funds are distributed annually by the State, based on population. Many Colorado communities dedicate their annual Colorado Lottery funds to park and trail acquisition and construction projects. Funding can be used for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites or for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site. <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251591547558>

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) GRANT PROGRAM

This is a competitive grant program for park and open space land acquisition and development, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and capacity building that is also derived from the Colorado Lottery. Grants are generally awarded in two funding cycles, with deadlines in the spring and fall. <http://www.goco.org/>

STATE TRAILS PROGRAM

This is a competitive grant program for trails. A 25 to 50% match is required. The state funding pool is relatively small, so this resource is proposed for a small component of the trails system. Grant deadline is typically in the November. <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/trails.aspx>

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program administered by Colorado Department of Transportation that provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways

largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. <http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/statewide-planning/documents/transportation-alternatives-program-guidelines-and.pdf>

FISHING IS FUN PROGRAM

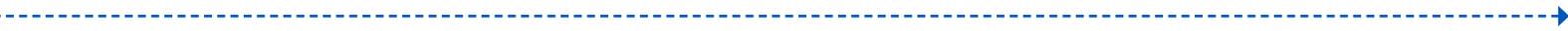
The Fishing Is Fun grant is a competitive program that provides matching grants to local and county governments, park and recreation departments, water districts, angling organizations and others for projects to improve angling opportunities in Colorado. Grant deadline is typically in March. <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/FishingIsFunProgram.aspx>

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDS

A portion of state gaming revenues are transferred to the State Historical Fund and administered by the State Historic Society in a competitive process. Grants are available for projects of historic significance. Grant deadline is typically in October. <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/state-historical-fund>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)

This is a competitive grant program that seeks to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities to persons of low and moderate income. CDBG grants have been awarded for parks associated with urban renewal efforts in the past. <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251592177272>



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Appendix E: Maps

The following maps are included in Appendix E:

- **EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP**
- **WALKABILITY ANALYSIS MAP**
- **MASTER PLAN PROJECTS MAP**
- **MASTER PLAN: RIVERFRONT PARK CONCEPT MAP**



Appendix F: Project Implementation Information

The following information can be found in Appendix F:

- **PROJECT SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**
- **SITE IMPROVEMENT COSTS RANGE**
- **PLANNING REQUIREMENTS**
- **IMPLEMENTATION TIMING**



Appendix G: Resolutions

ICON LEGEND

-  Develop New Park
-  Future Regional Recreation Complex
-  Future Kayak Park
-  Town Green Event Space
-  Public Space
-  Enhance Open Space
-  Upgrade Existing Park
-  Preserve Open Space
-  Blue River Trail Public Access
-  Blue River Trail Neighborhood Access
-  Alternative Blue River Crossing
-  Potential Highway Crossing
-  Improve Trailhead/Trail
-  Equipment Rental
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Potential Trailhead
-  Serving Locals
-  Serving Visitors
-  Serving Both Locals and Visitors
-  Implement Immediately
-  Implement in Short-Term
-  Implement in Long-Term
-  Ongoing Implementation
-  Future Implementation

 Multiple Unknown Variables; Can Not Determine Accurate Cost