



City of
LOVELAND
PARKS & RECREATION



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

RISING ABOVE THE CHALLENGES

ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As we reflect upon this past year and all the challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, we take time to recognize the level of service our City provided to the Loveland community during a time of great uncertainty. Throughout all the change and hardship of 2020, Loveland's Parks & Recreation Department continued to be a key service provider for our community. Without the ability to gather indoors, our parks, trails, natural areas and golf courses became a welcome reprieve for many. Through our recreational programs and indoor and outdoor amenities, our dedicated employees helped maintain the health and social connections our residents rely upon.

As we progress into a different phase of this global pandemic, we will continue to embrace new ways to meet our community's greatest needs. I am confident that our Parks & Recreation Department will employ the same ingenuity and flexibility that was required this past year. In addition to maintaining clean and safe amenities, our Parks & Recreation Department became one of the few agencies across the country to receive national accreditation. This special distinction reflects the rigorous standards we keep for our facilities, public safety, and the quality of services provided to our community.

Despite the many changes to our landscape, the need to exercise, recreate, play, and connect is persistent and universal. We hope you will continue to enjoy all of the natural beauty and recreation opportunities unique to Loveland.

Steve Adams
City Manager, City of Loveland



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure we present the 2020 annual report for the City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department. We are proud of and committed to our vision statement: *to provide a sustainable system of diverse parks, trails, natural areas and facilities that connect people with the natural environment, support good health and offer outstanding community experiences while balancing recreation opportunities with the protection of natural and cultural resources.*

At no other time in our department's history has our team worked harder, smarter and more innovatively than in 2020 to deliver programs and services to our citizens during uncharted territories of a global pandemic. Connecting people through opportunities to recreate, socialize, gather and play was riddled with obstacles as our team modified, adapted and pivoted to remain in compliance with state and county health orders related to COVID-19.

The message from 2020 in our department became one of genuine resilience, as we weathered every storm with a renewed sense of determination to offer our residents the best possible recreational options in times of uncertainty. Our pillar of health and wellness remained strong and sturdy, when it was more important than ever to be so.

As always, I would sincerely like to thank the Loveland City Council and the citizens of Loveland for their continued support. This year I would especially like to thank the Parks & Recreation Department staff, for in the spirit of a phoenix, they rose above adversity and challenge to deliver on their professional promise to improve the quality of life for all people in the City of Loveland. I look forward to a bright new year in 2021!

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

“

Of all the paths
you take in life,
make sure a
few of them
are dirt.”

John Muir

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LEADING LOVELAND RISING ABOVE THE CHALLENGES

We did not simply survive - we THRIVED.

In a year of continuous uncertainty, the Loveland Parks & Recreation Department flourished while delivering upon our vision and fulfilling our mission to provide effective, efficient and high-quality leisure facilities, sites, services and programs for citizens of and visitors to the community.

We achieved great departmental goals, such as national accreditation, strategic plan adoption and the completion of a robust list of capital projects, regional trail connections, and park and facility improvements.

We forged new partnerships and collaborations, acquired and leveraged grant funding for many important initiatives and blazed a solid trail for innovation.

We united people and made a positive impact on the quality of life in Loveland. Each time you participate in a recreational activity, enjoy our recreation trail, play in a park, explore open lands or swing a club at one of our golf courses, you are part of our community.

In the words of the National Recreation and Park Association, which became our mantra throughout this challenging year:
We are Strong. We are Confident. We are Selfless.
We are Passionate. We are Driven. We are Essential.

We are Loveland Parks & Recreation. We are here to help you reach your goals, discover new adventures and have FUN!



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

THREE PILLARS OF PARKS & RECREATION



HEALTH & WELLNESS - IMPROVING HEALTH, ENHANCING LIFE

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



CONSERVATION - PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

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



SOCIAL EQUITY - ACCESS AND INCLUSION FOR ALL

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

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Jess Arnold	Duncan Patrick
John Bradley	Jeremy Peterson
Katie Davis	Keller Taylor
Jim Haynes, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Richard Ball, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Garry Kryszak	Steve Olson, <i>Alternate</i>
Shane McWatters, <i>Chair</i>	Elizabeth Kayl, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

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

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Adam Beeco	Cindy Ticer
Gale Bernhardt, <i>Chair</i>	Jean Whittaker
Jim Edmiston	William Zawacki
Michael Hinterberg	Kathi Wright, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Ross Livingston	Rob Molloy, <i>Alternate</i>
Jim Roode, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Marilyn Hilgenberg, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

GOLF ADVISORY BOARD

Charlie Dyer	Jack Stringer
Julie Nelson	Robert Walkowicz
Rex Lamoreaux, <i>Chair</i>	Chuck Weirauch
Greg Oehmen	Rob Molloy, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Beth Soderquist, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Blake Nicholson, <i>Alternate</i>
David Spangler	Mark Esoda, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION

Chad Brent	Dennis Newberry
Marie DeWolf	Denise Rhoades
Greg Guest, <i>Chair</i>	Howard Wigert
Ryan Lundquist, <i>Treasurer</i>	Scott Wilson, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Rose McQueen	Molly Elder, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
Karen Markel	



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

DEPARTMENT WORK GROUPS

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

PLANNING

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

PARKS

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

RECREATION

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

OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

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

GOLF

Three golf courses and one mini-course



A MARK OF DISTINCTION

The Loveland Parks & Recreation Department is proud to earn accreditation through CAPRA



In 2020, the Loveland Parks & Recreation Department joined an elite group of just 183 agencies (out of 23,000 in the nation – the top 1% of all Parks and Rec agencies) by achieving CAPRA Accreditation. CAPRA, which stands for the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, is the only accreditation of Parks and Recreation agencies in the country and helps an agency measure their overall quality of operation, management and service to the community.

CAPRA ACCREDITATION - A VALUABLE TOOL

When the department began this journey, we believed strongly that our services and offerings were high quality, but we also recognized that the accreditation process would provide a valuable tool to analyze and evaluate our operations and service levels, showing us where we could continue to improve and better serve our community.

Some of the immediate benefits we've seen from the CAPRA process are improvements to our internal systems. This includes:

- regular reviews of all policies and procedures
- improved documentation of asset management and maintenance and related procedures
- more robust and reliable risk assessments and analysis
- improved communications and documentation
- improved operations and efficiency with a focus on continual improvement
- improved planning with other local, state and federal agencies
- creation of a Recreation Programming Plan to ensure better evaluation at every level of how we are serving the various segments of our community
- an improved focus on evaluation processes, outcomes assessments, performance measurement, needs assessments, leisure and trends analysis and level of service standards. This focus on evaluation and assessment will allow the department to more quickly and easily respond to user feedback, changing community needs and new trends in our industry.

BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Accreditation provides assurance to decision makers, stakeholders and the public that our department is operating within established best practices of the industry. This includes a renewed focus on community engagement and involvement in the evaluation of our amenities and services and in the creation of future work plans and initiatives.

CAPRA accreditation requires agency accountability to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet community needs. We will better involve our community boards and commissions, as we know that they provide a reflection of the needs and wants of the citizens of Loveland. Improved operational practices, policies, procedures, and enhanced ownership and engagement by our department staff, will result in a consistently superior experience for those we serve. Accreditation can also help our department secure external financial support, thus reducing costs for the community at a time when it is more important than ever.

“

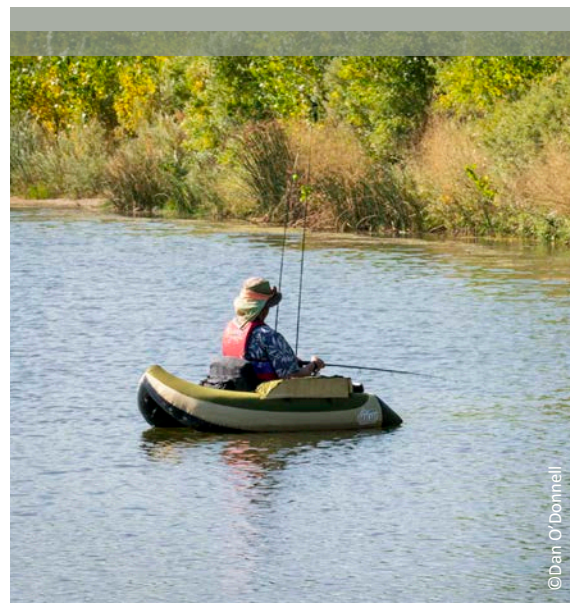
Nothing can dim the light which shines from within.”

Maya Angelou

WE'RE PROUD

Because every division, and staff at every level, were involved in the accreditation process, teams were empowered to think critically and strategically about their program areas and evaluate where changes could be made to improve service levels and the customer experience. This process improved staff understanding and ownership of their work, the work of the department as a whole and our interconnectedness with other city departments.

CAPRA accreditation is not just another award to hang on the wall, but rather a promise to our community that we will continue to serve them at the highest level, and that we are committed to delivering world-class amenities, services and experiences.



Fishing at River's Edge Natural Area

©Dan O'Donnell

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

2020 community partnerships include:

ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

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

SENIOR SERVICES | PARTNERS

- AARP
- A Little Help
- Alzheimer's Association
- Chilson Senior Advisory Committee (CSAC)
- Ensign Skills Center
- Hearing Rehab Center
- Kaiser Permanente
- Larimer County Health District
- Loveland Fishing Club
- Loveland High School National Honor Society
- Loveland Pickleball Club
- Loveland Reporter-Herald
- McKee Medical Center - The Seasons Club
- Mountain View High School National Honor Society
- National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)
- Senior Alternatives in Transportation (SAINT)
- UCHealth Aspen Club
- Volunteers of America (VOA) Meal Program
- Walmart

GOLF CLUBS | LEAGUES

- Girls' Golf at The Olde Course - with LPGA & USGA
- Loveland Men's Golf Association
- Loveland Women's Golf Association
- Mariana Butte Men's & Ladies Golf Associations

COMMUNITY GROUPS | PARTNERS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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



Owl banding with Colorado Avian Research & Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI)

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

This year taught us the value of human connection and how to interact with each other in a new way. Whether it was keeping people motivated with virtual fitness classes or creating a safe place for children to study at ABDC School Zone, we persevered as we restructured, reorganized and reinvented new ways to bring the Loveland community together.



3,330
virtual fitness
visits
JUNE-DEC

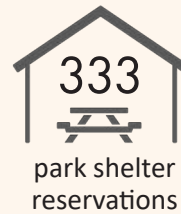
abdc school zone
● 22 campers
● 616 attendance
● 6 weeks



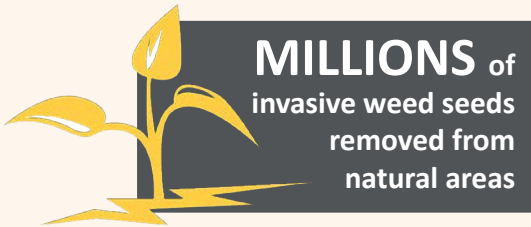
40
Trail Hosts
volunteered
1,512 hours



4,026
native plants
planted
by Open Lands volunteers



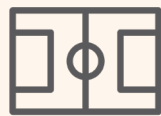
333
park shelter
reservations



MILLIONS of
invasive weed seeds
removed from
natural areas



275
visitors
toured the EE cabin
at Viestenz-Smith
Mountain Park



8410
field/court
reservations

15
athletic
tournaments hosted



ABDC summer campers: 634



31
students
in fall
Small Fries
Preschool



8,000
more
rounds of golf

3.62 miles

of NEW
soft-
surface
TRAILS
OPENED
to the
PUBLIC
with an
additional
0.8 miles built
for future access



49 acres
of short-grass prairie
restored with native seed
at Sunset Vista and
Prairie Ridge Nature Areas



Adult sports leagues
14
held



New nature play area at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park

PLANNING

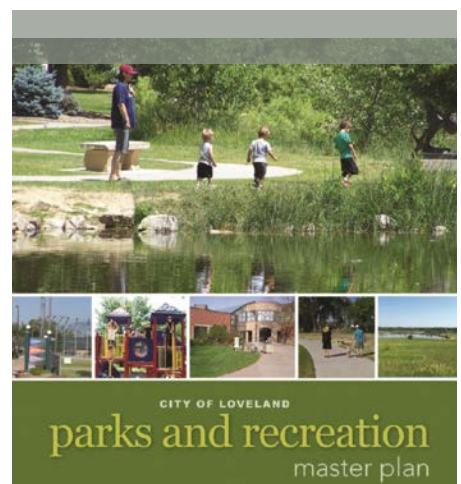
BEHIND THE SCENES OF YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT

Did you know that every project grand opening is the product of months, and in many cases, years of work by Parks & Recreation staff? From identifying the need for the project and securing project funding, to completing project design and construction, every great finished project is built on the tireless efforts of our staff.

IDENTIFYING THE NEED

Each major project that Loveland Parks & Recreation undertakes is rooted in an analysis of the needs and desires of our residents as documented in the City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Master Plan, a plan adopted by Loveland City Council. The Master Plan identifies community, city and department priorities through an extensive public engagement process. It also outlines key policies and recommendations for the prioritization of financial resources, staff resources and land and facility resources in a holistic and comprehensive way.

The Master Plan provides specific guidance on the establishment of service levels as well as guidance on the acquisition, development and management of lands and facilities. These policies are combined with an analysis of service and accessibility gaps in the current facility system to make short and long-term recommendations for system and service improvements. The Master Plan concludes with an Implementation Plan that suggests a 10-year outline of projects to be initiated or completed along with potential funding sources for project implementation.



Loveland Parks & Recreation Master Plan

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

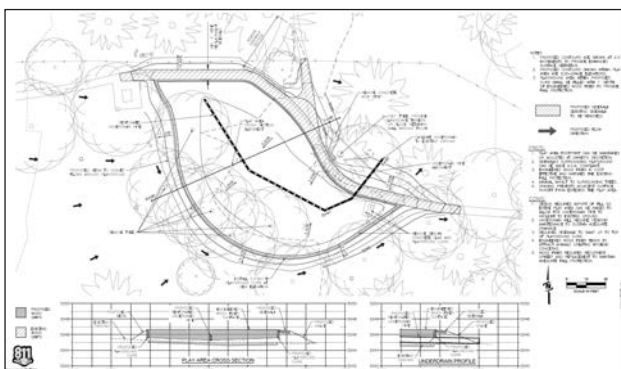
The Parks & Recreation Master Plan provides the department with a 10-year capital project list accompanied by preliminary cost estimates and potential funding sources for each project. Often, project funding comes from a variety of sources including city funds such as the General Fund, dedicated taxes such as the Open Lands Tax, funds allocated through new development within the city known as Capital Expansion Fees or through alternative funding like grants and partnerships.

Project funding is included in the consideration of each year's city budget cycle, through which funding is formally allocated and approved by Loveland City Council.

DESIGN PROCESS

Once funded, most projects undergo an intensive design process. First, an analysis of existing site conditions is conducted to fully understand the opportunities and constraints of each building site. This analysis includes a close look at existing access, site topography and natural features, and existing infrastructure such as structures, roads and utilities. Desired design program elements are then overlaid on the site through a conceptual design process to identify the best site and program layout to serve the project.

Once a project concept is approved, design development begins including in-depth design of site infrastructure, site amenities, structures, landforms and other facilities, often by a design team consisting of professional planners, landscape architects, architects and civil engineers. Design drawings are reviewed by the design team, the department and various stakeholders throughout the design process, eventually resulting in a set of construction drawings suitable for permitting, bidding and eventual construction.



Derby Hill Park Playground Drainage Plan

“
Everything you
can imagine
is real.”

Pablo Picasso



City of Loveland Adopted Budget



Willow Bend Neighborhood Park Site Analysis

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Prior to and throughout the design process, projects are vetted through a public and stakeholder engagement process. The Parks & Recreation Department consults with the public and various stakeholder groups through open houses, online surveys and through our citizen-led boards and commissions including the Parks & Recreation Commission, Open Lands Advisory Commission, Golf Advisory Board and the Senior Advisory Board. These outreach efforts help to ensure that the design for each project represents public and stakeholder interests in the project while addressing project-specific concerns, such as ADA accessibility, environmental impacts, traffic, noise and lighting through the design.

Feedback on our project designs is sought at critical design development checkpoints to ensure that design refinement resolves outstanding concerns and addresses comments received through earlier reviews.



East Big Thompson Master Plan Open House

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

All Parks & Recreation projects go through rigorous permitting and approval processes prior to construction. Though the scale and scope of permitting and approvals varies by project, the department is committed to the highest levels of project regulatory and safety compliance. The city is subject to the same zoning codes, building codes and job safety requirements as private projects, and is often subject to additional insurance requirements, risk management reviews, environmental clearances and job site safety requirements as part of protocols associated with our funding sources.



Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park Open House

BIDDING AND PROCUREMENT

All Parks & Recreation projects are subject to city-mandated procurement processes as outlined in the City of Loveland Administrative Regulations. These regulations ensure that all city departments and employees comply with the City of Loveland Municipal Code, and that project bidding and procurement processes are conducted in a fair and competitive manner that provides the best project value and highest quality for the taxpayer dollar.



Open Lands & Trails Manager Marilyn Hilgenberg & Planning Manager Bryan Harding at Prairie Ridge

CONSTRUCTION

With construction drawings complete, bidding and procurement processes finalized and permits in hand, projects begin to take shape through the construction process. Some projects, such as playground replacements, may only take a few weeks to complete, while others such as large trail projects, new buildings or new park projects may take well over a year. Throughout the construction process, Parks & Recreation staff attend construction meetings, ensure the project is constructed per the design drawings, manage consultants and contractors and oversee project construction finances.



Round Mountain Trail restroom construction

PROJECT DELIVERY

Some of the Parks & Recreation Department's proudest days are grand opening days! After all the planning, design, permitting and construction processes are complete, it's time to cut the ribbon and let the public enjoy all the hard work that has gone into a new facility opening. Grand openings happen on a scale relative to the project ranging from signage and social media posts announcing the project's opening to large ceremonies attended by the public, project team, stakeholder groups and local and state dignitaries.



Construction of the Madison Ave. Trail to Old St. Louis

In 2020, we saw the implementation of our first-ever virtual grand opening at Prairie Ridge Natural Area with videos and online presentations combined with socially distanced on-site staff to provide the excitement of opening day within the parameters of the COVID-19 era.



Prairie Ridge Natural Area Grand Opening

POST-OCCUPANCY REVIEW

The final stage of a Parks & Recreation project actually occurs after the project has been successfully delivered to the public. Post occupancy review is the practice of revisiting our projects regularly to evaluate the public's use of a project against our design assumptions. It is also an opportunity to talk with city staff that maintain the project to determine what aspects of the design work well and if there were any less functional aspects of the design that should be adjusted on future projects. Whenever possible, the project design team seeks to review the project with its actual users to solicit real feedback from our customers, both internal and external to the city.



Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park post-flood reconstruction ribbon cutting



Richard Haro Photography

Taking a ride on the Buckhorn Northern Railroad at North Lake Park

PARKS

GET OUTDOORS, LOVELAND!

In 2020, the Parks Division continued the tradition of providing safe, high-quality park shelters, restrooms, playgrounds, hardcourt facilities, sports fields and non-programmed park space for the citizens of Loveland. Key accomplishments included park restroom remodeling projects to meet ADA standards, ball field improvements, field lighting and playground replacements and other park and cemetery improvements.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements to Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park have been ongoing since the reopening of the park last spring. Enhancements in 2020 included structural and ADA accessibility to the historic buildings and park features, along with interpretive signage and learning station improvements.

Cemetery visitors will enjoy new kiosk and wayfinding improvements to help them navigate the 47-acre site at the Loveland Burial Park and Lakeside Cemetery.

Each year, the city replaces aging play equipment to ensure user safety. In 2020, Derby Hill, Silver Lake and Woodmere parks all received replacement playground structures, including correcting ADA access and a drainage issue at the Derby Hill site. The Planning Division secured \$50,000 in grant funding towards 2020 playground replacements.



Derby Hill playground replacement brings smiles to Loveland

ALL ABOARD!

The City of Loveland's Buckhorn Northern Railroad underwent a major refresh in 2020. The beloved train received a new set of tracks and saw the addition of an ADA accessible rail car. Loveland Lions Club members and local businesses donated time and materials to replace the original Buckhorn Northern Railroad shed/tunnel. The shed was dedicated to commemorate the 100th year of the Lions Club in Loveland, a long-time volunteer partner in the operation of the Buckhorn Northern Railroad. The train's locomotive is one of the last pieces to get an upgrade and is undergoing a replacement kicking off in early 2021 with expected completion in 2022.

TAKE ROOT

Loveland celebrated its 31st year as a Tree City USA recipient by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Although the pandemic forced the cancellation of the department's Annual Arbor Day celebration, a tree-planting event was held at Mehaffey Park in October and included the support of the Loveland High School Honor Society.

COLLABORATION

Although the early days of the pandemic certainly presented many challenges for the Parks Division, it also provided an opportunity for innovation and collaboration. Manpower and supplies were in short supply for much of the year and the upkeep of closures proved taxing. The Parks Division struggled to fill part-year staff positions and as a result, sought collaborative arrangements with other Parks & Recreation teams. These collaborations included utilizing furloughed recreation staff to fill seasonal staffing gaps and the transition of the cemetery business office management to the Admin team.

The Parks Division also collaborated extensively with Community Partnership, Risk Management and Public Works Solid Waste Divisions to manage and minimize homeless encampments within park properties. The Parks and Open Lands & Trails Divisions planned to partner with the Municipal Court System to provide alternative sentencing for the youth of Loveland. This 12-week program would have provided youth offenders the opportunity to serve their sentence through a program to complete certain tasks in parks and open land areas. Although the pandemic forced us to cancel this program for 2020, the department hopes to resume this beneficial partnership in 2021.

“

Live in the sunshine,
swim the sea,
drink the wild air.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Loveland Lions Club Buckhorn Northern Railroad Tunnel Dedication



Honor Society students plant trees at Mehaffey Park



New wayfinding signs at the Loveland Burial Park



Richard Haro Photography

Community members break a sweat in a group fitness class at Chilson

RECREATION

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

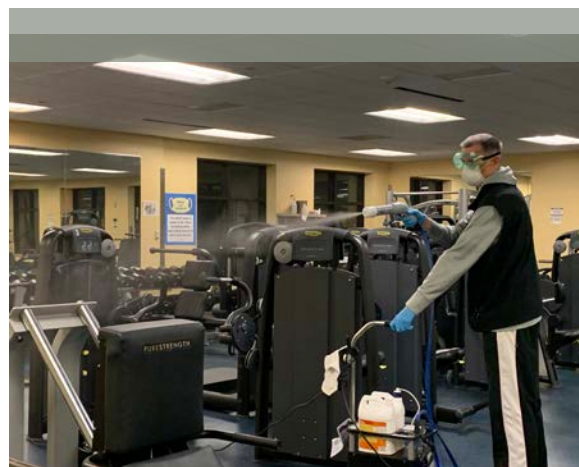
Whether you come to us or we come to you, the Recreation Division improves the quality of life for residents of and visitors to Loveland. Recreation is part of the community fabric that intertwines and brings life to Loveland.

CHANGE, PIVOT AND REIMAGINE

January and February 2020 were on track to start a banner year for the Chilson Recreation Center. However in March the state issued a Stay at Home order that shut down the Chilson Recreation & Senior Center and all programming within the Recreation Division.

To make the best of the three-month closure, staff quickly mobilized to move all maintenance and cleaning projects slated for the fall annual shutdown to March and April.

Due to ongoing concerns related to COVID-19, the Chilson Senior Center had not yet reopened by the end of 2020. Staff remained busy with projects including the City of Loveland Snow Squad volunteer program. The snow squad program assists low-income Loveland residents who are physically unable to shovel snow by matching them with volunteers who shovel their sidewalks after any snowfall of two or more inches. See page 19 for more information.



Chilson Center fitness equipment gets major cleaning

SAFE AND SOUND

On June 15, following a long 93-day closure, the Chilson Recreation Center was able to reopen under the state's Safer at Home order with capacity limitations and new COVID-19 related safety measures and protocols in place. Chilson was able to offer limited sport court space, fitness classes and lap swim reservations as well as limited cardio/weight space. Chilson also moved to a more robust, paid virtual fitness schedule, with an emphasis on the senior population.

In July, the Chilson leisure pool reopened as a space to play, much to the delight of families! The Chilson team worked with other recreation staff to open the Adventure Bound Day Camp (ABDC), Small Fries Preschool, gymnastics studio, sports camps and the pottery studio, all while following safety regulations and guidelines.

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

In 2020, the aquatics program reorganized to allow for greater staffing consistency, improved operations of our facilities and a superior and safe guest experience. Staff adapted to new cleaning routines and reservation systems, and performed maintenance during the closure.

Winona Outdoor Pool did not open in 2020 due to a large project to replace the pool slide. New lockers were installed and a deep-clean of the premises was completed mid-summer. Lake Loveland Swim Beach opened on June 17 and was very popular this year. All aquatics staff received waterfront lifeguard certifications in early June.

ADULT | YOUTH ATHLETICS

It was an interesting and challenging year for athletics. The pandemic resulted in the cancellation of many spring and summer youth and adult athletic programs and leagues. In an effort to get kids playing again, staff developed Safe Return-to-Play guidelines, found ways to adjust program and league rules and procedures, trained staff and educated parents, coaches and participants. In the summer, staff was allowed to organize adult sand and grass volleyball programs, and an abbreviated softball program. Throughout the year, staff quickly adapted safety protocols and, though participation was down in some areas, those who played were grateful for the opportunity!

FARMERS MARKET

Farmers markets were deemed essential by the governor near the beginning of the pandemic. As a result, the City of Loveland Farmers Market conducted a full season under strict COVID-19 protocols. Masks were required throughout the market, along with designated entry, exit and flow of traffic. Despite the safety regulations and not having the usual music, festivities and artist vendors, the market saw its revenue match that of 2019. The community showed it valued the essential food vendors and farmers who attended each week.

“

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

Abraham Lincoln



A Chilson fitness instructor teaches a virtual class



Kids learn to swim at the Chilson Pool



Adult athletes enjoyed softball in the summer

YOUTH CAMPS

Youth camps were one of the only programs the Recreation Division was allowed to run throughout the year. Thanks to strict adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols, including temperature checks for all participants, drive-through drop-off and pick-up procedures, mask wearing by staff and participants at all times, frequent sanitation of spaces and small cohorts of kids, the department was allowed to open safely modified camps and preschool programs.

The ABDC summer program enrolled 108 children between the ages of 5 to 13 for 10 weeks with average attendance of 63 children per week. ABDC-SZ (school zone) became an extension of the ABDC summer program to help support families with supervision and remote learning assistance while the Thompson School District was operating online. Staff assisted 22 students with their online learning during the 6-week program. COVID-19 safety protocols put in place during the summer continued throughout the school zone program to help keep campers and staff safe while keeping the children engaged in their learning and having fun when school was over!

SMALL FRIES PRESCHOOL

Small Fries Preschool began on September 8 with enrolled children participating via remote learning. This allowed our teachers to engage with the children prior to in-person learning which began October 13. Despite the implementation of COVID-19 related safety protocols, staff were able to program a fun and engaging school year. Fall family engagement activities consisted of outdoor activities at the Foote Lagoon including a Halloween costume parade and holiday caroling performances.

Due to the amazing work of staff, there were no reported cases of COVID-19 in any of our camp or preschool programs. Staff truly displayed a herculean effort to not only run camps, but to run a safe, fun and engaging place for Loveland's kids this past year.

THANKFUL COMMUNITY

Despite a year of change and challenges, the Chilson Recreation Center continued to serve the community well. The facility's three-month closure, followed by limited capacity for the last seven months of the year, resulted in significant revenue and attendance shortfalls. However, Chilson's offerings have been received with much thanks and appreciation from the community and staff was thankful to be back providing a safe, clean and fun facility for the entire community to enjoy.



The ABDC summer program was fun with new friends



ABDC School Zone classroom at the Chilson Center



Small Fries Preschool entertains with holiday carols



Guests are happy to be back at the Chilson Center

CITY OF LOVELAND SNOW SQUAD

Plow it Forward

A vital service for low income community members

The City of Loveland Snow Squad program assists Loveland residents who are physically unable to shovel snow by matching them with volunteers who shovel their sidewalks and a path to their door after any snowfall of two or more inches.

KEEPING UP IN 2020

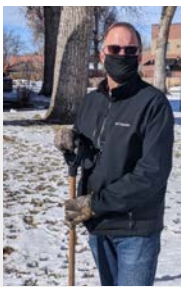
Requests for Snow Squad assistance have increased as our population grows and ages. Most years, the Snow Squad has a lengthy waitlist of residents requesting assistance. We kept pace with the need for service in 2020, assisting 70 residents with 37 volunteer teams (47 total volunteers). Snow Squad volunteers include retirees, high school students, family teams and busy people who fit this volunteer opportunity around work and other obligations.

ONE PERSON'S STORY

Our community abounds with service-minded people. Volunteers may shovel all season and never see the people they are helping. Snow Squad Coordinator Janeen Stubbs expressed the value of this program by sharing the story of one resident:

"Coordinating the Snow Squad program inspires me every day. Last week I called a resident who had requested assistance, but had not returned her application. She told me that she still needed help, but she was so upset and scared about things going on right now that she didn't know what to do. As I talked her through the application, Jack, a member of our Snow Squad team, happened to walk into my office. He overheard the conversation and offered to shovel for her right away."

A few hours later, Janeen received a new volunteer application from someone who was happy to travel a few extra miles to assist the resident for the rest of the season. "When I called to let her know that help was arranged, her voice broke up as she said, 'You don't know how much I needed to hear that someone cares about me right now.' Talk about volunteer service with an impact!"



*Snow Squad volunteer
Jack is ready to help*

Serve your community
and warm your heart!

GET INVOLVED:
970.962.2764





©Bain O'Donnell

Newly opened Prairie Ridge Natural Area

OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

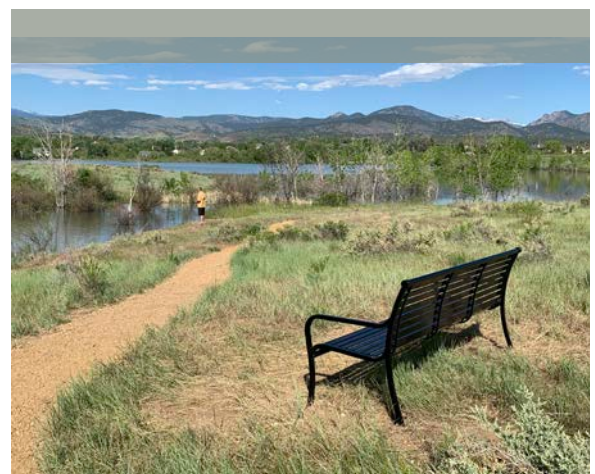
MORE TO EXPLORE IN LOVELAND

2020 was a very busy year for Loveland Open Lands & Trails with increased usage, new opportunities and several planning initiatives. The department was able to secure new trail easements at Prairie Ridge, East Big Thompson River, North Boyd Lake and Wilson Avenue. 2020 provided staff the opportunity to work with the community to complete management plans for Skyline Natural Area and the East Big Thompson River corridor ensuring that future public access will balance conservation with new recreational opportunities. In addition, staff worked on the Big Thompson River Envisioning Initiative, the City's CONNECT Transportation Plan update, trail corridor planning and department strategic plans.

PRAIRIE RIDGE AND BOEDECKER BLUFF

After 20 years of ownership, the 785-acre Prairie Ridge Natural Area was opened for public access on May 1 with a virtual grand opening. This new site, which includes a 2.4-mile trail, trailhead, restroom and parking lot, is popular for hiking and biking and provides connectivity to Coyote Ridge Natural Area to the north and regional connectivity to more than 35 miles of soft-surface trails. Additionally, the city opened Boedecker Bluff Natural Area including a 1-mile trail with shore access to Boedecker Reservoir.

Public access was also at an all-time high at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park and Round Mountain Trail. Utilizing the last of grant funding, staff made several improvements to the site including a new restroom, interpretive signage, learning stations, improvements to the environmental learning cabin and construction of a new nature exploratory play area.



Boedecker Bluff Natural Area

STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Stewardship is a key focus area for the Open Lands & Trails Division. Several projects were completed in 2020 including:

- trail repairs and fencing
- water and electrical repairs on existing properties
- improved signage
- restoration to native grasses and wetland plantings
- drainage improvements
- learning stations and interpretive signage at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park
- ADA improvements including an accessible fishing dock and trail at Willow Bend Natural Area
- relocation of two osprey platforms
- elk research by the National Parks Service at Meadowbrook Natural Area
- water quality testing at Boise Bend Natural Area and Medina's Crossing.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Volunteer raptor monitors were busy observing and surveying nests on open lands, and the popular owl and kestrel nest cameras were back providing our community an up-close view of this amazing wildlife. New in 2020 was the addition of an osprey nest camera allowing the community to share in the hatching and fledging of four osprey in west Loveland.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Open Lands & Trails volunteers donated 6,608 hours of their time to environmental education programs, trail hosting, stewardship and interpretive guided walks such as native plant, bird-watching, local geology and history. Volunteers stepped up and provided more hours for trail hosting than ever before. Due to the pandemic, large stewardship projects and community events were scaled back to allow for small, socially-distanced work groups.

- Stewardship volunteer hours = 4,185
- Stewardship volunteers = 232 involved in 17 projects
- Education volunteer hours = 464
- 32 programs attended by 551 people
- Administrative support volunteer hours = 447
- Trail Host volunteer hours = 1,512
- Total volunteer hours = 6,608 hours

“

Why not go out on a limb? That's where all the fruit is!”

Mark Twain



A new interpretive sign at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park



Open Lands & Trails staff Debbie Eley & Cindy Ticer



Volunteers contribute their time and talents

NEW TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The addition of new trails has been greatly appreciated by the community, especially in 2020 when trail usage was higher than ever due to the pandemic. The new 2.4-mile trail system at Prairie Ridge Natural Area opened in May and included the construction of a northbound turn lane on Wilson Avenue, parking lot, trailhead, 1.4 miles of new ADA accessible soft-surface trail and a new 1-mile trail connection north to Coyote Ridge Natural Area in Fort Collins.

Also open for public access was a new 1-mile soft-surface trail at Boedecker Bluff Natural Area in southwest Loveland, providing walk-in access for the surrounding neighborhoods. Additional soft-surface trail connections were also added at Round Mountain Trail, Sunset Vista Natural Area and Meadowbrook Natural Area.

COMPLETING MISSING LINKS

The department made significant strides towards closing the remaining recreation trail gap at 57th Street and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway. Construction began in December to pave the trail from the Sunset Vista Natural Area parking lot to the railroad tracks. The BNSF Railway will complete the final 0.3-mile trail connection over the railroad tracks as early as spring 2021. This will greatly improve usability and safety along this section of the trail.

Significant progress was also made on the design of a paved trail connection along the Barnes Ditch between Wilson and Namaqua Avenues. This section of trail is currently soft-surface, but staff is moving forward with land negotiations and design to pave this trail segment.

Staff is also working with Centerra, City of Greeley, Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company and the State of Colorado to secure land and begin design for a new trail connection from the existing recreation trail on Denver Avenue to a new pedestrian underpass at Boyd Lake Avenue. For the first time, this section will give users the opportunity to connect from the Centerra trail system to Loveland's recreation trail system!

BY THE NUMBERS

Total open land acreage = 8,218 acres
Total trail miles = 47 miles



Staff install new signs at Prairie Ridge Natural Area



Sign kiosk installation at Prairie Ridge Natural Area



New pedestrian access at Boedecker Bluff



Pre-bid meeting for 57th Street trail project

GRANTS HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

Grants are essential to the Open Lands & Trails Division and enable us to stretch available dollars to improve and expand Loveland open land sites and trails. In 2020, over \$3.2 million in grant funding was either awarded or utilized for Open Lands & Trails Division projects!



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- **MULTI-MODAL OPTIONS FUND (MMOF) – \$725,000**
Centerra Trail
- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT – \$600,000**
Namaqua Avenue Trail Connections
- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT – \$500,000**
Centerra Trail
- **OPEN LANDS PRIVATE DONATION – \$350,000**
Northwest Properties and Maintenance Vehicle
- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – RESILIENCY GRANT – \$330,000**
Oxbow Natural Area parking, restroom, trail and site improvements
- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT – \$260,000**
Prairie Ridge Trail
- **LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) TRAIL GRANT – \$200,000**
Prairie Ridge Trail
- **COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION INTERGENERATIONAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GRANT – \$129,000**
Madison Avenue Trail Connection to Old St. Louis
- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – RESTORATION GRANT – \$84,300**
Medina's Crossing Natural Area
- **NORTHERN WATER HABITAT RESTORATION MATCHING FUNDS – \$50,000**
Medina's Crossing Natural Area
- **COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE (CPW) – FISHING IS FUN GRANT – \$30,000**
Willow Bend Natural Area fishing dock
- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – LARIMER COUNTY CONSERVATION CORPS – \$19,000**
East Big Thompson invasive species removal
- **COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVE PEOPLE, HEALTHY NATION PROJECT – \$5,000**
Installation of three bike repair stations and additional bike signage



Richard Haro Photography

Cattail Creek Golf Course awaits

GOLF

BRING YOUR SWING

Many people searching for something to do outside in 2020 decided to try golf! Cattail Creek Golf Course, the city's 9-hole course, hosted 12,278 more rounds in 2020 than in 2019. While some have enjoyed golf for a lifetime, others were new to the game or simply came to hit range balls. Of course, all Parks & Recreation outdoor facilities were busy but Cattail Creek, which is perfect for beginners of all ages, broke records. During a year of many changes, Loveland's golf courses shined as a place where golfers could be outside playing the game they love.

SAFETY FOR ALL

At the end of March, all three Loveland golf courses were closed for 30 days. The Golf Division collaborated with divisions in the Parks & Recreation Department, as well as other city departments, to find solutions to challenges such as physical distancing, sanitation, touchless check-in, reduced touch points and single rider carts. Staff worked to adapt and overcome these obstacles and utilized shorter days and expanded tee times to help meet requirements for reopening. This left fewer tee times, however, helped ensure guests were able to play in a fun environment while adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols.

Mother Nature proved to be another challenge in 2020, causing winter damage to turf, wild fires and drought.



Golf Professional Brian Baltzer helps to aerate greens

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Golf’s new point of sale system allowed us to build accounts for guests, so check-in was handled with a phone call. Real-time booking made checking for availability a very easy process. Communication with guests was enhanced through an email function within the point of sale system, allowing us to send informational email alerts regarding things like frost delays. Mobile technology helped our starters and play managers work the course with real-time data, making for a better overall customer experience.

The Olde Course and Cattail Creek added new electric mowers to their fleet. The division has been utilizing these advanced mowers at the Mariana Butte Golf course for several years.

TIME TO UPGRADE

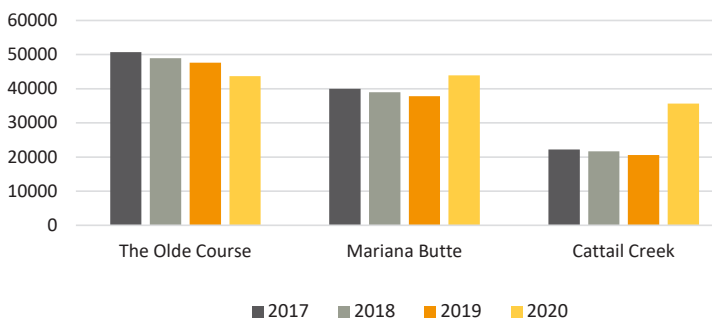
The 2020 season brought upgrades to all three golf courses including the leveling of tees and new tee signs at Mariana Butte, newly painted out-buildings at the Olde Course, a parking lot renovation at Cattail Creek, and our largest and most visible improvement – a new Cattail Creek cart storage building. This specific enhancement improves safety and efficiency with carts no longer needing to cross 29th Street. With increased rounds at Cattail Creek, carts are in high demand!

ON THE HORIZON

Large projects are on the horizon for the Golf Division in 2021. Cattail Creek will get a brand new irrigation system. This will reduce maintenance costs, improve water efficiency and most importantly, enhance conditions for a course that has seen dramatic increases in its popularity.

The restaurant area at Mariana Butte will also get an upgrade with new floors replacing the original carpet. Guests will enjoy this improvement as they take in the mountain views after their round.

Rounds Played



“

Oh, the things you can find if you don't stay behind.”

Dr. Suess



New electric mowers at the Olde Course and Cattail Creek



New cart storage building at Cattail Creek

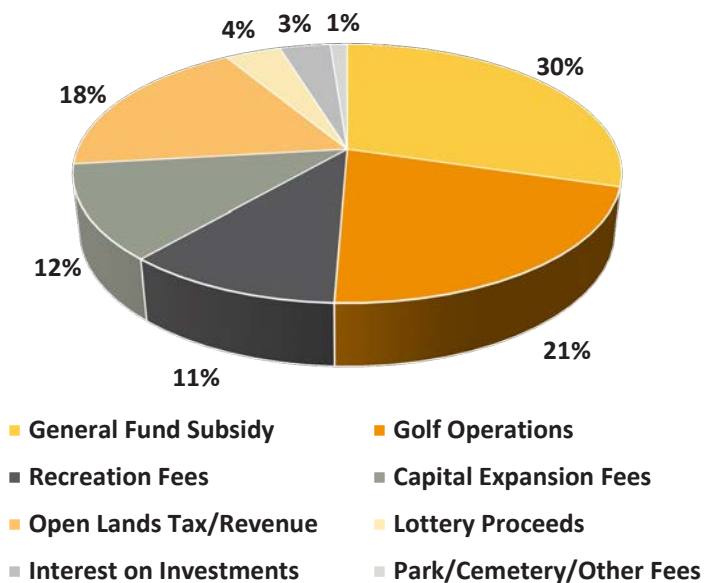


The adaptive golf cart in use at the Olde Course

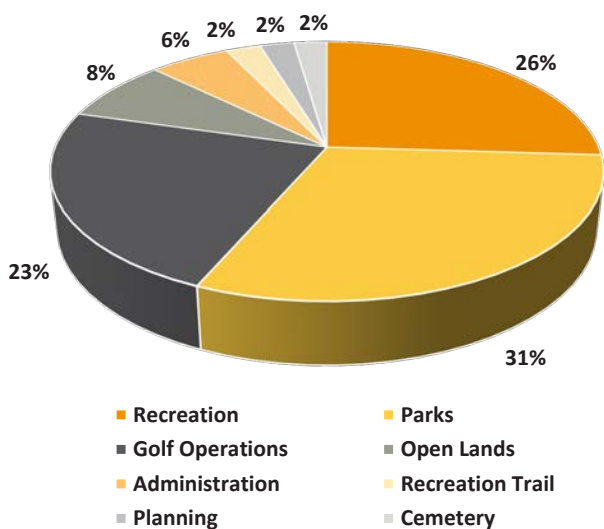
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial accountability has long been the standard for the Parks & Recreation Department. In conjunction with the City's financial policies, we worked proactively in 2020 to contain costs while increasing program offerings, participation and facility use.

2020 Revenues



2020 Operating Expenditures



Revenue*	2020
General Fund Subsidy	\$6,195,529
Golf Operations	\$4,393,395
Capital Expansion Fees	\$3,686,957
Open Lands County Tax	\$2,458,068
Interest on Investments	\$1,112,066
Lottery Proceeds	\$822,784
Chilson Center	\$745,510
Grants	\$643,720
Athletics	\$291,793
Recreation Programs	\$217,256
Cemetery	\$203,351
Park Fees/Revenue	\$134,184
Perpetual Care Fees	\$115,399
Open Lands Leases/Donations	\$108,582
Special Recreation	\$80,169
Outdoor Aquatics	\$113
TOTAL REVENUE	\$21,208,876

Expenditures*	2020
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	
Parks Maint/Grounds/Planning	\$4,162,250
Golf Operations	\$2,910,306
Chilson Center	\$1,707,661
Open Lands	\$990,285
Administration	\$705,595
Athletics	\$612,651
Recreation Programs	\$516,576
Recreation Trail	\$342,270
Special Recreation	\$306,673
Cemetery	\$289,663
Outdoor Aquatics	\$105,664
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$12,649,594

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	
Equipment/Tools/Projects**	\$2,100,337
Cemetery & Parks Projects	\$760,623
Open Lands Projects	\$719,253
Golf Projects/Equipment	\$600,206
Trails Projects	\$246,719
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$4,427,138
TOTAL DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	\$17,076,732

*2020 unaudited year-end figures
 ** General Fund funded

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

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

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

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

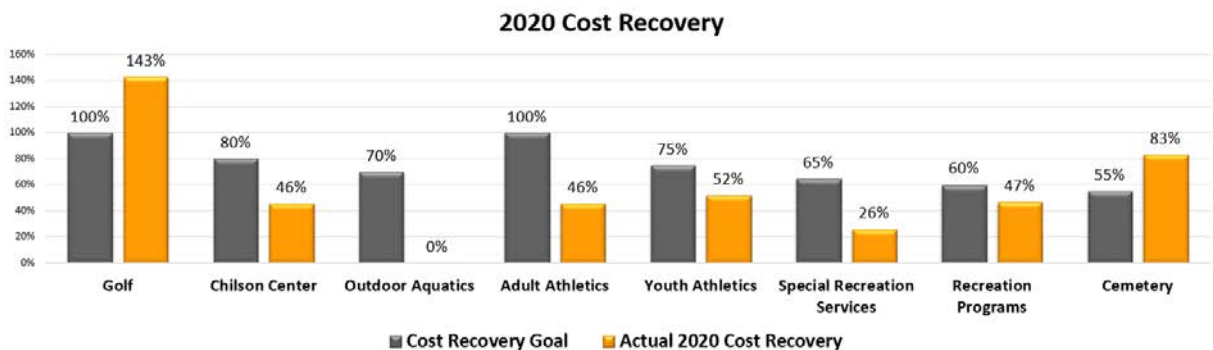
Open Space Tax Fund: Fund to purchase and maintain open land areas in and around Loveland. Revenues are generated from a Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax, used for acquisitions, development and operations.

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

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

Fund	Balance 1.1.2020	Revenues	Expenditures	Net Change	Balance 12.31.20*
Capital Expansion Funds	\$14,445,477	\$4,025,571	\$369,824	\$3,655,747	\$18,101,224
Parks Improvement Fund	\$1,493,003	\$36,773	\$486,941	-\$450,168	\$1,042,835
Conservation Trust Fund	\$5,388,146	\$997,753	\$534,872	\$462,881	\$5,851,027
Open Space Tax Fund	\$9,634,878	\$3,422,273	\$1,795,088	\$1,627,185	\$11,262,063
Golf Enterprise Fund	\$4,821,088	\$4,580,184	\$3,781,690	\$798,494	\$5,619,582
Perpetual Care Fund	\$3,274,267	\$208,387	\$0	\$208,387	\$3,482,654

*2020 unaudited year-end figures. Figures include capital expenditures and investment income.





Riders enjoying the newly opened Prairie Ridge Natural Area

On the cover: Sunrise at Prairie Ridge Natural Area

CITY OF LOVELAND PARKS & RECREATION

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lovgov.org/parksrecreation