

CRAIG PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

DRAFT | NOVEMBER 6, 2018



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

The parks, recreation, open space, and trails (PROST) system is critical to residents' quality of life, economic development, and environmental and social health. The City of Craig's picturesque location adjacent to the Yampa River (portions of which are so special that they are eligible for designation as "Wild and Scenic"), surrounded by ranches, and with access to large tracts of state and federal public lands translates into many opportunities for enhancing the current PROST system. Capitalizing upon these precious natural resources can greatly increase the opportunities for residents and visitors to interact with nature, enjoy outdoor recreational activities, and at the same time, improve their physical and mental health. Additionally, Moffat County's Loudy Simpson Park provides places for walking, picnicking, Yampa River access, team sports and festivals, and Sherman Youth Camp in the Routt National Forest provides opportunities for camping and group functions. Therefore, their future is considered in this plan.

The region's outdoor lifestyle opportunities position the community to attract high quality employers and tourism revenue that sustains local businesses. A well-developed parks and trail system allows residents daily access to the outdoors and strengthens community bonds through interactions with other residents. As such, the PROST system should be considered a component of the community's basic infrastructure.



PLAN GOALS & PROCESS

This PROST Plan provides a long-range vision to guide the improvement and development of parks and recreation facilities. It includes specific goals and priorities that incorporate findings from an asset inventory analysis, peer community comparisons, and public input reflecting community interest and levels of support.

PROJECT GOALS

- Update the 2002 Master Plan
- Create a 20-year vision for Craig's PROST system that improves quality of life, economic development, and environmental and social health.
- Plan for an integrated network of parks, community facilities, bikeways, open spaces, and recreational corridors that provides for daily access and neighborly interactions.
- Work with agency partners to position the community to attract high quality employers and tourism revenue that sustains local businesses.
- Foster a community dialogue to develop consensus regarding needs, priorities and actions.
- Maximize community awareness of parks and recreation amenities and services.

The PROST Plan proposes an integrated network of parks, community recreational facilities, off-street trails, on-street bicycle and pedestrian connections, natural areas/open spaces, and river access, which forms the framework for the future.

2018

APRIL - MAY

PHASE 1:
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Analyze existing supply and demand, tourism and recreation trends, fiscal constraints, and level of service.

+ Open House and Survey

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

PHASE 2:
VISION, GOALS, AND CHOICES

Develop vision and goals and identify opportunities for the park and recreation system.

+ Open House and Survey

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

PHASE 3:
DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Formulate final recommendations, set priorities and identify implementation tools in a draft plan document.

+ Open House

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

PHASE 4:
ADOPTION

Present the final plan to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and adoption by City Council.



2018

PLANNING PHASES & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The planning process involved four phases from April 2018 to December 2018. Each phase involved public outreach through open houses and online surveys, along with stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings. Throughout the process City staff and the consultant worked with Moffat County and Moffat County School District on existing and planned park and recreation facilities (excluding Moffat County Fairgrounds). Public open houses and online surveys were advertised through the City's website and social media pages, news articles, and email distribution lists. Further details on the input provided at these meetings are presented in the Community Priorities and Needs, and Recommendations chapters.

QUICK FACTS

- 32 Focus Group and Stakeholder Interviews
- 3 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meetings
- 3 City Council Presentations
- 3 Moffat County Commissioners Worksessions
- 3 Public Meetings
- 1 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
- 2 Online Surveys



2. FOUNDATION

This chapter provides an overview of the community's existing conditions with respect to parks and related recreational facilities, and identifies needs for additional facilities and enhancements to the parks system. It begins with an overview of the community's position within the region and Parks and Recreation Department structure. Community needs are outlined based on current local, state, and regional recreation and demographic trends, along with input from the online surveys. Analysis was conducted to determine needs based on benchmarks from peer communities, adopted standards, and typical park characteristics.

OVERVIEW

Park and recreation facilities are provided by the City, Moffat County, and in limited cases Moffat County School District. While this PROST Plan primarily guides the City's vision and efforts, these other County and School District facilities provide an important role in the overall community's level of service and access to parks and recreation. A conversation about the future of parks and recreation within the Craig region would not be complete if just limited to the City's facilities. Therefore, the scope of this PROST Plan includes some of the Moffat County facilities such as Sherman Youth Camp, Cathy Cisar Open Space, and Loudy Simpson Park, the largest developed park in the Craig area. Throughout this document the differences between city and county facilities are described. The Moffat County Fairgrounds, Ice Rink, and Yampa Valley Golf Course are not included as part of this Plan because they are independently-run with separate boards that focus solely on those facilities.

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE AND STAFFING

The City of Craig's Park and Recreation Department (the Department) manages and maintains the facilities. A director, along with a recreation manager, office manager, aquatics manager, and park foreman head up the department. The Department has seven full time employees and many part-time employees. The total full-time equivalent for all staff is 12. The City recently appointed a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board consisting of five members and two alternatives, along with a City Council representative, and two alternatives. Their role is provide input on priorities and feedback on programming for the parks and recreation department.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES

All cities must balance available revenues to provide the government services that are required (primarily law enforcement, fire protection, roads, utilities, and parks and recreation), and Craig is no exception.

The Parks and Recreation Department operates with an average budget of \$1.5 million per year for programs, operations, and maintenance. In addition, approximately \$0.25 million per year is allocated for capital improvements throughout the parks system. City services and amenities are primarily funded through property and sales taxes, with additional funding coming from grants for specific projects.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION

Our mission is to provide a variety of safe, modern and affordable parks and recreation facilities and activities that will enhance the quality of life by promoting good health and well-being for all citizens and visitors in the City of Craig.

In 2018, Craig residents just passed a new 1.75% sales tax to fund capital projects, which will generate \$2.1 million annually. While only in the first year of collection, approximately \$270,000 in capital funding was allocated to Parks and Recreation for the 2019 fiscal year. Currently, the majority of the funding is being applied to deferred projects and maintenance city-wide with future opportunities to funding new amenities. Additional revenues, along with the priorities outlined in the plan, also positions Craig for grants that require matching funds, greatly expanding the possibilities.

The 2017 total taxable assessed value for Moffat County is \$386,675,512 and the total estimated tax revenue is \$26,338,429 (County Assessors website). Forty-nine percent of property tax value is derived from state assessed properties, such as the power plant and interstate pipelines. Another significant source of property tax valuation (21 percent) from natural resources such as coal, oil, and gas production.

EXISTING PLANS, REPORTS AND STUDIES

This PROST Plan reviews and updates the 2002 Park Master Plan. Since the completion of the 2002 Plan additional planning efforts and processes have taken place that inform the development of the PROST Plan:

- 2003 Comprehensive Plan
- 2007/8 Community Satisfaction Survey
- Diversion Park Draft Master Plan.
- Loudy Simpson: Proposed improvements to extend and enhance public access to the river, improve handicap accessibility, and improve fisheries habitat. Moffat County recently received a CPW Fishing is Fun grant.
- Moffat County Vision 2035

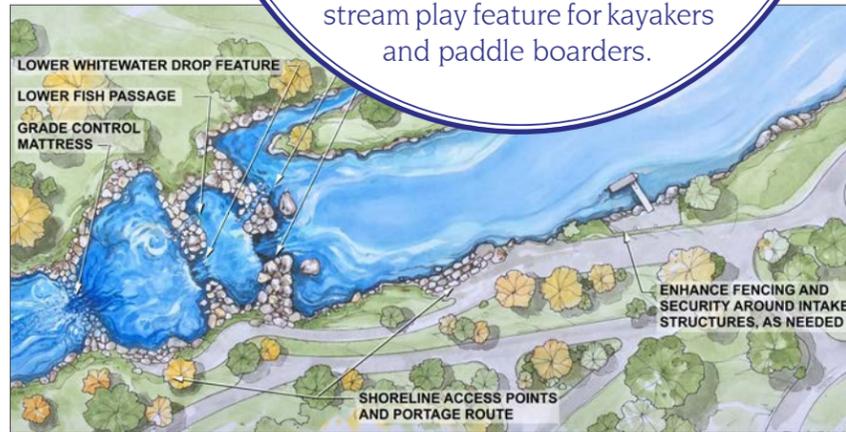
The Moffat County Vision was developed in 2014 by a group of non-profits and businesses. It identifies four pillars: economic, environmental, social and civic (<http://yampavalleypartners.com/project/moffat-county-vision-2035/>).

The vision identifies focus areas and flagship projects including:

- Develop and market recreational assets for residents and visitors that provide.
- Trails for walking, hiking, biking and off-road vehicles.
- Tours and activities built around history, heritage, archaeology, river activities such as rafting, hunting, the natural environment, wild horses and bird watching.
- Create a combined city and county recreation district.
- Build a multi-generational recreation, cultural and fine arts center.
- Support and fund community and youth recreation activities throughout the county.
- Conserve, manage, and preserve a free-flowing Yampa.
- Improved sidewalks and trails for walking, biking, and commuting.

DIVERSION PARK MASTER PLAN

Development of Diversion Park on the Yampa River is being championed by the local chapter of Parrotheads, a non-profit group. It is a key access point on city-owned land between Loudy Simpson Park and Yampa Valley Golf course. The vision includes improving the access road and creating a parking area and river access point, improving the safety of the diversion structure for boaters, and an in-stream play feature for kayakers and paddle boarders.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Craig is located in the eastern portion of Moffat County in northwestern Colorado. The Yampa River runs east-west to the south of the City and Fortification Creek flows from the north through the City into the Yampa River. Major vehicular routes in Craig include US Highway 40 which runs east-west and splits the City in half. Other major routes include Colorado Highway 13 and Route 394. Yampa Valley Regional Airport is located approximately 20 miles east of Craig, which provides year-round service by major airlines. The Denver & Rio Grande railroad also runs along the southern edge of the City, and is critical to the transport of coal that is extracted in the region (Map 1 Regional Context).

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS) and State of Colorado have large tracts of land near Craig. Cedar Mountain, on BLM land a few miles from town, is very popular for biking and hiking. The BLM is working with MOCO Trails, a local user group, to plan and construct trails. Other significant BLM regional features include Williams Fork Mine, Sand Wash basin wild horse herd, and world renowned hunting and OHV opportunities. Routt National Forest lands are northeast of Craig, and offer recreational opportunities such as camping, fishing, hiking and hunting. The State lands located to the east include Elkhead Reservoir State Park, Yampa River State Park, and Maynard Gulch. The recreation amenities at Elkhead Reservoir are managed by CPW but the land and water is owned by the City of Craig. It is popular for ice fishing for large pike and summer camping and boating.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Moffat County has a population of approximately 13,100 residents of which about 8,900 live in the City of Craig as of July 2015. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) population forecasts should that Moffat County will have minimal growth, adding approximately 1,000 people by 2050. According to the 2016 census, the average age is 37.2 with less than 25% of the population under 16 years old.

The per capita income, at \$24,314, is lower than Colorado and the US by about \$8,000 and \$5,000, respectively. Comparatively, Craig's population relies more on social security or supplemental incomes.

QUICK FACTS

Population Approx. 8,900 City of Craig	Median Household Income \$50,000
Approx. 13,100 Moffat County	Economy (County) Top Employers: Government, Retail, Mining, Healthcare, Farming
Minimal projected growth. Potentially unstable due to large industries	Top Industries by Earnings: Mining, Government, Services, Healthcare
Median Age 37.2; 18 years and over 73.8%	Unemployment: 3.2%, down from 10% in 2010

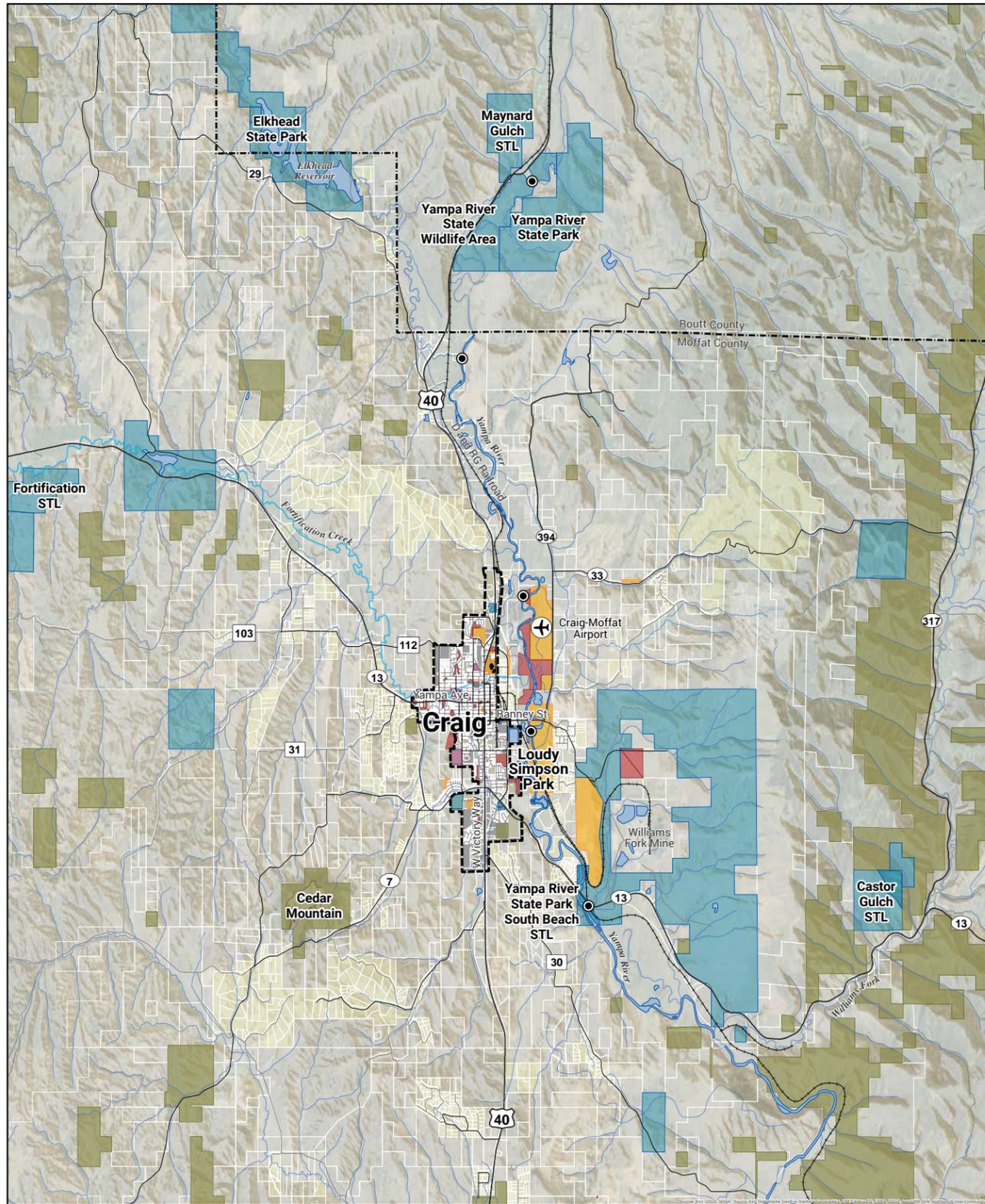
SELECTED AGE CATEGORIES

5 to 14 years	15.8%
15 to 17 years	4.1%
18 to 24 years	6.5%
15 to 44 years	38.3%
16 years and over	76.6%
18 years and over	73.6%
60 years and over	19.1%
62 years and over	16.1%
65 years and over	12.3%
75 years and over	4.4%

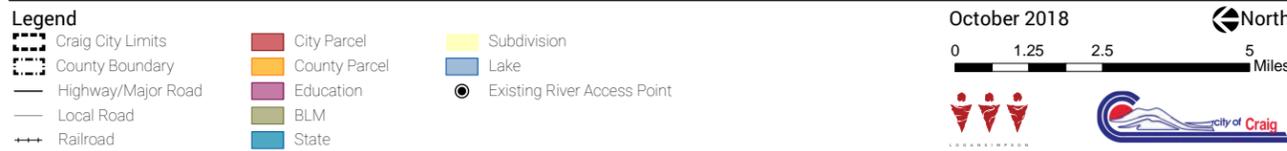
SUMMARY INDICATORS

Median age (years)	37.2
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	106.2
Age dependency ratio	62.6
Old-age dependency ratio	20.1
Child dependency ratio	42.5

Source: US Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS



Map 1. Regional Context



Economics and Employment

The community of Craig was founded primarily to serve the ranching and mining industries that abound in Moffat County and for a century these have been the dominant industries supporting the community. The population is declining with loss of jobs in the mining industry, and so are county and city tax revenues. Increasingly, potential employers and residents consider quality of life factors when choosing where to locate. Outdoor recreation is key to recruiting businesses, especially for businesses in the healthcare industry, and to attract tourists. The next tourist may also be the next Craig resident.

Two of Craig’s greatest assets are the abundant federal and state lands nearby, and the Yampa River. Craig could become the gateway to the surrounding public lands. The city and county should consider creating and marketing activities that translate to a 3-day stay in the community, with a variety of recreation types. The community should also develop indoor and outdoor winter activities to create a year-round recreation destination, and provide facilities that ensure that the community can be active through all seasons. These moves could help to shift the downward economic trends in Craig and Moffat County.

Craig’s workforce is primarily employed in healthcare, accommodations, public administration/education, utilities, extraction industries, and retail trade within Moffat County. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Economic Census, 2012 Economic Census of Island Areas, and 2012 Nonemployer Statistics.

Development Trends and City Policies

Craig is not currently growing, and has lost population in the last few years. While new development has waned, it is still important to have sound policies and regulations in place for when development occurs. The 2003 Moffat County/City of Craig Master Plan generally supports the future development of parks, recreation, open space and trails, including encouraging the preservation of natural areas for open space and community parks. The Master Plan points to the PROST Plan for direction and guidance on improving and maintaining the parks and recreation system.

The City’s Development Code provides direction for parks and open space development in Chapter 16.02.100. Areas designated as public open space shall be both visibly and physically accessible to the community. Adequate public access shall be provided to all public open space, natural and developed, directly from the public street and trail system. Pocket parks and plazas shall be integrated into the neighborhood design and be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists.

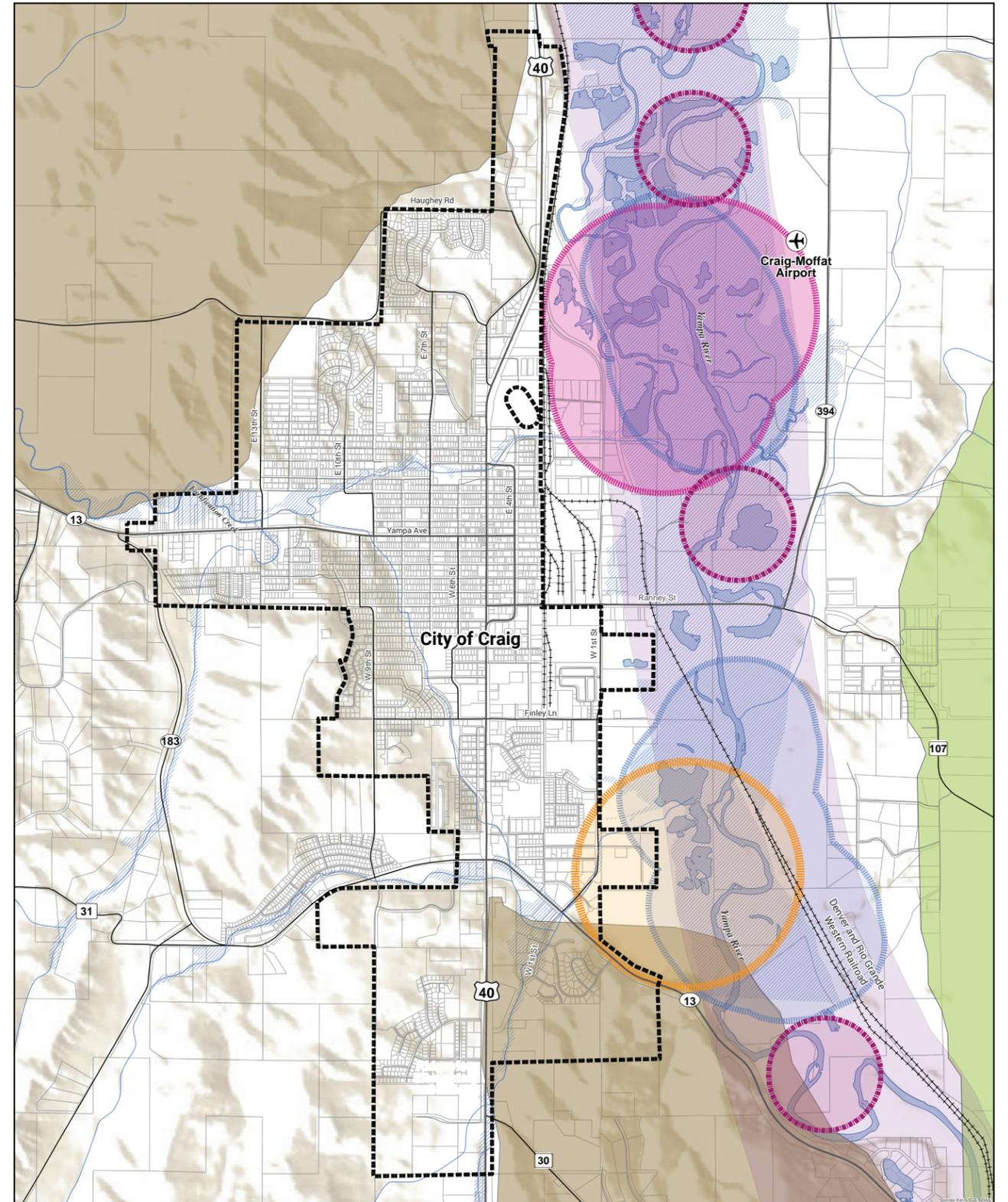
The Development Code requires the following open space and park land dedication for new development:

- In addition to streets, the overall open space dedication for all residential subdivisions is six percent (6%) of the gross land area. Developers shall dedicate to the city a minimum of six percent (6%) of the gross land area for open space that includes public parks, trails, natural open lands or other civic purposes at the time of subdivision.
- Residential development.
 - The land for one (1) neighborhood park for every two hundred (200) dwelling units or portion thereof, which shall be constructed in the subdivision within a one-quarter-mile radius of the proposed homes; or a fair-share, cash-in-lieu contribution for the cost of the neighborhood park that will serve the development; and
 - The land for one (1) community park for every four hundred (400) dwelling units or portion thereof, which shall be constructed in the subdivision, or a fair-share, cash-in-lieu contribution for the cost of the community park that will serve the development.
 - Commercial and industrial developments. In addition to streets, the developer shall provide a minimum of six percent (6%) of the gross land being subdivided or cash-in-lieu of land as functional open space, which may include: plazas, trails, landscaped areas (including parking lot landscaping), natural areas and other civic purposes.
- Planned Unit Development Overlay District (PUD). In addition to streets, the developer shall provide a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the gross land area being developed as open space, which may include parks, trails, homeowners’ association- or landowner-owned landscaped areas (excluding parking lots), natural areas and amenities for residents and other civic purposes.



EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCES

The most prominent feature in the area is the Yampa River, which runs east to west just south of town, and is enriched with many natural resources. A bald eagle winter concentration area runs along the river, and this species has several roost sites along this corridor as well. Several significant bird species have nesting sites within this section of the Yampa River corridor including bald eagles, ospreys, and great blue herons. Other important species, including mule deer, pronghorn and elk, are present in large numbers in this region during the winter. Additionally, there is an elk migration corridor running east and west to the south of the Yampa River. Map 2, Natural Resources, shows habitat areas and also outlines the approximate 100-year floodplain boundary for the Yampa River and its tributaries. It was digitized from 1970's era mapping, so it is approximate and not a legally-binding document. The floodplain mapping for the entire area needs to be updated, as many things have changed over the years, and no digital files for the floodplain exist.



Map 2. Natural Resources

Legend				
Craig City Limits	Bald Eagle Winter Concentration Area	Osprey Nest Site	Great Blue Heron Nesting Area	Approximate 100-Year Floodplain
Pronghorn Winter Concentration Area	Bald Eagle Nest Site	Great Blue Heron Nesting Area	Bald Eagle Roost Site	Railroad
Elk Migration Corridor		Highway/Major Road	Local Road	

October 2018 North
 0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

QUICK FACTS

Parks and Open Space (city and county combined)

90.8 acres of neighborhood and community parks
453.4 acres of open space/natural areas

Trails

3.4 miles of trails

Sports Amenities

- 9 multi-purpose fields
- 8 game ballfields
- 9 basketball courts
- 1 nine-hole disc golf course
- 2 tennis courts
- 2 pickleball courts
- Outdoor swimming & wave pools

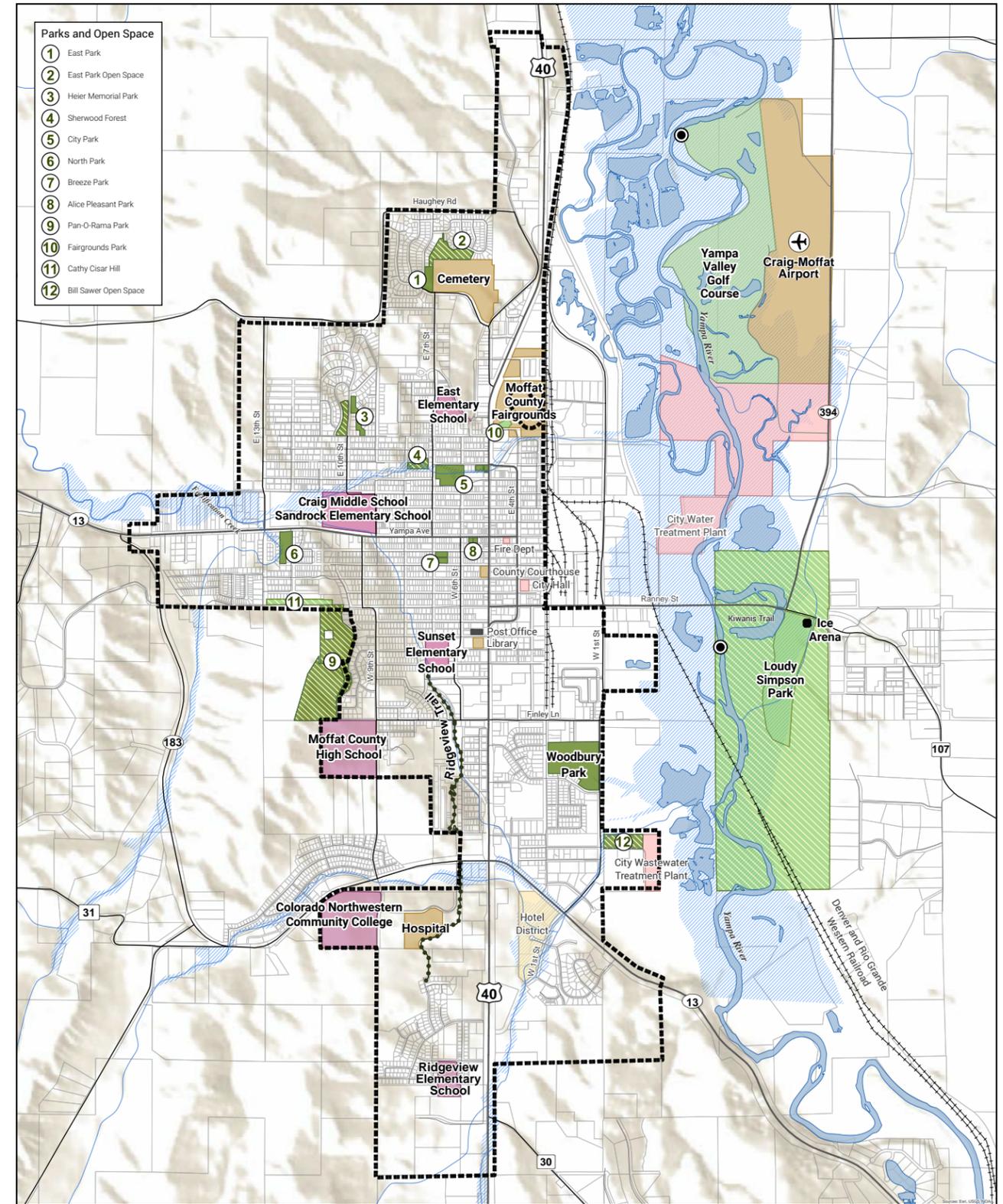
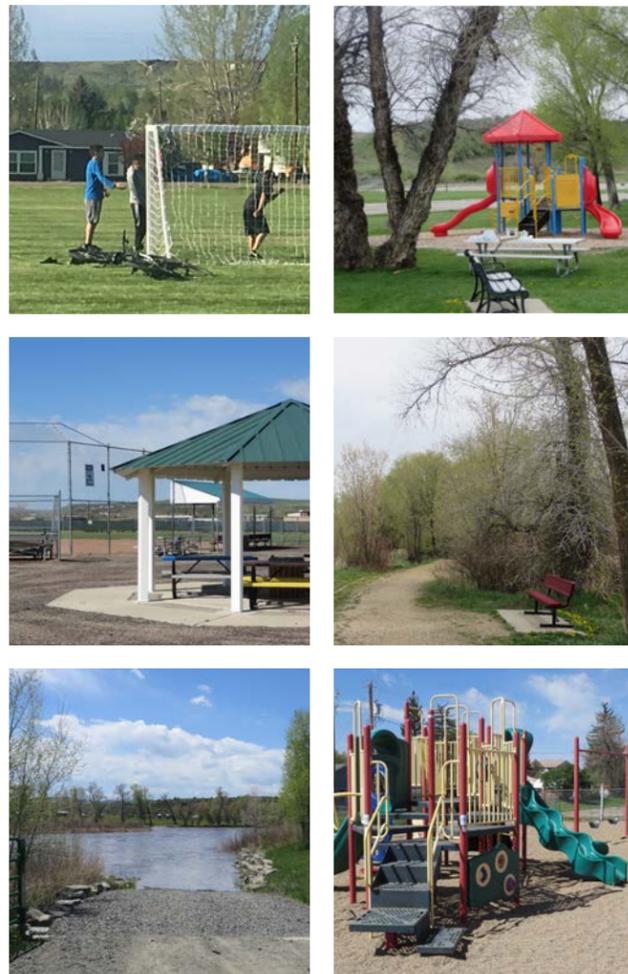
EXISTING PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Residents and visitors to Craig enjoy a variety of public parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities.

Map 3, Existing Parks and Trails, shows where current parks and trails are located within the Craig Area. Shown for reference in this map are schools, subdivisions, river access points, and State-owned property. Within the City of Craig there are seven parks largely located in the eastern part of the City. These parks include two community parks, four neighborhood parks, and one smaller neighborhood pocket park. Woodbury is the city's largest park at 24 acres.

Also located in the eastern side of the City, is the Moffat County Cemetery and a small park within Moffat County's Fairgrounds. Loudy Simpson Park, which is also owned by Moffat County, is the largest park with a total of 450 acres. It is located south of the city limit boundary on the south bank of the Yampa River. Loudy Simpson has 45 acres of developed parkland and 405 acres that are natural open space or agricultural land.

Trails are currently located in two areas of the community: The Ridgeview Trail in the northwest part of the city; and, trails within Loudy Simpson Park. Together these total 3.4 miles of a mix of paved and gravel trail. The city plans to pave more of the Ridgeview Trail in the near future and would like to extend the trail further to the west. Colorado Department of Transportation will soon install a paved trail on the north side of US40 west of town to the Ridgeview Subdivision. Sidewalks and bike lanes are lacking in Craig and there are no trails that connect north to south through the city, which makes it difficult to walk and bicycle to parks and recreation facilities. There is also not an easy and safe way for visitors who are staying in the hotel district at the west edge of town to walk or bicycle to parks or other destinations. The community has expressed a strong desire to develop more trails and bicycle connections, especially along the Yampa River, from town to Loudy Simpson Park, and east/west through town. Existing public land along portions of Fortification Creek provide an opportunity for short segments of trail, but extending a trail north and south would require easements or land acquisition. Table 1, PROST Facility Descriptions, briefly describes each park, open space, trail, and facility.



Map 3. Existing Parks and Trails

Legend

Craig City Limits	City Park	Existing Off-Street Multipurpose Trail	Approximate 100-Year Floodplain
City Parcel	County Park	Railroad	Highway/Major Road
County Parcel	City Open Space	Local Road	Existing River Access Point
Education	County Open Space		
Lake	Golf Course		

October 2018

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

North

Table 1. PROST Facility Descriptions

FACILITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
CITY PARKS	
Woodbury Park	This 24-acre park is primarily a sports complex, with ballfields and multi-purpose fields. The core area and playground need upgrades to meet accessibility requirements, and the restroom needs replacement.
City Park	This historic City Park with a playground, tennis/pickleball courts, basketball courts, sculptures, and outdoor lap and wave pools. The pools are heavily used by the community and regional residents in the summer. Fortification Creek bisects the park and is a natural trail corridor.
East Park	This neighborhood park has a playground and basketball court. The deteriorated skate park pad and tennis courts need to be demolished and site revegetated. ADA access to facilities and loop walks lacking. This is a potential location for small fenced dog park after courts are removed.
Heier Memorial Park	Located on 10th Street in Glen Erie Subdivision this three acre neighborhood park includes a small basketball court and a playground system. The park needs handicapped accessibility to the playground. A hard surface walking trail around the park could satisfy this need.
North Park	This park is adjacent to a natural drainage and primarily serves neighborhood residents. It lacks ADA access to playground and shelters.
Breeze Park	This park is downtown, and a portion of the park has been newly renovated. A second phase has been planned.
Alice Pleasant Park	This site is downtown between the street and a parking lot, and is primarily used for festivals and the Farmers Market.
MOFFAT COUNTY PARKS	
Loudy Simpson Park	The largest park in the area is a total of 450 acres, and 45 acres are considered developed parkland, much of which is in the 100-year floodplain. The park area is used for major festivals because of its size and parking capacity. It has developed parkland consisting of ballfields, multi-purpose fields, picnic shelters, playgrounds. Many of the facilities do not meet accessibility requirements. The picnic shelters are outdated and electric and lighting upgrades are needed at the ballfields. The site also includes an ice arena, and expansive paved parking areas that lack landscaping and pedestrian walk connections.
Fairgrounds Park	This is a very small park with a playground within the Moffat County Fairgrounds that is open to public.
CRAIG OPEN SPACE	
Sherwood Forest	A dirt bicycle course within a shady area along Fortification Creek is maintained primarily by the bicyclists. No other amenities existing on this property.
Pan-O-Rama Park	This park is actually an open space area with native vegetation. It is located on the bluffs in the north central area of Craig. It has numerous ad hoc pedestrian, bicycle and motorized vehicle tracks, which have impacted the vegetation, and would benefit from access control, revegetation and designation of a single non-motorized trail.
Bill Sawyer Fields	These are non-irrigated soccer practice fields that were used in past years. It is currently maintained as open space.
East Park Open Space	This site is within a neighborhood at the east edge of town, and has been discussed as a potential location for a fenced dog park.

FACILITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION	
CRAIG TRAILS		
Ridgeview Trail	This 1.7 mile trail runs from Sunset Elementary School west to the hospital. It is a mix of concrete and gravel surfacing. There is a gap in the trail, where users must use the street, which does not have bike lanes or sidewalks.	
Loudy Simpson	Loop Trail	Located within the park, this trail is a mowed 8' wide area, or a 2-track trail with sporadic gravel surfacing. It is currently not ADA compliant. There is severe bank erosion in several locations adjacent to trail.
	Mountain Bike/Hike Trail	This is a natural surface trail that is currently planned through the south ridge area.
	Kiwanis Trail	This is a 5' wide gravel surface trail that loops around the pond.
MOFFAT COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES		
Loudy Simpson Open Space	This portion of Loudy Simpson Park is undeveloped and considered open space. Much of the land area is leased for agriculture or occupied by fishing ponds associated with a former river oxbow. The site includes river access points for boating, but the ramp is severely eroded and should be relocated. It also has a camping area with five rustic sites, a gravel trail that winds around a pond, and a fishing dock. The county provides portable toilets near the camp sites and boat ramp. Moffat County has been awarded a Fishing is Fun grant for minor improvements associated with river access and trails. See trail and park notes.	
Sherman Youth Camp	The group camp is located on USFS land near Freeman Reservoir, approximately 30 minutes north of Craig. The campsites are primitive: there used to be running water available in spigots, but the system has not been used for many years, and there is one cabin that has one bedroom and a full kitchen. In the center of the camp is a large metal structure with a wall and fireplace that divides the space in half. The play structures are not safe and renovations are needed throughout the site to meet accessibility requirements.	
Cathy Cisar Hill	This is long narrow site at the edge of a neighborhood that formerly used to be used as a sledding hill. It is a natural open space area now.	
Ice Arena	There is one enclosed ice sheet in Loudy Simpson that operates November - March for hockey leagues and ice bumper cars. The facility is seldom used the rest of year.	
SCHOOLS		
Moffat County High School	There is a track around the football field that is available for public use. The four tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts used to be open to the public but because of their poor condition are not used anymore.	
Sandrock Elementary	The school is adjacent to the Middle School, and has a small multi-purpose field and two playgrounds, which are open to the public after school hours.	
Middle School	The track around the football field, multi-purpose field and outdoor basketball court are available for public use after school hours.	
Ridgeview Elementary	This school has two playgrounds.	
Sunset Elementary	This school has a playground and an arboretum that is park-like and open to the public.	
East Elementary	This school is closed and now is used for preschool and administrative offices. There is a playground on the site that is available for public use.	

FACILITY INVENTORY

Table 2 lists the existing lands and facilities by category, including Moffat County and school district facilities that are available for public use.

Table 2. Facility Inventory

CATEGORY/NAME	ACRE/MI	OWNER	TYPE	Multi-purpose Field Small	Multi-purpose Field Large	Total Multi-purpose Fields	Non-Game Ballfield Backstops	Small Ballfields	Large Ballfields	Total Ballfields	Total Game Ballfields	Outdoor Basketball Court (Full)	Outdoor Basketball Court (1/2)	Total Outdoor Basketball Courts	Playground
CITY PARKS															
Woodbury Park	24.0	City	Community Park	3	2	5	1	2	3	3	2		2	1	
City Park	9.0	City	Community Park			0			0	0	2		2	2	
East Park	2.5	City	Neighborhood Park			0			0	0		.5	.5	1	
Heier Memorial Park	3.0	City	Neighborhood Park			0			0	0		.5	.5	1	
North Park	4.0	City	Neighborhood Park			0	1		1	0			0	1	
Breeze Park	1.7	City	Neighborhood Park			0			0	0			0	1	
Alice Pleasant Park	0.5	City	Pocket Park			0			0	0			0		
Total City Parks	44.7			3	2	5	1	1	2	4	3	4	1	5	7
MOFFAT COUNTY PARKS															
Loudy Simpson Park	45.3	MOCO	Community Park		3	3	4		4	4			0	2	
Fairgrounds Park	0.8	MOCO	Neighborhood Park			0			0	0			0	1	
Total County Parks	46.1			0	3	3	0	4	0	4	4	0	0	0	3
CRAIG OPEN SPACE															
Sherwood Forest	1.6	City	Open Space			0			0	0			0		
Pan-O-Rama Park	3.0	City	Open Space			0			0	0			0		

Skate Park	Disc Golf course (9 holes = 1/2)	Bike Challenge Courses, BMX or other Bike-specific facilities	Tennis Courts	Volleyball	Pickleball Courts (Shared Use)	Pickleball Courts (Dedicated)	Public Splash Pads	Outdoor Swimming Pools	Outdoor Pool, Lap	Outdoor Pool, Waave	Group Rental Pavilion	Picnic Shelter	Restrooms	Fenced Dog Park	Ice Rink	NOTES
				1								3	1			Includes parking & some natural/undeveloped area.
			2	1	2			1	1	1			1			Includes parking and pools.
												1				Includes parking.
												2				
													1			Includes parking.
																Includes parking and turf areas. Festivals and farmers market.
0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	6	3	0	0	
MOFFAT COUNTY PARKS																
				1							2		3		1	Includes acreage associated with Ice Arena. See trail, open space and ice arena notes.
											1					
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	
CRAIG OPEN SPACE																
		1														Dirt bike course that is maintained primarily by the bicyclists.
																Ad hoc pedestrian, bicycle and motorized vehicle trails.

continued on next page

CATEGORY/NAME	ACRE/MI	OWNER	TYPE	Multi-purpose Field Small	Multi-purpose Field Large	Total Multi-purpose Fields	Non-Game Ballfield Backstops	Small Ballfields	Large Ballfields	Total Ballfields	Total Game Ballfields	Outdoor Basketball Court (Full)	Outdoor Basketball Court (1/2)	Total Outdoor Basketball Courts	Playground
Bill Sawer Fields	6.9	City	Open Space			0			0	0				0	
East Park Open Space	7.5	City	Open Space			0			0	0				0	
Total Open Space	19.0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOFFAT COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES															
Loudy Simpson Open Space	404.8	MOCO	Open Space			0			0	0				0	
Sherman Youth Camp	25.0	MOCO	Open Space			0			0	0				0	
Cathy Cisar Hill	4.6	MOCO	Open Space			0			0	0				0	
Ice Arena	NA	MOCO				0			0	0				0	
Total County Other	434.4			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCHOOL															
Moffat County High School	40.0	MCSD	School			0			0	0				0	
Sandrock Elementary	4.5	MCSD	School	1		1			0	0				0	2
Middle School	20.5	MCSD	School			0		1	1	1	1			1	
Ridgeview Elementary School	8.8	MCSD	School			0			0	0	1			1	2
Sunset Elementary School	9.7	MCSD	School			0			0	0	1			1	2
East Elementary School	7.7	MCSD	School			0			0	0	1			1	1
Total School	91.2			1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	4	7
TOTAL PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES				4	5	9	1	5	3	9	8	8	1	9	17

Skate Park	Disc Golf course (9 holes = 1/2)	Bike Challenge Courses, BMX or other Bike-specific facilities	Tennis Courts	Volleyball	Pickleball Courts (Shared Use)	Pickleball Courts (Dedicated)	Public Splash Pads	Outdoor Swimming Pools	Outdoor Pool, Lap	Outdoor Pool, Waave	Group Rental Pavilion	Picnic Shelter	Restrooms	Fenced Dog Park	Ice Rink	NOTES
																Non-irrigated soccer practice fields in past years. Maintained as open space.
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
MOFFAT COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES																
	.5															Includes river access points for boating. Portable toilet and three free primitive campsites are located near boat ramp. See trail and park notes.
																Reservable Group Campground
																Former sledding hill
																One enclosed ice sheet in Loudy Simpson Park that is used Nov-Mar. Acreage in park acres total.
0	.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SCHOOL																
																Track at football field available for public use. 4 tennis and 2 basketball courts deteriorated and unusable.
																Track at Football field available for public use.
																Arboretum is park-like and open to the public.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	.5	1	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	3	6	6	0	1	

CATEGORY/NAME	ACRE/MI	OWNER	TYPE	NOTES
CRAIG TRAILS				
Ridgeview Trail	1.7	City	Multi-Purpose Trail	Mix of concrete and crusher fines paving.
Loudy Simpson Loop Trail	1.2	MOCO	Multi-Purpose Trail	Mowed 8' or 2-track with some gravel.
Loudy Simpson Mtn Bike/Hike Trail	0.0	MOCO	Single-track Trail	Being planned currently in the south ridge area.
Loudy Simpson Kiwanis Trail	0.5	MOCO	Walking Trail	5' wide natural surface. Bridge being replaced.
TOTAL TRAILS	3.4			



LEVEL OF SERVICE AND BENCHMARKS

As part of the inventory of existing parkland and facilities, a benchmark analysis of four peer communities was completed. These communities—Delta, Rifle, Cortez, and Fruita—are located on the western slope, have comparable population, and have similar city-provided park and recreation services.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE

As shown in Table 3 below, Craig is in the middle of the group relative to the amount of developed parkland that is available, as measured through acres per 1,000 population. Much of this parkland is attributed to Loudy Simpson Park, which is owned and managed by the county. If this parkland was not included, the community parkland level of service would be second to the lowest of communities that were compared. Craig, like most of these other communities, does not have an adopted parkland standard. Parkland acreage standards relative to population are important in order to establish parkland dedication requirements or impact fees that ensure that new development proposals include adequate provisions for the impacts that would be created by additional people coming to the community.

Table 3. Park and Open Space Acres Comparison

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES (ACRES)	CRAIG	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,913	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
DEVELOPED PARKLAND - PUBLIC AND PRIVATE (ACRES)					
Mini/Pocket Parks < 1 acre (HOA or private)	0.0	2.7	2.0	0.0	3.5
Mini/Pocket Parks (city owned and maintained)	0.5	2.5	0.2	1.0	1.2
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (HOA or private)	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	11.7
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (county)	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (city)	11.2	9.9	12.0	11.8	28.6
Community Parks (county)	45.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Community Parks (city)	33.0	127.0	48.0	112.0	23.0
Total Developed Parkland	90.8	148.2	62.2	124.8	68.0
OTHER PUBLIC SITES (ACRES)					
Visual Green Spaces (landscape only)	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.0	3.5
Plazas, Recreation Center sites, Museums, Special Use Areas	0.0	16.2	3.3	17.0	9.5
Total Other Public Sites	0	16.7	4.8	17.0	13.0
Total Publicly-Maintained High Maintenance Facilities	90.8	156.1	65.0	141.8	65.8
CITY AND COUNTY OPEN SPACE/NATURAL AREAS (NON-IRRIGATED ACRES)					
City Open Space/Natural Areas	19.0				
County/Other Open Space/Natural Areas	434.4				
Total Open Space/Natural Areas	453.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS (MILES)					
Soft Surface Multi-purpose Trails	0.5	6.3	0.0	12.0	1.4
Paved Multi-purpose Trails	2.9	0.3	0.0	4.0	14.6
Singletrack Trail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Trails	3.4	6.6	5.5	16.0	16.0



Total Parkland Level of Service Comparison

Table 4 shows the level of service (LOS) of parkland as measured by acres per 1,000 population, a typical measure utilized across the country to analyze amenities provided. Compared to like communities, Craig sits in the middle by providing 10.2 acres per 1,000 residents in Craig. Craig does not have a specific level of service standard for different kinds of parks but, as described in the Community Profile above, requires parkland development as part of new land use developments.

Table 4. Total Parkland Level of Service Comparison

LEVEL OF SERVICE (ACRES/1,000 POP)	CRAIG	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,913	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
Total Existing Community and Neighborhood Parkland	10.2	15.6	6.2	13.9	4.1
Adopted Neighborhood Parkland LOS Standard	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.0
Adopted Community Parkland LOS Standard	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.0
Adopted Total Parkland LOS Standard	n/a	10.0	n/a	n/a	6.0

RECREATION FACILITIES

A comparison of specific recreational facilities was compiled as shown below in Table 5. Recreation facilities are located in public parks and on school sites that are available for self-directed activities and sports groups. Only facilities that are available to the public on a regular basis and in safe working use were included below.

Craig is providing a high level of service for sports fields and several other facilities, as illustrated by the lower numbers of people per facility. The city provides a lower level of service than some other communities for disc golf courses and tennis/pickleball courts, and no longer has a skate park, which all other communities provide.

Table 5. Recreation Facility Comparison

RECREATION FACILITIES (Including public and school facilities that are available for public and non-profit sports groups)	CRAIG	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,913	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS					
Multi-purpose Fields Small (50 yds x 80 yds or less)	4	5	3	8	3
Multi-purpose Fields Large (60 yds x 100 yds or greater)	5	2	3	4	1
Total Soccer/Multi-purpose Fields	9	7	6	12	4
Residents per Facility (Rectangular fields: multi-purpose)	990	1,273	1,611	751	3,231
DEDICATED FOOTBALL FIELDS (NOT MULTI-PURPOSE)					
Football Fields Small (150 ft x 240 ft or less)	0	0	0	0	0
Football Fields Large (180 ft x 360 ft)	0	2	0	0	0
Total Football Fields	0	2	0	0	0
Residents per Facility (Rectangular fields: football)	-	4,457	-	-	-
BALLFIELDS					
Non-game Practice Baseball Fields (backstops in parks)	1	0	5	1	1
Youth Baseball / Small Softball Fields (200-299 ft centerfields)	5	5	0	5	3
Teen Baseball / Large Softball Fields (300 -360+ ft centerfields)	3	2	4	3	1
Total Ballfields (Game and non-game)	9	7	9	9	5
Residents per all Ballfields	990	1,273	1,074	1,001	2,585
Total Ballfields (Game only)	8	7	4	8	4
Residents per Game Ballfield	1,114	1,273	2,416	1,126	3,231

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RECREATION FACILITIES (Including public and school facilities that are available for public and non-profit sports groups)	CRAIG	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS					
Full Court	8	2	3	1	1
1/2 Court	1	3	1	3	1
Total Outdoor Basketball Courts	9	3.5	3.5	2.5	1.5
Residents per Facility (Basketball courts)	990	2,547	2,761	3,603	8,616
SKATE PARKS					
Residents per Skate Park	-	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
DISC GOLF COURSES (18 HOLE EQUIVALENT. 9 HOLE = 1/2)					
Residents per Disc Golf Course	17,826	5,943	-	9,007	8,616
BIKE CHALLENGE COURSES, BMX OR OTHER BIKE-SPECIFIC FACILITIES					
Residents per Bike Course	8,913	-	9,665	9,007	12,924
TENNIS COURTS					
Residents per Tennis Court	4,457	2,229	4,833	1,501	3,231
PICKLEBALL COURTS (STRIPED ON TENNIS COURTS AND SHARED USE)					
Residents per striped Pickleball Court	4,457	1,114	9,665	4,504	-
PICKLEBALL COURTS (DEDICATED)					
Residents per dedicated Pickleball Court	-	-	-	1,501	-
Residents per Pickleball Court (all types)	4,457	1,114	9,665	1,126	-
RECREATION CENTER (SQ FOOT)					
SF Recreation Center per resident	-	7.0	-	5.1	12.0
PUBLIC SPLASH PADS					
Residents per Splash Pad	-	-	9,665	9,007	-
SWIMMING POOLS					
Outdoor Swimming Pool (Lap)	1	-	1	1	1
Residents per Outdoor Swimming Pool (Lap)	8,913	-	9,665	9,007	12,924
Outdoor Wave Pool	1	-	-	-	-

STAFFING

Providing a safe, beautiful, and functional park, recreation, open space, and trail system relies heavily on the ability of a community to manage and maintain their assets. While full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing levels are lower to some peer communities, Craig has less high maintenance acres (developed parkland with structure and other amenities versus land that is primarily native landscape) to maintain (Table 6). However, funding and staffing is inadequate for the amount of total property maintained, which is reflected in the growing list of deferred maintenance items.

Table 6. Staffing

STAFFING (# FTE EQUIVALENT)	CRAIG	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,913	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
FTE (Parks Maintenance)	8.0	6.0	12.5	7.5	8.2
FTE (Other Facility Maintenance e.g. rec centers, pools, community centers, etc.)	0.0	3.5	1.5	2.0	3.0
FTE (Admin, Operations, Rec Centers, and Programming)	4.0	4.0	14.3	24.3	34.6
Total FTE	12.0	13.5	28.3	33.8	45.8
High Maintenance Acres per FTE Parks Maintenance Staff	11.4	26.0	5.2	18.9	8.0
Total Acres Maintained per FTE Maintenance Staff	68.0	26.0	5.2	18.9	8.0
FTE Maintenance Staff per 10,000 residents	9.0	10.7	14.5	10.5	8.7
FTE Parks and Recreation Dept. per 10,000 residents	13.5	15.1	29.3	37.5	35.4

3. COMMUNITY NEEDS

Determining the needs and desires of the community involved meetings with various stakeholders and the public, online surveys, and worksessions with the PRAB, City Council, and Moffat County Commissioners. It also included working with staff to identify and define immediate needs and desired improvements within existing developed parks and recreation facilities, as well as review of existing plans that have not yet been implemented.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FEEDBACK

Initial community feedback from stakeholders included local, state, and federal agencies and community partners highlighted these key topics:

- Population Loss & Economic Development
- Past Plans – Need Action
- Yampa River Very Important
- Trails and Connections Needed
- Loss of High School Pool
- Loudy Simpson Park
- Special Events Important
- Federal and State Lands Abundant
- Recreation Center Desired
- Funding

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The first community survey sought to analyze the community’s satisfaction and preferences in regards to the parks, recreation, open space, and trail amenities that are available to the public to provide. This information provided global direction for the PROST Plan. Almost 200 responses were collected online and through paper surveys. The community showed the most satisfaction with the City’s level of maintenance of parks and type and quality of events. Respondents were not satisfied with the types of outdoor recreation facilities and programming offered through the city (Table 7). A second survey was conducted regarding priorities, which are discussed in Chapter 5.

Table 7. Overall Satisfaction

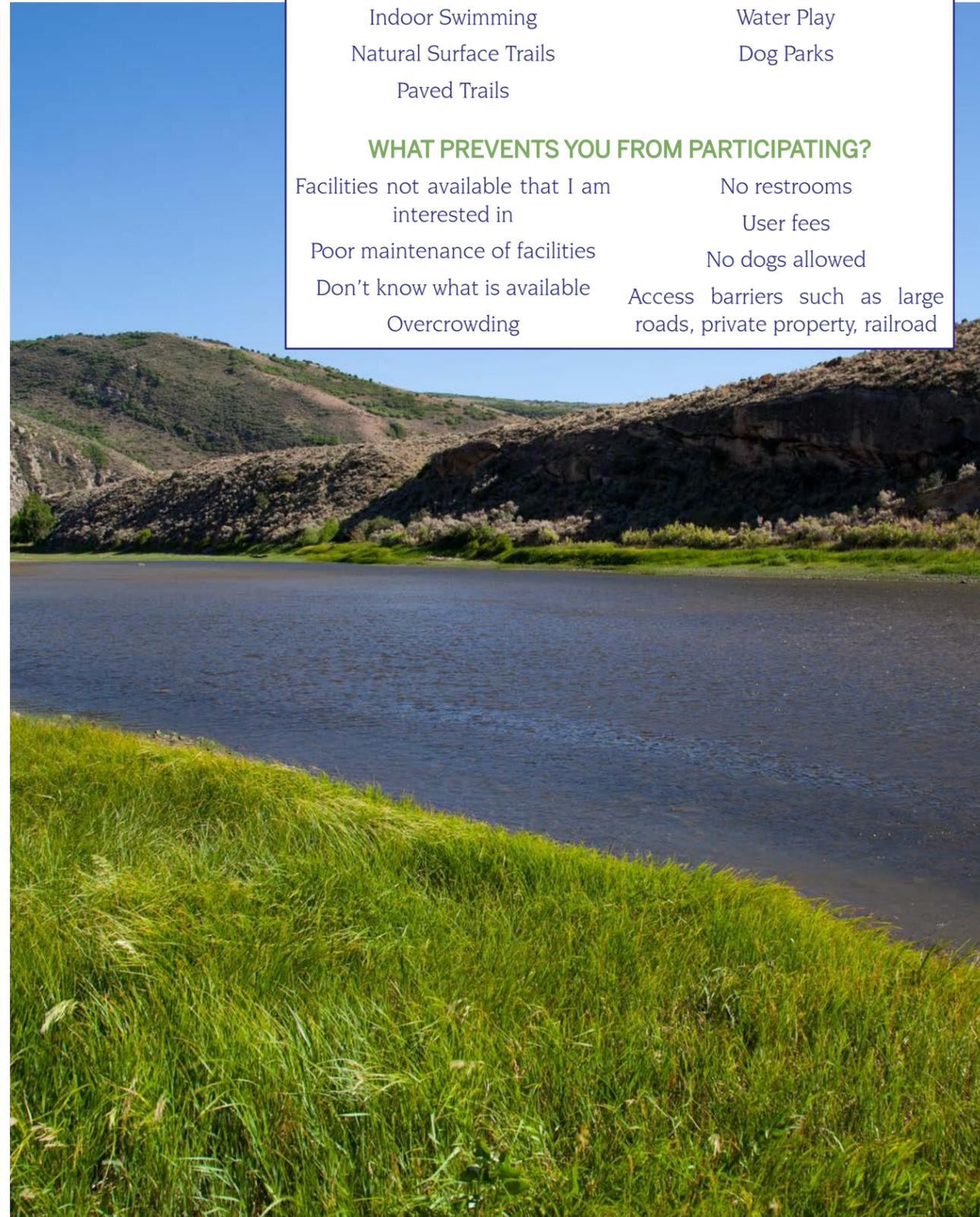
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NOT SURE
I am satisfied with the overall quality of the park system within the City.	3.6%	44.8%	30.6%	17.3%	3.6%
I am satisfied with the overall quality of Moffat County’s Loudy Simpson Park.	6.0%	35.7%	36.5%	20.9%	0.8%
I am satisfied with the City’s trail system.	1.2%	13.7%	40.6%	34.9%	9.6%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance in the City’s parks.	10.4%	57.0%	20.9%	6.8%	4.8%
I am satisfied with the types of outdoor recreational facilities that are available.	2.4%	18.5%	38.6%	37.8%	2.8%
I am satisfied with the type of recreational programming offered through the city.	1.6%	31.7%	33.3%	26.9%	6.4%
I am satisfied with the type and quality of special events (e.g. Whittle the Wood, Movie in the Park, Bicycle Rodeo).	6.4%	55.0%	22.1%	8.8%	7.6%

MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES:

Recreation Centers	Outdoor Swimming
Indoor Swimming	Water Play
Natural Surface Trails	Dog Parks
Paved Trails	

WHAT PREVENTS YOU FROM PARTICIPATING?

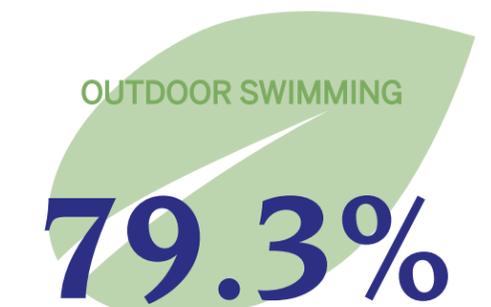
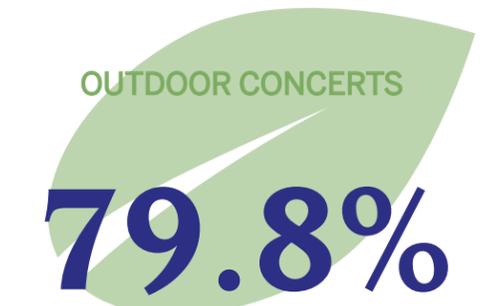
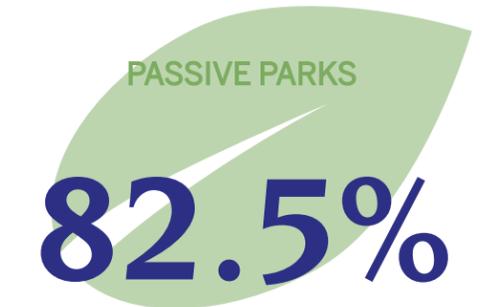
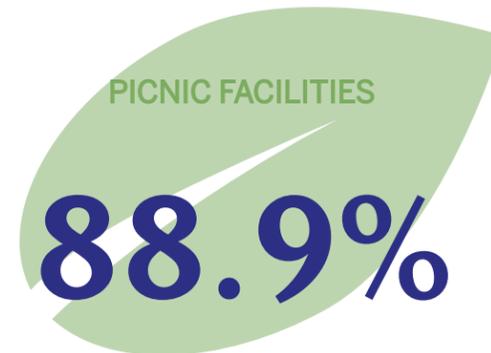
Facilities not available that I am interested in	No restrooms
Poor maintenance of facilities	User fees
Don’t know what is available	No dogs allowed
Overcrowding	Access barriers such as large roads, private property, railroad



Survey respondents were asked if their household currently participates in the activities below anywhere in the Craig region. The top 10 activities participated in by the Craig area community are picnic facilities, passive parks, outdoor concerts, outdoor swimming, fishing access, river access points, playground, community festivals, rafting/tubing, and paved trails (Table 8).

Table 8. Participation Levels

FACILITY/ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION RATE	%
Picnic facilities	88.9%
Passive parks (sitting, reading, gardens, picnicking, etc.)	82.5%
Outdoor concerts	79.8%
Outdoor swimming	79.3%
Fishing access	77.8%
River access points	76.3%
Playgrounds	74.5%
Community festivals with booth spaces	73.9%
Rafting, tubing, kayaking	72.6%
Paved trails (bike, jog, skate, etc.)	72.4%
Natural surface trails (jogging, mountain biking, etc.)	64.7%
Indoor swimming	64.0%
Recreation centers	62.4%
Weight training/fitness equipment	60.5%
Dog parks/off-leash areas	50.3%
Splash pad (outdoor fountain for play)	45.0%
Stand up paddleboarding	40.7%
Indoor running	38.8%
Golf	38.8%
Indoor basketball	31.5%
Climbing walls/features	28.9%
Baseball	28.6%
Archery courses	28.2%
Mountain bike skills course/track	26.7%
Softball	26.6%
Soccer	25.9%
Tennis	25.5%
Indoor volleyball	25.1%
Outdoor volleyball	25.0%
Outdoor basketball	23.4%
Football	23.2%
Disc golf	21.5%
Skate parks	20.4%
BMX biking track	15.0%
Pickleball	13.5%
Lacrosse	5.1%



Survey respondents were asked to identify the top four most important activities to their household, which identifies at a minimum, what Craig should provide in a high quality manner. Participants identified recreation centers, indoor swimming, natural surface and paved trails, and splash pads as the most important (Table 9).

Table 9. Most Important Activities

MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY (SELECT UP TO FOUR)	
Recreation centers	57.7%
Indoor swimming	50.7%
Natural surface trails (jogging, mountain biking, etc.)	33.8%
Paved trails (bike, jog, skate, etc.)	31.3%
Splash Pad (outdoor fountain)	24.4%
Outdoor swimming	19.9%
Dog parks/off-leash areas	18.4%
Playgrounds	15.4%
Outdoor concerts	13.9%
Passive parks (sitting, reading, gardens, picnicking, etc.)	12.9%
River access points	11.9%
Softball	10.9%
Fishing access	10.4%
Weight training/fitness equipment	9.0%
Indoor basketball	8.0%
Indoor running	8.0%
Community festivals with booth spaces	7.5%
Rafting, tubing, kayaking	6.0%
Archery courses	5.5%
Picnic facilities	5.5%
Golf	3.5%
Outdoor volleyball	3.0%
Skate parks	3.0%
Stand up paddleboarding	3.0%
Football	2.5%
Indoor volleyball	2.5%
Climbing walls/features	2.5%
Soccer	2.0%
Pickleball	2.0%
BMX biking track	2.0%
Mountain bike skills course/track	2.0%
Outdoor basketball	1.0%
Tennis	1.0%
Baseball	0.5%
Disc golf	0.5%



Not only is it important to know if the community participates in an activity, but if they would participate in an activity if facilities were available. The following table is sorted by the “would you participate if available” column in descending order. The results of this question are similar to what activities are the most important. Survey takers were then asked if there are too many, about the right number, or not enough of these facilities to meet their needs in the Craig region (Table 10).

Table 10. Facility Needs

TYPE OF FACILITY/ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY?	WOULD PARTICIPATE IF AVAILABLE	ARE THERE TOO MANY, ABOUT THE RIGHT NUMBER, OR NOT ENOUGH IN OR AROUND CRAIG?			
			NOT ENOUGH	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MANY	NO OPINION
Recreation centers	62.4%	57.4%	94.3%	1.0%	-	4.7%
Indoor swimming	64.0%	51.1%	91.1%	2.1%	0.5%	6.3%
Paved trails (bike, jog, skate, etc.)	72.4%	51.4%	84.4%	6.3%	1.6%	7.8%
Splash pad (outdoor fountain)	45.0%	48.6%	79.9%	2.2%	1.1%	16.8%
Natural surface trails (jogging, mountain biking, etc.)	64.7%	46.8%	78.5%	7.0%	1.6%	12.9%
Climbing walls/features	28.9%	40.1%	72.8%	2.3%	0.6%	24.3%
Dog parks/off-leash areas	50.3%	36.6%	68.8%	6.5%	4.3%	20.4%
Indoor running	38.8%	34.2%	65.9%	7.3%	0.6%	26.3%
Outdoor concerts	79.8%	41.9%	65.2%	21.2%	4.3%	9.2%
Skate parks	20.4%	14.1%	57.1%	7.6%	0.6%	34.7%
Stand up paddleboarding	40.7%	38.4%	56.4%	14.5%	-	29.1%
Outdoor swimming	79.3%	40.5%	53.2%	40.5%	-	6.3%
River access points	76.3%	41.2%	53.0%	35.7%	1.1%	10.3%
Archery courses	28.2%	26.4%	52.7%	8.4%	0.6%	38.3%
Outdoor volleyball	25.0%	27.8%	49.7%	17.2%	1.2%	32.0%
Rafting, tubing, kayaking	72.6%	40.5%	48.9%	33.9%	2.2%	15.0%
Outdoor basketball	23.4%	18.7%	48.2%	15.5%	0.6%	35.7%

TYPE OF FACILITY/ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY?	WOULD PARTICIPATE IF AVAILABLE	ARE THERE TOO MANY, ABOUT THE RIGHT NUMBER, OR NOT ENOUGH IN OR AROUND CRAIG?			
			NOT ENOUGH	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MANY	NO OPINION
Weight training/fitness equipment	60.5%	38.4%	46.7%	33.0%	5.5%	14.8%
Mountain bike skills course/track	26.7%	21.1%	45.9%	4.1%	0.6%	49.4%
Fishing access	77.8%	37.7%	43.6%	44.7%	1.7%	10.1%
Indoor basketball	31.5%	15.5%	41.9%	24.4%	60.0%	33.1%
Picnic facilities	88.9%	41.9%	40.5%	52.1%	3.7%	3.7%
Community festivals with booth spaces	73.9%	31.0%	39.9%	41.0%	4.4%	14.8%
Tennis	25.5%	19.7%	38.6%	22.2%	1.8%	37.4%
Passive parks (sitting, reading, gardens, picnicking, etc.)	82.5%	49.3%	37.2%	52.9	5.8%	4.2%
Disc golf	21.5%	19.7%	36.1%	15.1%	0.6%	48.2%
Softball	26.6%	21.8%	34.3%	32.6%	3.3%	29.8%
BMX biking track	15.0%	12.7%	33.7%	9.8%	1.2%	55.2%
Indoor volleyball	25.1%	20.1%	32.7%	27.5%	1.2%	38.6%
Pickleball	13.5%	16.2%	29.8%	11.9%	0.6%	57.7%
Lacrosse	5.1%	9.5%	29.3%	8.5%	1.2%	61.0%
Baseball	28.6%	16.5%	26.3%	40.2%	4.5%	29.1%
Soccer	25.9%	13.7%	19.5%	40.8%	5.2%	34.5%
Football	23.2%	13.0%	19.2%	41.9%	2.4%	36.5%
Playgrounds	74.5%	37.7%	18.7%	69.9%	4.7%	6.7%
Golf	38.8%	19.7%	10.9%	64.4%	2.3%	22.4%



There are many reasons that prevent people from using parks and recreation facilities more. In Craig, the top five reasons are: facilities not available that are of interest, poorly maintained facilities, lack of knowledge of what is available, overcrowding, and no restrooms (Table 11).

Table 11. Barriers to Participation

WHAT PREVENTS MORE PARTICIPATION?	PERCENT	WHAT PREVENTS MORE PARTICIPATION?	PERCENT
Facilities not available that I am interested in	64.9%	Safety concerns	8.5%
Poor maintenance of facilities	38.8%	Distance from home	8.0%
Don't know what is available	27.1%	Too many dogs	7.4%
Overcrowding	20.2%	Lack of adaptive programming	6.4%
No restrooms	19.7%	Poor or no access for people with disabilities (Spacing)	5.9%
User fees	19.1%	Lack of close parking	4.8%
No dogs allowed	15.4%	Personal physical condition prevents me	3.7%
Access barriers such as large roads, private property, railroad (spacing)	11.2%	Language barrier	1.1%



Similar to the question on facility needs, Table 12 assesses household participation and needs for recreation programming.

Table 12. Recreation Needs

TYPE OF PROGRAM	PARTICIPATE IN THIS TYPE ACTIVITY?		ARE THERE TOO MANY, ABOUT THE RIGHT NUMBER, OR NOT ENOUGH IN OR AROUND CRAIG?			
	YES	NO	NOT ENOUGH	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MANY	NO OPINION
Teen Programs	34.1%	65.9%	67.9%	4.3%	1.2%	26.5%
Children's Programs	58.6%	41.4%	54.0%	20.5%	1.1%	24.4%
Adult Sports Leagues	38.7%	61.3%	52.4%	18.5%	1.2%	28.0%
Community Education (e.g. CPR/first aid, horticulture)	52.2%	47.8%	51.5%	19.4%	-	29.1%
Swim Lessons	49.5%	50.5%	49.7%	28.1%	-	22.2%
Arts or Crafts Classes	53.8%	46.2%	49.1%	26.0%	0.6%	24.3%
Fitness Class	52.7%	47.3%	42.3%	33.7%	4.6%	19.4%
Active Older Adult Programs	19.0%	81.0%	39.6%	12.8%	0.6%	47.0%
Senior Programs	10.8%	89.2%	29.3%	21.3%	1.2%	48.2%



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

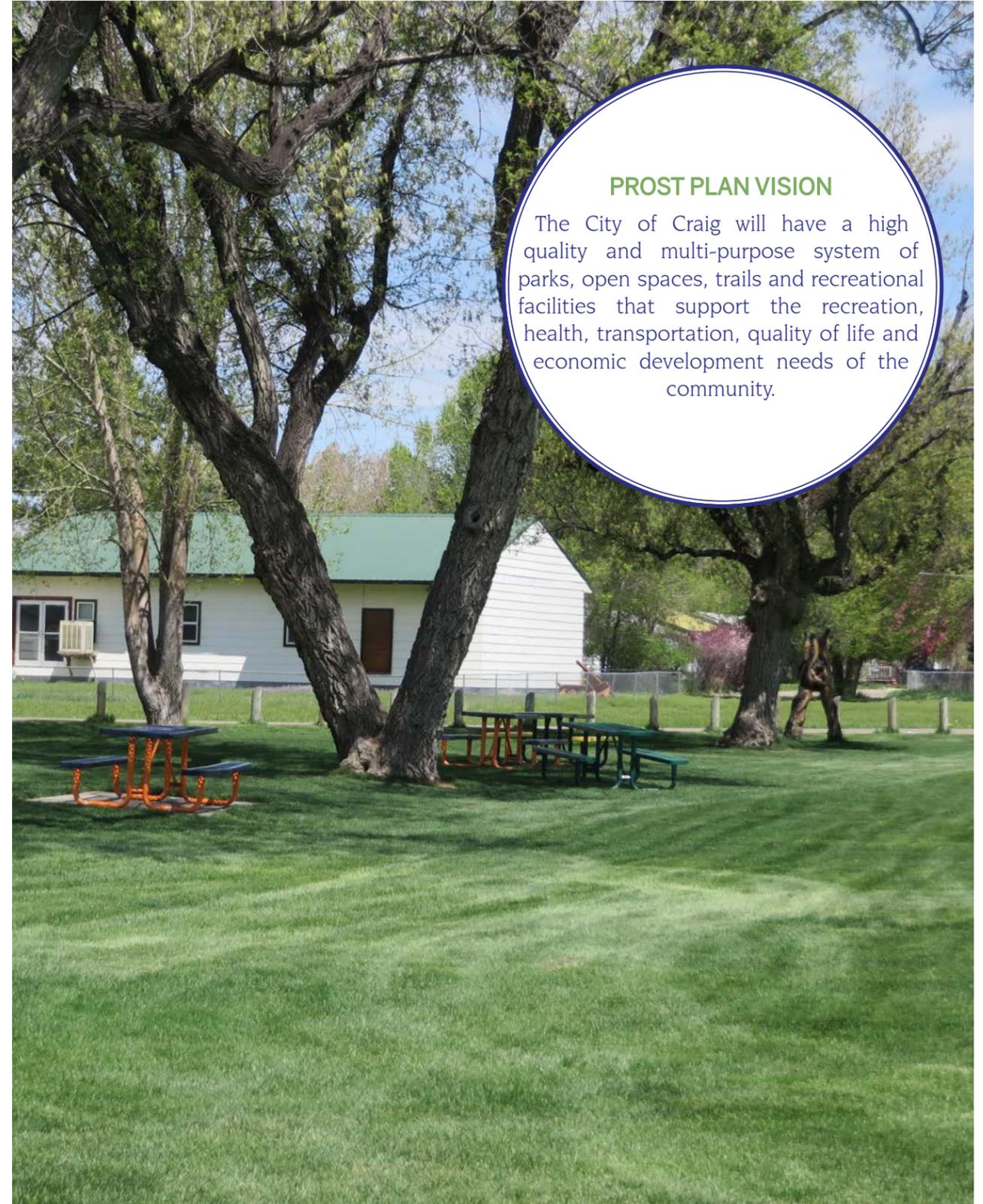
This section outlines the vision and goals, standards for the various components of Craig’s parks and recreation system, and recommendations for actions and projects. These recommendations present a framework for meeting future needs and achieving long-range parks system development and recreation program services goals.

VISION AND GOALS

Based on broad community input, the following vision and goals were developed to address the issues and needs identified during the planning process.

PROST PLAN GOALS

- Provide a diverse range of family-friendly parks, and both indoor and outdoor recreational amenities, throughout the City.
- Site facilities that are intended to serve the entire community in a central location that has convenient access by bicycling, walking and driving.
- Provide off-street multi-purpose trails and create interconnected trail loops to key destinations such as parks, schools, downtown, the Yampa River, and federal lands.
- Provide safe on-street trail and sidewalk connections to further both transportation and recreation objectives.
- Integrate parks, recreation, open space and trail planning with other city planning efforts, such as land use plans, site development approvals, transportation and utility plans, and public improvements.
- Conserve, manage, and connect to a free-flowing Yampa River to provide recreational benefits for residents and visitors.
- Provide inclusive recreational programming for all ages and abilities.
- Protect and enhance the natural environment.
- Leverage the system to enhance economic development by providing amenities and services that attract new employers and employees, and that increase recreation-based tourism.
- Provide multi-purpose festival and performance spaces that are capable of hosting the signature events for which Craig is well known for (e.g. Whittle the Wood, Balloon Fest, and Grande Olde West Days).
- Partner with Moffat County to provide a high quality level of service to the public in an efficient and effective manner.
- Enhance the level of maintenance across the system and ensure future projects have maintenance funding.
- Improve park amenities to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



PROST PLAN VISION

The City of Craig will have a high quality and multi-purpose system of parks, open spaces, trails and recreational facilities that support the recreation, health, transportation, quality of life and economic development needs of the community.

STANDARDS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK STANDARDS

Neighborhood parks should be adequately sized to provide space for a variety of activities, ideally a minimum of two acres. They should be centrally located within the residential area they serve, and are often located adjacent to an elementary or middle school. In order to be compatible with surrounding residential land uses that limit the intensity of use, programmed sports activities in neighborhood parks are typically limited to practices. Table 13 further describes these characteristics. Exceptions may be necessary if no other facilities exist, or if the use is not detrimental to the neighborhood. While pocket parks supplement the neighborhood park system and provide visual relief within the urban landscape, they are not substitutes for adequately sized neighborhood parks, nor count toward dedication requirements. These parks are typically one acre in size, which often makes them more of an amenity to the immediate neighbors rather than the larger neighborhood.

Table 13. Neighborhood Park Standards

CLASSIFICATION/ SERVICE AREA/ LOS	DESIRABLE ACREAGE	PURPOSE/FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Neighborhood Park Maximum ½ mile walking distance of population served Provide minimum of 2 acres per 1,000 population</p>	<p>2-7 acres; slightly smaller size may be acceptable if adjacent to other parkland/natural areas or greenway parks while accommodating larger neighborhood park purposes/functions.</p>	<p>Provides nearby recreation and leisure opportunities within walking distance (one-half mile) of residential areas. Should serve as a common area for neighbors of all ages to gather, socialize and play typically would include a paved, multi-purpose area for court games/in-line skating or two tennis courts, a multi-purpose play field with backstop, play equipment, ADA accessible trails, and shaded areas for picnics and sitting within a landscaped setting that is a blend of xeriscaping and full irrigation for active uses. Features such as interpretive signs, water bodies, and areas of natural vegetation may also be included where appropriate. In most cases, programmed sports activities should be limited to practices.</p> <p>On-street parking is typically adequate, and separate parking lots are discouraged.</p> <p>School/park facilities include many of the same neighborhood standards, except that school/parks should include: game fields (preferably two), off-street parking that is situated for school and park purposes, and a playground designed for age groups not served by school playgrounds.</p> <p>Small areas can serve a neighborhood where opportunities for a larger park site are unavailable. Typically considered to serve residents within one-quarter mile of the park. Due to limited size, may only contain a few of the elements typical of a standard neighborhood park.</p>	<p>Should be located adjacent to greenway, open space, elementary or junior high schools when possible, and centrally located within the area served.</p> <p>Should be accessible via walkway or urban trail. Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development.</p> <p>At least half of the park or two sides shall be bordered by a street in order to provide easy public access, visual surveillance and parking.</p> <p>Surrounding the site with the back property lines of houses is strongly discouraged.</p> <p>Development of the site should be according to Craig’s development requirements and standards.</p>

COMMUNITY PARK STANDARDS

Community parks should be adequately sized to accommodate a variety of diverse activities, including passive uses. They are ideally a minimum of 10 acres in size, and often combine developed parkland for self-directed or programmed activities (festivals, performances, fitness trails, sports fields and courts, picnic shelters, etc.) with natural areas or other interesting elements (water features, forests, or gardens) (Table 14). They should be centrally located and accessible to everyone in the community. An off-street trail system should also connect to community parks, allowing for access not reliant on automobiles.

Table 14. Community Park Standards

CLASSIFICATION/ SERVICE AREA/ LOS	DESIRABLE ACREAGE	PURPOSE/FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Community Park Maximum 3 mile distance between parks (1.5 mile service area) Provide a minimum of 6 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 populations</p>	<p>>10 acres</p>	<p>Provides opportunities for community-wide activities and facilities. Should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas, such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, plazas, etc., and have features that appeal to the broader community.</p> <p>Sports complexes are not always considered complete community parks as they are very special-purpose. However, they contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. They provide opportunities for community-wide programmed and self-directed sports such as baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, in-line hockey, and skateboarding in higher intensity use facilities. They offer only limited areas for passive recreation uses and other features that appeal to the broader community.</p> <p>Strategically locate to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities.</p> <p>Community parks should generally be located to provide all residents access to a community park within 1-2 miles of their home. Community parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within ½ mile.</p>	<p>Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development if the park site allows. Special site features, such as streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites, and other interesting elements may add to the unique character of the park.</p> <p>Ideally, will have good access from a collector or arterial street.</p> <p>Direct access to primary community trail system is desirable.</p> <p>Sports complexes should be relatively flat to accommodate sports fields and located away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light, and noise conflicts.</p>

OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

Open space areas protect natural values on smaller land parcels and provide opportunities for trail and habitat connections. Although they are often managed for a more natural state, some park-like uses and amenities, such as trails, benches, and picnic sites, are integrated into these areas.

While there is not an adopted level of service or standards for open space and greenbelts, Table 15 lists the common characteristics for open spaces and natural areas. Open space dedications are not a substitute for developed neighborhood and community parkland.

Table 15. Open Space/Natural Area Standards

CLASSIFICATION/ SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE ACREAGE	PURPOSE/FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Open Space/ Natural Areas</p> <p>There is not a service area or target level of service for acres per population for open space because it is based on the available natural resources in the community.</p>	Size Varies	<p>Protects natural values on smaller public sites. Often located along stream river or stream corridors, or associated with lakes and ponds because of the rich habitat associated with riparian areas and wetlands. May be portions of other developed park sites that are managed for their natural resource values. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented, passive outdoor recreation, which may include multi-purpose trails.</p> <p>Consider adding open space to protect agricultural land and wildlife habitat using methods other than fee simple acquisition with willing owners (e.g. conservation or recreation easements or lease).</p> <p>The city will not be responsible for maintaining open space that is not of community-wide significance (e.g. narrow corridors and detention area in subdivisions.)</p>	<p>Emphasis on resource protection or preservation with some public access provided.. Limited site area can be developed for park-like uses, such as roads, parking areas, trails and trailheads, environmental education/interpretive areas, picnic sites, beaches and water access features, and visitor support facilities.</p>

TRAIL STANDARDS

Off-street trails are primarily recreational in nature, versus bike transportation corridors that are part of the higher speed, on-street bike lane system. Recreational trails may link to schools, public parks, recreational facilities and open space areas; to other neighborhoods; or to work or shopping destinations. The trail classifications and design standards presented in this section have been developed with consideration of the information provided in “Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind – A Handbook for Trail Planners.”¹

This plan contains trail design guidelines and standards that may be easily adapted to fit the needs of Craig. The construction of a trail invariably results in some ecological impact. Whether it is vegetation that is removed in the process of building a trail or the creation of new ecological conditions prompting a shift in the composition of wildlife and plant species, biological diversity is impacted. Disturbance along a trail can also cause some wildlife species to abandon their nests, decline parental care, shorten feeding times and/or move away permanently. It is therefore imperative that trail corridors be designed from a regional perspective in an effort to balance the needs of the landscape and wildlife with that of recreational users.

Potential impacts to private landowners must also be considered, and portions of trails may need to be fenced to prevent users from trespassing, or to contain livestock on the adjacent land.

The following language and Table 16 describes the three community trail types proposed for Craig with their respective design standards. All trails shall be designed and constructed to current ADA standards.

Off-Street Multipurpose Trails

Off-street multipurpose trail will form the major trail spines and loops through the city. They should accommodate a variety of trail users, including walkers, joggers, recreational bikers and commuter bikers within the same trail corridor. The preferable location of these trails should be along existing utility easements, canals, rivers/drainageways or other linear features, connecting parks, open space areas, recreational facilities, schools and major destination nodes to the greatest extent feasible. When it is necessary to locate trails adjacent to roadways, they should incorporate a minimum 50-foot easement and ideally a 100-foot easement where feasible and appropriate. While these characteristics, along with additional details provided in Table 16, are the ideal conditions, reduced widths or soft surfaces could be used until full funding is available.



Ridgeview Trail is an example of an off-street multipurpose paved trail (top); Kiwanis Trail is an off-street unpaved multipurpose trail.

1

Colorado State Parks, September 1998.

Off-Street Bike/Hike Trails

Off-street bike/hike trails provide a unique opportunity that the community desires and, in the case of Craig, should be provided where connections are needed but where physical settings prohibit or do not necessitate a paved minimal grade trail. Off-street trail connections could be used by both beginner and experienced mountain bikers and hikers. Trails should connect to other off-street multipurpose trails or parks within the community. Trailheads specific to these off-street biking trails could be developed as needed where access is currently limited.

On-Street Bike and Pedestrian Connections

Within the city limits of Craig, on-street bicycle and pedestrian connections will primarily be implemented in the form of enhanced sidewalks and bicycle sharrows, i.e. street markings within a driving lane designating bicycle routes. Sharrow markings indicate that motorized vehicles and bicyclists should share the road. However, as space and funding is available, bicycle lanes should be implemented. On-street bike and pedestrian connections should be identified on key east-west and north-south corridors that link community parks, schools, and commercial centers throughout the community making it safer and more enjoyable to commute and access amenities without the use of a car. Sharrows and bicycle lanes should be identified on major corridors where traffic volumes require motorists to be warned about the potential presence of bicycles. Other neighborhood streets, with reduced traffic volumes, do not typically need to be signed or marked for on-street bicycle connections because they are often safe enough for the average user. Key corridors should include improved sidewalks that are separated from moving traffic and enhanced street crossings.



Example of an off-street bike/hike trail at the BLM's Cedar Mountain Recreation Area.



Typical sharrow (left) and typical bicycle lane (right)



Table 16. Trail Standards

	OFF-STREET MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS	OFF-STREET BIKE/HIKE TRAIL	ON-STREET BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS
Definition	Trails for walking, jogging, skating, bicycling, and other non-motorized uses that would be part the trail system throughout the community. Trails should be required as part of the site development process, and the rights-of-ways dedicated to the City.	Recreation destination for pedestrian, bicyclists and other non-motorized users. Trails are located in undeveloped backcountry, open space or rural areas within a natural setting	An exclusive space for bicyclist through the use of pavement and signage, adjacent to motor vehicle travel lanes in the same direction. Also can be a sharrow, a lane on a road where bicyclists have equal priority as vehicles.
Right-of-Way	50 feet minimum width where feasible, designed as naturalized open space or parkland as determined by the City.	Varies with hand build vs. machine build and terrain	NA
Trail Width	10 feet.	Three foot minimum. 10 foot corridor where maintenance vehicle access required	6 feet minimum preferable, though 5 feet may be adequate if there is a paved gutter adjacent to the curb at the edge of the road.
Trail Surface	Asphalt or concrete. Crushed gravel until funding is available. No openings greater than ½ inch per ADA.	Native, naturalized	Asphalt or concrete matching the existing road surface.
Parallel Trail Width	3 feet minimum where provided. 4 feet width to accommodate cross-country running events.	NA	NA
Parallel Trail Surface	Crushed gravel if not used by equestrians. Natural surface if used by equestrians.	NA	NA
Sight Distance	130 feet minimum. If unattainable, provide warning signage.	NA	NA
Grades	5% maximum preferred. In special circumstances, up to 8.33% may be allowed, not to exceed 200 feet in length.	(IMBA Guidelines) 5% or less for beginners, Average 10% or less for intermediate, 15% or less for advanced – if ADA accommodation is unreasonable. Up to 8.3% for ADA accessible Steps may be required on hiking only slopes with grades steeper than 10%	5% maximum preferred. In special circumstances, up to 8.33% may be allowed, not to exceed 200 feet in length.
Cross Slope	1-2% typical, 3% maximum.	<10%	1-2% typical, 3% maximum.

	OFF-STREET MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS	OFF-STREET BIKE/HIKE TRAIL	ON-STREET BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS
Vertical Clearance	12 feet preferable, 10 feet minimum.	Eight feet	12 feet preferable, 10 feet minimum.
Shoulders	3 feet mowed and clear of hazards on each side of trail. Design for pruning and occasional mowing for 10 feet on each side of trail.	Minimum two feet both sides	NA
Trail Centerline Radius	40 feet minimum at tight corners and switchbacks. 100 feet minimum elsewhere. Adequate signage where radius is shorter.	8 to 10 feet for intermediate; 7-10 for advanced. Berm face should be convex. Larger radius for climbing turns. Switchberms of less radius could be used for steeper slopes or tighter trails.	NA
Radius at Trails Intersections	15 feet to accommodate maintenance vehicles; 8 feet where vehicles not anticipated.	NA	NA
Roadway Separation	20 feet minimum where feasible.	NA	NA
Striping	Four inch center stripe per AASHTO, where volumes and geometry dictate	NA	Per Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards and as recommended in AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 2012, or most current edition.
Underpass Width	12 feet minimum, 14 feet preferable.	12 feet minimum, 14 feet preferable, if applicable.	12 feet minimum, 14 feet preferable.
Bridge Width	10 feet minimum.	8 feet minimum	10 feet minimum.
Guardrails	Guardrails or fencing along steep drops within 5 feet of trail.	Guardrails or fencing along steep drops within 5 feet of trail.	NA
Trail Markings and Signage	Per MUTCD standards and as recommended in AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 2012, or most current edition.	Markings at intersections and as desired for interpretation and wayfinding. Identify trail difficulties at trailheads and in online mapping.	Per MUTCD standards and as recommended in AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 2012, or most current edition.
Amenities	Restrooms and drinking fountains/water jug fillers at strategic trailheads and as provided by nearby commercial uses. Benches, approximately 2 per mile. Trail markers, every 0.1 mile. Picnic tables as appropriate.	Trail markers and strategically placed benches for resting.	NA

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The following presents recommendations for specific actions to be taken to meet the community's needs and desires, implement the community's vision and goals, and strive to achieve the recommended standards. The recommendations address maintenance and operations as well as administration and management. The Parks and Recreation Department's annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and budget should align with the following recommendations.

All recommendations are conceptual in nature and will require further design and engineering, particular as it relates to projects around the river. Recommendations associated with private property will only be implement on a willing-partner basis.

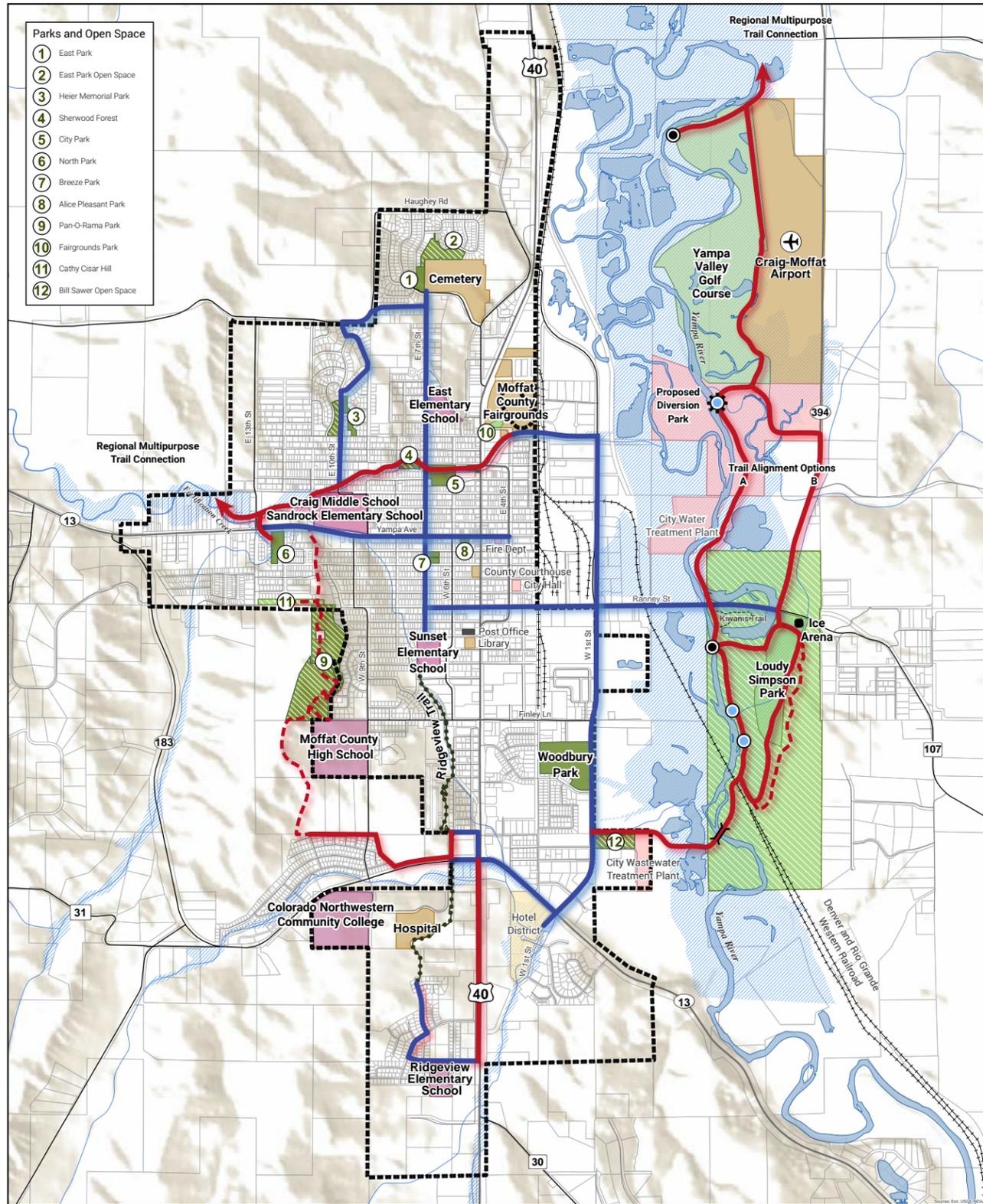
Map 4, Master Plan Map, is the overall future vision for parks, recreation, open space and trail system. It shows the location of future connections, both on-street and off street. However, there are no new parks or open space properties recommended for acquisition or preservation through easements, except as associated with trail corridors that are identified on the map.

PROPOSED PARK AND RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS

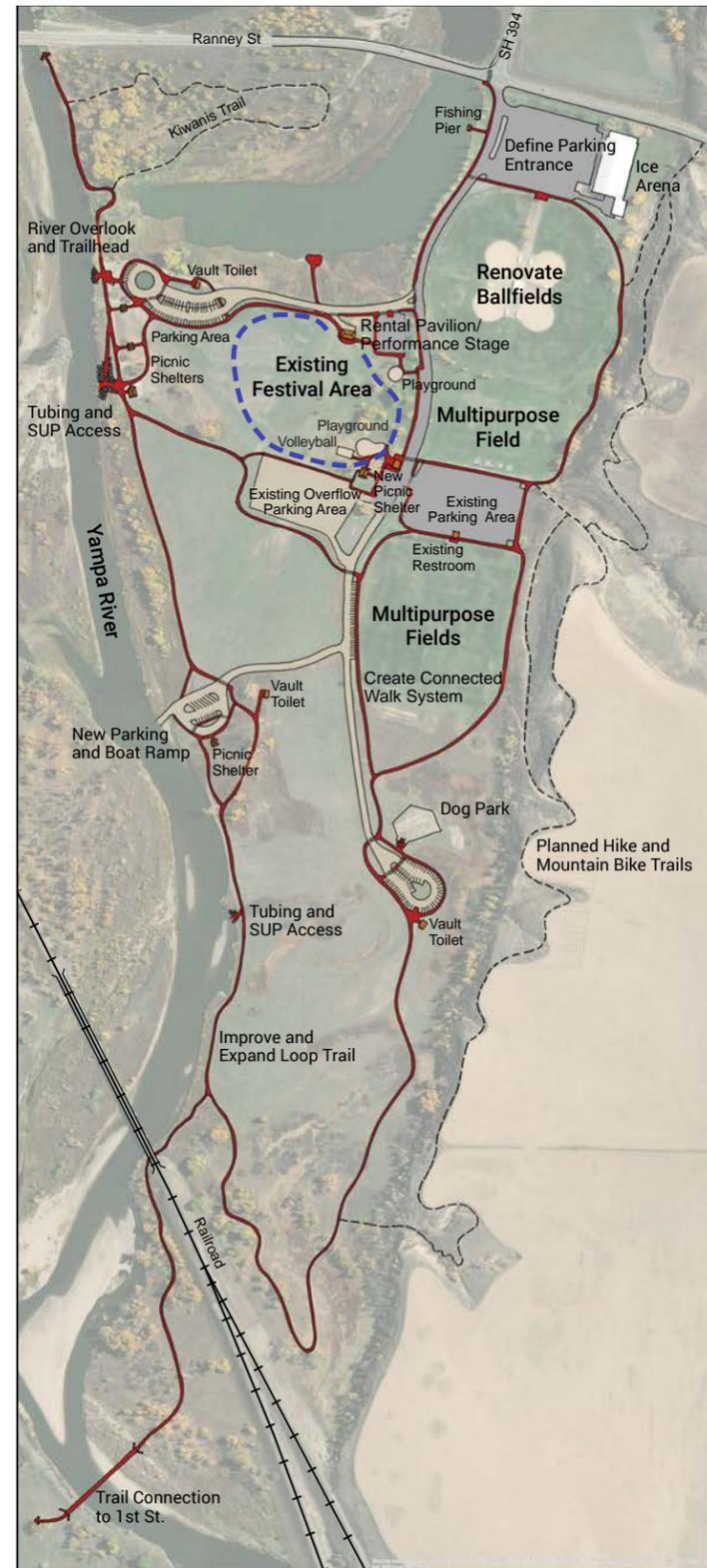
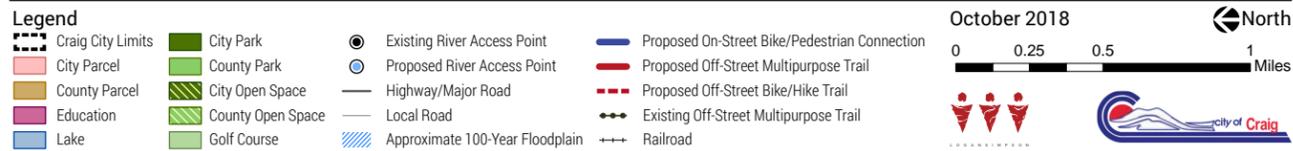
Both the public and staff identified the need to focus on improving the parks that already exist in the community. Improvements system-wide include playground replacements to meet safety and accessibility standards, ADA parking, restroom upgrades, and improved wayfinding and signage. This plan recommends the following action items:

City of Craig Parks and Recreational Facilities

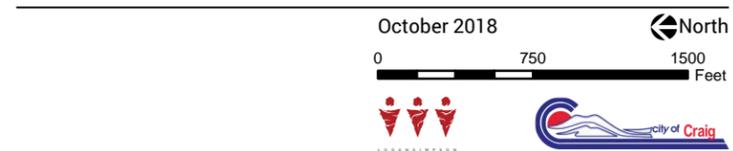
- Construct walk connections and loops, and playground improvements at: North Park, Woodbury Park, East Park, City Park, Breeze Park, and Heier Memorial Park.
- Build a shelters at Breeze Park and City Park that are suitable for large gatherings.
- Replace restroom at Woodbury Park and construct a skate park.
- Complete Breeze Park planned improvements.
- Partner with the school district to renovate the tennis and basketball courts at the high school.
- Complete a Swimming Complex feasibility study.
- Consider renovating the Wave Pool walls and upgrading the bathhouse and support facilities.
- Remove old tennis courts at East Park and re-design that area. Construct a fenced dog park at East Park Open Space, Loudy Simpson Park or south of the Moffat County High School tennis courts .
- Assist local group's efforts to generate support for creation of a regional recreation district to fund an indoor recreational facility. Centrally locate a potential facility near downtown so that it is easily accessible by walking and bicycling.
- Further work to develop feasibility analysis for desired features of an aquatics facility such as exercise lap lanes, leisure pool with spray features (play pool), lazy river, and slides.
- Further work to develop feasibility analysis for desired features of a recreation center such as a walking track, multipurpose gyms, and exercise/aerobic areas.



Map 4. Master Plan



Map 5. Loudy Simpson Conceptual Master Plan



Map 5, Loudy Simpson Conceptual Master Plan, shows concepts for improving Moffat County's Loudy Simpson Park, which are described below.

Loudy Simpson Park

- Complete a looped, safe, and accessible pedestrian walk system.
- Construct a new rental pavilion/performance stage (location to be determined).
- Replace outdated picnic shelters and upgrade play areas to be ADA compliant.
- Convert boat launch/camping area to day use with improved river front, tubing/SUP floating access, picnic facilities, trailhead, parking and vault toilet.
- Build a new boat launch ramp, parking area, picnic shelter and vault toilet downstream.
- Identify a new tubing/SUP access point downstream.
- Implement a new fenced dog park, vault toilet, parking and large truck turnaround in location of former remote control vehicle area.
- Clarify entrances into the parking area north of the Ice Arena.
- Renovate ballfields with upgraded electrical service, lights, concession stand, and restroom renovations.
- Work with MOCO Trails to develop single track hike/bike trail loops on ridge to the south.
- Stabilize the Yampa River bank in key locations.



Sherman Youth Camp

Moffat County should consider the cost/benefit of improving, operating and maintaining this facility. While it is loved by some residents, most do not use it. There are extensive investments needed to bring the facility up to current design standards, including creating ADA compliant parking and camping, adding paved walks and ADA access to the group use areas and large building, demolishing existing play equipment, and resurfacing the camp sites. If the site is going to continue to be available to the public, these improvements should be made, and fees for the use of the site should be priced to cover a majority or all of the cost of maintaining the facility after it is improved.



Trail Improvements

- Construct a multi-purpose trail along the Yampa River from Loudy Simpson Park to Pebble Beach. Consider alternate routes adjacent to 394, if needed.
- Improve signage and way finding throughout the community to access points and trails.
- Develop a network of approximately 9.5 miles of on-street bicyclist/pedestrian connections (sidewalks, bike lanes, sharrows) to parks and trailheads. Primary corridors include West 1st, East 7th, and 10th streets, Yampa Street, and Ranney St. to Loudy Simpson Park. Enhance bicycle and pedestrian connections from the hotel district to downtown and the Yampa River.
- Work with MOCO Trails to build approximately three miles of mountain bike trails in Pan-O-Rama Park and Loudy Simpson Park; prohibit vehicular access and revegetate ad hoc paths through Pan-O-Rama Park. Secure easements for a trail connection from Pan-O-Rama Park east towards Yampa Street.
- Identify route and implement multi-purpose off-street trail along Fortification Creek through City Park and to the south under US 40. Work to secure easements or land for a trail extension along Fortification Creek to the north.
- Complete concrete paving of the Ridgeview Trail.



Yampa River Recreational Improvements

- Improve the vehicular access to Pebble Beach and provide day use facilities.
- Develop a river access point and day use area at Yampa River Diversion Park, and reconstruct/improve the safety of the diversion structure.
- Reconstruct the boat ramp and provide additional put-in/take-outs at Loudy Simpson Park. Construct a multi-purpose trail between all access points (See Loudy Simpson Park Improvements and Trail Improvements on page 47).
- Update floodplain mapping.



5. IMPLEMENTATION

This section focuses on prioritizing and implementing the recommendations that have been previously described.

PRIORITIES OF THE COMMUNITY

The second on-line survey of the community asked questions regarding level of support for a variety of new projects. Table 17 shows the projects that received strong or moderate support of 46 or more percent. While the results are not statistically-valid because people self-selected to take the survey, it is informative regarding the high level of support for a recreation center with aquatics, improving Loudy Simpson Park, and constructing trails and more river access. A skate park to replace the one lost at East Park is also highly valued when you consider that it is a specialized facility that serves primarily younger residents of Craig. The community had already expressed the desire to upgrade facilities in existing parks, so this was not asked again on the second survey.

Table 17. Community CIP Support

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	STRONG & MODERATE SUPPORT
Recreation/Aquatics Center (Gyms, weight room, exercise rooms, walking track, pools, etc)	69.3%
Improve facilities at Loudy Simpson Park	61.5%
Multipurpose trail from hotel district (West 1st Street) to Loudy Simpson Park (includes a pedestrian bridge crossing Yampa River)	59.0%
Multipurpose trail from Loudy Simpson Park to Pebble Beach	58.5%
On-street biking improvements (e.g. dedicated bike lanes and/or sharrows)	54.5%
Diversion Park river access point and day use area including reconstruction/improvement of the safety of the diversion structure	51.8%
Multipurpose trail along Fortification Creek	49.7%
Construct a skate park (Suggested location at Woodbury Park)	48.0%
Hiking/Biking trail across Pan-O-Rama Park (includes prohibiting vehicle access)	46.0%



69%
 STRONGLY OR MODERATELY
 SUPPORT A NEW RECREATION/
 AQUATICS CENTER



A question was asked specifically about level of support for various improvements at Loudy Simpson Park. Table 18 shows the results of that question.

Table 18. Level of Support for Loudy Simpson Improvements

	STRONG & MODERATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	MODERATE SUPPORT	LOW SUPPORT	DO NOT SUPPORT	NO OPINION	RESPONSES
Provide day use facilities (picnic shelters, seating, overlook, trailhead, toilets, drinking water) and improve river access for tubers in the vicinity of the existing boat ramp and campsites	58.8%	36.6%	22.2%	10.3%	29.9%	1.0%	194
Improve the surfacing and extent of the loop trail around the park	57.1%	35.9%	21.2%	11.1%	30.8%	1.0%	198
Replace outdated picnic shelters	53.5%	23.2%	30.3%	16.7%	26.3%	3.5%	198
Upgrade the conditions of the ballfields	51.5%	32.8%	18.7%	11.1%	31.8%	5.6%	198
Construct a new multi-purpose pavilion/performance stage for rentals by groups (location to be determined)	47.4%	24.7%	22.7%	11.1%	37.9%	3.5%	198
Remove two ballfields to reduce capital and maintenance costs	45.5%	26.3%	19.2%	14.1%	33.8%	6.6%	198
Construct a fenced area for dogs to be off-leash (e.g. dog park)	43.2%	23.9%	19.3%	15.2%	37.1%	4.6%	197



PROJECT COSTS AND IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAMES

Table 19, Project Costs and 10-Year Priorities, lists the capital construction projects for the City of Craig, and classifies the projects as those that are necessary to maintain the existing system versus new projects that are desired in the community. Budgetary cost estimates were developed for each project for planning purposes, and because there are many unknowns regarding the specifics of many projects, a contingency of 32 percent was included to cover the unknowns, as well as costs associated with designing and permitting the projects. Inflation over the ten years is not included and the costs will need to be reevaluated yearly and as the construction market changes.

Table 19. Project Costs and 10-Year Priorities

RECREATION FACILITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
TRAILS	
On-street improvements	Streetscape improvements with curbs, sidewalks and bike lanes on Ranney Street between Victory and just south of railroad tracks between 2nd and 3rd.
	Shoulder improvements on Ranney Street from railroad tracks to Loudy Simpson Park.
	Bicycle and pedestrian improvements on streets in downtown and from the hotel district to connect to off-street trails.
City multi-purpose off-street trail	Ridgeview Trail gap between 8th Street and County Road 7.
	Pave Ridgeview Trail from Finley to Sunset School, and Hospital to Ridgeview Road.
	Gravel trail from Loudy Simpson Park to Pebble Beach river access point on the Yampa River.
	Gravel trail connection from Loudy Simpson Park under the railroad bridge, across the Yampa River to connect to 1st Street.
	Paved trail on Fortification Creek through Sherwood Forest and City Park to 4th Street, south of US40. Work on securing easements for connection north to North Park.
Single track	Hike/bike trail on ridge from Willow Street, north of High School, through Pan-O-Rama Park, prohibit vehicular access and revegetate ad hoc paths.
	Hike/bike trail loops on ridge south of developed area of Loudy Simpson Park. (In progress in partnership with MOCO trail group volunteers).
TOTAL TRAILS	
YAMPA RIVER RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS	
Pebble Beach	Vehicular access and parking area
	Day use area amenities
Diversion Park	Develop road, parking and river access improvements
	Day use area amenities
	Reconstruct/improve the safety of the diversion structure
TOTAL YAMPA RIVER RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS	

The table also lists the projects as high priority in the next five years, or those that may be deferred to years six through ten based on identified priorities.

A recreation center with competitive and leisure aquatics amenities has been a long-standing desire of the community, but it is not specifically listed as a project. The cost for such a facility can range between \$20 and \$26 million dollars, which is clearly beyond the existing funding capacity of Craig if any other projects are to be implemented and the existing PROST system maintained. A citizen's group has formed to promote the creation of a recreation district funded through property taxes.

COST BASE EST. COST W/O 32% DESIGN & CONTINGENCY	TYPE		NEW PROJECTS		TOTAL COST WITH 32% FOR DESIGN AND CONTINGENCY
	LIFE-CYCLE REPLACEMENT/ ADA/CODE COMPLIANCE (10 YEAR)	NEW PROJECT	1 - 5 YEARS	6 - 10 YEARS	
\$650,000		\$650,000		\$650,000	\$858,000
\$75,000		\$75,000	\$75,000		\$99,000
\$750,000		\$750,000		\$750,000	\$990,000
\$250,000		\$250,000	\$250,000		\$330,000
\$132,000		\$132,000	\$132,000		\$174,240
\$1,100,000		\$1,100,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$1,452,000
\$2,300,000		\$2,300,000		\$2,300,000	\$3,036,000
\$640,000		\$640,000	\$640,000		\$844,800
\$500,000		\$500,000	\$500,000		\$660,000
\$0					\$0
\$6,397,000	\$-	\$6,397,000	\$2,147,000	\$4,250,000	\$8,444,040
\$800,000		\$800,000		\$800,000	\$1,056,000
\$140,000		\$140,000		\$140,000	\$184,800
\$800,000		\$800,000	\$800,000		\$1,056,000
\$140,000		\$140,000	\$140,000		\$184,800
\$1,200,000		\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000		\$1,584,000
\$3,080,000	\$-	\$3,080,000	\$2,140,000	\$940,000	\$4,065,600

continued on next page

RECREATION FACILITY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PARK IMPROVEMENTS	
Breeze Park	Phase 2 Implementation
City Park and Pools	Pool Walls
	Bathhouse showers remodel
	Miscellaneous bathhouse facilities repairs
	Playgrounds replacement, surfacing and connecting walks
East Park & Open Space	Demolish skate park and tennis courts
	Play area ADA upgrade and walk connections
	Site revegetation
	Dog park
Heier Memorial Park	ADA walk connections
North Park	Play area ADA upgrade and walk connections
Woodbury Park	Restroom replacement
	Construct skate park
	Play area ADA upgrade and walk connections
	Asphalt repair
	Fencing and backstops replace
High School	Tennis and Basketball Courts Reconstruction (total of 6 courts - 2 new)
TOTAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS	

SUMMARY CALCULATIONS

CITY OF CRAIG PROJECTS	
Subtotal	
Design, Permitting & Contingencies (32%)	
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	

COST	TYPE		NEW PROJECTS		TOTAL COST WITH 32% FOR DESIGN AND CONTINGENCY
	BASE EST. COST W/O 32% DESIGN & CONTINGENCY	LIFE-CYCLE REPLACEMENT/ ADA/CODE COMPLIANCE (10 YEAR)	NEW PROJECT	1 - 5 YEARS	
\$200,000		\$200,000	\$200,000		\$264,000
\$400,000	\$400,000				\$528,000
\$350,000	\$350,000				\$462,000
\$65,000	\$65,000				\$85,800
\$300,000	\$300,000				\$396,000
\$35,000	\$35,000				\$46,200
\$150,000	\$150,000				\$198,000
\$35,000	\$35,000				\$46,200
\$90,000		\$90,000	\$90,000		\$118,800
\$30,000	\$30,000				\$39,600
\$250,000	\$250,000				\$330,000
\$250,000	\$250,000				\$330,000
\$250,000		\$250,000	\$250,000		\$330,000
\$160,000	\$160,000				\$211,200
\$50,000	\$50,000				\$66,000
\$100,000	\$100,000				\$132,000
\$415,000	\$278,050	\$136,950	\$136,950		\$547,800
\$3,130,000	\$2,453,050	\$676,950	\$676,950	\$-	\$4,131,600

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	LIFE-CYCLE REPLACEMENT/ ADA/CODE COMPLIANCE (10 YEAR)	NEW PROJECT	1 - 5 YEARS	6 - 10 YEARS	TOTAL COST WITH 32% FOR DESIGN AND CONTINGENCY
\$12,607,000	\$2,453,050	\$10,153,950	\$4,963,950	\$5,190,000	
\$4,034,240	\$784,976	\$3,249,264	\$1,588,464	\$1,660,800	
\$16,641,240	\$3,238,026	\$13,403,214	\$6,552,414	\$6,850,800	\$16,641,240



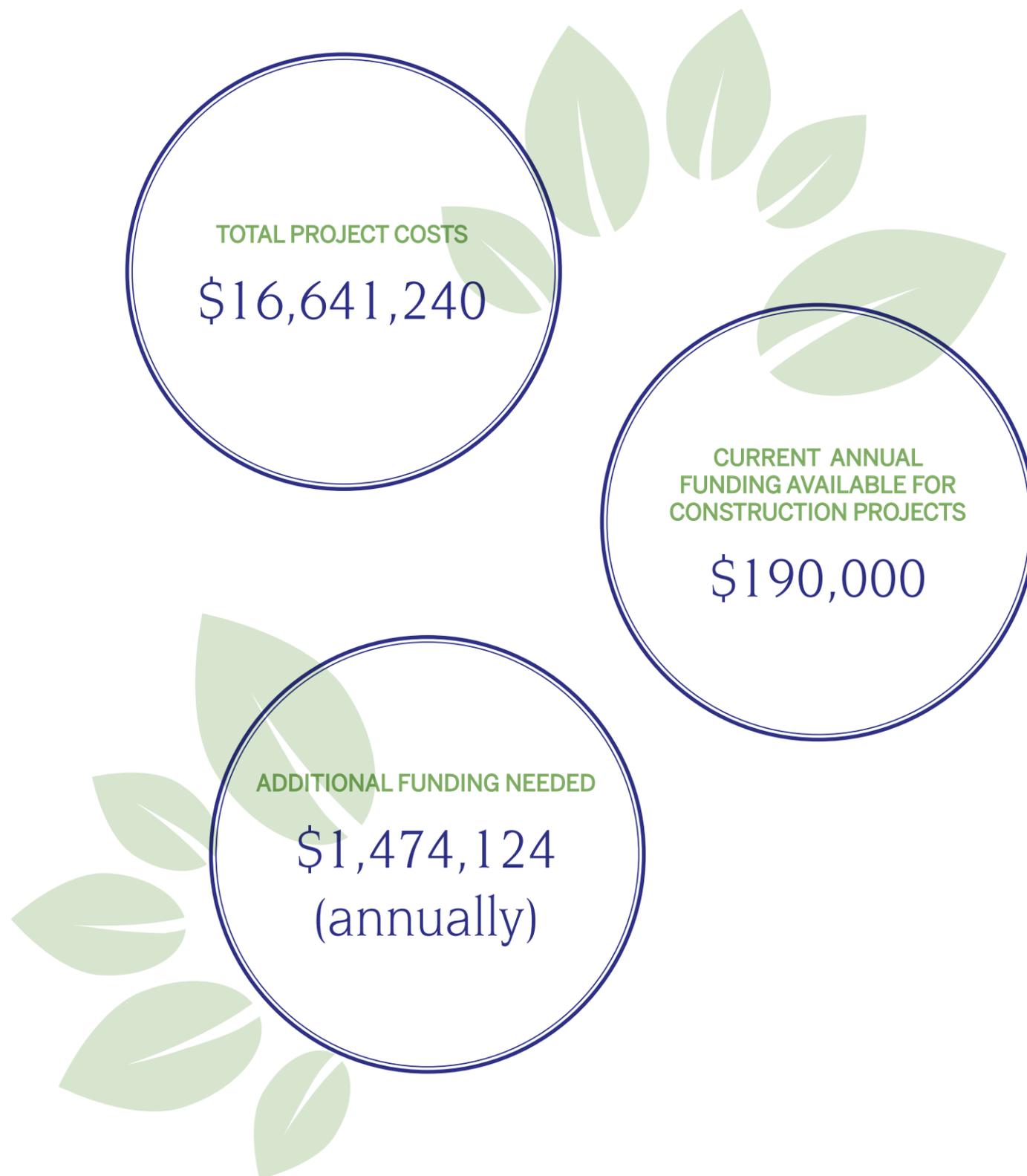
CITY OF CRAIG FUNDING GAP

The City of Craig Parks and Recreation Department has historically been allocated about \$250,000 annually for capital needs, including vehicles and equipment, which accounts for approximately \$60,000 of this budget. See Table 20 below. That leaves \$190,000 for capital construction projects. The list of necessary deferred maintenance and lifecycle replacements total \$3,238,026 and averages \$323,803 for the next ten years. This represents a need for an additional \$133,803 each year to maintain the PROST system. The list of new projects totals approximately \$13.4 million, which would require additional revenues of \$1.34 million each year. When combined, the funding gap is approximately \$1.4 million each year for both maintaining and further developing Craig's PROST system.

This gap can be partially funded through revenues generated with the increase in the sales tax that was approved in 2017, and those revenues can be used to leverage matching grants.

Table 20. Capital Cost/Revenue Analysis (does not include increased maintenance costs for additional personnel, equipment and supplies)

CURRENT FUNDING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS	
Current Annual Capital Funding	\$250,000
Deduct Annual Vehicles and Equipment Capital (average)	\$60,000
Net Available for Capital Construction Projects	\$190,000
COST FOR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE/LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT	
Cost Per Year for 10 years	\$323,803
Annual Difference for Next 10 years for Maintaining System (<\$\$> means underfunded)	(\$133,803)
NEW PROJECTS	
Cost for New Projects	\$13,403,214
Cost Per Year for 10 Years (without inflation included)	\$1,340,321
TOTAL ADDITIONAL ANNUAL FUNDING NEEDED FOR PROJECTS	\$1,474,124



LOUDY SIMPSON IMPROVEMENT COSTS

Costs for improvements to Loudy Simpson Park were also developed, and like the project table for Craig's park system, needs were categorized into those necessary for meeting codes and lifecycle maintenance for aging facilities, versus new projects. The total cost could be as much as \$9 million if all projects are implemented. See Table 21.

Table 21. Loudy Simpson Project Costs

PARK IMPROVEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Trails / circulation	Construct ADA-compliant pedestrian walk system to connect parking areas to use areas and provide opportunities to walk safely between areas of the park.
	Accessible gravel trail around Loudy Simpson Park. Paved in future. Move trail along the Yampa River further from the river edge and stabilize eroded banks.
Pavilion	Construct a dual purpose rental pavilion/performance stage that can be used for large groups, weddings, general picnicking and performances.
ADA upgrades	Replace outdated picnic shelters and upgrade play areas to be ADA compliant.
	Reconstruct the ballfield concessions and restrooms to be ADA compliant
Convert to day use	Demolition, regrading, rock along river, river access (jetty perhaps), 2 picnic shelters, 4 benches, vault toilet, gravel parking area, concrete walks to toilet and overlook, landscape restoration, fencing, signs, etc.
River access points	Move boat launch ramp downstream to area less prone to erosion and construct a new parking area with picnic shelter and vault toilet that is elevated above the floodplain.
	Construct tubing take-out point downstream, which creates an opportunity to float from upstream to downstream in the park.
Ballfield lighting	Electrical service and lighting
Other	Utilize the remote control dirt area as a fenced dog park and construct ADA-compliant parking area and large truck turnaround at the end of the road.
	Clarify entrances into the parking area north of the Ice Arena.
TOTAL LOUDY SIMPSON PROJECT COSTS	

COST	TYPE	NEW PROJECTS			TOTAL COST ALL PROJECTS WITH 32% FOR DESIGN AND CONTINGENCY
		BASE EST. COST W/O 32% DESIGN & CONTINGENCY	LIFE-CYCLE REPLACEMENT/ ADA/CODE COMPLIANCE (10 YEAR)	NEW PROJECT	
\$360,000	\$360,000				\$475,200
\$450,000		\$450,000	\$450,000		\$594,000
\$600,000		\$600,000		\$600,000	\$792,000
\$370,000	\$370,000				\$488,400
\$320,000	\$320,000				\$422,400
\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000		\$1,980,000
\$1,800,000		\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000		\$2,376,000
\$250,000		\$250,000		\$250,000	\$330,000
\$500,000	\$500,000				\$660,000
\$500,000		\$500,000		\$500,000	\$660,000
\$200,000		\$200,000		\$200,000	\$264,000
\$6,850,000	\$1,550,000	\$5,300,000	\$3,750,000	\$1,550,000	\$9,042,000

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

It is not possible to raise fees high enough to cover the cost of capital construction and maintenance, and most recreation programs require some level of public subsidy. Implementing the PROST plan will require a multi-prong approach, utilizing taxes as the primary source of funding in order to provide the services to the public. Tax revenues can then be used as matching funds for various grants. Other sources, land trusts, and partnerships will also be important to implement the recommendations in this plan.

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

City of Craig should implement the following fiscal sustainability measures:

- Increase funding that is allocated to maintain existing assets, and do not add elements to the PROST system without funding to maintain them.
- Define the proportion of the new sales tax that may be allocated to funding high priority projects and their operations and maintenance.
- Develop policies regarding the philosophy for recovering programs and services costs, and continue to assess progress and refine cost recovery strategies.
- Maximize partnerships with Moffat County, MCSD, CPW, the Hospital, and others to provide and manage recreational facilities, and conserve and manage public lands.
- Property Tax Increase/Special District: An option to a general property tax is the creation of a special district, which would use property tax or fee assessments within that district to fund specific improvements or operations. A special district could be established for an area larger than the City, and could include a large part or all of Moffat County. Another consideration could be including the town of Hayden, creating a larger pool for funding and benefits to the broader region.

The following is a more detailed description of partnerships, grants, and land trusts that can assist in implementing the plan.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Other City and County departments have a role in implementing this plan. The Planning Development Department should integrate recommendations into the City's land use code and comprehensive plan updates, and the Public Works Department should make on-street improvements along with planned repaving or construction projects. The tourism and economic development organizations play a role in marketing not only the recreation amenities, services and events within Craig but also the surrounding vast public lands and recreation amenities to potential visitors and employers. Partnerships could be strengthened with the other communities in Moffat County to develop branding that promotes multiple day stays in the region to experience the festivals, river trips, fishing, bicycling, hunting, golfing, non-motorized and ATV trails, recreation centers, and other activities. Partnerships with Memorial Regional Health and health care providers who promote healthy lifestyles and active aging could support development of additional facilities and increase participation rates of residents. Further agreements and cost-sharing measures should be explored with:

- Moffat County
- Moffat County School District
- Colorado Northwestern Community College
- City Departments (public works, transportation)
- Moffat County Tourism
- Moffat County Local Marketing District
- Craig/Moffat Economic Development Partnership
- Craig Chamber of Commerce
- Memorial Regional Health

GRANTS

Various organizations and agencies provide assistance for planning and capital costs related to outdoor recreation. These grants often require local matches and are not guaranteed; therefore, should not be considered a steady source of revenue. The following organizations have provided substantial contributions for parks, recreation and historic preservation.

State and Federal

- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO): outdoor facilities, open space, habitat restoration, Youth Corps Grants
- Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program: motorized & non-motorized trails
- Colorado Department of Transportation: trails & on-street improvements
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Fishing is Fun & Watchable Wildlife programs
- Colorado State Forest Service: tree grant programs
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs: Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund Grant
- Colorado Department of Transportation-Transportation Alternatives Program: walking and biking improvements
- Colorado Department of Transportation-Safe Routes to School: sidewalks
- Colorado Water Conservation Board: healthy rivers
- Land and Water Conservation Fund: open space acquisition
- National Endowment for the Arts Fund: planning, design, historic preservation

Non-profit Organizations, Foundations and Trusts

- Anna Keesling Ackerman Trust: parks & rec; historic; human services; youth
- Boettcher Foundation: community & social services; civic & cultural programs
- Adolph Coors Foundation: human services; youth
- Coors Brewing Company: protecting and improving water resources
- John G. Duncan Charitable Trust: parks & recreation; historic preservation
- El Pomar Foundation: parks & recreation; human services; youth
- Gates Family Foundation: conservation; parks & recreation; historic; youth
- Kenneth Kendal King Foundation: conservation; parks & recreation; youth

LAND TRUSTS

A number of land trusts work in Colorado to protect agricultural land, wildlife habitat and open space. The Yampa Valley has benefited from partnerships involving land trusts and has received national recognition for protecting open lands. The following organizations are some of the land trusts that could provide funds or technical assistance in implementing the actions in this master plan that describe the protection of agricultural land, wildlife habitat and open space.

- American Farmland Trust
- Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
- Colorado Open Lands
- Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation
- The Conservation Fund
- Colorado Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust For Public Land
- Yampa Valley Land Trust

