

Durango Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan

Community Forum – September 11, 2017

What are the strengths of the Durango Parks and Recreation system?

- The variety of activities
- Connectivity of open space, trails and parks in town
- Easy access
- Organic Parks
- Well maintained system
- Recreation Center – breadth of facilities
- Parks add beauty
- There is a lot of wildlife
- Involved community
- Variety of trails
- Equity of special interests opportunity
- Year round assets
- Parks and trails enhance real estate value
- Good partners, such as Trails 2000
- Animas River
- Flexibility and adaptability to community needs
- Low cost to get into the Recreation Center
- Willingness to support Parks and Recreation with tax dollars; dedicated sales tax
- Staff
- Resourcefulness of City to access grants
- Vision for the future
- BMX track: 1 of 14 in the state and only 1 of 10 open to the public
- Youth programs
- Connection and collaboration between Durango schools, Fort Lewis College and the City
- The variety and quality of events
- Organized activities for a variety of users and spaces to host them
- Philanthropic citizens and volunteer support
- Dog friendly community
- Coordinated land use planning

What are the opportunities for improvement?

- Enlarge the Recreation Center or build another facility at an alternate site
 - Larger aerobics room in the Recreation Center
- Outdoor pool/sauna/stretching area addition
- Add a Green connection from Downtown to the river
- More connections overall
 - Connect trail to Three Springs; Complete Animas River Trail
- Do not close Recreation Center for a week for maintenance - keep it open year round
- Walking and running track adjacent to the Animas River Trail
- Enforcement of leash laws; Train dog owners
- Partnership with 9R School District and City to clarify who maintains tennis courts on school property;
- More Sport Courts
 - Provide covered tennis courts and repair lighting on existing tennis courts
Replace tennis courts that are being removed at Needham Elementary School
 - Build 8 dedicated lighted, outdoor pickleball courts
 - Do not mix pickleball and tennis - Create dedicated courts for each
 - Sand volleyball courts
 - Outdoor basketball courts
 - Squash courts
- Year round ice rink
- Accelerate park development
 - Accelerated development for the Durango Mesa Park
 - Buildout 75 acre Community Park at Three Springs
- Additional organic parks and reduced pesticide use
- More options when closing the pool; Coordinate with other pool facilities for community use
- Provide access to Lake Nighthorse
 - Access to trails around Lake Nighthorse
 - Transit services
 - Keep it motor free
 - Provide a boathouse
- Identify redundant roadways for greenways/trails
- Include renewable energy in development projects
- Maintain parks to ADA and safety standards
- Improve process for improvements in existing parks
- Maintain and plant tree canopy in the park system
- Animas River Trail Improvements
 - Improve safety
 - Improve lighting on parts trail
 - Bear proof trash cans at parks and along Animas River Trail
 - Upgrade restrooms
 - More green space
- Animas River riverfront land is precious and must be used wisely

- Greater Connectivity
 - Connect Central Business District to the Animas River Trail
 - Connect hard surface trails to natural surface trails
 - Connect Overend Mountain Park trails to Twin Buttes
- Colorado Trail terminus improvements
- Build river put-ins as designed
- Increase education on river use
- Protect wildlife habitat
- Water fountains in parks; Bike racks in parks
- Better noxious weed control
- Plant more edible vegetation/landscape
- Protect viewsheds
- Develop parks around the communities for local residents that use them
- Archery practice park, similar to Pueblo, Colorado

What is the single most important priority that you would like to see addressed in this Master Plan?

- Represent diverse community in this process
- Large multi-use community park with varied activities
- A new or expanded Recreation Center
- Must be a member at the Recreation Center to have access to other facilities using technology
- Dedicated yoga room at the Recreation Center – a no sweat, no stink room
- More Pickleball at the Recreation Center
- Multi-use indoor facility with regulation size ice rink
- Develop Cundiff Park as a Community Park; Improve water quality
- Open Lake Nighthorse and make it accessible
- More variety in the trail system
- More trail connections
- Complete Animas River Trail
- Improve Animas River Trail uses, safety and surface upgrading
- Complete Animas River Trail and SMART 160 Trail
- Complete the SMART 160 Trail to connect to Three Springs Park
- Incorporate natural elements in parks; nature preschools
- High level athletes on trails; focus on improving national level trail training facility
- Develop trail access across north Main to the Animas River Trail
- Pedestrian underpass at Camino del Rio
- Outdoor dedicated Pickleball courts with lights; Multi-use parks with Pickleball
- Youth baseball fields
- Archery Park to develop youth sports/Junior Olympics

- Joint City/County development of Bike/BMX Park at Durango Mesa Park and host national and international trail events; Develop Ewing Mesa (Durango Mesa Park) as multi-use, world class international destination training facility
- Address homeless population – trash clean-up (Schneider Park/Overend Mountain Park)
- Expansion and stewardship of natural resources (open space)
- Increase non-developed open space
- Acquire more Open Space
- Safe and reliable river access
- Maintain all 5 open space values identified by the City: recreation, wildlife, viewshed, historic and environmental
- City could exchange half cent tax funding with the county for the fairground and develop Ewing Mesa (Durango Mesa Park)
- Include in design and development the impact of global warming and climate change
- 6 – 8 more dedicated tennis courts, lighted and some covered
- Clarify maintenance of 9R School District tennis courts between City and School District
- Tear down the Mason Center and add more courts at this location
- Balance how the City spends money for projects
- Identify community priorities and project prioritization
- Multi-generational activities at Durango Mesa Park, like cross country running trails; low impact activities; bike facility, equestrian trails
- Preserve and enhance winter sports
- Human powered recreation at Lake Nighthorse
- Study and improve Animas River landscape and water fowl
- Bike and pedestrian safety
- Expansion of chemical free parks at playgrounds and school sites
- Permanent outdoor structure for the performing arts