



City of  
**LOVELAND**  
PARKS & RECREATION



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT WHERE COMMUNITY GROWS

# ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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I am pleased to share Loveland Parks & Recreation Department's 2023 Annual Report. As the highlights suggest, YOUR Loveland parks, recreation facilities, open lands and natural areas, trails and golf courses provided the spaces, programs and services which have fostered countless community connections. Loveland is truly a place *Where Community Grows*.

The 2023 Annual Report highlights major accomplishments and initiatives over the past year. Chilson Recreation & Senior Center celebrated 35 years of service in 2023! The Recreation Center welcomed over 500,000 guests and completed a major renovation of the locker rooms. Attendance at the Senior Center increased by 42%; trips, lunches, dances and activities strengthened connections in our senior population. Adaptive Recreation athletics programs, recreation and social classes served over 250 attendees, ensuring that everyone has access to healthier lifestyles and community connections. The Loveland Farmers Market was voted

one of the 10 best farmers markets in Colorado. The Small Fries Preschool program received a renewal of their Level 5 rating by Colorado Shines, the only Level 5 rated program in Northern Colorado and only one of nine in the state! Children were given more access to creative and adaptive play opportunities through playground replacements at Civic Center Park, Kirkview Park and Westside Park. High-efficiency, LED lighting was installed on many of our courts and ball fields. The Olde Course celebrated the grand opening of its new clubhouse, not only an enhancement to service at the golf course, but a community destination with some of the best views in Loveland. Open Lands & Trails volunteers donated over 8,700 hours of service to stewardship projects, environmental education, community outreach, administrative support and trail hosting. The Centerra Trail (1.3 miles) was completed, expanding our recreational trail system to connect Denver Avenue and Boyd Lake Avenue with an off-road, safe trail connection in east Loveland. Over \$6.1 million in grants were used or secured to support trail connections, restoration projects and recreational access on our natural lands.

As a final highlight, the 2023 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands & Trails Master Plan was adopted by City Council. The Master Plan serves as a guiding roadmap which captured YOUR voice and will drive our future strategic decision-making. WOW! With so many successes and enhanced services, it is easy to see how YOUR Loveland Parks & Recreation Department directly contributes to promoting and advancing a spirit of community.

*Where Community Grows* captures the heart and the essential service provided by YOUR Parks & Recreation Department. Our public lands, recreation facilities, programs and special events facilitated millions of community connections. And as our Loveland community grows, parks and recreation are top of mind. According to NRPA, 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.\* Parks and recreation have the power to transform neighborhoods, foster connections and create a healthier and happier community. A true commitment and promise of an enhanced quality of life. Our CAPRA accreditation, a distinction held by less than 1% of departments in the country, ensures that we are providing a public service of excellence – an essential public service.



It is a great honor for me to serve as Director for Loveland Parks & Recreation Department. Our team of skilled and passionate professionals work hard to provide services, programming and facilities that enhance the lives of our community. This is only possible due to their commitment not only to the City of Loveland, but to the profession of parks and recreation. I truly appreciate all of them and consider it an honor to work alongside this incredible team. A special thanks and appreciation to former Parks & Recreation Director Elizabeth Kayl, who served from 2015–2023 and welcomed me as Director last May upon her retirement. She thoughtfully and respectfully participated in a transfer of knowledge process to ensure a smooth transition between the outgoing and incoming Director.

Explore Loveland's parks, facilities and natural areas today! YOU are a vital part of creating community in Loveland. We are the backdrop, the facilitators and the stewards, but YOU are the reason Loveland is a place *Where Community Grows*.

*Kara Kish*

**Kara Kish, MPA, CPRE**  
Parks & Recreation Director

*Opposite page: Views along the Big Thompson Trail*

\*NRPA 2022 Engagement with Parks Report

“

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller

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# LEADING LOVELAND WITH A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

A strategic roadmap to meet our community needs.

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

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

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

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



*Loveland Parks & Recreation Management Team*  
**Front row:** Planning Manager Bryan Harding, Parks & Recreation Director Kara Kish, Open Lands & Trails Manager Marilyn Hilgenberg  
**Back row:** Recreation Manager Ashlee Taylor, Golf Manager Mark Esoda, Parks Manager Dan Willadsen

## THREE PILLARS OF PARKS & RECREATION



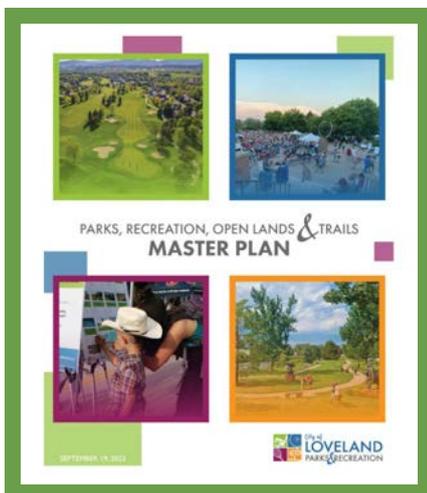
**HEALTH & WELLNESS –  
IMPROVING HEALTH, ENHANCING LIFE**



**CONSERVATION –  
PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES**



**SOCIAL EQUITY –  
ACCESS AND INCLUSION FOR ALL**



## PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

# MASTER PLAN

Adopted September 2023

Thank you for being a part of the  
future vision of Parks & Recreation!

## 2023 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Dwight Andersen, <i>Chair</i>	Taylor Nguyen, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Jess Arnold	Jeremy Peterson
Laurie Finnerty	Antoinette Toscano
Jim Haynes	Jacki Marsh, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Garry Kryszak	Jon Mallo, <i>Alternate Liaison</i>
Craig Mortensen	

### OPEN LANDS & TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Adam Beeco, <i>Chair</i>	Andy McRoberts
Gale Bernhardt	Jim Roode
Jim Edmiston	Barb Schultz
Michael Hinterberg, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jacki Marsh, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Scott James	Jon Mallo, <i>Alternate Liaison</i>
David LaGreca	Daylan Figgs, <i>County Liaison</i>

### GOLF ADVISORY BOARD

Blake Nicholson, <i>Vice Chair</i>	David Spangler
Greg Oehmen	Nate Thoreson
Will Parker	Chuck Weirauch
Peggy Pellizzari	Pat McFall, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Denise Rhoades	Steve Olson, <i>Alternate Liaison</i>
Beth Soderquist, <i>Chair</i>	

### SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Teresa Boynton, <i>Chair</i>	Stephanie Morris
Carmen Cisneros	Glenda Seely
Victoria Cordova	Mari Temmer
Steven Greer	Jacki Marsh, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Joann Herkenhoff	

### PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION

Dwight Andersen	Theresa Racine
Chad Brent	Denise Rhoades
Marie DeWolf	Terje Whitmore
Greg Guest, <i>Chair</i>	Scott Wilson, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Ryan Lundquist, <i>Treasurer</i>	

## DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

### DIRECTOR

The Director serves as a member of the City Manager's Executive Leadership Team and is directly responsible for the administration and oversight of all Parks & Recreation Divisions.

### ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

The Administration Team supports work of the Department and its Divisions. It is responsible for overall budgeting and fiscal monitoring, payroll and procurement processing, cemetery office administration, park shelter reservations, youth recreation scholarship processing, graphic design and customer service.

### PLANNING

The Planning Division is a qualified team of experts serving the City's residents, other City departments and the Parks & Recreation Department's internal customers. With professionals in landscape architecture, planning, public engagement and project management, the Planning Team offers a full range of project delivery services.

### PARKS

The Parks Division is committed to maintaining safe, high quality park shelters, restrooms, playgrounds, hardcourt facilities, sports fields and the Loveland Burial Park and Lakeside Cemetery. The team is also responsible for providing non-programmed park space and maintenance of public grounds.

### RECREATION

The Recreation Division provides diversified fitness, wellness, recreation, social, educational and fun opportunities for all ages and abilities within the Loveland community. The Recreation Team adapts programs, facilities and events based on current trends and needs to ensure future success.

### OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

The Open Lands & Trails Division identifies, preserves, protects, connects and enhances open space, natural areas, trails and wildlife habitat. The team promotes the enjoyment of the outdoors while advancing environmental stewardship, environmental education and outdoor experiences.

### GOLF

The Golf Division provides quality golf at reasonable and fairly-priced rates, provides consistent public relations & education and expands golfing opportunities for the golfing public. The team offers year-round play on three golf courses and one mini-course offering 3-hole, 9-hole or 18-hole rounds.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Loveland Parks & Recreation is committed to partnerships that align with our 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.

## 2023 Community Partnerships:

### ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

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- 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
- Special Olympics Colorado
- Triple Crown Sports
- United Soccer Club (USC)
- United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA)
- Williams Tennis Academy

### SENIOR SERVICES | PARTNERS

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

### GOLF CLUBS | LEAGUES

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

### COMMUNITY GROUPS | PARTNERS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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- Banner Health
- Big Thompson Watershed Coalition
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Boys & Girls Club
- Colorado Association of Trail Stewards (CATS)
- Colorado Avian Research & Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI)
- Colorado Native Plant Society
- Colorado Open Lands
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado State University (CSU)
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Economic Development Department
- Estes Park Flyfishing
- Foothills Audubon
- Front Range Community College
- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Group Publishing "Week of Hope"
- Health4Heroes
- Hearts & Horses Therapeutic Riding Center
- High Plains Arts Council
- High Plains Environmental Center
- I Love Loveland
- Kiwanis Club of Loveland
- Larimer County Conservation Corps
- Larimer County Natural Resources
- Loveland Chamber of Commerce
- Loveland Concert Band
- Loveland Downtown Partnership
- Loveland Historical Society
- Loveland Housing Authority
- Loveland Lions Club
- Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation
- Loveland Sertoma Club
- Loveland Youth Gardeners
- NOCO Astronomical Society
- NOCO Bike and Pedestrian Collaborative
- NOCO Sawyers
- Northern Colorado Mustang Car Club
- Rialto Theater
- Scott and Carol James
- Sweetheart City Racing
- Thompson School District
- United Way of Larimer County
- Visit Loveland
- Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
- YMCA of Northern Colorado

# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



**3,666**  
personal  
training  
sessions  
provided

**abdc:** 72+ campers/day, grade K-5  
10 summer camp weeks



**IN-PERSON**  
GROUP FITNESS  
ATTENDANCE

6,173 cycling  
14,603 senior  
59,210 overall



Trail Hosts volunteered  
**2,509 hours**

**3,031,640**

**golf balls**

launched  
off golf  
tees



**3,843** rounds  
of SNAG  
played at the  
Mini-Course



**21,890**  
field/court  
reservations

**24**  
weekends  
of athletic  
tournaments



Barnes Softball Complex  
& Winona Outdoor Pool

**CONCESSIONS:**



5,398



11,238



7,039



2,142

Snow  
Cones



4,184

visitors

toured the VSMP cabin

during **68** Nature Cabin  
Open House days



1,537

park shelter  
reservations



**cemetery**

166 interments  
interment rights issued: **106**



**6,511**  
youth  
athletics  
enrollments



adult athletics games  
1,788

**3,964**  
lunches served  
at the  
Senior  
Center



456 recreation volunteers  
logged **16,000**  
HOURS



MONTHLY  
DANCES

at the  
Senior  
Center  
welcomed

**1,697**  
participants



**4,592**  
drop-in  
visits at  
Chilson  
Childcare



**2,852**  
swim lesson  
participants

at Chilson & Winona pools



**144,532**  
rounds of  
golf  
played

**62.9 miles**

of soft-  
surface  
and paved  
trails  
FOR  
PUBLIC  
ACCESS





*Rendering of the proposed Willow Bend Park & Natural Area featuring a universally accessible playground*

# PLANNING

## A TEAM OF EXPERTS TURNING BIG IDEAS INTO REALITY

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

### INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PUBLIC SERVICE

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Members of the Planning Team provide project information to the public and ensure that Department projects go through public vetting, public engagement and approval processes. Such processes may include production and management of public engagement events such as open houses, online engagement including social media and webpage interfaces, and public meetings or hearings.

In addition, Parks & Recreation planners serve the City as in-house experts on environmental and construction regulations, construction budgeting and market trends, as well as emerging trends in Parks & Recreation facility and amenity design.

### DEPARTMENT & CITY INITIATIVES

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

The Planning Team also serves key roles on City initiatives and planning processes, representing the Parks & Recreation Department on projects such as the Connect Loveland Plan, the Loveland Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Big Thompson River Restoration Master Plan.

## CAPITAL & DEPRECIATION PROJECT PLANNING

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

## PROJECT DESIGN, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

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

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

## GRANT WRITING & GRANT MANAGEMENT

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With constrained budgets, increased demand for new and improved Parks & Recreation facilities and increased costs of construction, the Planning Team actively pursues grant opportunities to fund public projects without impacting Loveland taxpayers. Of note, the Planning Team has been a key player in authoring grant applications and securing funding from entities such as Great Outdoors Colorado, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the CDOT Transportation Alternatives Program. Such funds have been utilized in the recent construction of projects like the new Centerra Trail, a new ADA accessible fishing dock at the future Willow Bend Park & Natural Area, and are part of the project development budgets for the new Namaqua to Wilson Trail and the upcoming Wilson Avenue and 43rd Street Sidewalk Improvements project.

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW TEAM

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Loveland Parks & Recreation is in a unique position both as the developer of new infrastructure projects such as parks, trails and facilities, as well as a project reviewer for new development applications that come into the City through Loveland's Development Review Team (DRT). As part of the DRT, Parks & Recreation planners review hundreds of development applications each year with the goal of enhancing connections to and relationships with Department assets and facilities. This may range from ensuring that proper screening exists between new commercial development and existing trails, ensuring that connections are made between new residential developments and schools or parks, or working with developers to help the Department secure trail corridors through new developments coming into the City.

“

If you can  
dream it,  
you can do it.”

Walt Disney



*Visioning improvements at Barnes Softball Complex*



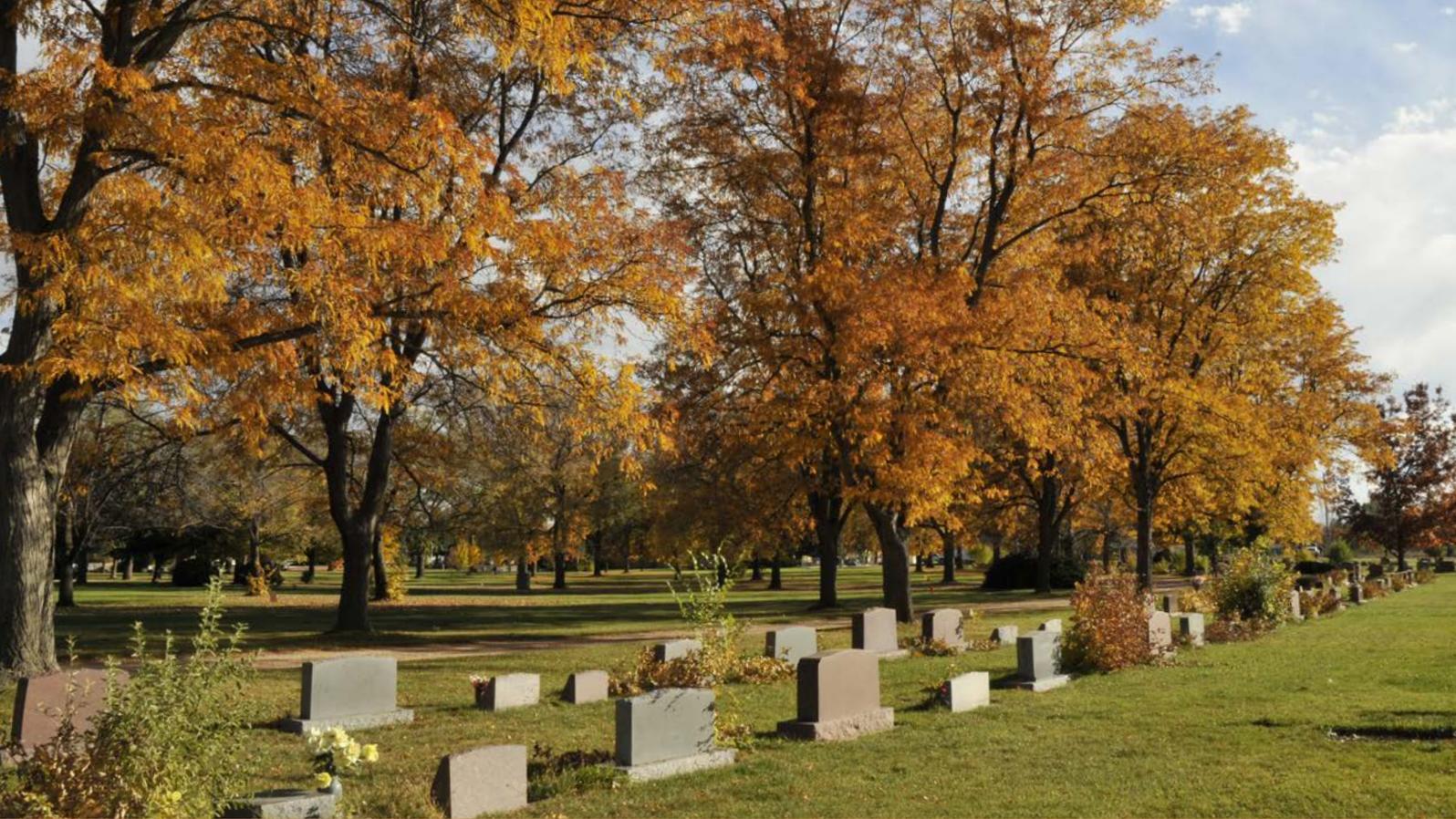
*Grand opening for the new Civic Center Park*



*Bicyclists tour the newly constructed Centerra Trail*



*Trail planning at Skyline/Dakota Ridge Natural Area*



*Autumn trees at Loveland Burial Park*

# PARKS

## MAXIMIZING SPACE

The Parks Division is committed to maintaining safe, high quality park shelters, restrooms, playgrounds, hardcourt facilities, sports fields and the Loveland Burial Park and Lakeside Cemetery, as well as non-programmed park space for the citizens of Loveland. Attention to maintenance and replacement of existing infrastructure was a major focus.

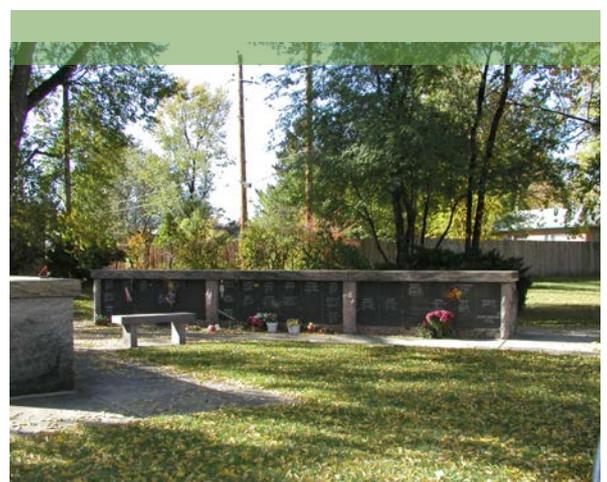
### LOVELAND BURIAL PARK EXPANDS FROM WITHIN

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Staff worked to maximize the available plot and niche spaces at Loveland Burial Park and Lakeside Cemetery this year, which will extend the longevity of both sites by approximately ten years.

These efforts included a plot reclamation project that identified more than 500 unused plots. As per Colorado law, cemeteries are allowed to enter a process of reclamation for any plot unused for more than 50 years. Staff went beyond the minimum requirement and focused on plots which have been unused for more than 75 years. The process was completed in November with the vast majority of plots added back to the cemetery's inventory.

Plans to reconfigure the cemetery layout by removing a stretch of curved road, regrowing grass and eliminating aging trees will create even more space in the future. Improvements on the west side of the burial park will allow for 200 new plots, and the addition of a new ossuary/columbarium structure will make hundreds of additional niches available. Plans to add an in-ground ossuary that will hold commingled cremains will provide a cost-effective option.



*The south columbarium niche at Loveland Burial Park*

## LOVELAND'S COMMUNITY FOREST

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The City celebrated its 34th year as a Tree City USA City awarded by the National Arbor Day Foundation, recognizing the efforts of volunteers and staff to enhance and maintain the diversity, beauty and safety of Loveland's community forest. The City celebrated this achievement in May with a ceremonial planting at Mehaffey Park. Local volunteer groups also planted replacement fruit trees and Sweetheart City Racing held a two-mile Run for the Trees event to benefit the Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation.

For many years, Poudre River Power Authority (PRPA) has made donations to the Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation for tree plantings around Loveland. A \$4,500 donation by PRPA made additional plantings possible throughout the year, providing a gift to the whole community.

The Parks Urban Forestry Team successfully updated the Loveland Municipal Code in regard to tree management and contractor licensing. An additional forestry worker was hired, increasing the team size to three.

## CAPITAL & DEPRECIATION PROJECTS

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Several major projects were completed including:

- Civic Center Park, Kirkview Park & Westside Park playground replacements
- Kroh Park west parking lot removal/replacement of asphalt base & striping
- Silver Lake pump station hydro dredging maintenance/screen replacement
- North Lake Park tennis courts (7-9) removal/replacement with large monolithic post tension concrete slab
- New LED lighting installations at tennis courts at Dwayne Webster Park & North Lake Park, basketball courts at North Lake Park and on fields (5 & 6) at Barnes Softball Complex, with added lighting for the parking lot area
- Parks office/shop space expansion with added security at main entrance

## PARTNERSHIPS

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The Loveland Lions Club operates Buckhorn Northern Railroad at North Lake Park. As a long-time partner, over 50 club members served nearly 4,000 volunteer hours and provided 25,835 individual rides between May 25 and September 4. Staff also worked with partners on third party special events to support local non-profit organizations. Partners included: Sweetheart City Racing, Kiwanis Club of Loveland, Loveland Sertoma Club, Loveland Chamber of Commerce, Northern Colorado Mustang Car Club and Health4Heroes. Events included: Loveland Loves BBQ, Oktoberfest, Corn Roast Festival, Annual Car Show and the Annual Guardian Games & Expo.

## ON THE HORIZON

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Future projects in 2024 include construction of Willow Bend Park & Natural Area utilizing City funding and grant funding. Additionally, the Parks Division is in the design phase to construct two satellite park shops to be operational year-round to assist with ongoing Parks staff space constraints.

On the recommendation of City Council, staff will continue to actively maximize plot and niche space at Loveland Burial Park and Lakeside Cemetery and are searching for a new site for development where another City cemetery could be added within the next ten years.

“

Trees are poems  
that the earth writes  
upon the sky.”

Khalil Gibran



*Volunteer crew for Arbor Day tree plantings*



*Silver Lake pump station intake screen replacement*



*The new mural at Sunnyside Park*

## SUNNYSIDE PARK MURAL

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In a response to repeated graffiti issues at Sunnyside Park, the Parks Division worked with Cultural Services and the Loveland Library through the Art in Public Places program to create a mural that should deter future graffiti on the parks shop.



*Newly remodeled women's locker room at Chilson Recreation Center*

# RECREATION

## COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The Recreation Division strengthened the quality of life for the Loveland community and visitors and continued the commitment to providing high quality diversified fitness, recreation, social and educational opportunities in the community. Chilson Recreation & Senior Center celebrated its 35th anniversary and its popularity showed with increased attendance numbers. The Recreation wing welcomed 502,000 guests, which is 10% above last year, but the Senior Center had the greatest facility attendance growth with a 42% increase over 2022. Staff kept up with the needs of the community with the renovation of the Chilson locker rooms. This was a significant project funded through capital depreciation, replacing the original infrastructure. The Division continues to adapt programs, facilities and events based on current trends and needs to ensure success for future years to come.

## OUR COMMUNITY, YOUR PLACE

Chilson Recreation Center was honored to be voted 2nd place for Best Workout Facility in the Reporter Herald's Reader's Choice contest and revenue topped \$2M for the 2nd time in its history! Personal training reached an all-time high, with 3,666 training sessions offered. Virtual fitness classes continued but declined in attendance, indicative of residents returning to in-person activities to combat the feeling of loneliness at home.

The LightStim LED Light Therapy bed had its first full year of use and is on track to have a complete return on investment in 2024. Chilson guests enjoyed whole body treatments, maximizing the body's potential for peak physiological performance. People who booked ongoing treatments noticed the most improvement with decreased muscle soreness and increased rejuvenation.



*Participants work out in a Power Toning class at Chilson*

## WORTH THE WAIT

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Designed by Barker Rinker Seacat Architects with TCC, the Chilson locker room remodel began in May and was completed in November – after a couple of unanticipated delays. Work started in the men's locker room and transitioned to the women's, always leaving one locker room open throughout the project. Staff was proactive in informing guests of closures and creative in offering alternative spaces for guests to use. The result was worth the wait and will ensure an improved experience for years to come.

The project addressed better drainage, ADA standards & aged infrastructure. Modernized design standards included moving away from the men's open shower concept and toward a more inclusive design with increased privacy. Fixtures and finishes at the end of their useful life were replaced. Lockers in excellent condition were reused as a cost-savings measure.

## GET ACTIVE, GET IN HERE

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The Senior Center was back in full swing. Favorite special events were back including the St. Patrick's Day Lunch, Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale and the Harvest Bazaar. Over 80 fun and interesting day trips were offered with highlights such as an adventurous sleigh ride, attending outstanding performing arts events and the Garden of the Gods hike/ride tour.

The Senior Center was lively with drop-in activities such as billiards, table tennis and twice-monthly dances. Drop-in open chess and a senior speed dating event were new programs. Partnerships included the Loveland Library with senior-friendly technology classes, UCHHealth with blood pressure checks and balance screenings, Hearing USA clinics and Volunteers of America who served 3,964 lunches at the Senior Center.

## SMALL FRIES PRESCHOOL SHINES

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Colorado Shines, the state's quality rating and improvement system for early learning programs, rated Loveland's licensed Small Fries Preschool a Level 5 (highest), making it the only Level 5 rated program in Northern Colorado/Larimer County and one of nine in the state! Every three years, programs are evaluated on how well they support children's health & safety, ensure staff are well-trained and are providing a supportive learning environment that teaches children new skills, help parents become partners in their child's learning and demonstrate good leadership and business practices.

For a second year, staff was able to utilize funding received through the Childcare Stabilization and Sustainability Grant. This grant afforded us the opportunity to offer scholarships to those who would otherwise not have been able to participate due to economic limitations. Funds were also used to update outdated supplies and to make significant improvements to the licensed classrooms including new flooring and furniture.

## HAPPY CAMPERS

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More than 72 campers per day engaged in a fun summer during our 10-week licensed Adventure Bound Day Camp. Campers from Kindergarten through 9th grade enjoyed exciting field trips, enrichment programs such as swimming lessons and gymnastics, weekly themed activities for the younger campers and optional weekly teen trips for the middle school group. Non-campers also had many enrichment program opportunities throughout the year!

“

A healthy body  
is the best way  
to a healthy mind.”

Aristotle



ADA accessible shower in new men's locker room



Seniors enjoy a hike at the Garden of the Gods



Pajama Day at Small Fries Preschool



ABDC campers have fun at a Rockies game

## DIVE IN TO AQUATICS

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The Department's three aquatics facilities began to thrive again after the nationwide lifeguard shortage. Several water certification courses were offered which filled the needed staffing levels to operate all facilities. The Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation partnered with us again to help attract potential applicants with bridging the gap for a full reimbursement cost of the certification, and aquatics was awarded funds from the Colorado Pool Initiatives Grant to apply towards summer lifeguard training classes and certifications. Despite weather challenges, Lake Loveland Swim Beach was able to operate through Labor Day for the first time in 7 years due to high water levels.

We are proud of the life skill learning our 400+ Learn-to-Swim sessions offered. Glow Swim events at Chilson continued to be popular, and a late-night Winona Glow Swim was successfully introduced. Hundreds floated while watching a movie at the Dive-In Movie at Winona.



*Children learn to swim in the Chilson Pool*

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

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Volunteers work at the Senior Center, coach youth athletic teams, serve in Adaptive Recreation programs and at special events. 456 volunteers logged nearly 16,000 hours – that's an average of 43.5 hours every single day of the year! For the 2023/2024 winter season, 78 Snow Squad volunteers assisted residents with physical and financial barriers to clear snow from their sidewalks to maintain municipal code requirements.



*Senior Center billiards volunteers*

## ANOTHER HOME RUN

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Athletics had some real wins! Overall youth participation increased by 7.5% and adult participation increased by 17% over 2022.

Youth gymnastics participation won gold, with more than 3,000 for the year. Other areas held strong, rounding out more than 6,300 total youth athletic registrations. Adult Athletics hit the target offering a diverse selection of league options with growth in cornhole, basketball and volleyball leagues. The wet summer put a damper on adult softball and other outdoor leagues, but the Adult Athletics program still knocked it out of the park with 1,788 total games played.



*Kids hang out in the Chilson Gymnastics Center*

The Sparkler Jr. Softball Tournament brought in thousands of people to Barnes Softball Complex, and Loveland Parks & Recreation hosted 24 weekends of softball tournaments for both youth and adults.

## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

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Adaptive Recreation athletics programs continued to thrive, partnering with Special Olympics Colorado to provide Unified Sports. The Loveland youth basketball team even won first place in the skills competition! A variety of recreation and social classes were also offered including a new drumming class. Upon activity registration, 75 participants requested modifications for 133 programs or informed instructors about medical conditions. Modifications resulted in participants' safe access and success with both mainstream and Adaptive Recreation programs. Chilson saw growth in the Recreation Connections Pass use, which allows caregivers free access to assist someone with a disability.



*AR athletes win 1st in basketball skills competition*

# LOVELAND EVENTS

## ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD & FUN!

Parks & Recreation hosted several events to connect the Loveland community. Sponsorships from local businesses are essential for us to provide events and outreach, helping to make recreation accessible to everyone. We are thankful for this support which totalled over \$45,000 this year. Some of the events included:

### ADULT FIELD DAY

Adult Field Day debuted with 12 spirited teams that competed like kids in fun field day activities at Mehaffey Park!

### MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

Parks & Recreation was excited to bring Mountainfilm on Tour to Loveland again. Hosted at the Rialto Theater, the films explored themes connected to their mission: using the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. This was a popular event with a matinee and evening show with 648 tickets sold.

### JULY 4TH FESTIVAL

Voted one of the top 22 fireworks shows in the nation by USA Today! The event at North Lake Park was dampened by heavy rains, but the show still went on with live music, a beer garden, a children's bike parade and a fun kid zone. Approximately 1,500 people attended this wet event!



### MOBILE RECREATION TRAILER

The Mobile Recreation Trailer served more than 2,500 participants. Schedules coincided with the Thompson School District free lunch program, the Boys & Girls Club, Loveland Housing Authority sites and more! Fun also traveled to the Foundry and other local events. The trailer was available for rent for family or corporate celebrations.

### MOVIES IN THE PARK

Movies in the Park showcased several family-friendly films in parks around Loveland with food trucks, entertainment, themed events and fun games and activities with the Mobile Recreation Trailer. This summer, four popular movies were screened and averaged 125 people in attendance per event.

### KIDCHELLA: ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Kidchella brought an afternoon of stage performances, carnival games, dancing, interactive art, kid-friendly music and fun that was all about the kids! The Hammond Amphitheater stage at North Lake Park was alive with excitement at this event with an estimated 3,500 smiling faces in attendance.



### LOVELAND FARMERS MARKET

The Loveland Farmers Market was voted one of the 10 best farmers markets in the state of Colorado, as well as in the top three in Northern Colorado (NOCO Lifestyle Magazine). Farm-fresh produce, baked goods, crafters and entertainment made it fun for the whole family! Artist Markets, the Honey Festival and a Children's Entrepreneur Market were popular. The market was open every Sunday from mid-June through September with over \$500K in sales and an estimated 34,400 people in attendance.

### HONEY FESTIVAL

In conjunction with the Loveland Farmers Market, the Honey Festival featured honey and beeswax from several vendors, mead, demo beehives, bee-themed arts & crafts and children's activities as part of the Busy Bee Kids Zone. An estimated 4,000 people were in attendance.

### SKI & SPORTS SWAP

The annual Ski & Sports Swap is a favorite amongst the Loveland community offering outdoor gear, with a focus on winter sports. It's an opportunity for businesses and individuals to buy and sell new and used equipment. There were several outdoor gear vendors who participated with \$38,000 in sales in eight hours!





*Elk herd at Heaven's Door Ranch*

# OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

## LANDS, PLANS AND PROGRAMS

It was a very productive year for Loveland Open Lands & Trails with new land opportunities, high visitor usage, expanded programming, stewardship projects and several planning initiatives. In addition to land acquisitions and additional trails, staff had the opportunity to actively collaborate on the Department Master Plan, Eagle Vista Management Plan, Connect Transportation Plan, the Streets Safety Master Plan, the Envisioning Plan for the Big Thompson River, Brownfields EPA grant and the Big Thompson River Mitigation Planning, ensuring that future site developments balance conservation with new recreational opportunities.

### SECURING PROPERTIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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Loveland's Open Lands portfolio grew by 37 acres and the City was able to negotiate a key land option for a future 100 acres in southeast Loveland. In the fall, the City acquired the Haag property, south of Willow Bend Natural Area, which will provide future river access and connective trails. The property was purchased utilizing Loveland's share of the Larimer County Open Space Tax (\$1.2M).

Throughout the year, Loveland worked with Fort Collins and Larimer County on the development of a Baseline Inventory Report for the Heaven's Door Ranch. Fort Collins and Loveland developed an Intergovernmental Agreement to work together as co-holders of the Conservation Easement on Heaven's Door Ranch, to assure the property is planned and managed to protect the resource values in perpetuity.



*Big Thompson River at Haag property*

## STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

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Stewardship is a key focus area for the Open Lands & Trails Division. Active projects included:

- Trail repairs and habitat restoration of Boise Bend Natural Area
- Restoration of Kings Crossing from encampment damage
- New pollinator habitat areas at Sunset Vista Natural Area
- Interpretive signage for Centerra Trail & Big Barnes Ditch Trail
- A new soft-surface trail segment at Cottonwood Run initiated
- Invasive species management at Eagle Vista Natural Area & other sites
- Trail building, repairs and fencing
- Improved signage and new interpretive signs
- Restoration to native grasses, wetlands and cottonwood plantings
- ADA improvements on Recreation Trail and additional ADA benches
- Drainage and parking lot improvements
- Bridge inspections and repairs
- Water and electrical repairs on existing properties
- New fishing input areas at River's Edge ponds
- Environmental assessments of properties (Brownfields EPA Planning Grant)

## WILDLIFE PROTECTION

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The Department works with Colorado Parks and Wildlife on best practices, education and outdoor opportunities. An active volunteer raptor program allows the City to monitor more than 30 raptor nests on open lands and collect valuable data to better understand and balance conservation and recreation goals for each open land site. Online nest cams allow the community to observe the hatching, fledging and behavior of raptors during the nesting season.

## PROGRAMS TO EDUCATE & ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

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Education and outreach programs connected citizens with nature throughout the community, during grade school field trips, preschool programs, guided nature walks, astronomy nights, sketch and journal groups, history walks, senior programs, native plant sessions and docent-led nature cabin open house days. Special events included Celebrate Loveland Trails Day, Trek the Thompson, National Trails Day, Dog Day of Summer, Earth Day and outreach booths at many events such as Children's Day, Everybody Bike Day and Loveland Farmers Markets.

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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Open Lands & Trails volunteers donated over 8,700 hours of their time to environmental education programs, trail hosting, stewardship projects and outreach events.

- Stewardship = 4,088 hours by 464 volunteers in 31 projects
- Environmental Education Volunteers = 710 hours by 33 volunteers
- Environmental Education = 47 programs reaching 1,255 people
- Community Outreach Volunteers = 963 hours by 50 volunteers
- Community Outreach = 65 programs with 1,691 people
- Administrative Support = 453 hours by 19 volunteers in 13 projects
- Trail Hosts = 2,509 hours by 40 volunteers
- **Total Volunteer Hours = 8,722 hours by 571 active volunteers**

“

The earth has music for those who will listen.”

William Shakespeare



Restoration progress at King's Crossing



Volunteers plant pollinator habitat at Sunset Vista



Loveland Trails Day project in June



History tour at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park

## NEW TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Trails consistently rank high in community outreach and citizens regularly voice their desire for additional trail access. Community engagement through the Department's Master Plan Update showed that the number one community amenity identified by participants is a need for more trails, pathways and bike routes (61%). Planning trails in the Loveland area and regional connections allow for more opportunities for public access to Loveland's outdoor spaces. As part of the initiative to provide more access, the Centerra Trail was completed, adding 1.3 miles of new paved trail in east Loveland. The trail was primarily funded using Transportation Alternatives and Multi-Modal Transportation grants (\$1.225M). This new trail segment adds a valued off-road, safe trail connection between Denver Avenue and Boyd Lake Avenue, just north of Highway 34.



*A bicyclist travels along the new Centerra Trail*

## PLANNING FOR FUTURE TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The Department made significant strides in acquiring grant and landowner approvals 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 grant approvals to pave this trail segment.

Staff has also been working on planning for future trails, including the East Big Thompson River Trail with a planned connection to Johnstown, northwest trail connections from Prairie Ridge to Skyline and Dakota Ridge Natural Areas, a Wild Natural Area trail and river access and the Colorado Front Range Trail connecting Loveland and Berthoud.

### 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

- Trail Hosts counted 36,448 visitors at 19 different Open Lands & Trails sites during 1,830 visits
- 4,184 visitors toured the Nature Cabin at VSMP during 68 open house days, hosted by 11 volunteer docents over 611 hours



*Staff clears mud from flooded trails*



*Clearing tree damage along the Recreation Trail*



*A visitor fishes at River's Edge Natural Area*



*Nature Cabin visitors at VSMP*

# GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS & DONATIONS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Grants, partnerships and donations are essential to the Open Lands & Trails Division and enable us to stretch available dollars to improve and expand Loveland open land sites and trails. Currently, the following grants worth over \$6.1 million were utilized on projects or are available for open lands and trail projects in the future.



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- **COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND – \$1,200,000**  
Willow Bend Park and Trails
- **MULTI-MODAL OPTIONS FUND (MMOF) – \$1,200,000**  
Boise Ave. to 1st Street Trail
- **CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) GRANT – \$1,040,969**  
Wilson and 43rd Ave. sidewalk/trail widening for pedestrian safety
- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT – \$980,000**  
Willow Bend Park & Natural Area
- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT – \$725,000**  
Centerra Trail
- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT – \$600,000**  
Paving the Namaqua to Wilson Trail
- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT – \$516,000**  
Boise Ave. to Willow Bend Trail
- **MULTI-MODAL OPTIONS FUND (MMOF) – \$500,000**  
Centerra Trail
- **CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) GRANT – \$326,000**  
Boise Ave. to Willow Bend Trail
- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP IMPACT GRANT – \$170,000**  
Utilizing Wildlands Restoration Volunteers & partnerships on numerous open land projects
- **FISHING IS FUN GRANT (COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE) – \$64,900**  
River's Edge Natural Area Bass Pond Fishing Dock
- **E-BIKE DONATION – \$10,000**  
Two staff e-bikes to create staff efficiency on open lands and trails



*Golf Manager Mark Esoda cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the new clubhouse at The Olde Course at Loveland*

# GOLF

## EMBRACING CHANGE, BUILDING SUCCESS

In the words of American businessman and writer Max De Pree, “We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are.” The Golf Division not only wholeheartedly embraced change and the concept of moving forward toward new beginnings, but also laid the foundation for future sustained success.

### PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE

In golf terms, making a hole-in-one on the golf course is the pièce de résistance of a golfer’s career, the details of which – day, time, weather – are forever forged into their memory bank. The same could be said for March 23, 2023, when a gathering of golf enthusiasts, City councillors, board & commission members and City staff celebrated the grand opening of the new clubhouse at The Olde Course at Loveland. This monumental, once-in-a-lifetime project symbolized the culmination of decades of prudent financial planning and a commitment to cost efficiency. The demolition of the existing 1960s clubhouse in 2022 paved the way for moving forward from the past to the brand new, vastly improved facility.

A strategic partnership forged with the owners of Big Fork, as the new food and beverage concessionaire brought ingenuity and innovation to The Olde Course and Cattail Creek. Departing from tradition, they introduced new culinary offerings and diverse events elevating the experience for golfers and the Loveland community.

Golf staff worked to fine tune clubhouse operations, including ramping up retail merchandise offerings in the pro shop and integrating entertainment and information-sharing features like televisions and monitors throughout the clubhouse. New operating procedures and building systems (i.e. HVAC) were monitored and adjusted, ensuring a more streamlined operation in 2024. The Loveland golf community marked a new era of excellence and hit a metaphorical hole-in-one with the new clubhouse.



*Big Fork team at the new clubhouse*

## HEAD 'EM UP

After more than a year of anticipation, the Loveland golf courses welcomed a brand new fleet of Club Car electric golf carts in July, bidding farewell to the old, weary carts and the continued absorption of growing costs of maintenance. The new, upgraded carts offer golfers an improved customer experience with comfortable seats, USB ports and ball washers on each individual cart. The City entered into a long term lease agreement for the carts, guaranteeing that customers will have access to these reliable carts for years to come.

## A FOND FAREWELL

We bid a fond farewell to longtime golf employee Kathe Miller, as she retired with 32 years of dedicated service as the Irrigation Specialist. Kathe started work at Mariana Butte when it was under construction and then transferred to the Olde Course at Loveland and Cattail Creek where she kept the irrigation systems repaired and operating. Also moving on was Leo Calabro, Head Golf Professional of Mariana Butte. Leo brought an elevated level of customer service to golfers at Mariana Butte and will be greatly missed.

New additions to the team bringing fresh perspectives and expertise include a new Irrigation Specialist at The Olde Course and a new Head Golf Professional at Mariana Butte.

## SUSTAINING SUCCESS: LOOKING AHEAD

While rounds continue to be strong and tee times continue to fill, staff remains ever watchful for potential industry downturns. Careful and conservative financial planning will ensure that adequate resources are in reserve to ensure the Golf Fund's agility in responding to challenges on the horizon.

## FUTURE PROJECTS

Looking forward to 2024, the renovation of The Olde Course at Loveland maintenance facility is on course for becoming a reality. A consortium of Planning, Parks and Golf staff is moving forward into the architectural planning stages for replacing the existing structure that has been onsite since the 1960s. The mandate – balancing the need for upgrades with both cost and workspace efficiency.

Large-scale course improvement projects for 2024 include the renovation of the driving range tee at Mariana Butte. Additionally, ongoing efforts to enhance the golf courses through smaller projects will continue to ensure improved playability for golfers in the future.

“

Don't count the days, make the days count.”

Muhammad Ali



Old golf carts are hauled away



Current Olde Course maintenance building

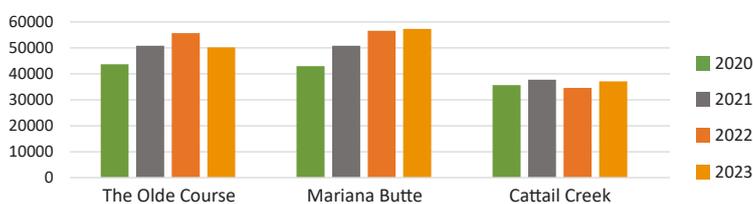


Storage at Olde Course maintenance building



Driving range tee at Mariana Butte

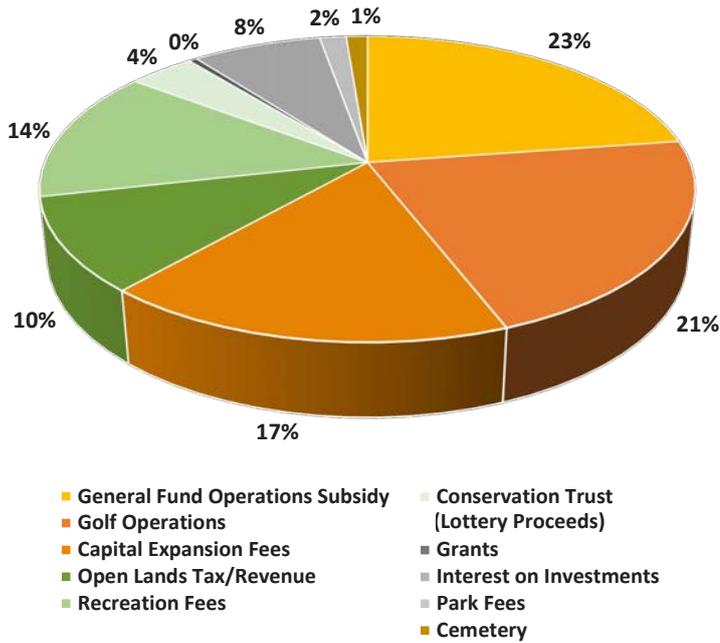
### ROUNDS PLAYED



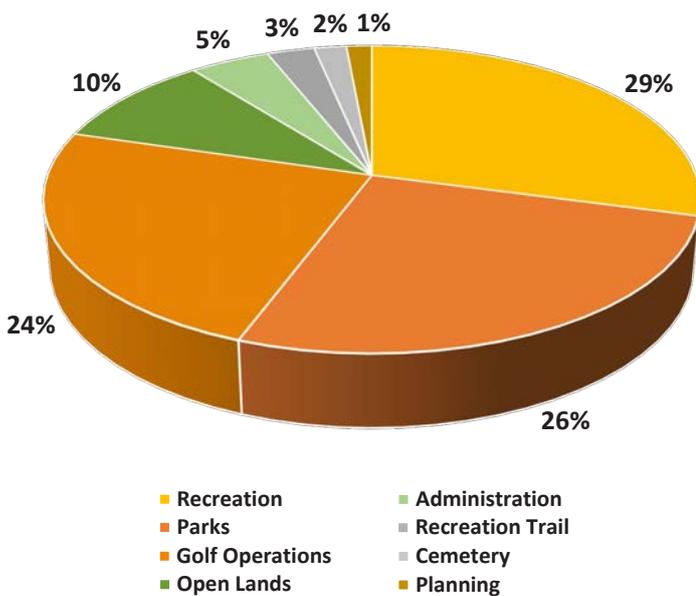
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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

**2023 Revenue**



**2023 Operating Expenditures**



Revenue*		2023
General Fund Operations Subsidy		\$6,321,878
Golf Operations		\$5,980,688
Capital Expansion Fees		\$4,831,539
Open Lands Tax/Revenue		\$2,777,679
Recreation Fees		\$3,872,122
Conservation Trust (Lottery Proceeds)		\$1,082,923
Grants		\$133,605
Interest on Investments		\$2,099,148
Park Fees		\$429,094
Cemetery		\$346,995
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT REVENUE</b>		<b>\$27,875,671</b>

Expenditures*		2023
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>		
Recreation		\$4,983,520
Parks		\$4,520,575
Golf Operations		\$4,086,383
Open Lands		\$1,664,206
Administration		\$785,274
Recreation Trail		\$464,293
Cemetery		\$314,494
Planning		\$248,273
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$17,067,018</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
Golf Projects		\$956,216
Open Lands Projects		\$1,340,035
Equipment/Asset Replacement/Depreciation		\$3,599,670
Trails Projects		\$765,737
Recreation Projects		\$370,377
Cemetery & Parks Projects		\$208,014
ADA Improvement Projects		\$108,564
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$7,348,613</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$24,415,631</b>

\*Unaudited year-end figures

**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.

**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.

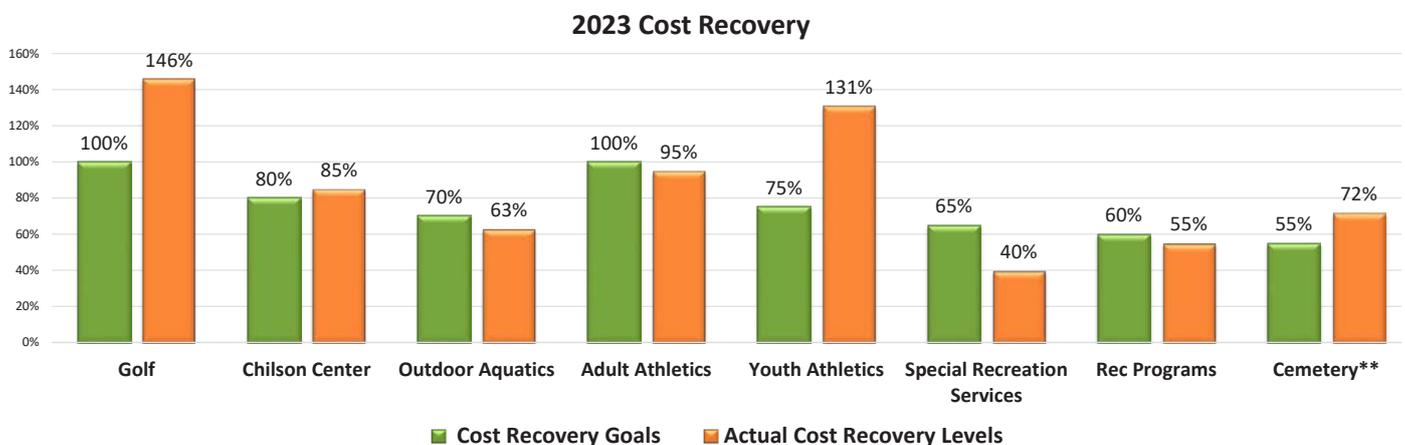
**Open Space Tax Fund** Fund to purchase and maintain open land areas in and around Loveland. Revenues are generated from a Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax, used for acquisitions, development and operations.

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

**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.

Fund	Balance 1.1.23	Revenues	Expenses	Net Change	Balance 12.31.23*
Capital Expansion Funds	\$24,037,083	\$5,812,891	(\$995,262)	\$4,817,629	\$28,854,712
Parks Improvement Fund	\$818,129	\$144,279	(\$79,614)	\$64,665	\$882,794
Conservation Trust Fund	\$4,717,578	\$1,285,579	(\$710,995)	\$574,584	\$5,292,162
Open Space Tax Fund	\$11,277,959	\$3,211,263	(\$3,004,241)	\$207,022	\$11,484,981
Golf Enterprise Fund	\$4,161,975	\$6,298,521	(\$5,042,599)	\$1,255,922	\$5,417,897
Perpetual Care Fund	\$3,361,678	\$271,004	(\$22,550)	\$248,454	\$3,610,132

\*Unaudited year-end figures. Figures include capital expenditures, interest income and investment gain/loss.



\*\* General Fund only. Does not account for Perpetual Care Fund revenue.



*Children play in the new playhouse at the Civic Center Park*

*On the cover: Children are all smiles at the grand reopening of the Civic Center Park playground in October*

## CITY OF LOVELAND PARKS & RECREATION

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