



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: February 26, 2014

TIME: 11:30 am

LOCATION: Recreation Center large conference room – 920 Boulder Drive

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes from the January 15, 2014 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. FYI – Release from WYDOT concerning cyclist crossing at 13th Street.
2. Review of Chapter 5 – Introduction.

New business:

1. Public Comments

Next Meeting Date: March 12, 2014

CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 15, 2014
Minutes of Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amber Travsky, Bill Gribb, Dan McCoy, Dave Hammond, Joe Lord, Mike Moeller, Vicki Henry

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Amy Williamson, Evan O'Toole, Peggy McCrackin, Nadia Kaliszewski

CITY OF LARAMIE STAFF PRESENT: Paul Harrison, Parks & Recreation Director; Derek Teini, Senior Planner; Eric Jaap, Civil Engineer; David Schott, Parks Manager; Audem Gonzales, Assistant Planner; Randy Hunt, Community Development Director; Charles Bloom, Senior Planner; Mel Owen, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Amanda Harper

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Hammond at 11:37 a.m.

Consent Agenda:

1) Approval of the minutes from the November 20, 2013 meeting.

Motion by Lord, second by Moeller, that the consent agenda be approved. Motion carried 7-0.

Regular Agenda:

1) Discussion of Chapter 4: Parks, trails, recreation and natural areas, classifications, standards and service areas.

Teini introduced Chapter 4 and reminded the Committee that the editing sub-committee had already reviewed this chapter; the full Committee should now be reviewing for content changes or additions. The Committee reviewed Chapter 4 and noted the following changes to be made:

- Sub-sections within the Chapter should be given headings.
- The date of the NRPA standards referenced should be included in order to avoid confusion with later editions.
- When referencing other City documents the style should be consistent (underlined, italicized, etc); hyperlinks to the City documents should be pursued where possible.
- A statement noting that park facility improvement lists are not prioritized in any order.
- Under neighborhood park standards, curb cuts are listed twice.
- The phrase "might include" needs to be added to the introduction before all park standard lists.
- The Committee concurred to leave the Trailhead section within the trail and pathways section.
- A table showing the distribution of sports fields should either be included in this chapter or referenced by page number within this chapter.
- Optimist Dog Park should be listed as an example of community dog parks.
- A brief history of how the Laramie Skate Park was developed should be included within the text.
- The different age standards for playground equipment should be referenced within the text.
- The section on the Cemetery should be rephrased to make it clear there will be an additional Cemetery space; the old location will not be changing.
- On page 16, the size of Jacoby Golf Course should be noted in acres.
- On page 18, an educational component should be added into the description of Preserves.
- The importance of community education should also be referenced in the section on Bike Lanes.
- Bike Lane standards should state the double white lines for lanes are the preferred standard.
- On page 25, Rural Trail Standards should specify these areas are for non-motorized usage only.
- The word "gravel" should not be used within the rural trail section; "crushed fines" should be consistently used throughout the trail section.

- On page 26, under Pedestrian Ways standards, the goal of improving ADA accessibility should be listed.
- On page 26, it should list the option to allow for *separate* bike paths under in-park paths.
- The phrase "in-park paths" should always be hyphenated when used throughout the document.
- All references throughout the document to "cycle" should instead be changed to "bicycle".
- On page 32, personal trainers should be added to the section on adult fitness.
- On page 38, the Wyoming State Statute should be referenced by number.

The Committee noted grammar and usage corrections during the review which were recorded so these changes could be made.

Motion by Moeller, second by Travsky, to approve Chapter 4 with the corrections noted.
Motion carried 6-0, (McCoy absent).

New Business

- 1) **Public Comments:** None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mel Owen
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation - City of Laramie

From: Ross Doman [mailto:ross.doman@wyo.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 9:33 AM

To: Ross Doman

Subject: RELEASE FROM WYDOT

WYDOT advises Laramie cyclists that the main bike route servicing the University of Wyoming campus is now made safer and simpler by subtraction.

That is, no more puck actuation as a method to call for a green light when seeking to cross Grand Avenue at 13th Street.

The installation eighteen months ago of roadway sub-surface pucks and stand up pedestal buttons marked the first time on the WYDOT system that actuators dedicated specifically for cyclists were installed.

Observation since then indicates that the pucks are less effective than the pedestal buttons and thus, have been shut off.

According to WYDOT spokesman, Ross Doman, the pucks, which trigger magnetically to request a green light, proved frustrating for people on bikes made of composite materials. The pucks were also difficult to locate after a snowfall and they occasionally triggered in error by parked vehicles or large trucks.

Doman said that these problems have resisted attempts to correct and it is clear that most cyclists prefer the pedestal style buttons which are easily activated astride a bicycle on the right side curb of 13th Street both north and south of Grand Avenue.

The puck decal markings will remain until warmer weather allows their removal.

Henceforth, please use the pedestal actuators.

People with questions are encouraged to contact Ross Doman at ross.doman@wy.gov

Existing & Future Parks, Trails, Recreation and Natural Areas & Service Area Inventory & Needs Assessment

Based on the previously presented information a synopsis of the Laramie Community in relationship to geography, population and other characteristics can be ascertained. This snapshot provides a glimpse of what Laramie is and how these characteristics apply to our Recreation System. Furthermore, the community characteristics can be found integrated into the Parks Standards. Emphasis on Neighborhood Parks versus Community Parks, the role of Natural Areas and the importance of Bike and Pedestrian Ways all indicate standards tailored to Laramie. The combination of Laramie Community characteristics, park standards and community responses has created the examination of Laramie by Service Areas (SA), the Existing Facilities, and appropriate future facilities. This information provides the roadmap needed for each service area to develop. Secondly, existing community facilities, such as the Ice Rink and Event Center, the Recreation Center and the Cemetery, are also analyzed and recommendations provided.

Service Area Inventory and Needs Assessment

For the City of Laramie and the surrounding community, serving all areas of the community equitably regarding parks and recreation has been the fundamental element and the most important goal of this plan. With the development of the 1982, *Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation & Open Space*, this goal was a key factor in establishing new facilities and programs.

The 1982 plan further supports this goal, stating that maintaining equity in parks and recreation service to all geographic areas of the community, was desired.

To aid in this key goal, the City of Laramie established “Service Areas” in the 1982 plan, which divided the community based on geography, major barriers to travel and other physical features. By dividing up the community in this manner, a more manageable approach to providing parks and recreation services to delineated areas of the community could be undertaken.

In the 1982 plan, “Service Areas” were based on the same general criteria used for the Service Areas proposed in this new Plan. As stated before, barriers, such as major roads, the rail road and the Laramie River were all noted as a hindrance to movement and essentially served as a boundary to community members, and ultimately access to parks and recreation facilities. If children, adults or anyone has an increased difficulty navigating across one of these features, it makes a noted feature a boundary. Establishing these barriers in this manner, provides staff and community members a way to evaluate how well each area is being/or can be served in the future. This evaluation method makes it clear that even when a neighborhood park is in close proximity to a home or household, it does not automatically mean that the neighborhood is served by that particular park.

By using this same basic set of criteria, an updated Service Area map was developed (Map xx.xx) for this Plan. The updates include accepting all areas in the City within a service area and incorporating areas within the 1 mile boundary in anticipation of future growth. These two major updates make the new map a much improved management tool, adding to the effectiveness of the Plan.

In addition to helping staff and the public evaluate the effectiveness of our parks system and park services within each service area, the creation of Service Areas also provides a direct way to distribute money or land received through parkland dedication requirements for residential subdivisions. In 2010 the City of Laramie adopted its first requirement for dedication of park land or in-lieu fee for new residential subdivisions. Based on the number of units per subdivision, a [subdivider] developer can either provide physical land or in-lieu fees for future park use or land purchase. When land or money is given, it must remain within the same Service Area of the development so that it can directly benefit the [subdivision] development that contributed the land or money. Creating a system in this fashion guarantees equitable distribution of funds based on where the growth is occurring versus what area can convince a given Council that their park should come first.

Service Area Analysis

Laramie and the surrounding Community is divided into 25 Service Areas (Map xx.xx) that are comprised of all land within city limits as well as all land within one mile of the city limits. Service Areas range from 408 acres in size to 5,631 acres. As stated previously, the service areas were developed based on major barriers to [travel] movement and other physical features encountered by residents trying to reach a park within or near their residence. In the succeeding portions of this chapter, a more detailed analysis of each park Service Area has been provided. Within each Service Area analysis the location, general characteristics, size, population based on the 2010 United States Census Bureau, growth projections as well as current and future needs related to different park facilities are presented. In addition, a spatial analysis was conducted that analyzed the number of citizens within a set distance from a park facility (.25, .5 and 1 mile) along with analyzing the distance between park facilities to identify “park desert” areas in the

City. Finally, a summary of each SA provides a snapshot of how that SA is currently serving the area needs and what is desirable for the future.

Service Area Growth Projections

For each Service Area, population (based on the 2010 US Census) was used as one measure of the parkland needs analysis. Using current population numbers, and per person acreage needs, and a standard unique to Laramie (utilizing nationally recognized standards), current acreage needs can be evaluated for each Service Area.

Additionally, population projections were calculated for each Service Area in order to anticipate future growth over the next 40 years (2010-2050). Although anticipated growth is only an estimate, the population projections assist planning for the anticipated need within the service area. For each Service Area, information such as zoning, future land use, land availability, infrastructure availability and constraints and other factors were used to help predict future [growth] development. For each Service Area population growth projections have been grouped into three categories; Low (<500 people), Medium (500-1000 people) and High (>1000 people).

Service Area (SA)	Current Population per SA (2010)	Staff's Estimate Pop Increase per SA (in 2050)	
1	3019	200	Residential Development
2	1147	200	Residential Development Residential Development, Vacant
3	1749	1000	Land Residential Redevelopment, Some
4	1077	125	Vacant Property Residential Redevelopment, Other
5	4549	100	Area Limited
6	5017	2000	Student Housing, Residential.

			Development
7	1915	400	Grove, Other Area Limited
8	4371	500	Multi-Fam. Res. Development
9	4442	400	Residential Development Multi-Family Residential Development. & Residential
10	371	1500	Development Limited County Residential.
11	586	50	Development
12	1961	500	Residential Development Residential Development & County
13	302	500	Residential Development Residential Development. & County
14	259	500	Residential Development Limited County Residential
15	102	100	Development Limited County Residential
16	252	50	Development Multi-Family Residential
17	725	100	Development, Limited
18	379	100	Residential Development, Limited Residential Development, Limited,
19	25	150	County Commercial Residential Development & County
20	18	500	Residential Development
21	1	500	Residential Development Limited County Residential
22	11	25	Development
23	2	0	Data Park
24	1	0	Data Park
25	0	500	Residential Development
	Total Increase	10000	

Population and Spatial Analysis

Each Service Area was analyzed for park land needs using two main methods; population and spatial analysis. The Service Area analysis consists of existing and future parkland needs based upon population projections, geographic location and size. In addition, based on the results of

the two analytical methods as well as other factors, e.g., public comment, future parks and facilities were sited within each Service Area. Please Note: **All proposed Parks, Trails, and Facilities within this document are conceptual in nature and not accessible for public use. Locations may change based upon opportunities/constraints at the time of development.** The conceptual locations should be considered tentative placeholders within each Service Area.

Population

As described in the previous section and detailed below, each Service Area was analyzed based on existing and projected population. For each type of park; Playlot, Neighborhood Park and Community Park acreage per 1,000 persons is given. This standard was established by the Ad Hoc Committee and is based on accepted national standards, which were then tailored to the Laramie Community. Less emphasis was given to Community Parks and a higher priority given to Neighborhood Parks and Playlot. By using these standards, the existing and future needs analysis can be completed.

PARK TYPE	ACRES/1,000 Population
Community Park	3-5 Acres
Neighborhood Park	3 Acres
Playlot	.32 Acres (14,000 sq. feet)

Although the population analysis provides a good indication of existing and future needs within a Service Area, not all Service Areas analyzed by population provide the same results. In instances where the existing and/or future population is low, acreage needs inherently end up low for the Service Area. Often this scenario leads to a situation in which even the addition of one

Neighborhood Park, far exceeds the acreage needs for the Service Area. In these instances, providing more than the needed acreage is acceptable, with emphasis given to the spatial needs of the SA versus just the population need. Additionally, because population projections are only estimates, all Service Areas are prepared, for unanticipated growth.

It should also be noted that although Parks within the community were analyzed based on population, many of the other areas described in the plan such as recreation centers, Natural Areas, Bike Lanes and Shared Use Paths were not. With standards established for other areas in the previous chapter, a direct relationship between population and these facilities were not apparent. In other cases, such as Natural Areas, factors such as importance/significant to the community were used to determine if an area should be designated within a Service Area.

Spatial

The second analysis method used, was based on the spatial relationship between parks and the established standard area it serves. As described in the Standards chapter of this Plan for each park type, a standard distance of service was established for each type of park. Based on the established distance of one mile for Community Parks, one-half mile for Neighborhood Parks and one-quarter mile for Playlots, a spatial analysis for each Service Area could be completed for existing and future park locations. Using these distances and each park type, areas of deficiency were identified based on existing and future parks locations within each Service Area. Based on these identified deficiencies, future park sites were located to maximize coverage for all citizens, creating the maps displayed in this Plan.

However, some Service Areas do not meet the spatial coverage, even with the addition of future Parks. This situation is due to the large size of some of the Service Areas, more specifically

those areas near the edge of Laramie and their limited existing and future populations.

Considering each of these factors, a balance between equitable spatial coverage and providing too many parks based on population had to be achieved. Often this balance led to more than the needed number and acreage of parks for the Service Area, even though spatial coverage is deficient.

PARK TYPE	SERVICE DISTANCE RADIUS	DISTANCE IN BLOCKS
Community Parks	1 mile	~16 block
Neighborhood Parks	½ Mile	~8 Blocks
Playlots	1/4 mile	~4 Blocks