



The consultant team conducted in-person site assessments of City parks over a two-day period in November 2017. This assessment establishes a base-line understanding and “snapshot” of the system’s existing conditions and amenities. This assessment will be utilized with other technical research reports to assist with the final Park, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan including recommendations and action strategies.

### METHODOLOGY

The consultant team used a site assessment form to document observations. One form was completed for each park within the Durango Parks and Recreation system. The assessment form includes:

- General description
- Park classification & observed use
- First Impressions
- Access & visibility
- Site structures & amenities
- Site/amenity conditions
- Site furnishing conditions
- General landscape/hardscape
- Signage
- NRPA 3 Pillars (National Recreation and Park Association 3 Pillars: Health and Wellness, Conservation, and Social Equity)
- Any identified corrective actions needed
- Planned capital improvements
- Strengths, challenges, and opportunities

Park conditions were rated using a differential scale of excellent, good, fair, or poor with a grading component. The table below provides the condition descriptions utilized in this analysis.

Scale of Conditions	
Assessment Finding	General Description
<b>Excellent</b> <b>Score: 76-100</b> <b>(A-, A, &amp; A+)</b>	Facilities/amenities are in excellent condition and feature little or no maintenance problems noted. Facilities do not feature any major design issues that contribute to diminished use or maintenance.
<b>Good</b> <b>Score: 51-75</b> <b>(B-, B, &amp; B+)</b>	Facilities/amenities are in good condition and feature only minor maintenance problems. Generally, most maintenance issues with these facilities appear to be the result of age and/or heavy use. Facilities may only feature minor design issues that contribute to diminished use or maintenance (i.e. drainage, structural, utilities, etc.).



<p><b>Fair</b>  <b>Score: 26-50</b>  <b>(C-, C, &amp; C+)</b></p>	<p>Facilities/amenities are in fair condition and indicate ongoing maintenance problems. Generally, most maintenance issues with these facilities appear to be the result of age and heavy use. Some maintenance issues may be compounding over time due to being deferred because of budget and/or resource limitations. Facilities may only feature minor design issues that contribute to diminished use or maintenance (i.e. drainage, structural, utilities, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Poor</b>  <b>Score: 1-25</b>  <b>(D-, D, D+)</b></p>	<p>Facilities/amenities are in poor condition and clearly show ongoing maintenance problems that ultimately may result in suspended use for repair/replacement. Maintenance issues with these facilities are the result of age and heavy use, and generally are compounding over time due to being deferred because of budget and/or resource limitations. Facilities may feature major design issues that contribute to diminished use or maintenance (i.e. drainage, structural, utilities, etc.).</p>

The following sites were assessed during the two-day review period:

- 33<sup>rd</sup> Street River Access
- Animas City Park
- Brookside Park
- Buckley Park
- Chapman Hill
- Confluence Park
- Crestview Park
- Cundiff Park
- Dallabetta Park
- Designated Off-Leash Area
- Durango Community Recreation Center Amphitheater
- Durango Softball Complex at FLC
- Easter Heights Park
- Fanto Park
- Fassbinder Park
- Folsom Park
- Greenmount Cemetery
- Hillcrest View Park
- Historic Tram Park
- Holly Park
- Iris Park
- Jenkins Ranch Park
- Lion’s Den
- Mason Center Park
- Memorial Park
- Needham Park
- Oxbow Park & Preserve
- Pioneer Park
- Rank Park
- Riverfront Park
- Roosa Park
- Rotary Park
- Santa Rita Park
- Schneider Park
- Smith Sports Complex
- Viles Park
- Whitewater Park



## SYSTEM SUMMARY

The City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department is Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) Accredited and very proud of the accomplishment. While conducting the site assessments for the City, the consultant recognized the reasons why the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) concluded that the agency was definitely one of the best. The system is so well done, that some of the items recognized as corrective actions needed and challenges might seem like nitpicking. The following are the high-level system wide Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities:

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### STRENGTHS

- Overall, parks have a consistently strong level of care; ratings included ‘Good’ to ‘Excellent.’
- Facilities are well-designed and appropriate for their setting.
- Community support is generally strong and reflected in the utilization of parks.
- The City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department engages the community in park design and care.
- Strong facilities and sports fields in partnership with Fort Lewis College.
- Public art incorporated into the park system currently and the prospect of future possible locations for additional artwork.
- Diversity of parks, facilities, amenities, size and location make the Durango Parks and Recreation system a leader in standards and excellence.
- The Animas River Greenway, trails, and bridges give residents and visitors a high level of pedestrian/bicycle access to the system and connects Animas City Park, Memorial Park, Community Recreation Center, Rank Park, Durango Public Library, Rotary Park, Riverfront Park, Iris Park, Schneider Park, Off-leash Dog Area, Whitewater Park, Santa Rita Park, Cundiff Park, and Dallabetta Park.
- The number of Animas River access points provides users a wide range of experiences and challenges.

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### CHALLENGES

- Some playgrounds will require updating in the near future.
- Some parks have natural barriers to full accessibility given their terrain.
- Visual aesthetics could be improved with dumpsters being enclosed or screened.
- There are some parking lots that have damage to the asphalt from the weight of the trash trucks.
- Older restrooms look pretty rough and could be updated or at a minimum repainted – fade resistant color.
- Amount of taped up fliers in many locations by citizens negatively impacts the signs and structures they are taped to by leaving large amounts of residue.
- Transient population at Schneider Park and how that may be impact the public’s perspective on safety.
- Many of the park name signs are experiencing fading, letters peeling, snowcaps peeling, and even various levels of rust.



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## OPPORTUNITIES

- Planned additional trail connectivity.
- Additional coordination with volunteer groups to ensure they have a plan for ongoing care of their projects (when applicable).
- Continue to look for ways to develop the park system through partnerships and grants.
- Continue to replace aging benches through the memorial program and/or scheduled replacement with natural materials (boulders). Continue to promote the memorial benches through social media.
- Enclose or screen dumpsters from plain sight.
- Continue to explore ADA opportunities that allow for people with assisted devices to get into the heart of the parks.
- Add a touch of landscaping/boulders and seating to create contemplation areas within the parks.
- Interpretive signs to educate the public on environmental efforts, outcomes and successes.
- Consider public sign boards/kiosks that are strategically located in the system where taped fliers are more predominant to protect the assets from damage caused by adhesive residue.
- Update older restrooms and increase the size where demand is the highest.
- Update some older equipment. In some of the neighborhood parks, consider signature stand-alone climbing playground components. There are some new units out now that have an artistic look to them and if featured as stand-alone could have a powerful impact.
- Continue to work with the City of Durango Public Art Commission to consider additional pieces to the system.
- Parking spaces need painted and better defined. Several parking areas could benefit from being crack filled and/or sealed. Some have alligatored and are beginning to crumble.

## SITE ASSESSMENT SUMMARIES

The following are the site assessment summaries. Site assessment forms for each site can be found in the appendix.



Overall Assessment				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Good

# C

Score: 45

**STRENGTHS:**

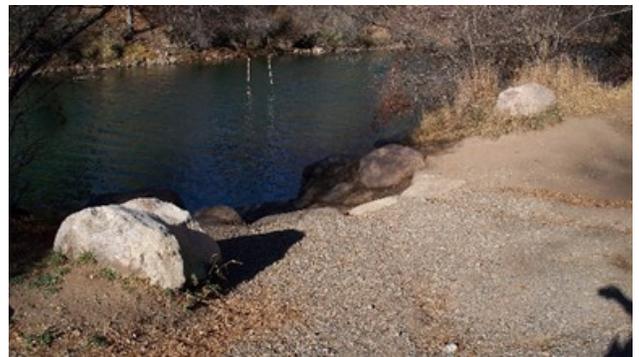
- The City has provided access for the Animas River for public use now, while realizing that there is still a strong need for the City to complete the development of the site.
- Commercial and public access with good signs on information, warnings, and geographic location.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.
- Additional boulders for rock armoring to address erosion and access.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Congestion and not a through street to allow for better traffic flow.
- In a residential area of the City.
- Parking within proximity of access site.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Consider acquisition of adjacent property as it becomes available to address the biggest challenge of the site, parking.







A

Score: 85

First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Park is connected to the Animas River Greenway.
- Turf is in good condition.
- Lookout over the Animas River from the Pavilion.
- Landscaping strip between the road and trail.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

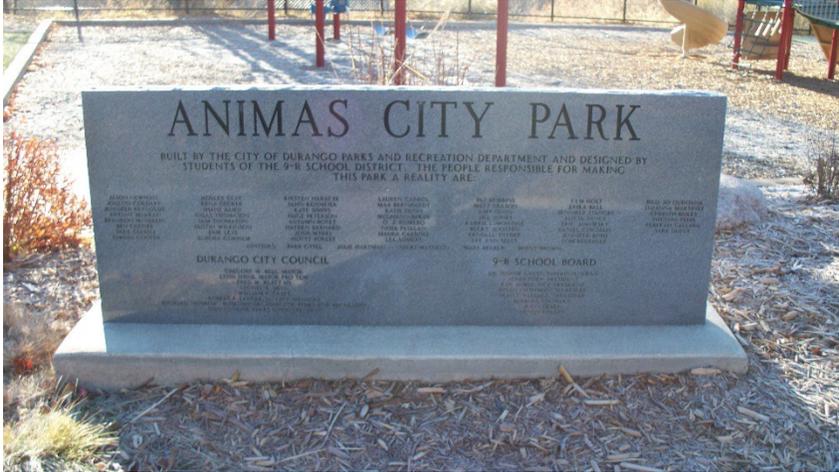
- No challenges were observed.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Continue to extend the trail north along the Animas River.
- Expand park facilities to include the undeveloped portion at the north end of the park.







**ANIMAS CITY PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**

Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
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**STRENGTHS:**

- Mature trees along the creek.
- Junction Creek splits the property creating a unique setting.
- Organically managed park approach with proximity to Junction Creek.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- No real challenges observed.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Future Chamber of Commerce site in the vicinity of the vacated A-frame building.







**BROOKSIDE PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**



# A

Score: 86

First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

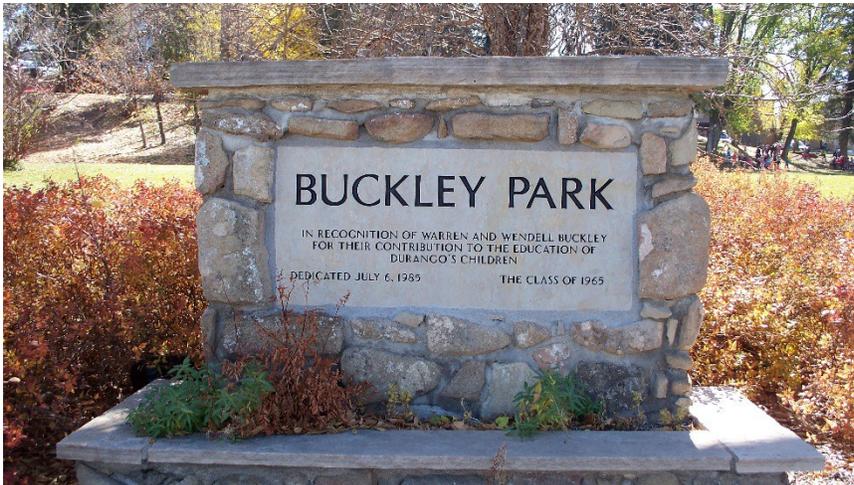
- Park is part of the Durango School District and City partnership.
- Memorial Park Sign.
- Used for programming & special events.
- In the heart of Downtown.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- No challenges were observed, nice park.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Educate the public on the successes of the partnership, highlighting positive intergovernmental agreements for the betterment of the community.
- Small pavilion for music performances and speeches.







**BUCKLEY PARK (CONTINUED)**







Overall Score: 82				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Closest skiing facility to City residents, where users can be there and participating within minutes.
- Unique facility with winter activities.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Need to update rope-tow mechanics and structures.
- Regrading and adding additional runs with the short distance from top to parking lot.
- Small parking lot for the level of users during peak operations.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Master Plan for the site to enhance services and experience.
- New façade for ski structures.







**(CONTINUED)**

**CHAPMAN HILL**





Overall Score: A (89)				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- New park in mixed-use development that includes retail, commercial, health & wellness, and residential components.
- The trail winds through the development from US 160 to the parks.
- Play features provide challenges to different age segments and abilities.
- Artistic design to benches around the playground.
- Storm water management system along the trail replicates natural habitats and is visually appealing.

**CHALLENGES:**

- No challenges were observed.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Connecting the trail system from the Animas River Trail to the Three Springs trail.





**CONFLUENCE PARK &**

**SOUTHERN OPEN SPACE  
(CONTINUED)**



CITY OF DURANGO				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Fair	Good	Excellent	Fair	Fair

**STRENGTHS:**

- Well maintained property.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Determining the highest and best use for the property.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Engage the neighborhood into the design process to build support for the property.
- Incorporate public art into the property.
- Include the standard park sign with property name.



Overall Score: 70				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Fair	Good	Excellent	Good	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

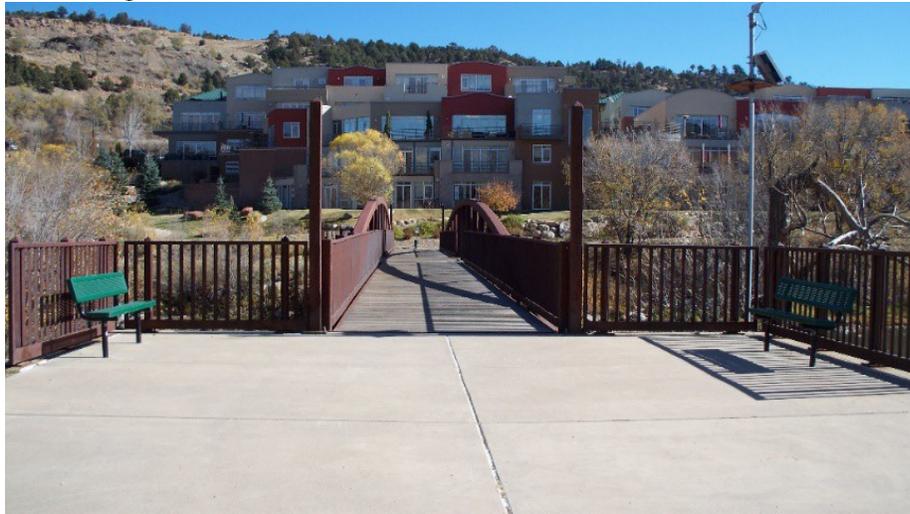
- The City has provided access to the Cundiff Park for use, while realizing that there is still a strong need for the City to complete the development of the site.
- The Animas River Greenway Trail, bridge, lighting, and BMX Track are well developed amenities on the site.
- Diverse segment appeal by defined uses of the park.
- Commercial and private river outfitters use of site.
- Adjacent to Animas River Greenway.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Parking is limited during events when factoring in outfitters use too.
- Competing interests can be a challenge when improvements are being planned.
- Managing changes to BMX track layout.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- While there are amenities that have been well developed, there is still a need to create a site master plan to complete the development of the Cundiff Park.
- Volunteer base from user groups on improvements/maintenance.





**CUNDIFF PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**



Overall Score: 85				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Several picnic areas including a couple with picnic shelters.
- Park is heavily used by commercial and private outfitters for Animas River access.
- The Park is a connection along the Animas River Greenway Trail.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Restroom appears to have been vandalized multiple times.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Additional rock armoring to address erosion and ease of access.
- Consider improvement of the gravel parking lot.

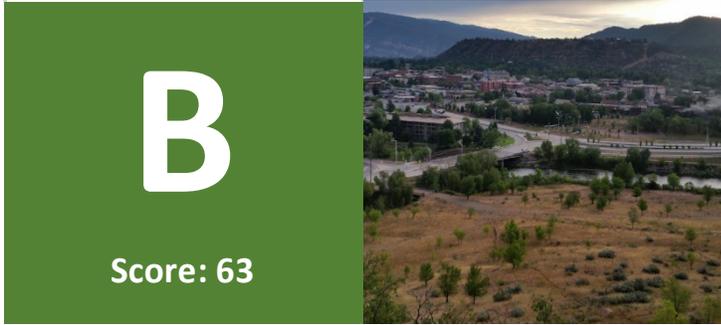






**DALLABETTA PARK**





Overall Score: 63				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Fair	N/A	Good	Excellent	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Good utilization of the property, providing a service to meet the needs of the community.
- Riverfront access for users and pets.
- Along the Animas River Greenway Trail and links to other parks.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Visibility of designated parking.
- Ability to develop site due to environmental conditions that exist.
- Need to address site runoff and erosion.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Enhance visibility of parking for visitors.
- Bridge from the interior of off-leash area to connect directly to the Animas River Trail.



# A

Score: 91



**STRENGTHS**

First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

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- Amphitheater and seating levels are very well done with trees in the backdrop.
- Grass areas next to the venue are in great shape.
- Playground location in proximity is valuable for families attending events at the amphitheater.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Venue capacity during popular events may not be adequate.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

-  Shade for visitors and playground.



C-

Score: 33

First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Fair	Fair	N/A	Fair	Fair

**STRENGTHS:**

- Provided by a developer to the City.
- Located in a residential neighborhood.
- Conservation of the property, limited cost of maintenance.

**CHALLENGES:**

- No parking available, located in a cul-de-sac.
- Limited use.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Gauge interest in enhancing the property; create a master plan for the site and then develop.



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- This is one of many organically managed parks within the system.
- Park and School combined providing maximum benefit to students and neighborhood.
- Play features are strong.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Turf maintenance and repair due to the heavy use.
- Maintenance is provided by the City Parks and Recreation Department.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Create an annual maintenance schedule coordinated with the school to manage needed repairs/maintenance with such a heavy use.





# A

Score: 84



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Park has significant mature trees and shade.
- New playground for the property.
- Inviting feel to the park.
- Restroom at this neighborhood park.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Traffic along Park Avenue.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Walkway into the interior of the park to a seating area close to the playground.



- Add a few benches in key locations of the park.

# B+

Score: 73



Overall Score				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Playground condition and color.
- Layout of the park.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Visible dumpster.
- Trash truck ruts in the asphalt.
- Neighbors (open air) backyard storage.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Beautifying the corner of the park sign (front, around and behind) with landscaping could help with the first impression and draw people in visually.
- Reside and/or paint the dugouts, concession and dugout/storage structures would carry a quality into the park past the playground.





**FOLSOM PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**



Overall Score: A- (81)				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

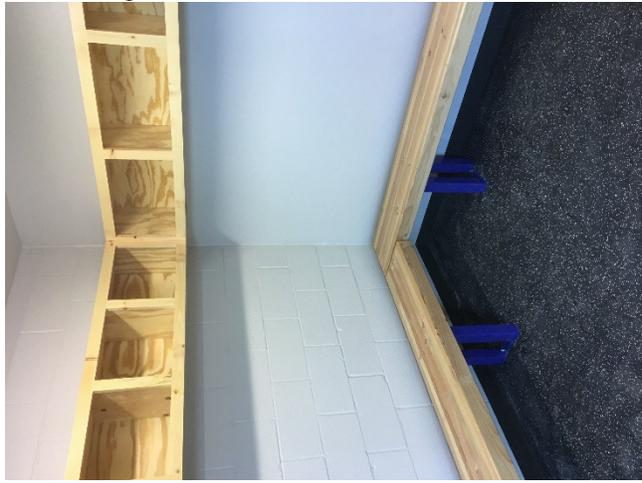
- Partnership with Fort Lewis College on the complex.
- Newly renovated complex.

**CHALLENGES:**

- The condition and maintenance of an aging playground.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Monitor seeded areas for maximum coverage and repair any areas that do not fill in.
- New playground with a signature climbing feature.





**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**

**DURANGO SOFTBALL COMPLEX  
(CONTINUED)**



Overall Score: A+				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- New Tennis Courts under construction.
- Pavilion facility is well designed and appears to be adequate for the facility.
- Playground amenities and setting are well done.
- Stormwater BMP design enhances the facility visually.
- Signage incorporates both organizations in the partnership.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Turf repair with heavy use makes maintenance a challenge.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Create an annual maintenance schedule that balances the use with needed upkeep include the college use schedule as well.



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**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**

**SMITH SPORTS COMPLEX  
(CONTINUED)**





Overall Score				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	N/A

**STRENGTHS:**

- Veteran’s Memorial – very well done and respectful.
- Artwork within the Cemetery.
- Location of maintenance hub, for cemetery maintenance as well as the system.

**CHALLENGES:**

- The amount of equipment and need for screening or additional storage building to get the full life of the equipment.
- The existing irrigation system is not automated and significant staff time is required to irrigate the Cemetery.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Update the maintenance hub to include ample interior storage.



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Well maintained pocket park.
- Grass area is in good condition.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Monitor the aging playground for ongoing maintenance and/or replacement.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Add a signature climbing component.







Overall Score				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- New park with new amenities.
- Layout maximizes the open green space.
- Loop trails throughout new development.
- Historic tram artifacts within the park.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Lack of traffic to the newly developed area.
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Parking while development is in progress.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Connecting the trails west of the City to the trail system within Durango.



**(CONTINUED)**

**HISTORIC TRAM PARK**



CITY OF DURANGO				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Fair	Fair	N/A	Fair	Fair

**STRENGTHS:**

- Conservation of the property, limiting cost of maintenance.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Opportunity for invasive weeds to establish and populate.
- Spontaneous uses of the property.
- Former landfill site.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Conduct a site master plan to develop into a new City park.



Overall Score: A-				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Organically managed park.
- Art in the Park.
- Park is in the heart of the City.
- Connect to Schneider Park & Riverfront Park.
- Trail is heavily used by the community.

**CHALLENGES:**

-  are heaving.
- Turf is in need of repair in sections.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Incorporate pervious hard surface material (brick or concrete) around the art by the bridge.



**IRIS PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**



Overall Score: A (86)				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Park has open space and inviting amenities.
- Turf is in great condition and landscaping has natural elements to add dimensions.
- Diversity of activities.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Core activity areas need shade for visitors.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**



- Consider adding shade to the property in core activity areas.
- Plant additional trees around perimeter.



**JENKINS RANCH PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**



Overall Score				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Beautiful stone pavilion with seating wall.
- Popular location for special occasions.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Parking for visitors to the facility during reservations.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

-  Add new picnic tables in place of older tables.
- Security lighting.
- Interpretive signage, possibly include the development of Durango below with photos of then and now.



Overall Score: B+				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Tennis Courts are in good condition.
- Mature trees along the property.
- Downtown location.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Visual appearance of the Mason Center and managing perceptions.
- East/Northeast portion of the property is rough understory from trees.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Conduct Master Plan for the park and building to determine highest and best use.





**PARK (CONTINUED)**

**MASON CENTER**

# A

Score: 87

First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent



**STRENGTHS:**

- Resting areas, landscaping and picnic tables along the park and trail.
- Signs for various uses with orientation, rules and maps are easily located and in good condition.
- River bank has some armoring to help with erosion control and river traffic.
- Park is heavily used by commercial and private outfitters for water activities.



Connectivity along the Animas River Greenway Trail.

**CHALLENGES:**

- The site continues to be challenged by heavy use of river traffic
- Restrooms are in need of updating.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Update sign for Oppie Reames Trail.
- Repair crumbling sections of parking and strip spaces.



**ME**

**MORIAL PARK (CONTINUED)**

# B+

Score: 75



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

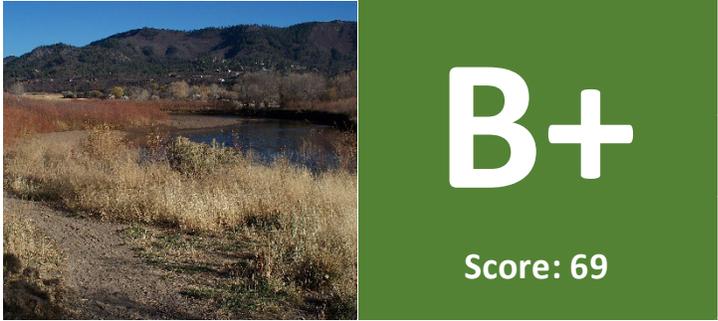
- This is one of many organically managed parks within the system.
- Park and School combined providing maximum benefit to students and neighborhood.
- Play features are strong.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Turf maintenance and repair due to the heavy use.
- Maintenance is provided by the City Parks and Recreation Department.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

-  Create an annual maintenance schedule coordinated with the school to manage needed repairs/maintenance with such a heavy use.



Overall Score: B+				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	N/A	Excellent	Good	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Preserves river front property along the Animas River.
- The natural trail on the property.
- Park and preserve outcomes on signage.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Automobile and appliances dumped on site.



- Lacking a sense of arrival at the entrance.

- Access to parking is limited.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Educate the public on the outcomes of the site through messaging.
- Improve parking and trailhead with signage and access.



**PRESERVE (CONTINUED)**

**OXBOW PARK &**



Overall Score				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Open space for free play.
- Good sized pavilion for families and neighborhood groups to use.
- Tree canopy on site.



**CHA**

**CHALLENGES:**

- Location of play equipment in proximity to homeowner within the site.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Engage the community for components to a new play structure in the park.
- Opportunity to incorporate a signature climbing feature as part of updating equipment.



Overall Score: A-				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Park is located along the Animas River Greenway Trail.
- Connections to Memorial Park to the north and Rotary Park to the south.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- There are two ground water springs which create difficulties with turf maintenance in select areas.



**OPP**

**ORTUNITIES:**

- Additional park amenities could support a variety of users and could include bike station, seating/stretching area, additional play feature, etc.).

A-

Score: 78



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Park provides visually interesting views for resting along the Animas River Greenway Trail.
- Park is in the heart of Town.
- This is one of the organically managed parks within the system.
- Trail is heavily used.
- 

Visual design of the swinging bridge over the river.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Sections of the trail are heaving due to roots from the trees between the trail and the river.
- Section of the fence is leaning out toward river.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Additional interpretive signs on river ecology and approach to river bank vegetation and trees.



**CITY of  
DURANGO**



**RIVERFRONT PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**



Overall Score				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Restrooms are in great condition.
- Heavily used facility by the community.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Erosion of ball diamond by dugout with sloped area.
-  Dugouts have sections of wood and roofing that need replaced/repaired.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Update park sign to address worn lettering and fading.
- Create an annual maintenance schedule coordinated with the school to manage needed repairs/maintenance with such a heavy use.





**CITY of  
DURANGO**



**RIVERVIEW SPORTS**

**COMPLEX (CONTINUED)**

**B+**

Score: 72



Overall Score: B+ (72)				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Shaded with mature trees.
- Turf is in good condition.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Visibility of park sign is impacted by the vegetation around it.



**OPPO**

**RTUNITIES:**

- Relocate sign toward the raised flowerbed or the road.
- Interpretive sign with outcomes of the park.
- Interpretive sign along the small trail, most likely created as a cut through.

A-

Score: 79



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Setting of the park along the Animas River Greenway in downtown.
- The architecturally unique gazebo.
- Interpretive signage in the park and along the trail.
- Special events in the park.

**CHALLENGES:**

-  Steep drop from trail area to the river side that has erosion from what appears to be traffic going down to the river.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Update restrooms.
- Rock armoring along the eroded areas could help with erosion and traversing to the river.



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Park is used heavily by commercial and private outfitters for river activities.
- Park is heavily used by residents.
- Identified as a potential art location for another public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.
- Interpretive stop along the San Juan Skyway which is an American Byway.
- Public art “Parade Formation” piece in the park.
- The amenities and features within the park serve diverse usage.
- Home to the Emma Sweeny model locomotive made famous for being in movies and television.
- Additional rock armoring of the river bank for safe ingress and egress of the river traffic.



**CHALLENGES:**

**ENGES:**

- Construction site for the short term.
- Capacity is not adequate for the peak season and popularity of this Park.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Pave the river access drive and gravel lot.





**SANTA RITA PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**



Overall Score: A- (80)				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Along the Animas River Greenway Trail.
- Heavily used by the community.
- Amenities serve a diverse interest.
- Green spaces along the trail for resting, picnics and free play.
-  Identify d as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- Visible dumpster and ruts in asphalt from trash trucks.
- Transient population within the park.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Update restrooms.
- Introduce new amenities to attract more park visitors.



**SCHNEIDER PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**

# B+

Score: 74



First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good

**STRENGTHS:**

- Mature trees and shading the majority of the park.
- Park is heavily used by the school next door and the neighborhood.
- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.

**CHALLENGES:**

- No challenges were observed.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Add a walkway into the property with a seating area.
-  Signature play feature, climbing unit, or playground could add life to the park.



Overall Score: 91				
First Impressions	Structures & Amenities	Site Furnishings	Landscape & Hardscape	NRPA 3 Pillars
Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

**STRENGTHS:**

- Identified as a potential art location for a public piece as part of the City of Durango’s Public Art Commission Master Plan.
- Upgraded electrical infrastructure.
- Special events are held in the park with great attendance.
- Park is used heavily by commercial and private outfitters for river activities.
- Park is heavily used by residents.
- Rock armoring along the river bank for improved access and erosion control included a unique design that accommodates spectator seating during river events.

**CHALLENGES:**

-  Construction site for the short term.
- Capacity is not adequate for the peak season and popularity of this Park.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Formalize the entrance to Whitewater Park.
- Interpretive signs on the sewer treatment plant/process
- Additional restrooms.



**WHITEWATER PARK**

**(CONTINUED)**