

CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

MEETING DATE: September 26, 2012

TIME: 11:30 AM

LOCATION: Recreation Center large conference room – 920 Boulder Drive

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes from the September 12, 2012 meeting.

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, that the consent agenda be approved and that each specific action on the consent agenda be approved as indicated. (Items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed above. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee Member or citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered on the regular agenda.)

Regular Agenda:

1. Final discussion on national trends in Parks and Recreation Services.
2. Discussion on community and national cemetery trends.
3. Analysis and discussion of preliminary park service area deficiencies.
4. Future meeting schedule/topics:
 - October 3, 2012
Analysis and discussion on preliminary park service area(s) review with identified deficiencies
 - October 10, 2012
WYSAC preliminary survey results
 - October 24, 2012
Analysis and discussion on preliminary park service area(s)
Analysis and discussion on preliminary trail connections
5. Other business

New business:

Public Comments

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2012 @ 11:30am to 12:45pm

CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 12, 2012
Minutes of Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Evan O'Toole, Amber Travsky, Peggy McCrackin, Dave Hammond, Joe Lord, Amy Williamson, Dan McCoy, Vicki Henry, Scott Muller

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mike Moeller, Bill Gribb

CITY OF LARAMIE STAFF PRESENT: Derek Teini, Senior Planner; Mel Owen, Administrative Assistant; Mike Zook, Parks Manager; David Derragon, Assistant City Manager; Cody Jennings, Assistant Planner

The regular meeting was called to order by chair Dave Hammond at 11:33 a.m.

Consent Agenda:

1) Approval of the minutes from the August 22, 2012.

Motion by Williamson, second by Travsky, that the consent agenda be approved. Motion carried 9-0.

Regular Agenda:

1) Discussion on national trends in Parks and Recreation Services.

Zook presented an overview of national Parks and Recreation trends. The presentation briefly covered economics, amenities, and programming. The Committee discussed future possibilities for Monolith Ranch however noted that any future recreation offerings would necessarily be postponed until the water rights were secured by the City. The Committee noted a desire to provide large recreation spaces that could be utilized by individuals exercising their dogs off leash. The Committee agreed that the national trend of centralized sports complexes be further explored.

The Committee expressed a desire to explore playlots that utilize xeriscape designs or other lower maintenance, lower water usage landscaping. The Committee also discussed promoting the adoption of parks by individuals or neighborhoods in order to help relieve the maintenance costs and time for Parks staff. Park adoption would be a good option to control costs and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for local parks within the community. The Committee agreed to discuss details that might be included in the plan on guidelines and policies for park adoption at a later date.

2) Discussion on community and national cemetery trends.

Zook began the presentation of cemetery trends within the community and national. Staff noted that if approved the Cirrus Sky Technology Park could also include a land dedication for a future cemetery. The Committee briefly discussed the Cirrus Sky Technology Park proposal.

New Business

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mel Owen
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation
City of Laramie

FACILITIES:

- From a 2011 survey taken by Recreation Management magazine, more than half (57.6 percent) of community center respondents said they had plans for construction in the next three years. This construction is dominated by plans for renovations. Some 37.3 percent of community center respondents said they had plans to renovate existing facilities. More than one-quarter (26 percent) were planning additions, and 17.5 percent were planning to build new facilities. (See Figure 60.)

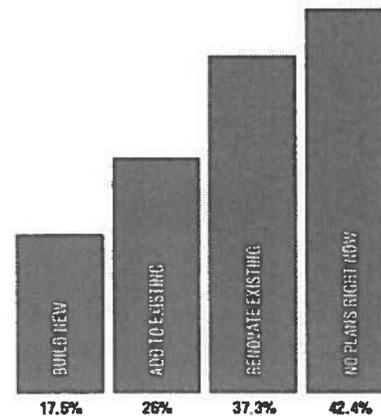
The most common features currently included in community center respondents' facilities were:

1. Classrooms and meeting rooms (included by 66.7 percent)
2. Fitness centers (63.1 percent)
3. Bleachers and seating (61.9 percent)
4. Locker rooms (61.3 percent)
5. Exercise studio rooms (60.7 percent)
6. Concession areas (58.9 percent)
7. Playgrounds (58.3 percent)
8. Indoor sports courts (56.5 percent)
9. Outdoor sports courts (45.8 percent)
10. Open spaces, including gardens and natural areas (44.6 percent)

More than four in 10 (40.3 percent) community center respondents said they had plans to add more features to their facilities over the next three years. The most popular additions for these respondents were:

1. Splash play areas (planned by 26 percent of those who will add more features)
2. Synthetic turf sports fields (23.3 percent)
3. Park structures, such as shelters and restroom buildings (21.9 percent)
4. Fitness centers (20.5 percent)
5. Locker rooms (20.5 percent)
6. Concession areas (19.2 percent)
7. Playgrounds (17.8 percent)
8. Exercise studio rooms (16.4 percent)
9. Bleachers and seating (15.1 percent)
10. Trails (13.7 percent)

**FIGURE 60:
Facility Plans,
Community Rec/Sports Centers**



TARGET DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Youth** - Participation in out-of-school activities and programs offer support for youth and working families, as well as benefitting youth socially, emotionally, and academically. On a national level, after school programs have been proven to decrease juvenile crime and violence, reduce drug use, cut smoking, and alcohol abuse, and decrease teen pregnancy. Children often participate in team sports such as basketball, soccer and baseball over individual activities. After school programs, such as SACC (School Aged Child Care), as well as recreational sports programs that practice after school create a place for younger, elementary aged children to get active and learn new fundamentals in sports. Although today's youth continue to participate in outdoor activities, they are still not meeting recommended weekly activity levels. Even with higher overall outdoor recreation participation and a higher percentage of participants that take part in an outdoor activity at least twice a week (37%) than other age groups, outdoor activity among youth makes up only a small portion of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommended "60 minutes of physical activity

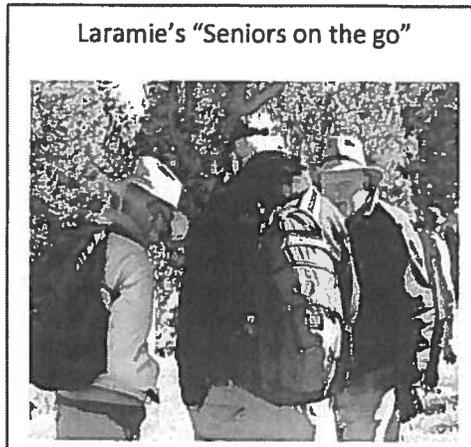
on most, preferably all, days of the week". Although the quantity of activity is low, the most popular types of outdoor activities that youth do participate in involve a vigorous amount of activity. Laramie has already made strides to combat the absence of activities for youth with the construction of the skate park in 2000. As the city grows and demographics change, youth will always need to be a target for the future of Parks and Recreation.

Young Adults – Unfortunately, national trends for outdoor activity show that young adults are even less active than youth. The frequency of outdoor activity starts to drop off from youth to young adulthood (around age 18) – the percentage of young adults who take part in outdoor activities twice a week or more drops to 25% for young adults, a 30% decrease from youth rates. The types of activities young adults participate in are the same, but there is a drastic decline in the number of outings. Just as with youth participants, young adults are not meeting CDC recommended activity levels.

Holding the only distinction in the state of a true "college town," Laramie obviously has a large percentage of its population that fit into this specific, young adult demographic. Although, the University of Wyoming offers multiple recreational activities, parks, and open space for their students in this Young Adult category, the city cannot plan for the University. It should always be the position of the city to include these student population numbers in our overall geographic population totals, to ensure that as a city we are offering adequate parks and recreational services to all citizens of the Laramie community.

FUTURE POPULATIONS:

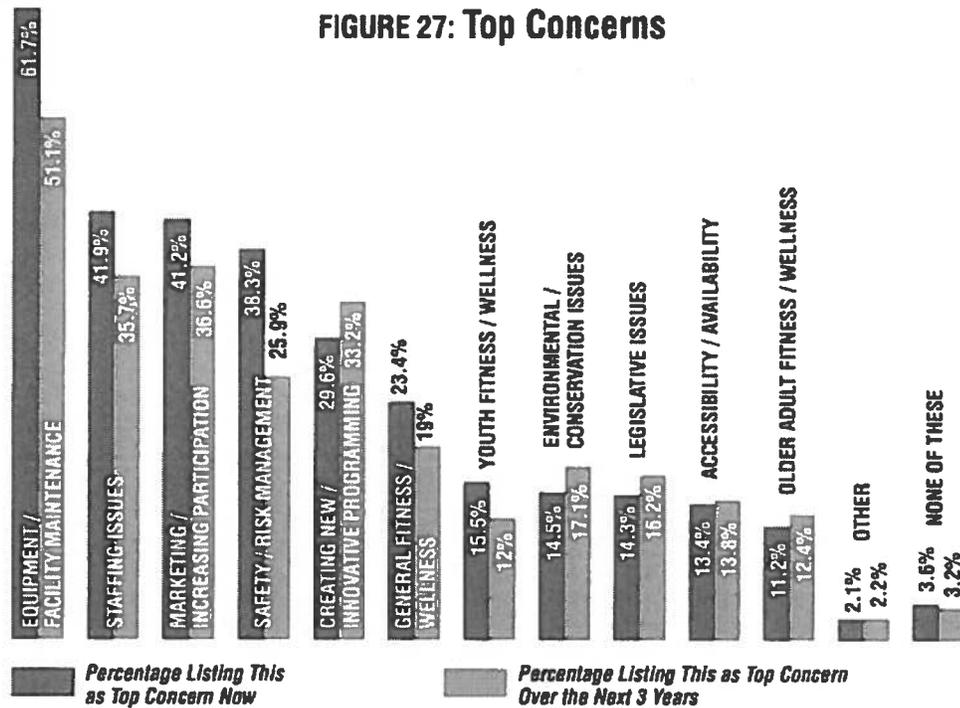
- **Hispanics** – As Laramie grows, different demographic trends are taking shape. The transient fluidity of the Laramie community, in large part from the University, makes it attractive for many transient working families, such as Hispanics to live in Laramie. The three valued and influential aspects of Hispanic culture are family, community and personalization. Hispanics strongly value their interpersonal relationships within their families and within their communities. Therefore, it is common for Hispanics to live and participate in activities as a "multi-generational extended family". Hispanic outdoor recreation participants often:
 - Prefer to recreate in larger groups
 - Prefer forested sites with water features and amenities to support a day-long
 - Extended family social outing with on-site meal preparation
 - Are interested in an outdoor experience with a strong social recreation component, such as facilities and programs that involve families, programs for children and youth, and family-oriented entertainment events and festivals
 - Identify stress relief and having a good family experience as the most important features of a satisfying outdoor recreation excursion
 - Enjoy picnicking, day hiking, camping, and large family gatherings in outdoor settings
- **Senior Adults** – With the "Baby-Boomer" generation moving into their retirement years, our focus here, in a retirement-friendly Laramie, needs to cater to this demographic over the most immediate next 10 years of this Master plan. Older Americans' leisure time is increasingly being spent doing physical activities, in educational classes, partaking in adventure travel, and attending sporting events. It is our intention, to be mindful of these opportunities to come and program accordingly with the Parks and Recreation Department. These trends may be the result of the fact that for many, retirement is starting earlier than it has in the past. Approximately 70% of the current retired population entered retirement before the age of 65. These new retirees are younger, healthier, and have more wealth to spend for the services they want. These trends may explain the changing demands,



nationally, from traditional low-cost social services, like bingo and board games, to more active programming for which older residents are willing to pay, like bike riding, running, and fitness classes.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

- There's little doubt that the economy is still the primary challenge for most Parks and Recreation Departments. The City of Laramie has certainly felt the down tick in economic growth over the last five years. Equipment and facility maintenance becomes difficult or impossible when resources—including money and staff—for ongoing maintenance are reduced or eliminated. Staff within the City of Laramie have expressed a lack of funding to make improvements and needed renovations at their facilities in order to offer better service. Others mentioned that usage at the Laramie Recreation Center has increased, but the budget for new equipment is contingent upon grant funding from partnerships with the Albany County Rec board, which means equipment is getting worn out faster with no set budget line item for replacements. A 2012 report from Recreation Management magazine shows the top concerns for Recreation Centers across the U.S.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

- On a whole, the City of Laramie has some of the best parks and recreational offerings in the state. Future opportunities include continued partnerships with educational institutions within Albany County, acquisition of land for development of a consolidated sports complex, additional pocket parks in deficient areas and the development of current city buildings and land holdings for the encouragement of a greater active community within the City of Laramie.

Community and National Trends in Cemetery Services

Total sales for the last ten (10) years:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| 2011: 22 total, | 13 casket | 5 cremain | 4 baby |
| 2010: 27 total, | 26 casket | 0 cremain | 1 baby |
| 2009: 20 total, | 15 casket | 0 cremain | 5 baby |
| 2008: 19 total, | 14 casket | 4 cremain | 1 baby |
| 2007: 14 total, | 10 casket | 3 cremain | 1 baby |
| 2006: 24 total, | 20 casket | 4 cremain | 0 baby |
| 2005: 71 total, | 66 casket | 4 cremain | 1 baby |
| 2004: 54 total, | 49 casket | 4 cremain | 1 baby |
| 2003: 61 total, | 54 casket | 3 cremain | 4 baby |
| 2002: 38 total, | 33 casket | 2 cremain | 3 baby |

The average rate of sale of spaces per year for the past 10 year cycle:

30 casket size 2.9 cremain size 2.1 baby size

The City of Laramie (Greenhill Cemetery) currently has 1,274 spaces available for purchase. If the sale of City owned spaces remains consistent with the last 10 years (2002 thru 2011), casket sized spaces will be sold out in 29.2 years, cremain sized spaces in 111 years and baby sized spaces in 77.6 years.

The number of sales of spaces dedicated to cremains has decreased over the last ten (10) years because more and more families are purchasing adult size spaces with the intent of burying multiple ashes in one space. Current rules and regulations governing the amount of cremains allowed to be interred on one (1) casket sized space is four (4).

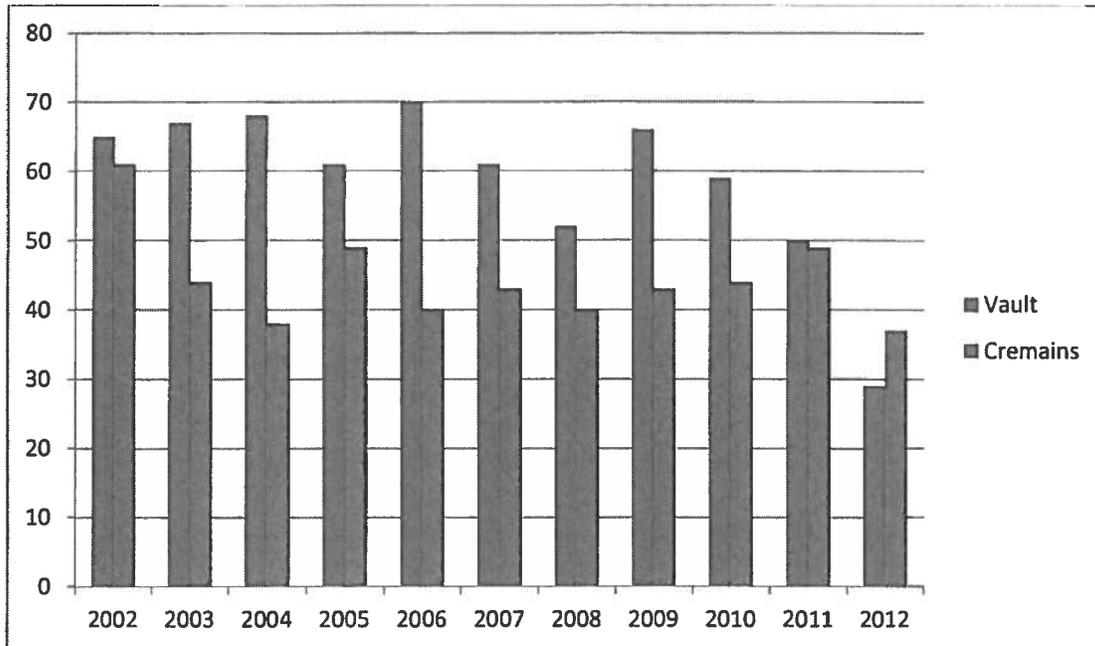
According to our records, the Catholic Church has 1,908 casket sized spaces available for sale at this time. These spaces are located in the north section of rows P and Q (276 spaces) and the undeveloped sections of rows R, S and T (1,632 spaces). If the City were to obtain these spaces from the Catholic Church, it would increase spaces for sale to 2,786 (casket size spaces). This would extend our sell out time to 85 years (3000).

The total number of burials in Greenhill Cemetery in the last 10 years has been 1,160. Surprisingly the overall percentage of casket size burials compared to cremains has remained relatively constant up until the first 7 months of 2012. This year the cemetery has noticed that many families are bringing in multiple cremains they have kept shelved until other family members have passed away.

Average Percent of internments within the last 10 years:

Caskets: 56%

Cremins: 42%



Within the last 4 years Greenhill Cemetery has noticed a shift from casket size burials to cremains. With the economy downturn along with religious organizations relaxing their ideals, families are leaning more toward cremain burials. The chart shows a steady increase in cremains and a decrease in caskets. As of August 2012 cremains burials have already surpassed the casket size burials by 8%.

If the City of Laramie continues seeing the above referenced trends in burials being decreased from the traditional casket to the more commonly accepted cremains burial, the city would not need to address new cemetery spaces for quite some time (+50yrs).

Other noted national trends that may be considered for Greenhill Cemetery:

- Digital information, web pages and kiosks
- Genealogical surveys, historians and families looking into history of area
- Columbarium's
- Going green with biodegradable choices in urns and caskets
- Creating a more park like setting and getting away from "packing them in"
- More families are going with scattering of ashes and purchasing memorial stones