

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails

MASTER PLAN



CITY OF DELTA COLORADO / DECEMBER 2017

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SPECIAL THANKS

To the entire community for their input throughout this project and continued support of the City of Delta's park, recreation, open space, and trails system.

Partially funded by:



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01 /

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the City of Delta's new Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan! Thanks to all who are committed to improving our community, and those who participated in the process of defining a future vision for our system of public outdoor amenities. I am proud of the system of parks, recreational and cultural facilities, trails and natural areas that we have created over the years, and know that our families, children and grandchildren will value our continued efforts to provide places for fun activities, improving our health, strengthening community bonds, and interacting with nature for many years to come. We have come a long way since the Bill Heddles Recreation Center was opened in 1993, and it is time to focus on our outdoor recreation system.

In the pages that follow, you will find a summary of the process, data that was gathered to define the needs in the community, and recommendations that have been identified as high priorities for investments in the future to continue to grow and thrive as a city.

- Wilma Erven, Parks, Recreation and Golf Director

WHY PLAN?

In June 2017 the City of Delta's Park, Recreation, and Golf Department embarked on its inaugural plan for parks, outdoor recreation, open space, and trails to identify needs and establish priorities for future actions and investments. This comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan will guide departmental budget recommendations over the next 10 to 20 years, as well as assist in obtaining additional funding and grants. While the City boasts a beautiful and expansive system, aging infrastructure and limited staff resources have created a substantial deferred maintenance list. Taking care of what currently exists is a high priority.

At the same time, the community would like to establish a long-term vision with new outdoor recreational opportunities, which will continue to provide a high quality of life for residents, as well as attract new families, visitors and employers to Delta. Developed parks and recreational facilities are minimal within unincorporated Delta County, so nearby County residents rely heavily on amenities within the City of Delta, and they also pay sales taxes that support the city's operations.

This plan sets forth recommendations to improve the existing parks and recreation system while also identifying opportunities and strategies to provide parks and recreation opportunities to all citizens - present and future. This plan can also help leverage the city's parks, recreation, trails and open space system to achieve broader community goals, such as public health and safety, community pride, and economic development.



PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Phase 1: Foundations

Inventory and Analysis
Needs Assessment
Draft Vision and Goals

Phase 2: Choices

Conceptual Plans for Key
Community Parks
Preliminary Projects and Costs
Initial Financial Assessment

Phase 3: Master Plan

Final Vision, Goals and General Actions
Systemwide Vision Plan
Priority Projects and Costs
Implementation Plan
Draft Plan Production, Public
Review and Adoption

PLANNING PROCESS

An inclusionary process invited the community to have a voice in the future of the parks, recreation, open space, and trails system.

Phase 1 established the foundation for the plan by documenting existing adopted plans, public outdoor recreational resources, community needs, and the city's adopted vision statement. It began with listening sessions to gather a sense of what amenities are important to residents and their families. A survey was mailed to every household in Delta in order understand their perceptions of the existing system, what they use, what they want more of, and what is most important to them. Delta County residents also had the opportunity to participate in the survey online. The response rate was high, resulting in almost 600 completed surveys. Focus group discussions were held with representatives from athletic, youth, and outdoor recreation groups. A comprehensive list was prepared by city staff of basic maintenance, renovation, and replacement items, with priority placed on meeting code and health and safety standards. Data regarding the maintenance staff size, and parks, trails and facilities provided by three other communities was compiled. These similar communities were compared to Delta's level of service and staffing. The city's vision statement was supported by draft goals and actions that were refined through the rest of the planning process. These statements are included Chapter 3, Plan Recommendations.

Phase 2 identified potential actions and engaged stakeholders to make choices. During workshops the CAC and residents were asked to identify how three of the largest parks (Confluence, Cleland, and Cottonwood/Riverbend), and the system-wide trails system could be improved. Comments on other parks were also obtained. From this input, conceptual programmatic plans were developed for the three parks in conjunction with budgetary cost estimates. An overall draft master plan for the city's planning area was developed. This plan shows potential trails as well as key urban, on-street bicycle connections. The CAC and City Council helped to prioritize near and longer term actions and projects with the knowledge that additional funding sources will be required to implement them.

Phase 3 focused on preparing this master plan document and developing specific recommendations in more detail, including refining the priorities and outlining options to implement the plan.

A Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) that represented diverse interests was formed to serve as a sounding board, and to help envision and prioritize potential futures of the community's facilities over four meetings. CAC members were asked to encourage participation by other citizens and serve as ambassadors for implementing the plan. Three public meetings attracted more than 200 people in total, and included breakout group sessions, comment sheets, and opportunities for writing ideas on maps and other exhibits. City Council provided input on the draft recommendations during a worksession, and adopted the plan in December 2017.





02 / FOUNDATION

This chapter established the foundation for recommendations regarding the need for improvements, modifications, and additions to the City's outdoor parks, recreation and trails system. Many factors are considered, including:

- Population and demographic characteristics of residents;
- The community's level of satisfaction and priorities for future enhancements;
- The quantity and quality of existing park, recreation, open space, and trail resources;
- A comparison of the level of service provided by Delta to that provided by peer communities;
- Existing direction established in adopted plans and other documents;
- Accessibility to parks and recreation amenities by residents; and
- The results of a community-wide survey conducted as part of this master plan effort, as well as the results of previously conducted surveys, and input received during public meetings, Citizens Advisory Committee work sessions and meetings with City Council.

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION FACILITIES HIGHLIGHTS

- 148 acres of Developed Parks
- 201 acres of Open Space / Natural Areas
- 320 acres of Golf Courses, Cemeteries, Special Uses
- One 18-hole and one 9-hole Disc Golf Courses
- 6.6 miles of Trail
- 7 Neighborhood / Community Parks
- 6 Mini Parks / Plazas
- 6 HOA Parks

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The City of Delta has a population of nearly 9,000 residents. After the City experienced strong population growth in the early 1990s, the population decreased by 0.3% between 2010 to 2013 due to local economic factors (Figure 1).

The potential for future growth looks bright. America Community Survey (ACS) of the Census Bureau population estimates indicate that Delta County had approximately 30,214 residents in 2015. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) population forecasts show that Delta County population could increase by 12,000 to 47,601 by 2025, and possibly be 52,962 by 2030, an increase of more than 22,000 people. If one-quarter of these new residents locate in Delta, the city could have 4,000 to 5,000 more residents within the next ten to fifteen years. To attract new residents, employers, and jobs, cities in the region will be competing to provide a high quality of life represented by ample opportunities for recreational and cultural activities, and pedestrian and bicycle friendly environments, among other factors.

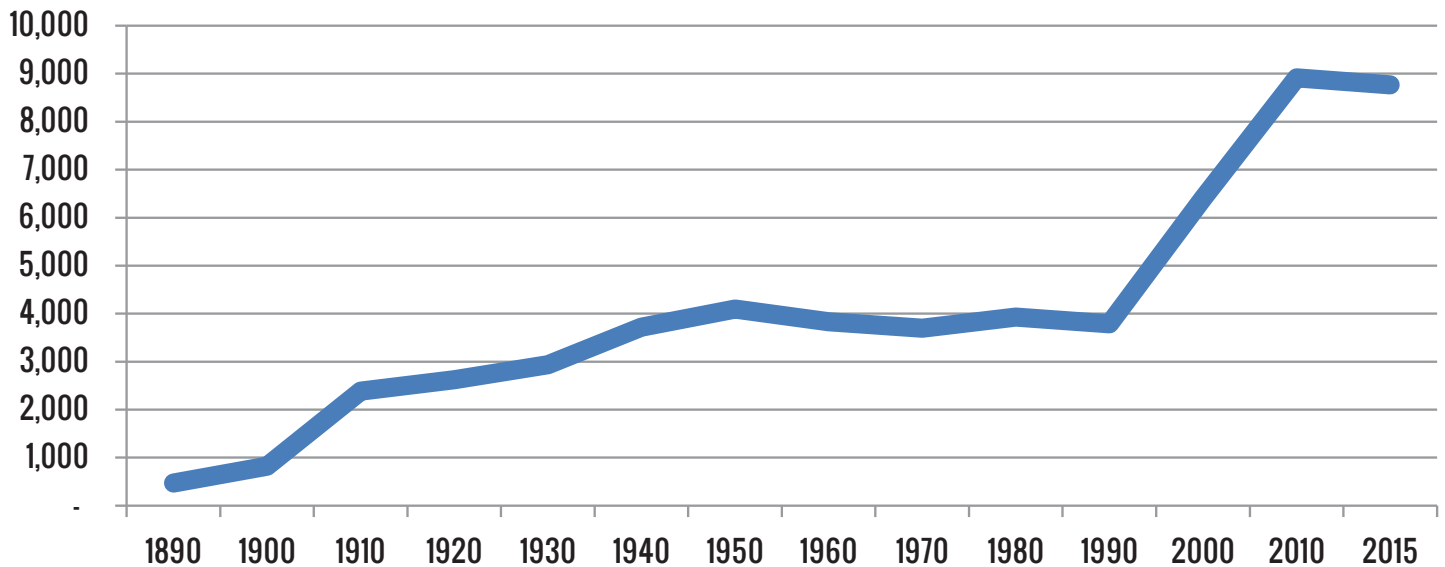


Figure 1 / City of Delta Historic Population Growth

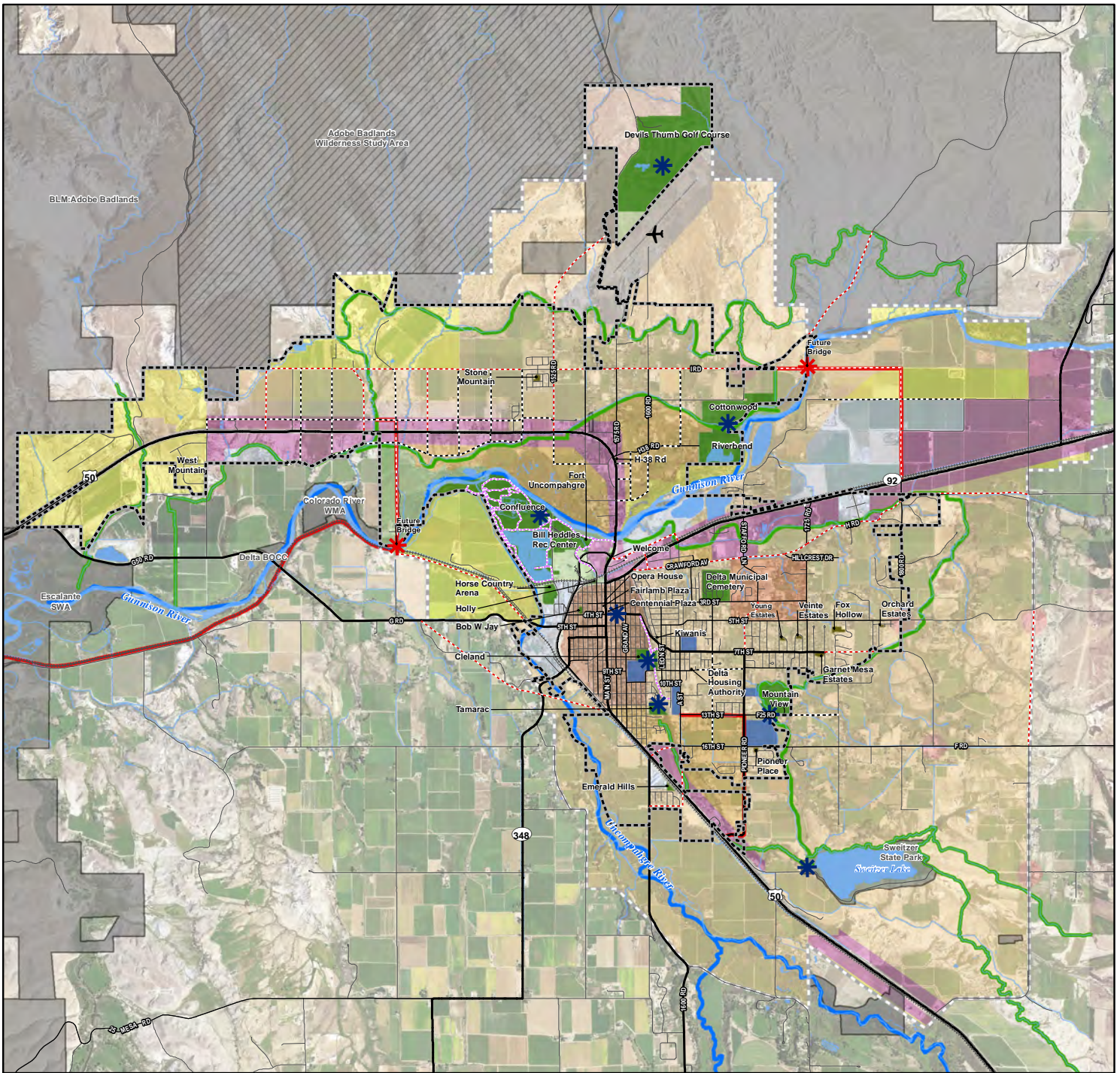
Source: DOLA



According to the results of the community survey, people in households that have one or more child under 18 are higher users of Delta’s recreational facilities; a common trait across park and recreation systems. Almost 20% of the population is under the age of 18, and Delta’s median age is 43 (versus Colorado’s median age of 36) (ACS, 2015). However, the age groups that have experienced the largest population growth are 55+ and age 10 and under (DOLA). With slightly more seniors over the age of 65 (22%) in Delta compared to the US (14%), and the fact that our aging population is increasing, providing activities and facilities that keep seniors active and healthy, should be balanced with the need to provide opportunities for the other age segments of the community (ACS, 2015).

Delta is becoming more culturally diverse over time. As of 2015, 19% of City’s population is Hispanic and 81% is Non-Hispanic. However, as the largest share of the population, non-Hispanic white populations still have seen the largest growth.

The average median household income is \$40,806 in 2015 according to the ACS, which is slightly lower than the County (\$42,389) and significantly lower than the state (\$63,909). Delta has a larger share of people earning less than \$30,000 as compared statewide. About 31% of Delta’s labor force works within the City, with the largest industries for civilian employment being agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining, construction, and manufacturing. Higher income households are more active in baseball, football, tennis, biking, skate parks, fishing, and paddleboarding. Many of these activities have a relatively high cost of participation because of the equipment required, and the Nature Connection Survey results indicated that cost was a barrier to participation for some residents. Renters make greater use of bike skills courses, community gardens, fishing access areas, dog parks and off-leash areas, group camping areas, and river access points.



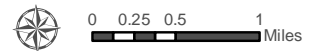
Legend

- Trail
- Major Road
- Local Road
- ++ Railroad
- River and Lakes
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Other Drainages
- Public Parks
- Subdivision/HOA Parks
- Schools
- City Boundary
- Planning Extent
- Other Public Lands
- WSA
- ★ Key Destinations
- ★ Future Bridge

- Planned Land Use**
- Downtown Core Area
 - Hwy Commercial Design District
 - Medical / Residential
 - Neighborhood Commercial Center
 - Commercial & Residential
 - High Density Residential
 - Medium Density Residential
 - Mobile Home Residential
 - Low Density Residential
 - Planned Industrial
 - County Commercial and Industry
 - Open Space

- Key Linear Features**
- River/Creek
 - Major Canal/Ditch Drainage
 - Road and Railroad
 - Proposed Principal/Minor Arterial
 - Proposed Local/Collector

Map 1 / Regional Context



CURRENT OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ASSETS

CITY PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Delta's location has always been a natural crossroads of western Colorado, stretching back to the days of the Utes and French fur traders along the Old Spanish Trail. The confluence of highways and rivers and the proximity to both mountains and scenic canyons make Delta a convenient and attractive destination and economic hub for residents, employers, and recreational tourists from across the region.

The City of Delta boasts 148 acres of developed parkland and 201 acres of open space/natural areas, much of which is in the large community parks. Of the natural areas, 44 acres is currently planned as the future Riverbend Park. Confluence Park serves as the epicenter of park and recreation facilities, and includes the lake, Bill Heddles Recreation Center, Fort Uncompahgre, the majority of the City's trail system, and associated parking. Mountain View Park and a portion of Cottonwood Park serve as the community's sports complexes offering baseball/softball and soccer, respectively. Located adjacent to the middle school complex and at the heart of the community, Cleland Park anchors the community core. Additional visual green space, such as the Kiwanis and Altursa properties, exist on city owned land however they are not maintained by the city.

The parks and recreation services were recently combined to create the Parks, Recreation & Golf Department. The department manages all outdoor recreation facilities, trails and parks, as well as facilities such as Bill Heddles Recreation Center, the golf course, the municipal cemetery, downtown plazas, and beautification programs such as medians, visual greenspace, and the flower pots on Main Street. The City provides a wide variety of outdoor recreational programming and facilities such as soccer fields, tennis courts, youth softball fields, and softball/baseball fields. These facilities and programs serve a large number of people in the Delta region. While the golf course is under this department, the golf course is not an element of this Master Plan. Similarly, a master plan for the Bill Heddles Recreation Center was developed in 2009 and is not included in this planning effort.

Map 1, Regional Context, shows the locations of parks in relationship to the future land use and transportation plan. It also depicts linear features that could potentially be considered for future trail corridors. A complete inventory of facilities and amenities and their condition by park was completed, which was used to develop a list of deferred maintenance and necessary upgrades that are necessary to address code, safety, and user experience deficiencies.

Table 1 lists the acreages and amenities that are available at the parks and Garnet Mesa Trail, and includes comments regarding the quality of the park and need for upgrades. A more comprehensive list is contained in Chapter 3 where specific projects are listed for each park.

HOA/PRIVATE PARKS

Some homeowner associations (HOAs) have constructed parks within their subdivisions, resulting in six HOA parks throughout the community. These parks are typically small pocket or neighborhood parks, and primarily exist in the newer subdivisions around the City. However, only four of these parks are publicly accessible. Emerald Hills Park was originally built as an HOA park, and has since been turned over to the City through an agreement with the HOA. Rotary Park, owned and managed by Delta County within city limits, includes a playground and grass area.

TRAILS

The City maintains 6.3 miles trails. A majority of these trails are soft-surface, 8-foot wide, and located within Confluence Park. Delta's trail network is open to walker/joggers, and select trails are dedicated to equestrian use. Garnet Mesa Trail is considered Delta's crown jewel of the overall trail system. It is a well shaded, gravel path located along the slope of the mesa through the middle of the city, and provides a unique recreation experience in the region.

Table 1 / Acreages and Amenities

PARK NAME	ACRES	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION
MOUNTAIN VIEW PARK	38.0	Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion and picnic shelters • Playground • Turf Area • Horseshoe pits • Baseball/Softball Fields with bleachers, lighting, and scoreboards • Restrooms
CLELAND PARK	12.4	Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion • Playground • Sand Volleyball Courts • Tennis Courts • Horseshoe pits • Turf area • Sculptures • Restroom
CONFLUENCE PARK	237.2	Community Park with open space/natural area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion and picnic shelters • Playgrounds • Turf area • Skate Park • Dog Park (small and large) • Youth baseball fields • 18-hole disc golf course • Pedestrian and horse trail system • Basketball court • Pow Wow Arbor • Gazebo • Tennis courts • Outdoor fitness equipment • Confluence Lake • Gunnison River Boat Ramp/Access • Restrooms • Adjacent to Fort Uncompahgre, Bill Heddles Recreation Center, & Horse Country Arena
COTTONWOOD PARK	61.4	Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer fields & goals • Concession stand • Maintenance Shed/Restroom
TAMARAC PARK	7.1	Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf area • Natural area with walking paths • 9-hole disc golf course
EMERALD HILLS PARK	1.7	Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Shelter • Playground • Turf Area

PARK NAME	ACRES	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION
BOB JAY PARK	1.1	Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Shelter • Basketball Court • Playground • Turf area
GARNET MESA TRAIL OPEN SPACE PARCEL	6.1	Open Space/ Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft surface trail
RIVERBEND PARK	54.7	Open Space/ Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undeveloped at this time. • Lake • Gunnison River Access
HOLLY PARK	0.6	Mini Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Shelter
WELCOME PARK	1.9	Mini Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Shelter
CENTENNIAL PLAZA	<0.1	Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undeveloped
FAIRLAMB PLAZA	<0.1	Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pergola & Flower Pots • Water Feature • Benches
OPERA HOUSE PARK	<0.1	Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bench • Water Feature • Flowbeds
H-38 RD	0.23	Visual Green Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowerbeds

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The City kicked off the project's outreach efforts with focus group meetings held with representatives from athletic, youth, and outdoor recreation groups. Open houses were held in June and August, which were attended by more than 200 people. A community-wide survey, which collected nearly 600 City and County resident responses, helped to define community priorities for outdoor recreation amenities, guide budget recommendations, and determine the best use of limited funding for constructing and maintaining parks and recreational facilities. The full survey report is available on the city's website <http://www.cityofdelta.net/parks.html>.

Throughout the public process, residents of the City showed a great appreciation for, and were somewhat satisfied with the city's parks, recreation, open space, and trail facilities. Approximately two-thirds of survey respondents are satisfied with the level of maintenance and quality of the park system. Comments often reflected the need to maintain existing park and recreation facilities. Improvements to existing parks are valued 3 to 1 over building new parks. Figure 2 summarizes the level of satisfaction of the survey respondents.

DELTA'S COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Trails and Connectivity - more trails, plus pave some

Maintenance, Restrooms and Playground Upgrades - key focus
on Confluence, Cleland, and Cottonwood Parks

More Festivals, Concerts, Cultural Activities, and Events

Increased access to the Gunnison River for rafting, kayaking, and fishing

New Opportunities - Climbing, Archery, Bicycling, and Outdoor Water Play

Group Camping associated with Special Events

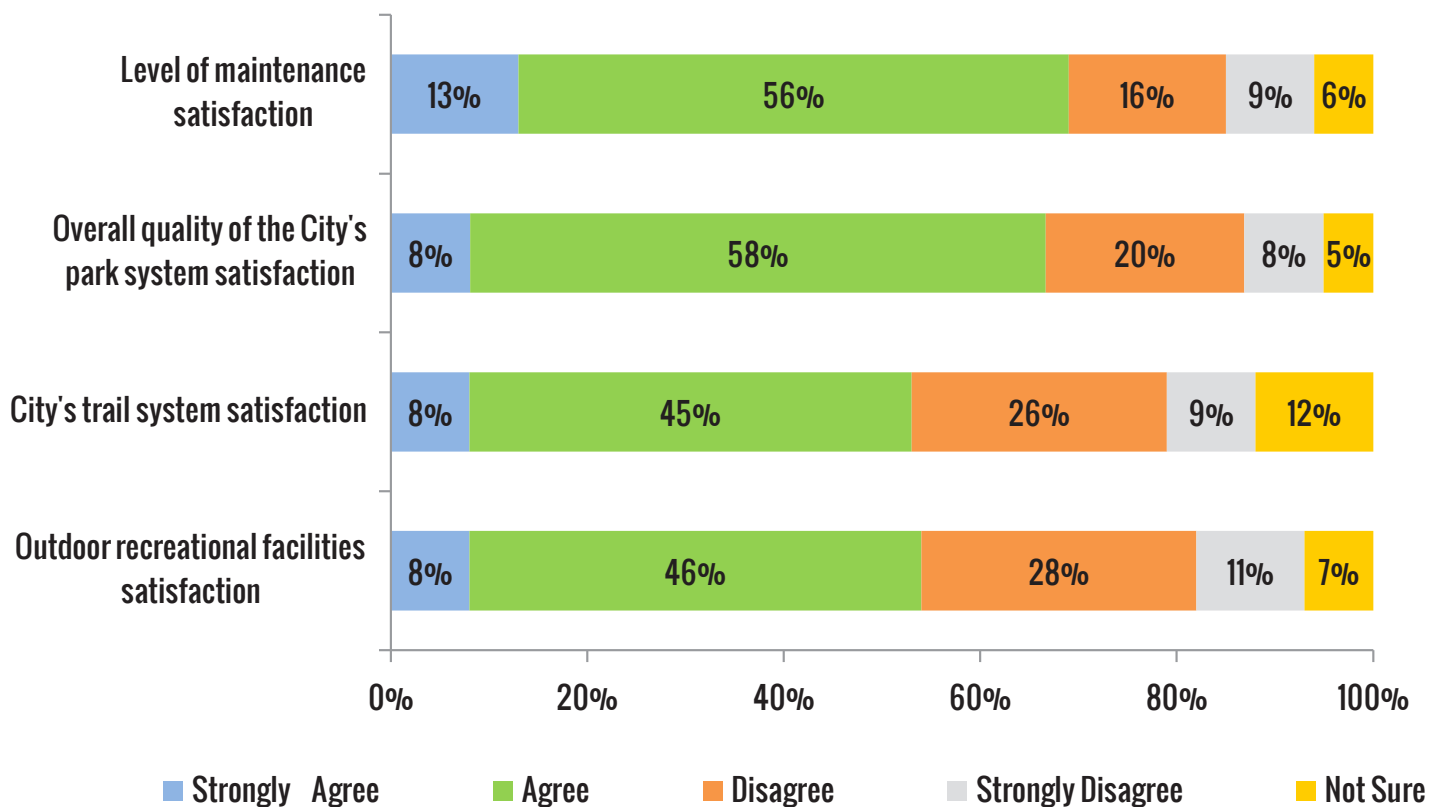


Figure 2 / Satisfaction with Parks, Trails, Maintenance, Facilities

As shown in Figure 3, Delta area residents' top 10 activities are using picnic facilities, natural surface trails, natural open space areas, paved trails, festival event spaces, passive parks, fishing access, river access points, outdoor water play areas, and playgrounds. Interestingly, the facilities that were identified as lacking in the community did not directly correlate to their current activities. Figure 4 lists the facilities/activities that the community feels are lacking. Climbing features was listed as the highest need (91%), followed by outdoor water play (84%), bicycle connections (76%), archery courses (75%), group camping areas (74%), bike skills course (73%), and outdoor performance facility (73%). Basketball courts, community gardens, festival event spaces, paved trails, paddleboarding/kayaking, river access points, outdoor sand volleyball, horseshoe pits and natural surface trails were identified by 64% to 50% of the respondents.

Survey respondents were asked to identify the top three most important activities to their household, which identifies at a minimum, what Delta should provide in a high quality manner (Figure 5). Residents identified natural

surface trails (43%), playgrounds (22%), paved trails (21%), outdoor water play areas (20%), bicycle connections (19%), passive parks (18%), picnic facilities (18%), fishing access (16%), and natural open space areas (15%) as the very most important facilities. These all are self-directed activities that have low participation costs, and all but outdoor water play can occur throughout the seasons of the year. While many of the other activities rated lower in terms of importance, they are still needed and valued within the community, as discussed previously.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated why they do not use Delta's facilities more. The top five reasons are: a lack of features or facilities in which they are interested (38%); they do not know what is available (32%); poor maintenance (24%); lack of restrooms (23%); and safety concerns (18%).

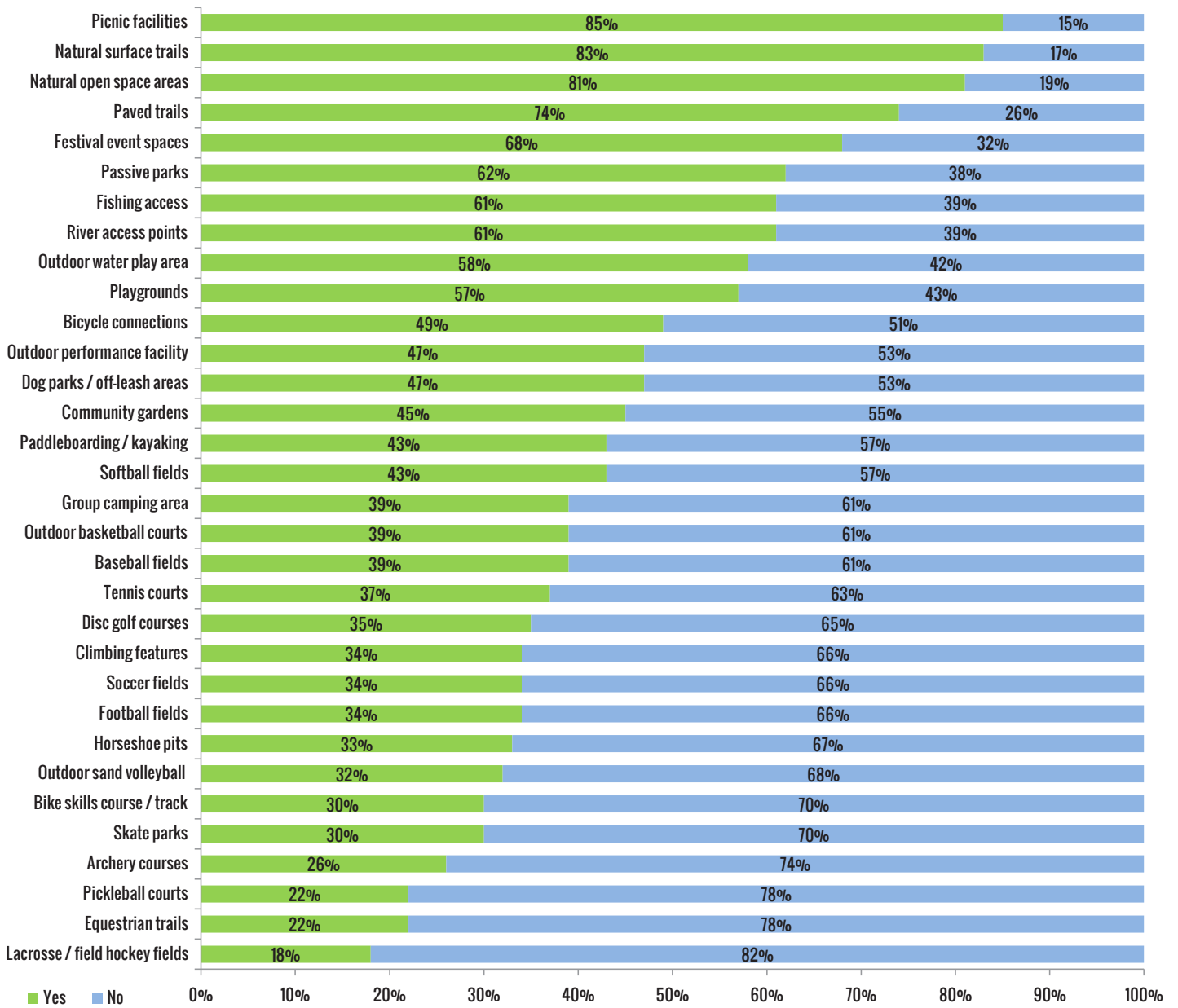


Figure 3 / Use of Facilities

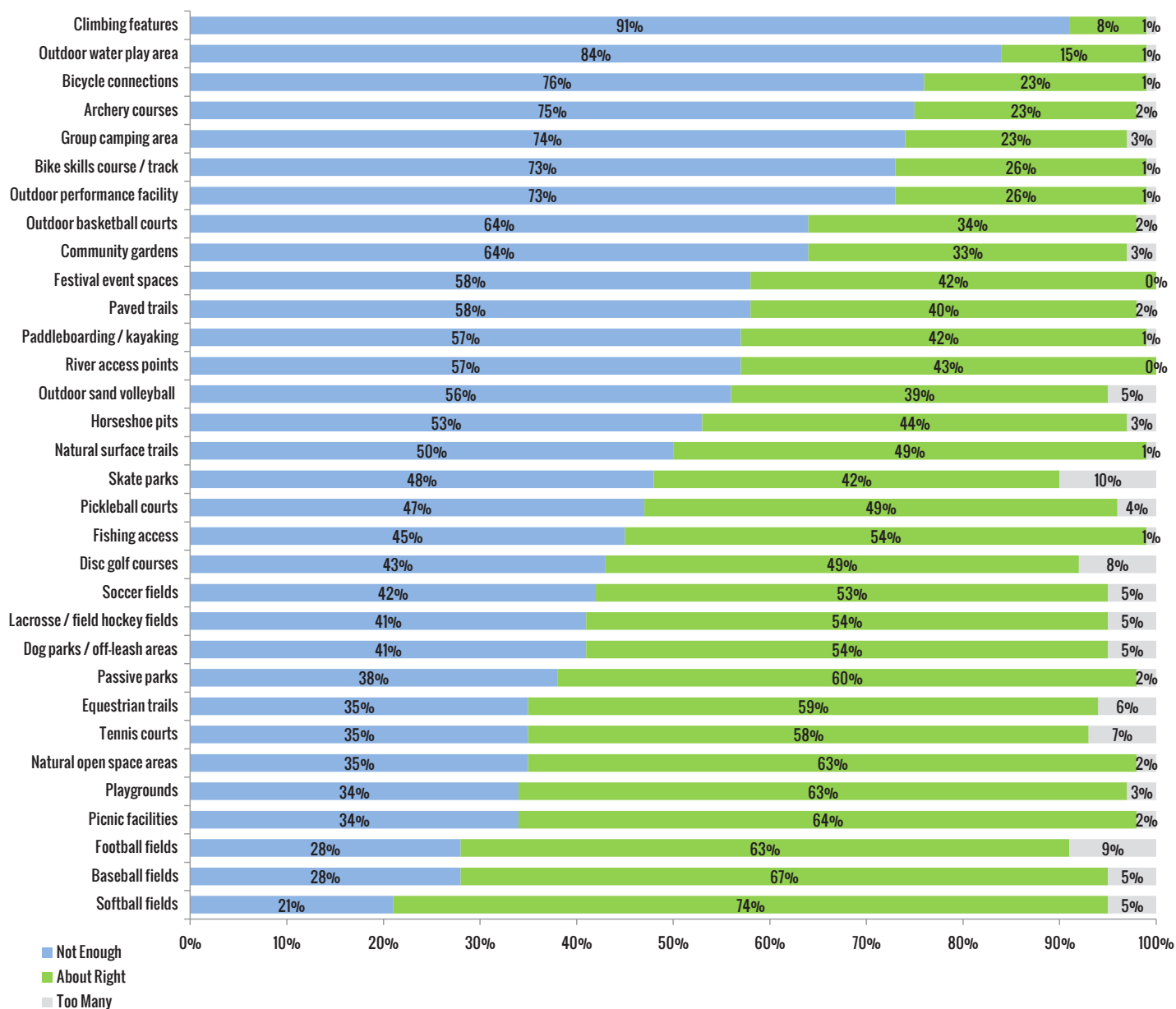


Figure 4 / Facility Needs

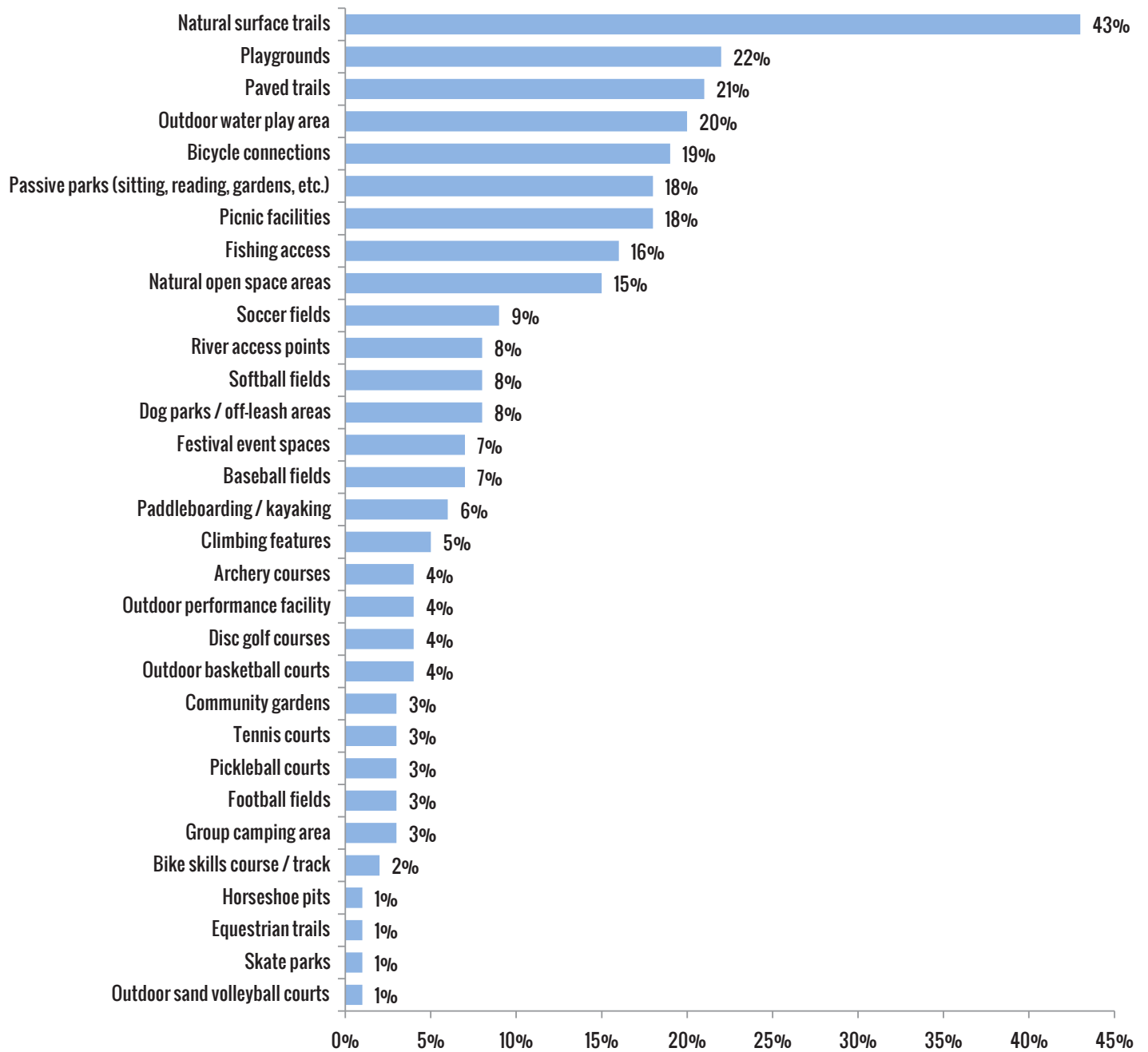


Figure 5 / Most Important Recreational Facility

Source: Youth Outdoor Network

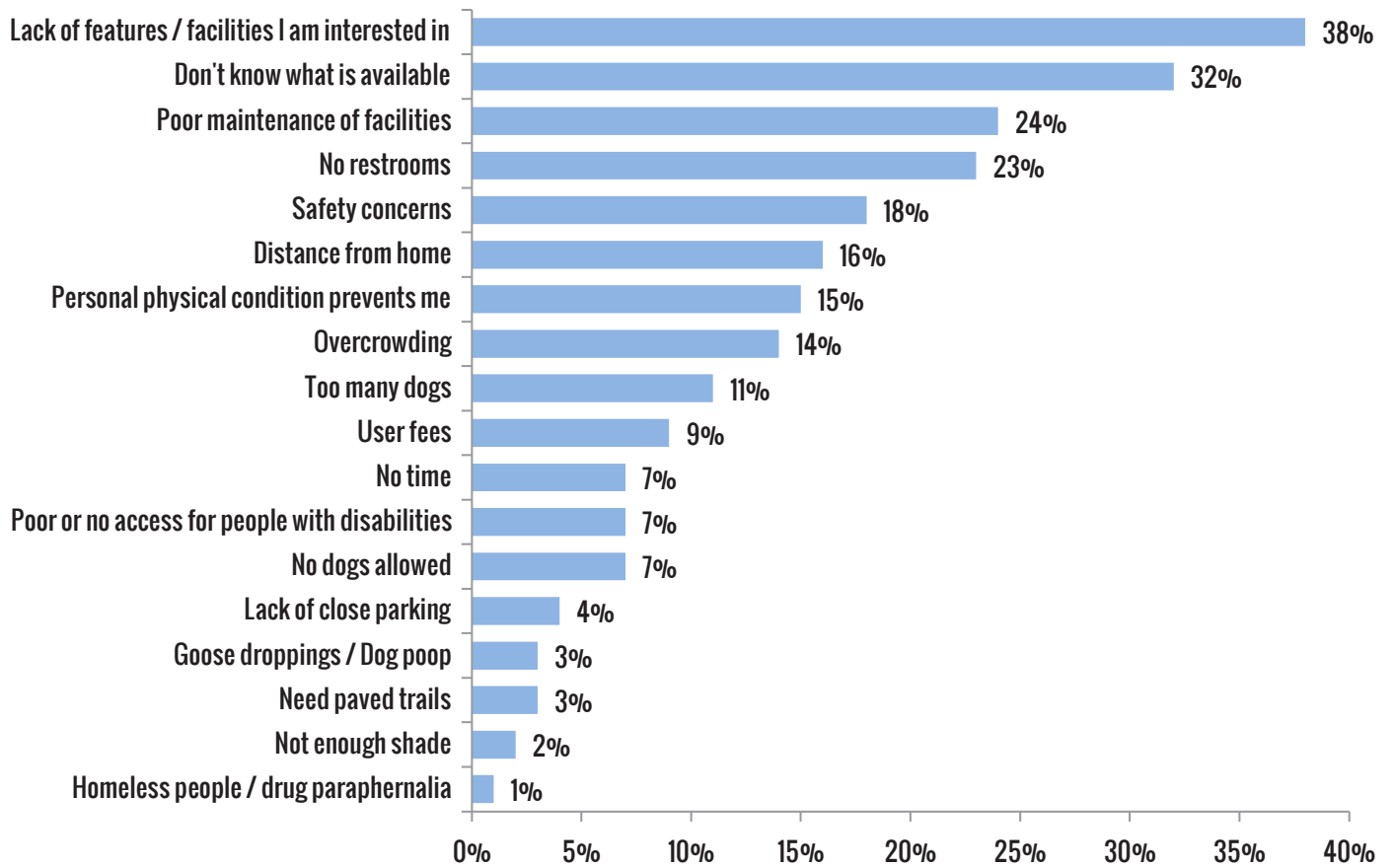


Figure 6 / Reasons for Not Making More Use of Delta Facilities

Source: Youth Outdoor Network

THE NATURE CONNECTION SURVEY

Delta County and the Delta County School District are collaborating to support a hub of environmental education and outdoor programming called “The Nature Connection.” The Nature Connection received a GOCO “Inspire Initiative” Grant to complete a survey throughout Delta County to create a more comprehensive plan to get more kids and their families outside. Figure 7, Table 2, and Table 3 separate responses to only include City of Delta responses. This survey and initiative have a focus on natural resource-based recreation, not organized sports and urban parks per se. However, the input received regarding the importance of natural resource-based outdoor recreation is consistent with this plan’s community survey and public feedback received throughout this master planning effort. The City of Delta Parks, Recreation, and Golf Department is assisting to implement recommendations of the Inspire Initiative.

The Nature Connection’s survey included 1,445 students ranging from ages 4-18 and 75 adults from Delta. The top activities for kids were playing outdoors, fishing, walking/running, and car camping (Figure 7). Along with these activities, adults also said they participated in gardening or farming.



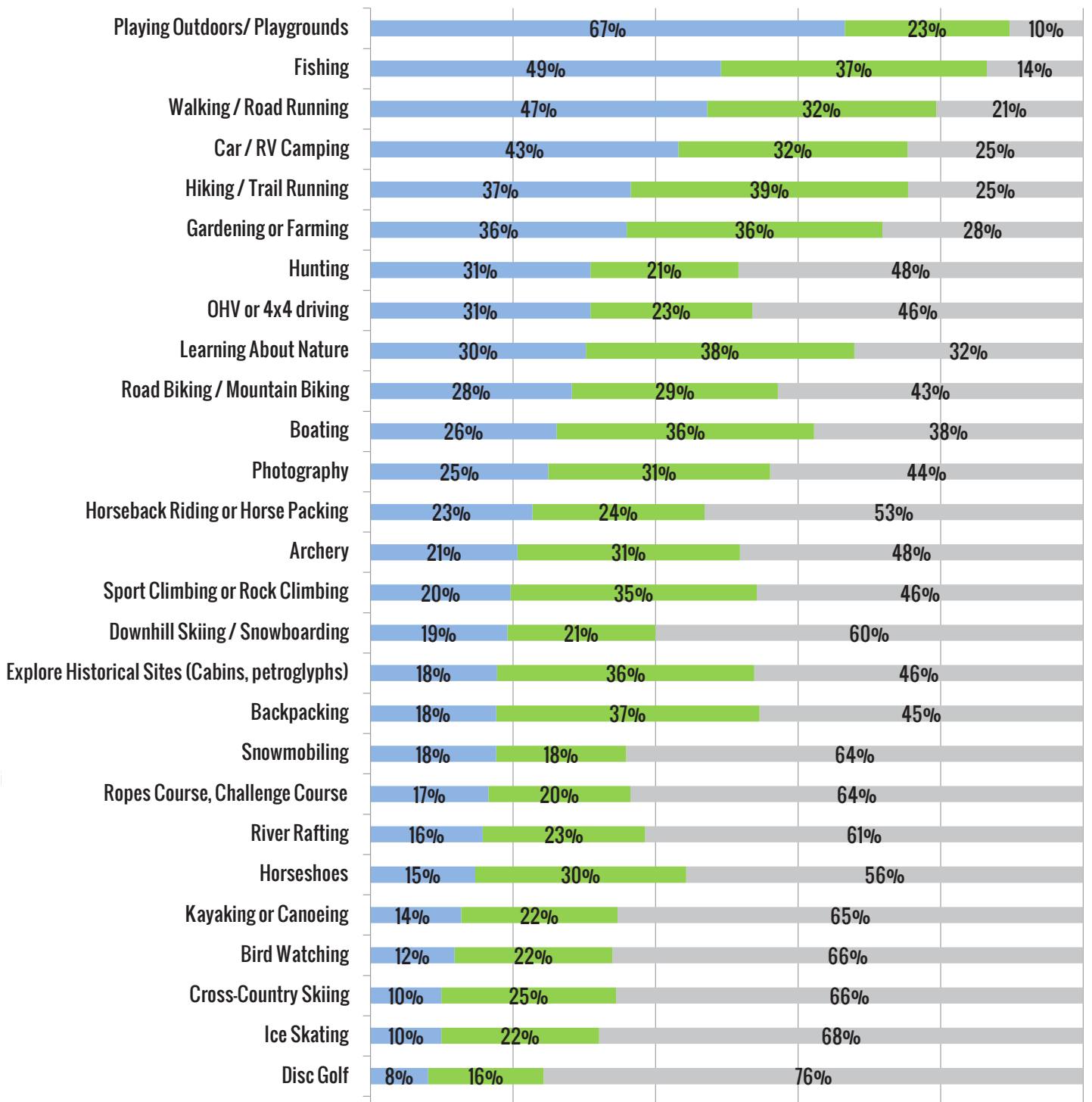


Figure 7 / Frequency of Participation by Ages Under 18

■ Do not participate
■ Rarely participate
■ Often participate

Youth under age 18 would like to try archery or target shooting, river rafting, and climbing (Table 2). Adults also rated these activities as desired, in addition to visiting historic or educational sites.

Table 2 / Desired New Activities by Ages Under 18

ANSWER OPTIONS	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSE COUNT
Archery or target shooting	23.1%	310
River rafting, canoeing or kayaking	17.1%	230
Climbing wall and ropes course	13.3%	178
Cross Country Skiing, downhill skiing, or snowshoeing	9.7%	130
Mountain biking or road biking	8.8%	118
Camping, backpacking, horse packing	8.0%	107
Fishing or hunting	6.4%	86
Visiting historical or educational sites	6.1%	82
Hiking	3.4%	46
Outdoor play	2.2%	29
Gardening or farming (agriculture)	2.0%	27

Source: The Nature Connection

The greatest barriers to outdoor recreation include lack of time, proper equipment, or money; therefore, providing a gear hub that had equipment available for use was suggested as a way to increase participation (Table 3).

Table 3 / Barriers to Outdoor Recreation by Ages Under 18

ANSWER OPTIONS	RESPONSE PERCENT	RESPONSE COUNT
Don't have time to do it	53.2%	706
Don't have the equipment	49.8%	662
Don't have enough money	43.7%	580
Want to do these activities with my friends, not by myself	20.4%	271
My family works on the weekends	18.7%	248
Can't get to the area where I can do the activity (transportation is a problem)	15.1%	201
Other (please specify)	14.8%	196
Don't know enough about the activity	13.6%	181
Don't feel safe	9.8%	130
Am afraid to try new things	9.4%	125
Need a map, I don't know where to go	8.0%	106

Source: The Nature Connection

YOUTH OUTDOOR NETWORK SURVEY

As part of the Youth Outdoor Network, an additional group of students were surveyed on the topics of trails, park, and recreational facilities within the City. Teens currently visit the Bill Heddles Recreation Center and Confluence Park more than other parks.

Participation is primarily driven by programming (such as sports leagues and classes) and the variety of activities (Figure 8). Proximity to a park or facility does not drive participation. As found in The Nature Connection's survey, access to equipment is by far the largest barrier to participation (Figure 9). Additional barriers to participation by teens includes being too busy, outside temperatures, participation by friends, and lack of affordability.

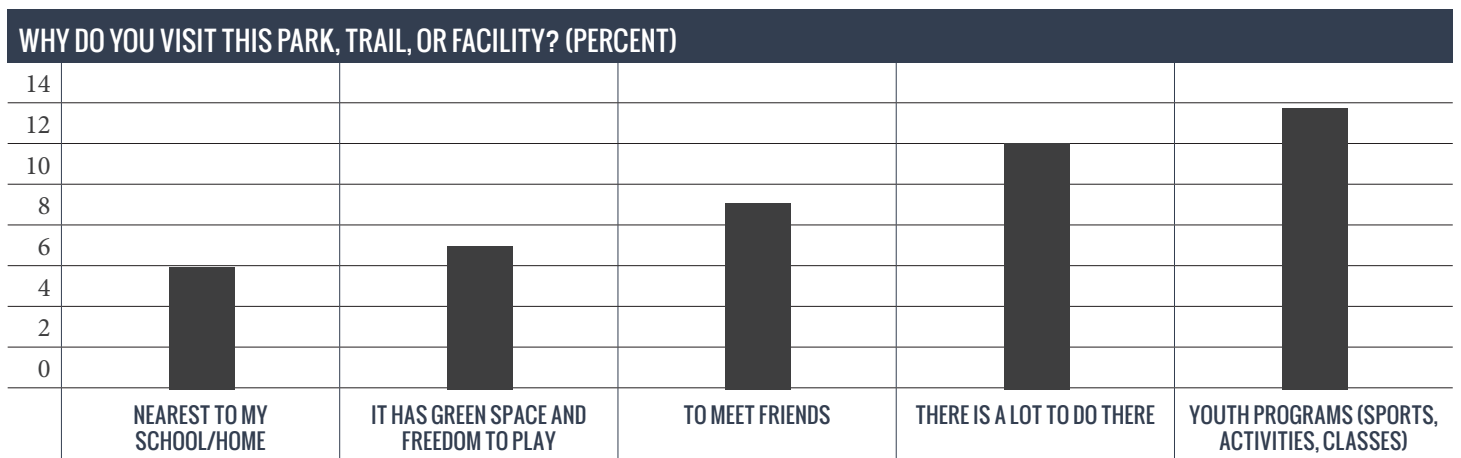


Figure 8 / Reasons for Visiting

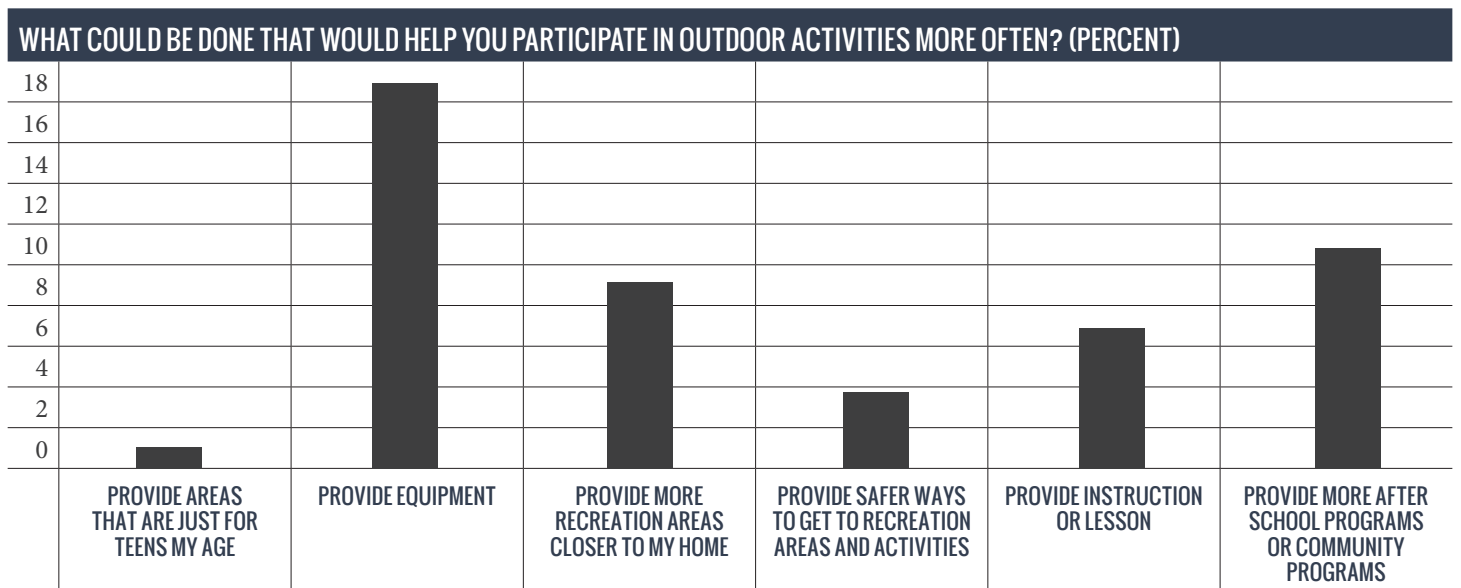


Figure 9 / Improved Participation

RECENT AND ONGOING MASTER PLANS AND STUDIES

Providing more trails and creating additional access to the Gunnison River were identified as needed by a significant number of the 2017 survey respondents. Three recent studies and plans have focused on enhancing river-related recreation and trails in the Delta area.

RIVERFRONT ACTIVATION FEASIBILITY STUDY (2015)

This study identified riverfront property along the Gunnison River between the US50 bridge upstream to Cottonwood Park for development with new tourism-oriented land uses, as well as recreational opportunities in the river and ponds that are adjacent to the river. This plan recommended a variety of water sports recreation activities to link the gravel ponds/lakes along the Gunnison River via trails. The gravel ponds were envisioned to host motorized water sports, including a slalom ski course and a wakeboarding cable system. A multi-purpose trail linked the activity areas. Private investments that were recommended included a hotel/conference center, restaurants, office space, and future retail and residential development to pay for infrastructure improvements and river/lake activation costs. The hotel/

conference center was envisioned to be a catalyst for the other proposed uses. Both public and private investment would be needed to finance the project.

DELTA GATEWAY RIVERFRONT PRELIMINARY DESIGN (2016)

This project was completed in June 2016 for the Gunnison River between Cottonwood and Confluence parks. It included preliminary design plans for restoration and recreation, including boat ramps and rafting access points, white water play features for kayakers, recreational trails, and erosion and habitat restoration improvements. A pedestrian bridge was proposed to link the south side of the river to the north in the vicinity of Cottonwood and Riverbend Parks.

DELTA COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN (ONGOING IN 2017)

Delta County has been studying regional trail connections through a separate planning effort. The multi-year process will include inventorying, assessing, and mapping the recreation and public land resources in the County. Regional connections as they interface with the City's planned trails will be considered as Delta moves forward with their implementation.



LEVEL OF SERVICE & BENCHMARKS

As part of the inventory of existing parkland and facilities, a benchmark analysis of three peer communities was completed for parks, recreation facilities, trails, and staffing: Rifle, Fruita, and Cortez. These communities are located on the western slope, have comparable population, and have similar city-provided park and recreation services. The results of the analysis follow the descriptions of park, trail and open space/natural areas below.

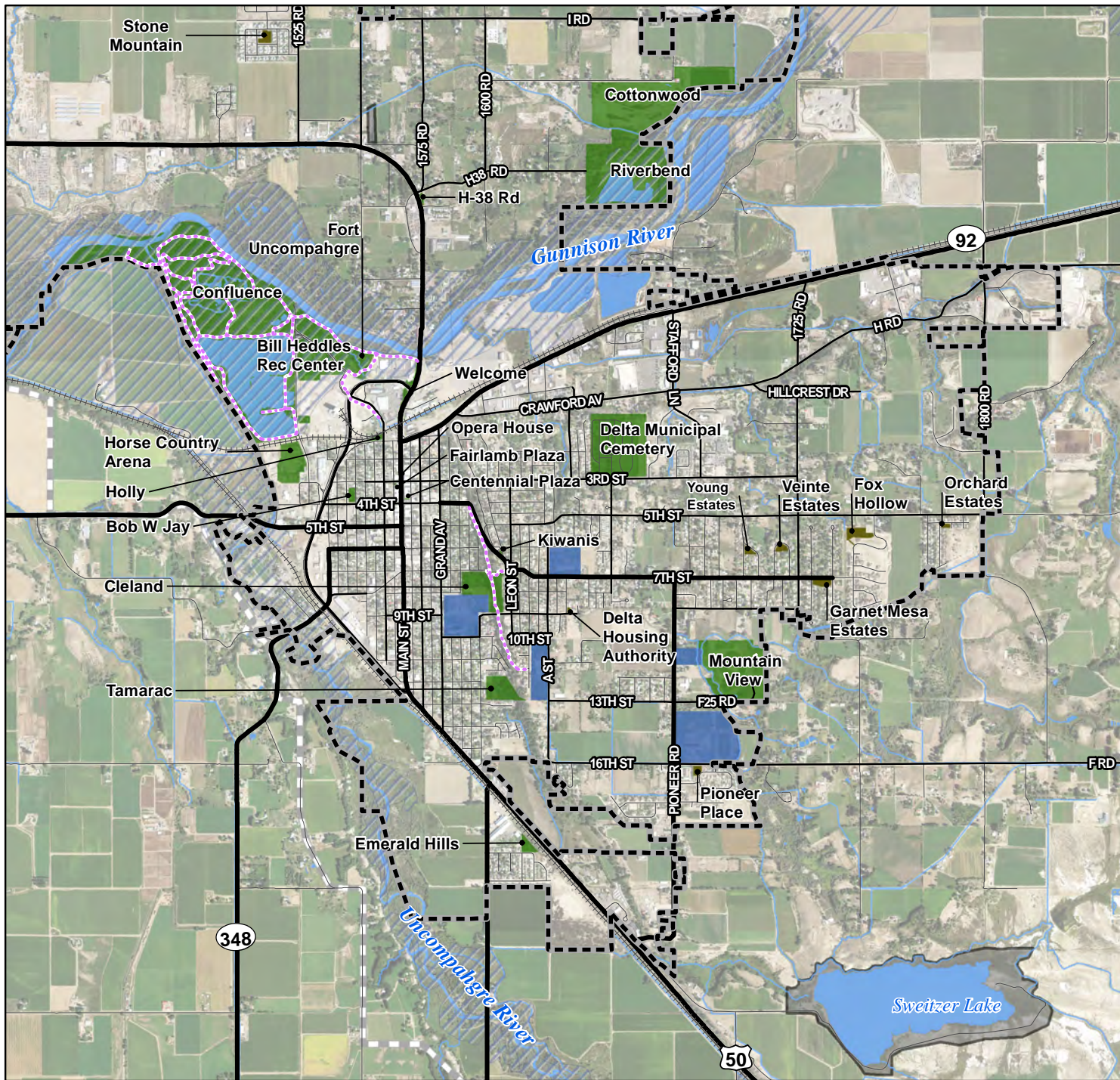
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS

Developed Parks and High Maintenance Areas

Level of service standards are defined as the provision of parks and facilities per the population (number of acres or number of facilities per 1,000 residents), and are one measure of how well community needs are being met. Developed parkland is classified by three park types as shown in Table 4.

Table 4 / Park Classifications

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL SIZE
Mini/Pocket Parks	Mini/pocket parks provide passive recreational opportunities with limited amenities. These small parks may contribute to meeting the parkland needs in neighborhoods by providing small play areas, shade pavilions and open play areas.	< 1 acre
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks provide mostly active recreational opportunities and generally contain many diverse amenities, such as restrooms, shelters, small pavilions, horseshoe pits, playgrounds, open turf areas, and possibly athletic fields that can be used for practices.	2-7 acres
Community Parks	Community Parks are the most recreationally active and utilized parks focusing on community and regional activities and events. These parks generally provide many diverse amenities, including large pavilions, special events facilities, lakes, recreation centers, sports complexes, water activities, trails, and other features that attract people from the community and region.	> 10 acres



Map 2 / Existing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails

Legend

- - - Trail
- Public Parks
- Subdivision/HOA Parks
- Schools
- City Boundary
- Major Road
- Local Road
- River and Lakes
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Other Drainages



Map 2 shows the location of the parks, open space, and trails in the immediate Delta area. The acreage and amenities associated with the City of Delta parks were listed in the previous chapter in Table 1. The following tables show the results of the level of service and peer community comparison. The red color indicates where Delta is providing a lower level of service, and green where Delta is higher than others.

Table 5 shows the level of service that Delta provides for parkland. Delta’s staff maintains more acres of public lands that are considered “high maintenance” than other communities. The following table also shows that Delta residents have a higher level of service of community parkland as measured by acres per 1,000 population. Delta does not have specific level of service standards for different kinds of parks but requires new development to provide 10 acres per 1,000 future residents in each development, or pay a fee in lieu of the developed parkland.

Table 5 / Comparison of Developed Parkland and Highly Maintained Facilities

	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres
DEVELOPED PARKLAND (ACRES)				
Mini/Pocket Parks < 1 acre (HOA or private)	2.71	2.00	0.00	3.50
Mini/Pocket Parks (city owned and maintained)	2.46	0.20	1.00	1.20
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (HOA or private)	6.08	0.00	0.00	11.74
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (city owned and maintained)	9.93	12.00	11.77	28.55
Community Parks (city owned and maintained - developed recreation area)	127.03	48.00	112.00	23.00
Total Developed Parkland (public and private)	148.21	62.20	124.77	67.99
OTHER PUBLIC SITES (ACRES)				
Visual Green Spaces (landscape only)	0.49	1.50	0.00	3.50
Plazas, Recreation Center Sites, Museums and Special Use Areas	16.21	3.30	17.00	9.50
Cemeteries	35.95	12.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Public Sites	52.65	16.80	17.00	13.00
Total High Maintenance Parks and Public Facilities (city-maintained)	192.07	77.00	141.77	65.75
PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)				
Existing LOS Public Neighborhood Parkland (acres/1,000 pop.)	1.39	1.26	1.42	2.30
Existing LOS Community Parkland (acres/1,000 pop.)	14.25	4.97	12.43	1.78
Total Existing Community and Neighborhood Parkland (acres/1,000 pop.)	15.64	6.23	13.85	4.08
Adopted Neighborhood Parkland LOS Standard (acres/1,000 pop.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.00
Adopted Community Parkland LOS Standard (acres/1,000 pop.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.00
Adopted Total Parkland LOS Standard (acres/1,000 pop.)	10.00	n/a	n/a	6.00

Open Space/Natural Areas and Trails

In addition to developed parkland, the City of Delta also provides large open spaces and natural areas within its parks (Table 6). These areas include non-irrigated acres that are naturally landscaped, dedicated open space areas, and greenways. The majority of Delta's trails are 8-foot wide soft-surface trails located within the natural areas of Confluence Park. Additionally, the Garnet Mesa Trail runs along the Garnet Mesa between 4th Street and Lincoln Place, near Lincoln Elementary and Cleland Park.

Table 6 / Comparison of Open Space/Natural Areas and Trail Facilities

	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
Open Space/Natural Areas	201.1	N/A	242.0	361.8
Multi-purpose Trails (miles)	6.3	5.5	16.0	16.0
Soft Surface Multi-purpose Trails	6.0	N/A	12.0	1.4
Paved Multi-purpose Trails	.3	N/A	4.0	14.6

RECREATION FACILITIES

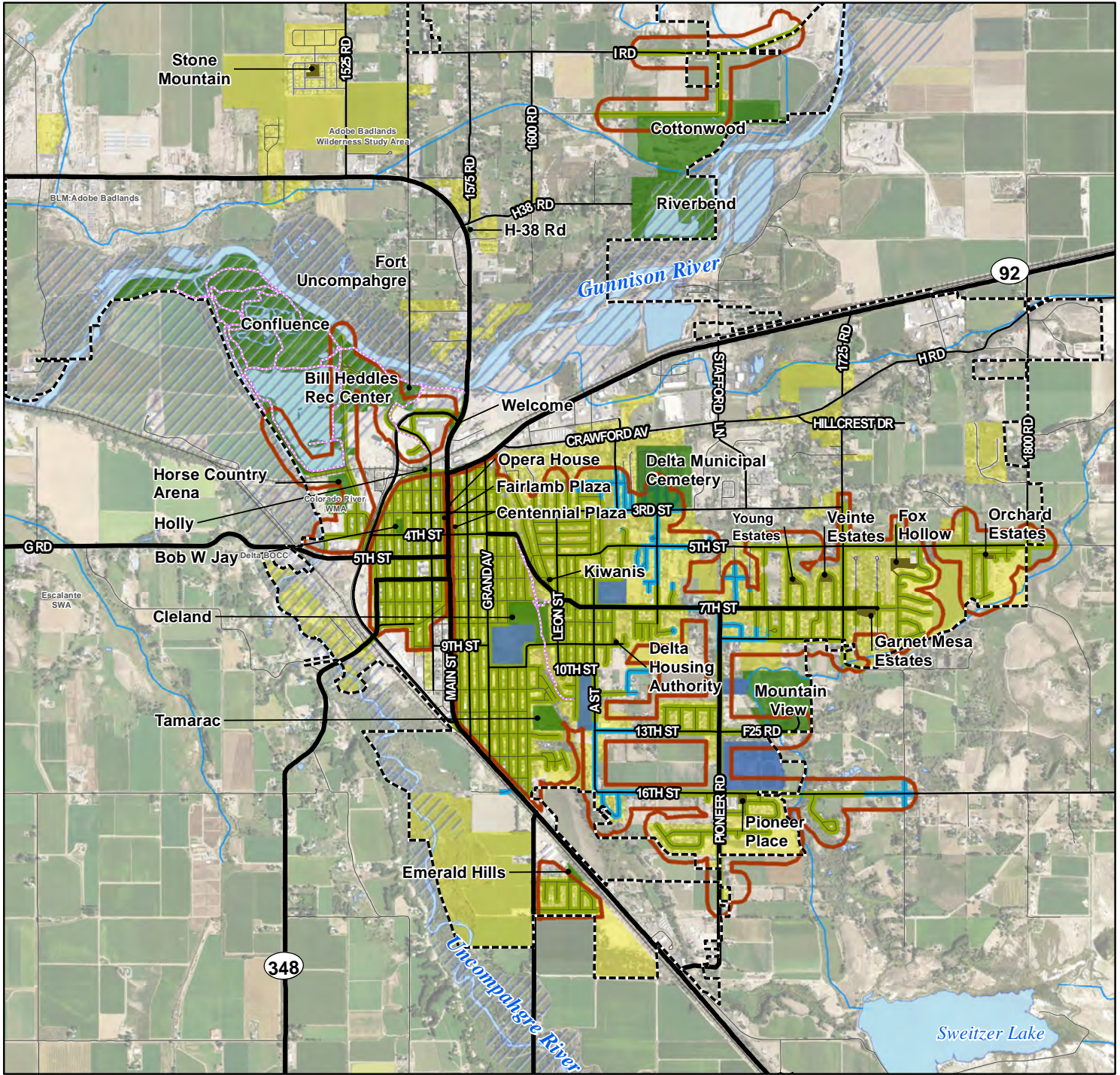
Recreation facilities are located in public parks and on school sites that are available for self-directed activities and sports groups. Compared to similar communities, the City of Delta provides an equivalent level of service for most recreational facilities (Table 7). Delta does not provide a bike challenge course, outdoor swimming pool, or splash pad like some of the other communities. A common trend in Colorado communities is to not build new outdoor swimming pools because of the high staffing and maintenance costs for the limited time that the public can use them. Outdoor splash pads, bike challenge courses, pickleball courts and disc golf course are becoming more popular. Data associated with the level of service for outdoor climbing features in parks was not collected because their designs are highly variable, however climbing has seen a tremendous increase in popularity over the last decade.

Table 7 / Comparison of Recreation Facilities

COMMUNITY	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres
Soccer / Multi-purpose Fields				
Multi-purpose Fields Small (50 yds x 80 yds or less)	5	3	8	3
Multi-purpose Fields Large (60 yds x 100 yds or greater)	2	3	4	1
Total Soccer/Multi-purpose Fields	7	6	12	4
Residents per Multi-purpose Field	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
Football Fields Large (180 ft x 360 ft)	2	0	0	0
Total Football Fields	2	0	0	0
Residents per Football Field	4,457	-	-	-

Table 7 / Comparison of Recreation Facilities (continued)

COMMUNITY	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres
Ballfields				
Non-game Practice Baseball Fields (backstops in parks)	0	5	1	1
Youth Baseball / Small Softball Fields (200-299 ft centerfields)	5	0	5	3
Teen Baseball / Large Softball Fields (300 -360+ ft centerfields)	2	4	3	1
Total Ballfields	7	9	9	5
Residents per Ballfield	1,273	1,074	1,001	2,585
Outdoor Basketball Courts				
Full Court	2	3	1	1
1/2 Court	3	1	3	1
Total Outdoor Basketball Courts	3.5	3.5	2.5	1.5
Residents per Basketball Court	2,547	2,761	3,603	8,616
Skate Parks	1	1	1	1
Residents per Skate Park	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
Disc Golf Courses (18 hole equivalent. 9 hole = 1/2)	1.5	0	1	1.5
Residents per Disc Golf Course	5,943	-	9,007	8,616
Bike Challenge Courses, BMX or other Bike-specific Facilities	0	1	1	1
Residents per Bike Course	-	9,665	9,007	12,924
Tennis Courts	4	2	6	4
Residents per Tennis Court	2,229	4,833	1,501	3,231
Pickleball Courts (Striped on Tennis Courts and Shared Use)	8	1	2	0
Residents per striped Pickleball Court	1,114	9,665	4,504	-
Pickleball Courts (Dedicated)	0	0	6	0
Residents per dedicated Pickleball Court	0	-	1,501	-
Residents per Pickleball Court	1,114	9,665	1,126	-
Recreation Center (Sq Foot)	62,000	0	46,000	155,000
Residents per Recreation Center (Sq Foot)	7.0	-	5.1	12.0
Public Splash Pads	0	1	1	0
Residents per Splash Pad	-	9,665	9,007	-
Outdoor Swimming Pools	0	1	1	1
Residents per Outdoor Swimming Pool	-	9,665	9,007	12,924



Map 3 / Walkability to Existing Parks and Schools

Legend

- Walkable Distance to Neighborhood & Community Parks (.5 miles)
- Walkable Distance to School with Park Features (.5 Miles)
- Park and School Service Area
- City Boundary
- Trail
- Railroad
- Other Drainages
- 100-Year Floodplain
- River and Lakes
- Public Parks
- HOA Parks with Public
- Schools
- Residential Zoning



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. Delta’s Parks, Recreation and Golf Department currently has 13.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) maintenance, operations, and administrative employees that provide parks and recreation services. The Devil’s Thumb Golf Course staff were not included in this analysis.

While staffing levels per population are similar to some peer communities, Delta has more high-maintenance acres (32 acres) to manage for each City maintenance staff person (Table 8). Funding and staffing is inadequate for the amount of property maintained, which is reflected in the growing list of deferred maintenance items.

Table 8 / Comparison of Staffing Levels

	DELTA	RIFLE	CORTEZ	FRUITA
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	8,914	9,665	9,007	12,924
Staffing				
FTE (Parks Maintenance)	6.0	12.5	7.5	8.2
FTE (Other Facility Maintenance e.g. rec centers, pools, community centers, etc.)	3.5	1.5	2.0	3.0
FTE (Admin, Operations, Rec Centers, and Programming)	4.0	14.3	24.3	34.6
Total FTE	13.5	28.3	33.8	45.8
High Maintenance Acres per FTE Parks Maintenance Staff	32.0	6.3	22.1	10.2
Total Acres Maintained per FTE Maintenance Staff	65.5	6.3	54.4	54.3
FTE Maintenance Staff per 10,000 residents	10.7	14.5	10.5	8.7
Total FTE Parks and Recreation Staff per 10,000 residents	15.1	29.3	37.5	35.4

PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Distribution of parks throughout residential areas is critical because people will utilize them more if they are located within a reasonable walking distance. Map 3 shows how existing Delta parks and schools with “parklike” features can be accessed within a 10-minute walk (1/2 mile) without crossing major barriers. Barriers that limit safe accessibility to parks include railroads, major arterials such as Highway 50 and 92, rivers and ditches/canals. The extent of existing residential development is also shown.

The majority of residential neighborhoods throughout the City are fairly well served by neighborhood and community parks. However, the eastern part of the community is only served by HOA parks, which have historically had fewer amenities and less resources for maintenance than City-owned parks. In this area there are small portions of neighborhoods that do not have parks that are easily accessible. As new residential areas develop it will be vital to ensure that the public can use the parks that are constructed in those neighborhoods.

Similar to the parks walkability analysis, an analysis of walkability to schools was completed. While schools do provide playgrounds and fields for recreational purposes, availability of these facilities are limited because they are only open to the public on evenings and weekends. Even then, the fields can often be scheduled for sports such as t-ball and youth soccer. While the service area is less for schools than parks, the majority of residential neighborhoods are within a .5 mile walk to a school. Continuing to partner with schools to include park features will improve accessibility.



03



PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter outlines the master plan recommendations that are needed to meet the existing and future needs of parks, recreation, open space, and trails throughout the City. The first section of this chapter contains the City of Delta's Vision Statement, followed by goals and actions that address issues and needs that were identified during the planning process. These statements provide the basis for the park, trails and open space standards, overall master plan and specific project recommendations. Recommendations following Vision and Goals include:

- Park, open space/natural areas, and trails classifications and standards;
- A Delta region Master Plan map that shows conceptual future park and trails locations, and potential bicycle connections through the urban core area;
- Projects to address current deferred maintenance needs; and
- Projects to enhance existing and future parks, and priority trail connections.

DELTA'S VISION

Destination Delta: An All-American City in the heart of western Colorado with community spirit and abundant natural resources that fosters responsible economic growth and prosperity to create an attractive and vibrant rural community for residents, business owners and visitors of all ages.”

VISION FOR PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

The City of Delta will have a high quality and multi-purpose system of parks, outdoor facilities, open space, and trails that support the lifestyle, leisure time, and recreational needs of the community.

VISION, GOALS AND GENERAL ACTIONS

Table 9 summarizes the issues outlined in the needs assessment and establishes a series of goals and general action items to outline the future of the parks, recreation, open space, and trails throughout the City of Delta.

Table 9 / Issues, Goals and General Actions

ISSUE SUMMARY	GOALS AND GENERAL ACTIONS
<p>Neighborhood parks and facilities are not equally distributed throughout the City, leaving many neighborhoods without service. Some HOA-maintained parks are closed to public access.</p>	<p>Goal 1. Distribute parks throughout the community to provide access to parks for all residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parks provided by developers to meet City requirements should meet City standards and specification, and should allow public access, regardless of maintenance responsibilities. b) New neighborhood parks will be equally distributed as residential development occurs through parkland dedication and payment in lieu of construction. c) Soft-surface and concrete trails should be dedicated by developers as growth occurs to maintain park and school connectivity. d) Establish and work towards achieving outdoor recreation facility level of service targets for the most popular activities (fields, courts, etc.). e) Continue to partner with schools to include park features.
<p>Existing large parks and undeveloped portions of them are highly valued community assets. They have great potential to meet the needs of the community. However, they are declining in quality.</p>	<p>Goal 2. Upgrade and further develop existing community parks/open space properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop Riverbend Park b) Improve Confluence, Cleland, Cottonwood, and Mountain View Parks. c) Provide new opportunities for recreation, including features that are gaining in popularity and that may attract tourists.
<p>Many park facilities do not meet current standards, have exceeded their useful life, or were not constructed durably.</p>	<p>Goal 3. Provide residents with parks and outdoor recreation facilities that are attractive, safe, durable, comfortable, and well-maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Address code deficiencies and deferred maintenance and life-cycle replacement needs through replacement or enhancement projects. b) Adequately fund maintenance staff, and materials and equipment needs. c) Update Municipal Code 16.04.070 Minimum Design Standards, and Standards and Specifications for the Design and Construction of Public Improvements to improve design criteria for parks and trails, such as useable area, connectivity, ADA access, and durability. d) Open space should not be considered a substitute for developed parkland in the City’s dedication requirement. e) Enforce the Land Use Code parkland dedication requirements to ensure that City standards and specifications are achieved. Current dedication requirement of “ten (10) acres of developed and usable park land per density of one thousand (1,000) residents” is adequate provided that design standards are updated and achieved.

Table 9 / Issues, Goals and General Actions (continued)

ISSUE SUMMARY	GOALS AND GENERAL ACTIONS
<p>Paved and unpaved trails are the facility in highest demand by the residents of Delta. They support diverse users and activities (walking, biking, strolling, skating, etc.) and are used more than any other facility. Only one off-street trail (Garnet Mesa) exists outside of a park.</p>	<p>Goal 4. Provide off-street multi-purpose trails to key destinations, and create interconnected trail loops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Developers should dedicate and construct the trail system shown on the master plan map as development occurs. b) Require developers to provide integrated bicycle, pedestrian and secondary trail systems in future development plans with internal and external connections. c) Route trails near natural environments, ditches, and rivers where possible to enhance the recreational experience, while also respecting buffer zones that are needed to protect sensitive habitats. d) Complete critical off-street trail connections in the near term: e) Garnet Mesa Trail Extension to Mountain View/Schools f) Gunnison River Trail (US50 to Cottonwood Park) g) Mountain View Park to Sweitzer Lake Canal Trail h) Work with Delta County, CPW, schools, and other partners to refine and build out a city-wide spine system of trails to serve all of Delta. i) Define trail and trail corridor dimensional and design standards.
<p>Access to the Gunnison River and facilities for festivals and performances, climbing, biking and water play are lacking, yet highly desired by the community. Employers seek places for their employees that provide a high quality of life and access to outdoor recreation. Rivers have increasingly become focal points for redevelopment and private investment in communities. The economic strength and health of Delta could be bolstered adding these amenities.</p>	<p>Goal 5. Add new opportunities for family-oriented outdoor recreational activities in Delta.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide additional river access points on the Gunnison River b) Include facilities for festivals and performances, climbing, bike skills development and water play within the existing parks system.

PARK, OPEN SPACE/NATURAL AREA AND TRAIL 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 10 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. lists the specific standards for neighborhood parks.

Table 10 / Neighborhood Park Standards

CLASSIFICATION/ SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE ACREAGE	PURPOSE/FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Neighborhood Park</p> <p>Maximum ½ mile walking distance of population served</p> <p>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/ 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 Delta’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 12 to 15 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 11). 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 11 / Community Park Standards

CLASSIFICATION/ SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE ACREAGE	PURPOSE/FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Community Park</p> <p>Maximum 3 mile distance between parks (1.5 mile service area)</p> <p>Provide a minimum of 6 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 populations</p>	>10 acres	<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/NATURAL AREAS 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 12 lists the common characteristics for open spaces and natural areas. Open space dedications are not a substitute for developed neighborhood and community parkland.

Table 12 / Open Space/Natural Area Standards

CLASSIFICATION/ SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE ACREAGE	PURPOSE/FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Open Space/ Natural Areas</p> <p>No defined service area – location and size dependent upon the natural resource</p>	Size Varies	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.	Emphasis on resource protection or preservation with some public access provided. In a sensitive manner. 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.

TRAIL STANDARDS

Delta currently has mostly crushed gravel trails that are 8 feet in width. In the future, the city will pave some trails to meet the desires of the community.

This plan contains trail design guidelines and standards that may be easily adapted to fit the needs of Delta. 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

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.

With these thoughts in mind, the following design considerations are recommended:

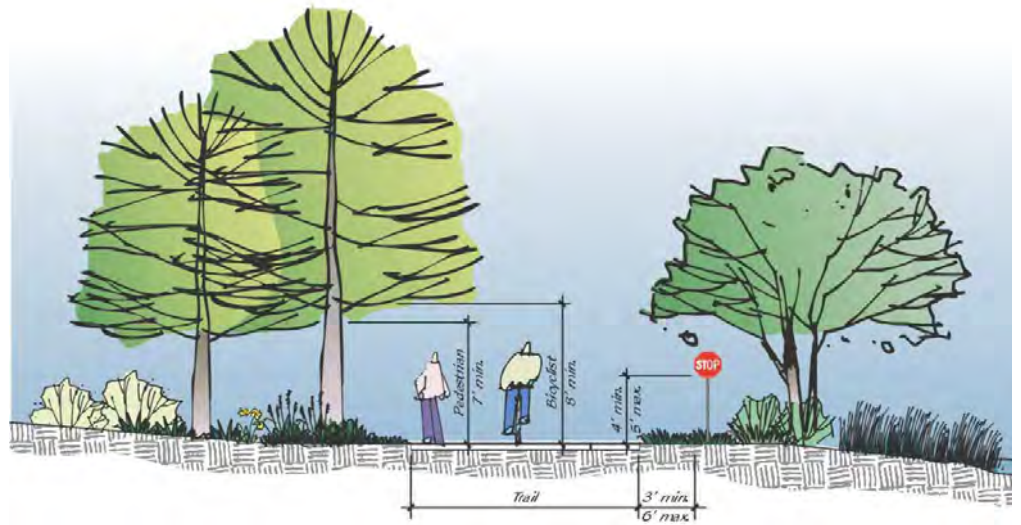
- Minimize the zone of influence associated with the width of the trail so that a balance is achieved between the development of a multi-use trail system and the preservation of wildlife habitat.
- Align a trail along or near an existing human-created ecological edge rather than bisecting undisturbed areas or large areas of wildlife habitat to minimize habitat fragmentation.
- Primary trails should be located within a greenway or minimum 50-foot easement to provide a scenic environment, and to provide adequate room for both a paved and non-paved trail where appropriate.
- Provide an adequate buffer, up to 100 feet, between trail development and wetland areas where feasible.
- Locate trails, where feasible, in scenic locations, but not within or immediately adjacent to sensitive vegetation or significant wildlife habitat.
- Minimize cut and fill slopes adjacent to the trail.
- Restrict the density of trails within and near high quality wildlife habitat areas.
- Select degraded areas with potential for restoration.
- All graded slopes should be revegetated and measures taken to control storm drainage, weed invasion and erosion.
- Revegetate upland areas disturbed by trail development, as appropriate, for continuity with the surrounding natural vegetation communities.

¹ Colorado State Parks, September 1998.

The following is a description of the two community trail types proposed for Delta with their respective design standards. All trails shall be designed and constructed to current ADA standards.

PRIMARY MULTI-PURPOSE, OFF-STREET TRAILS

Paved multi-purpose, off-street trails 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 primary trails adjacent to roadways, they should incorporate a 50-foot easement where feasible and appropriate. A 3-foot wide, soft surface shoulder on one side of the trail should be provided for joggers and walkers who prefer a softer surface. A 4-foot wide soft surface shoulder or parallel trail is required where cross-country track meets are held, as occurs in Confluence Park. Figure 10 illustrates the cross-section of a primary multi-purpose, off-street trail and includes trail widths, trail shoulders and clearance requirements. lists the specific design standards for primary and secondary trails.



SECONDARY MULTI-PURPOSE, OFF-STREET TRAILS

Secondary trail links should be provided through development areas to the primary trail system, as well as to parks and open space areas that are not on the primary system. These multi-purpose, off-street trails would ideally be paved where practicable and may be provided by project developers as well as being an integral part of the circulation and open space system of future development. Like primary trails, the secondary trails should be located in an open space corridor and accommodate a variety of trail users, including walkers, joggers and bicyclists. Secondary trails that must be located adjacent to roadways should incorporate a 30-foot easement where feasible and appropriate. These trails are not indicated on the Master Plan map because their location will be dependent upon the configuration of a development. Table 13 lists specific design requirements.

Table 13 / Trail Standards

	PRIMARY MULTI-PURPOSE OFF-STREET TRAILS	SECONDARY MULTI-PURPOSE OFF-STREET TRAILS
Definition	Trails for walking, jogging, skating, bicycling, and other non-motorized uses that would be part Delta’s Primary Trail System throughout the community. These trails should be required as part of the site development process, and the rights-of-ways dedicated to the City.	Trails for walking, jogging, skating, bicycling and other non-motorized uses that provide connections to the primary trail system, or to attractions, employment areas, shopping and services, and between neighborhoods. These trails should be privately owned and maintained, and required as part of the site development process.
Right-of-Way	50 feet minimum width where feasible, designed as naturalized open space or parkland as determined by the City.	30 feet minimum width, designed as naturalized open space or parkland as determined by the City
Trail Width	10 feet.	8 feet.
Trail Surface	Asphalt or concrete. No openings greater than ½ inch per ADA.	Concrete or stabilized crushed gravel. No openings greater than ½ inch per ADA.
Parallel Trail Width	3 feet minimum where provided. 4 feet width to accommodate cross-country running events.	NA
Parallel Trail Surface	Crushed gravel if not used by equestrians. Natural surface if used by equestrians.	NA
Sight Distance	130 feet minimum. If unattainable, provide adequate signage.	90 feet minimum. If unattainable, provide adequate signage.
Grades	5% maximum preferred. In special circumstances, up to 8.33% may be allowed, not to exceed 200 feet in length.	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.	1-2% typical, 3% maximum.
Vertical Clearance	12 feet preferable, 10 feet minimum.	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.	3 feet zone, clear of hazards either side.
Trail Centerline Radius	40 feet minimum at tight corners and switchbacks. 100 feet minimum elsewhere. Adequate signage where radius is shorter.	30 feet minimum at tight corners and switchbacks. 100 feet minimum elsewhere. Adequate signage where radius is shorter.
Radius at Intersections of Trails	15 feet to accommodate maintenance vehicles. 8 feet where vehicles are not anticipated.	8 feet minimum.
Separation from Roadway	20 feet minimum where feasible.	8 feet minimum where feasible.
Striping	4-inch wide, dashed white center lane striping. Yellow solid line where site distances prohibit safe passing.	None
Underpass Width	12 feet minimum, 14 feet preferable.	10 feet minimum, 12 feet preferable.

Table 13 / Trail Standards (continued)

	PRIMARY MULTI-PURPOSE OFF-STREET TRAILS	SECONDARY MULTI-PURPOSE OFF-STREET TRAILS
Bridges	10 feet minimum.	8 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.
Trail Markings and Signage	As needed for safety, regulations and as desired for interpretation and wayfinding. Designs to meet 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.	As needed for safety, regulations and as desired for interpretation and wayfinding. Designs to meet 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.
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.	As appropriate.

FUTURE PARKS AND TRAILS

This plan covers the City of Delta’s planning area as defined by the city’s comprehensive plan, and shows the land uses that are planned for the future. Future road connections are shown and based on the city’s transportation plan. Conceptual locations for future neighborhood parks are indicated based on a distribution of approximately one mile apart in future medium or higher density residential developments (1/2 mile service radius). These locations are approximate, and would be defined if and when development occurs in those areas. Additional neighborhood parks may be needed when residential development is included in mixed-use development areas, which may occur along the Gunnison River and other areas of the community in the future. Neighborhood parks are not indicated in low density residential areas as these types of subdivisions are large acreage lots and so low in numbers of people per square mile that they would result in merely a pocket park based on a standard of four acres per 1,000 people.

The three existing community parks and the undeveloped Riverbend Open Space (reclassified from community park to open space as a result of this master plan) are also shown on the map. The vision for these properties is discussed later in this chapter. New community parks are not shown on the master plan because Delta has ample community parkland to meet its needs for the foreseeable future.

Primary Multi-Purpose Trails are shown throughout the planning area, mostly along irrigation canals where gently sloped linear corridors exist by virtue of maintenance roads associated with those canals. The goal is to provide trail loops and connections to key destinations, including schools. High priority trail connections are indicated and discussed in more detail later in this chapter.

High priority trails and connections:

- Gunnison River Trail (US50 to Cottonwood Park north bank)
- Trail from Mountain View Park to Sweitzer Lake (Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association Canal)
- Garnet Mesa Trail to Mountain View Park

Other trails and connections:

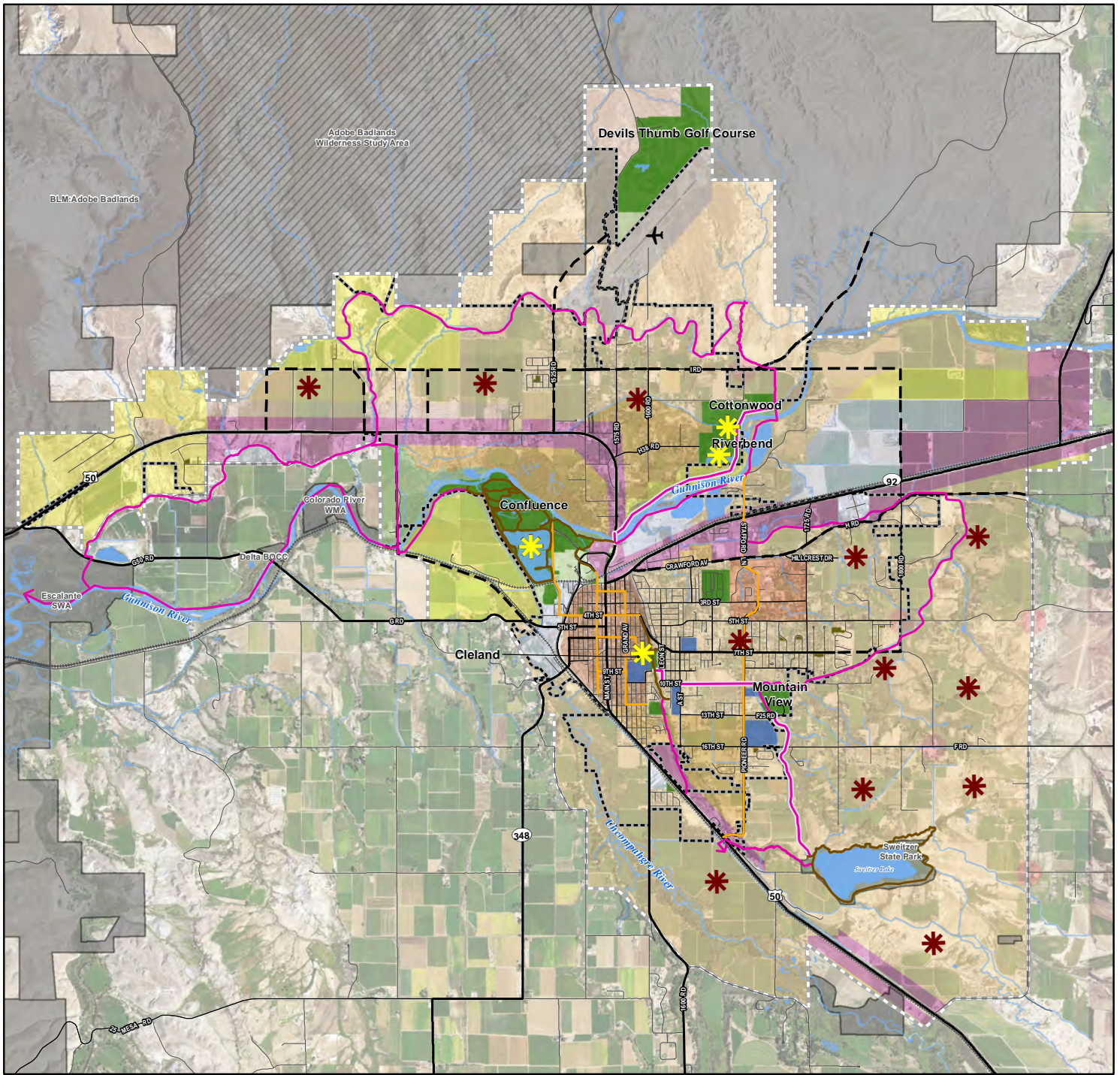
- Gunnison River Trail (southbank)
- Garnet Mesa Trail Extension to South
- Canal Trail (North of Mountain View Park)
- North Delta Canal Trail
- Gunnison River Trail (West of Confluence Park)
- Pioneer Road to Stafford Lane to the Gunnison River
- Future trail connections to Montrose and west towards Grand Junction

PARK UPDATES

Both the public and staff identified the need to focus on improving the parks that already exist in the community. While rich with the number of acres and amenities for the size of the population, Delta manages a large number of acres per maintenance staff. That fact, along with minimal levels of funding, has created a substantial list of maintenance needs. Improvements system-wide include playground replacements to meet safety and accessibility standards, ADA parking, restroom upgrades, irrigation and pump repairs, and crushed gravel trail resurfacing. outlines the necessary maintenance and replacement/restoration projects at each park. Specific improvements are shown on Table 14. Costs for these improvements and other projects are discussed in the implementation chapter.

Table 14 / Maintenance and Replacement Projects by Park/Trail

PARK/TRAIL	MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT PROJECTS	PARK/TRAIL	MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT PROJECTS
Bob Jay Park	Playground equipment replacement Irrigation repairs Basketball court resurfacing Sidewalk accessibility to playground	Mountain View Park	Park and field restroom upgrades Scorers/concession building siding replacement Roads and parking areas upgrades Field lighting replacement Scoreboards replacement ADA access to field area Park shelter repairs Horseshoe pit repairs Horseshoe fencing Park playground structure replacement
Welcome Park	Irrigation repairs	Confluence Park	Restrooms upgrades and replacement Playground replacements and repairs Picnic shelters, gazebo and arbor repairs Trail resurfacing Basketball court replacement Skatepark demolition (relocate to Cleland) Tennis courts resurfacing (4 existing courts) Irrigation system & pump station repairs Disc golf course pads and signs
Emerald Hills Park	Cedar fence repairs	Garnet Mesa Trail	Trail resurfacing with crushed red shale Improve drainage
Cleland Park	Restroom replacement Irrigation repairs Playground replacement and safety improvements Tennis courts demolition Sidewalk accessibility to playground Horseshoe pit replacement Horseshoe fencing installation Volleyball courts enhancements	Riverbend	Site reclamation
Tamarac Park	Irrigation repairs Disc golf basket replacement Concrete tee pads installation		
Cottonwood Soccer Fields	Irrigation repairs Maintenance shed roof replacement Parking area and road grading and gravel Field perimeter fencing installation ADA concrete parking areas Irrigation pond excavation		



Map 4 / Future Parks and Trails

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Major Road — Future Major Road — Local Road — River and Lakes — Other Drainages ▨ 100-Year Floodplain ▨ Schools ▨ City Boundary ▨ Planning Extent ▨ Other Public Lands ▨ WSA | <p>Planned Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▨ Downtown Core Area ▨ Hwy Commercial Design District ▨ Medical / Residential ▨ Neighborhood Commercial Center ▨ Commercial & Residential ▨ High Density Residential ▨ Medium Density Residential ▨ Mobile Home Residential ▨ Low Density Residential ▨ Planned Industrial ▨ County Commercial and Industry ▨ Open Space | <p>Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Existing Trail — High Priority Future Trail — Future Trail — On Street Bike Lane/Path | <p>Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Future Parks ▨ Public Parks ▨ Subdivision/HOA Parks ★ Major Park Improvements |
|--|--|---|--|



PROPOSED PARK ENHANCEMENTS

While the need to address deferred park maintenance projects is the highest priority, enhancements that add new amenities and develop vacant park land will help to provide an additional level of service and unique features to Delta's great park system.

Major park improvements were identified at four of the existing community parks (Confluence, Cottonwood, Cleland, and Mountain View) and at Riverbend Open Space. Conceptual renderings were developed for Confluence, Cleland and Cottonwood Park/Riverbend Open Space to illustrate how they may be developed in the future. The plans are programmatic and are not intended to be thoroughly vetted master plans for the sites. A plan for Mountain View Park was not prepared, but improvements to that park are described later in this section.

Emerald Hills Park, a small neighborhood park, was also identified as needing a basketball court and upgrades to the play equipment because it is such a small feature it is not interesting for repeated use by varying age groups.

Another proposed project is updating Centennial Plaza in Downtown. Centennial Plaza is located just north of City Hall. It is a narrow concrete-paved area between historic buildings that had a few raised planters adjacent to the building walls, but those have been removed. The space has potential to become a popular spot for daytime and evening relaxation, and picnicking if it had amenities that were interesting and provided comfort for users. This plan recommends adding a feature sculpture at the entrance on Main Street, and artwork and murals on the walls where appropriate. Free-standing concrete planters for floral displays would soften the hardscape and provide seasonal interest. A drip irrigation system would need to be installed to the base of the planters to eliminate the need for hand watering. These planters could also have small cut trees that are lighted during the winter. Benches along the edges, and tables with chairs that could be moved, would provide places for sitting and eating while allowing flexibility for other events that may be programmed for the space. Banners on cables that span between the buildings would provide color and shade in the summer, and freestanding pedestrian lights and Tivoli lights that span between buildings would add interest and increase safety in the evening. If desirable, electric service could be provided to provide power for small performances that may occur during downtown festivals.

CONFLUENCE PARK



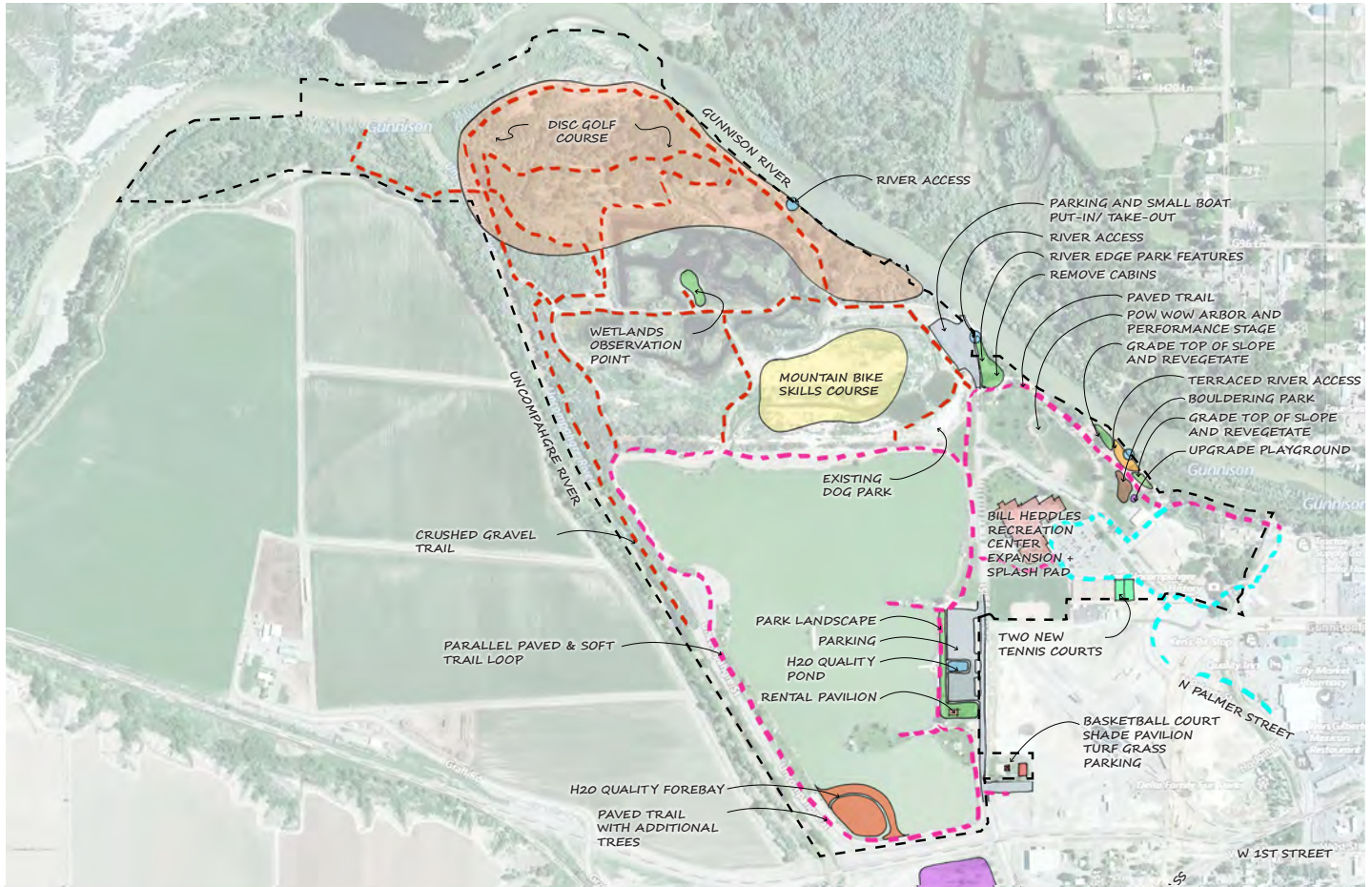
As the largest and most developed park, Confluence Park is the focal point of Delta's parks system. While Confluence Park provides a broad range of amenities and recreation opportunities, areas of the site are underutilized, the riverbanks of the Gunnison are largely unapproachable, and the water quality in the lake is not acceptable for human contact some times during the summer, which was one of the primary reasons the city closed the swimming beach on the west side of the lake.

Desired park enhancements include additional access points along the Gunnison River, which would allow families to float a stretch of the river when the river is past spring runoff, walk back upstream and repeat the experience. More experienced boaters and rafters may use the access points for put-ins or take-outs, allowing users to float from Riverbend/Cottonwood Park to Confluence Park and potentially beyond. The banks of the river near Lions Pavilion need to be regraded to create a slope that is less steep in order to facilitate access to the river. This area could be a wonderful seating and viewing venue with stacked boulders. Shoreline erosion protection will need to be engineered to withstand flooding as well as normal flow conditions of the river. Long

term improvements to the river could include adding in-stream kayak play features or a wave feature for paddle and surf boards. A bouldering play park with elements that are appropriate for all ages is envisioned near the river access point, as an extension of the upgraded play area near Lions Pavilion. Examples of climbing features that are exciting, and yet meet safety standards, are shown to the right.

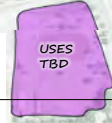
The community highly values the existing rustic cedar arbor area that is used for special events, such as weddings and the former Pow Wow that celebrated the Ute tribe culture and heritage. This plan recommends investing in upgrades to the bermed circle and arbor to improve seating and ADA access, and incorporate a performance stage that could be used regularly for concerts and other events.

Adjacent to the existing river access near the dog park, the parking lot would be expanded, unused cabins removed or relocated to another site, and grass area with a shade pavilion provided for relaxing and picnicking. A third river access downstream in the disc golf course area would allow for more adventuresome people to enjoy a longer ride on the river.



CONFLUENCE PARK

CONCEPTUAL PLAN



SEPTEMBER 2017



Example / Splash Pad



Example / River Access



Example / Bouldering Play Park



Example / Bicycle Park





Existing Special Events Area

There are existing wetlands ponds north of the lake, which are viewed from trails that go through the area. A mound exists that elevates viewers so they can look down on the wetlands. The viewing experience could be improved by providing ADA access, some benches and additional interpretive signage.

A mountain bike skills course is shown in the large low area between the wetlands pond and the lake. This area has been challenged with high ground water, making it difficult to use for turf fields or other facilities, and is a great location to add earthen jumps, ramps and obstacles that can improve mountain biking skills. Single track trails could connect this facility to the trails that currently exist across the Uncompahgre River.

A paved loop trail is shown around the lake, as well as to key destinations within the park, such as Fort Uncompahgre and primary river access points. This trail should be designed to meet the Primary Multi-purpose Trail standards that were described previously in this chapter, including a parallel soft surface shoulder at the edge of the paved trail for people who prefer to run on crushed gravel and to accommodate cross-country track events.

As stated previously, water quality in the lake is an issue in the summer. This is primarily due to three factors: goose droppings, sediment in the water that comes from the Uncompahgre River, and nutrients in the river water as a result of return flows from upstream agricultural fields. The conceptual plan shows a water quality feature at the inflow

point of the river water. This could be a forebay, where sediment filters out of the water before flowing into the lake, or perhaps a wetlands filtration system could be engineered.

The Denver area Urban Drainage and Flood Control District has examples of water quality treatment techniques, including a “Constructed Wetlands Pond” in the *Urban Storm Drainage Criteria Manual, Volume 3, November 2015*.² An aeration system in various locations of the lake may also improve the water quality. However, resolving the problem will require additional engineering studies to determine the most appropriate and cost effective solution.

Many residents of Delta miss the swim beach and wish that the city would reopen it. However, there are other open water swimming opportunities in the areas, including at nearby Sweitzer Lake, and possibly at Riverbend Ponds in the future. The city will continue to evaluate the feasibility and financial implications of a swim beach at Confluence Park in conjunction with the results of the water quality improvement recommendations.

On the east side of the lake is a small, isolated pond, which could be filled in if needed to create shoreline areas for a group rental pavilion and additional parking. Southeast of that location is where the skatepark and basketball court are currently location. The basketball court needs to be reconstructed, and the skatepark is in poor quality and not heavily used. During this master plan process it was determined that a better location for the skatepark is in Cleland Park (discussed later.)

2 https://udfcd.org/wp-content/uploads/uploads/vol3%20criteria%20manual/04_Chapter_4_Treatment_BMPs.pdf



Existing Confluence Park Site

Two additional tennis courts are shown east of the existing courts where space is available for their construction. All of the tennis courts should be lighted to allow for evening play. A “gear hub” is desired in the vicinity of Fort Uncompahgre, which would contain equipment that can be rented.

The Bill Heddles Recreation Center has long range plans for expansion to include additional conference rooms, an enlarged swimming pool, and an exciting outdoor splash pad. It’s ultimate footprint is shown on the conceptual plan.

The Horse Country Arena is located south of the lake on the other side of the railroad tracks and serves a very small number of users. A recommendation of this plan is to discontinue funding the maintenance of this arena because there are higher priorities for the use of limited maintenance and capital funds. If the users cover all of its costs, the city may consider allowing this use to continue. Alternatively, the facilities would be demolished and the city would consider other uses for the property.

COTTONWOOD PARK/RIVERBEND OPEN SPACE



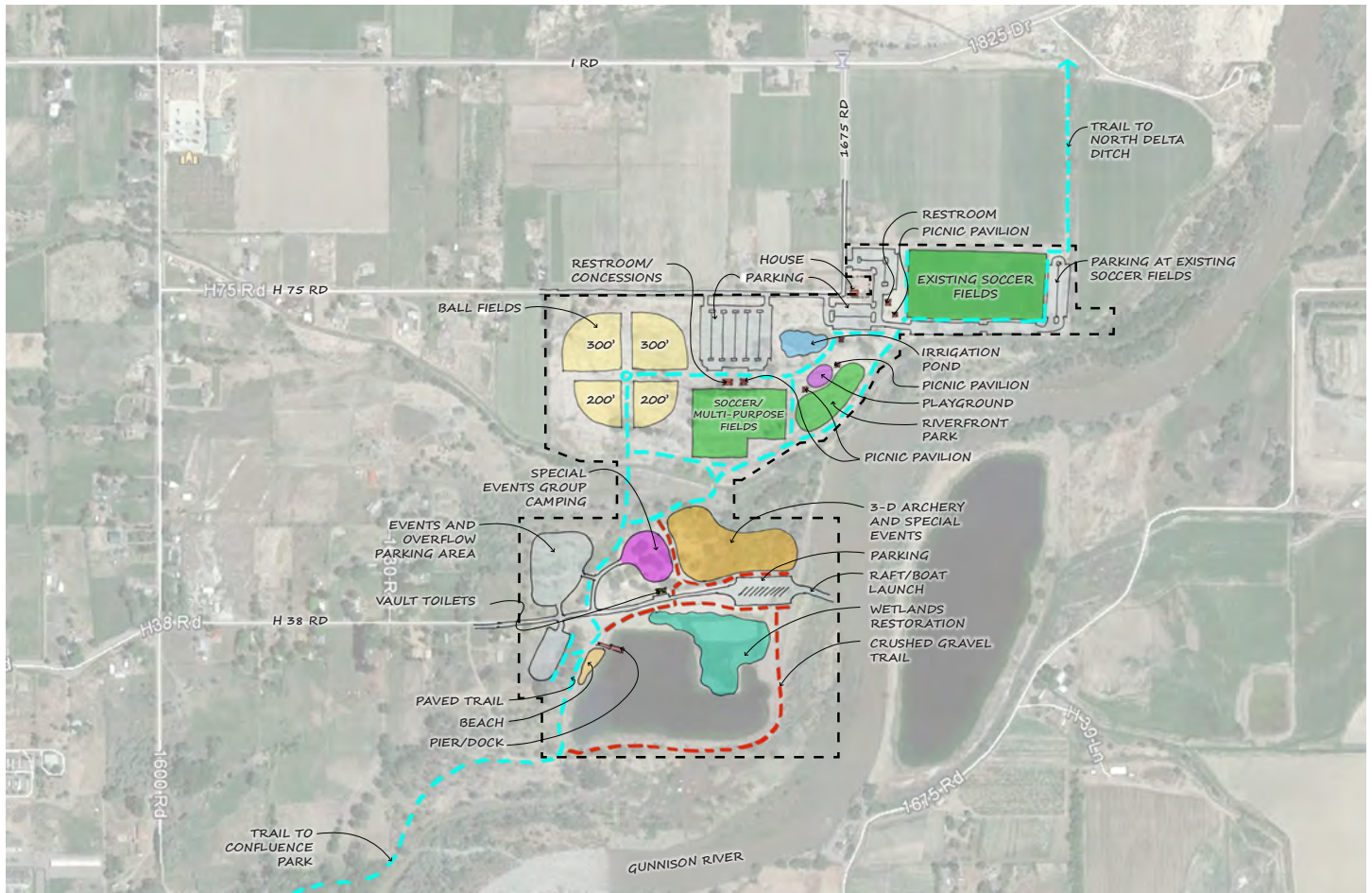
Riverbend Open Space Gravel Pond

While two separate park properties, one concept plan was created for Cottonwood Park and Riverbend Open Space because they are adjacent to each other, and development of the two properties is interrelated.

Cottonwood Park is the site of a former public golf course. Since the course was closed, and Devil's Thumb Golf Course opened, most of the site has been left in an unirrigated, unvegetated condition, with the exception of a few trees. Disc golf goals have been placed on portion of the park north of the irrigation canal, but they are not heavily used. The northeast portion of the site was redeveloped with two full-size soccer fields, which are heavily used. The existing restroom is a remnant of the former golf course, and is small, in poor condition, and does not meet current building codes or ADA requirements. Portable toilets are provided during the soccer season. Gravel parking lots surround the soccer fields and there are no trees, amenities for spectators, or provisions for children and people with disabilities. A private residential lot is located at the corner of H75 Road and 1675 Road, which restricts options for vehicular access.

An irrigation canal separates the northern portion of Cottonwood Park from its southern part, which shares a property line with Riverbend Open Space. A small wood bridge that is not structurally sufficient to support vehicles spans the canal.

Riverbend Open Space is a newer addition to the city's asset inventory and has not been open to the public. It shares its northern boundary with Cottonwood Park, and has the only city-owned connection to the Gunnison River upstream of US50. The site was a former gravel extraction site and has a large, groundwater-fed pond in the center. None of the site has been reclaimed or restored with natural vegetation since mining operations ceased. The existing mining permit stipulates that the pond must conform to the reclamation standards of the State of Colorado's Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety in order to gain full usage of the 57 acre facility. This includes sloping of the lake edges, removal of invasive/noxious plants, replacement of topsoil, and planting of natural grasses and trees. Recently tailings were deposited on the site from the sugar beet mill that was located in the path of the new US50 bypass around downtown, which may be costly to mitigate or remove.



COTTONWOOD / RIVERBEND



CONCEPTUAL PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2017



Example / Accessible Fishing Dock



Example / Archery Range



Example / Vault Toilets



Existing Soccer Fields



Existing Disc Golf and Restroom



Existing Bridge over Canal



Existing Soccer Field Edge

The conceptual plan illustrates how both properties may be utilized. Cottonwood Park is envisioned as an improved soccer complex in the location of the existing fields, with the remainder of the site developed in 15 or 20 years as a multi-purpose sports area with ballfields, additional sports fields and areas for picnicking and other passive uses. The needs for the additional ballfields and additional community park features are not needed within the next 10 or more years, so the focus of near term improvements is on providing more structured parking areas, paved walks to allow for universal access, shade trees, benches, signage, a picnic pavilion, and restroom structure near the existing soccer fields.

Riverbend is recommended to be developed as an open space/natural area (instead of being called a “community park”) with facilities that have a rustic character. The former gravel pond is a natural attraction for fishing, non-motorized boating and paddleboarding, and a dock or pier is shown to allow easy access for these activities. This warm water fishery could potentially be improved through partnerships with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The water quality in the pond is good, offering a new opportunity for swimming for Delta residents. Roads and parking lots would be gravel, and a boat launch could potentially be constructed to access the Gunnison River.



Existing Access Point to Gunnison River at Riverbend Open Space

The portion of the site that has large cottonwood trees could be the location of an archery course that has three dimensional targets, and also be used for special events. There is adequate area for a small group camp site adjacent to the special events area, and parking for the events could be located west of the group campsite. Special events would be allowed on a limited basis and camping allowed only in association with the events. Potable water and sewer service does not exist on the site, and extending these utilities would be extremely expensive, so vault toilets are proposed.

A water spigot could be provided near the vault toilet and group camping area, and perhaps near the beach. A recently excavated area adjacent to the pond should be restored as a wetlands, and natural vegetation should be reestablished throughout the site. A crushed gravel trail should be provided around the perimeter of the pond and to other key locations on the site.

Trails are proposed to link from Confluence Park, through Riverbend Open Space, to the Cottonwood Park soccer fields, and potentially beyond to I Road as part of the larger regional trail system.

CLELAND PARK



Existing Group Picnic Pavilion

Cleland Park is an urban gem located in downtown at the base of Garnet Mesa. The park has large shade trees, a connection to the Garnet Mesa Trail, and 6 tennis courts that have not been usable for a few years because the high water table has caused the courts to deteriorate. The park also has a large, unique wood picnic pavilion, sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits and a play area, but most facilities, including the restroom, are in poor condition. It is highly valued by residents, and many have expressed dismay that the park has become a place for illegal activities. They would like to “take back Cleland,” and give the park a face-lift.

The conceptual plan includes adding a paved perimeter path to provide a walking loop and universal access to the features in the park. Existing volleyball and horseshoe courts would be upgraded. The tennis courts and restroom will be demolished and a skate park with a shade structure constructed in their location. Studies must be performed to define the structural requirements for the skate park because of the high ground water condition. A new restroom is proposed to be constructed near the other new amenities, which will require utility upgrades. A small interactive

water feature that allows children to touch the water, and an upgraded play area with new ADA complaint equipment, safety surfacing, and shade shelter are also proposed. The water feature could include misters, which would operate periodically to conserve water, and be sculptural, providing year-round interest. It is important to locate the restroom so that visibility into the site is maintained, and with the doors facing the parking lot. Locating the skate park, water feature and play area in relatively close proximity to each other is intentional in order to create a multi-age hub that is activated and frequented by parents throughout the day. The facilities should be designed to preserve as many of the existing trees as possible.



CLELAND PARK

CONCEPTUAL PLAN



SEPTEMBER 2017



Example / Interactive Water Feature



Example / Skate Park



Existing Play Area



Existing Tennis Courts



Existing Open Lawn Area



Existing Parking Lot

The existing parking lot is wider than is required for 90 degree parking spaces and it could be reduced in width to 62 to 64 feet (19 or 20 foot long stalls and 24 feet drive aisle.) Reconfiguring the parking lot would create space for a landscape buffer on the south side, and provide area for concrete sidewalks on either edge. The length of the parking lot could be extended to provide a few more spaces.

The upper bench, east of the adjacent school's baseball field, is currently a minimally-maintained gravel lot that is approximately 10 to 12 feet above the elevation of the tennis courts. It was the site of a former outdoor swimming pool that was demolished in the 1980's. The former access road

to the upper bench from 7th Street is lined with majestic shade trees, and is proposed to be improved as a pedestrian promenade and emergency vehicle access. The parking lot should be improved with defined parking spaces, and improved entry road from the south, and sidewalk connections along its length, down the hill to the park. A plaza at the end of the parking lot can overlook the park and provide seating for the drop-off loop.

The irrigation system at Cleland Park also needs upgrades, and with new facilities, will require some areas to be completely reconstructed.

MOUNTAIN VIEW PARK



Mountain View Park is located up a steep hill at the end of E. 13th Street (F25 Road), and functions primarily as a three-field ballfield complex. The fields are close together, and an aging building in the center includes concessions, restrooms and scorer's booth. Eventually, this building should be replaced. To the south of the fields is a small park with picnic shelters, horseshoe pits and a play structure. The parking lot is gravel and undefined. In the near term, this plan includes installing safety netting to protect spectators, a small play area for children near the fields, some batting cages, and paving handicapped-accessible parking stalls to meet the requirements of the ADA.

HIGH PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Trails are not only a means for mobility; they are recreational features in and of themselves. The high priority trails identified by this plan connect to key destinations throughout the community and provide unique recreational experiences. Three segments of trail were identified as high priority; Mountain View Park to Sweitzer Lake State Park Trail; Gunnison River Trail on the north bank upstream of US50; and a connection between Garnet Mesa Trail and Mountain View Park. A description of each priority trail connection follows. While not all trails It is important to note that all trail connections would be subject to landowner and ditch company willingness to participate, and acquisition of easements or property. These trail connections are shown on Map 3, Future Parks and Trails.

CANAL TRAIL (MOUNTAIN VIEW PARK TO SWEITZER LAKE STATE PARK)

This is a proposed crushed gravel trail that would connect Mountain View Park, Delta High School, and Sweitzer Lake State Park, primarily using the maintenance road along Uncompahgre Valley Water Users association canal. Sweitzer Lake is a state park with an approximately 150 acre reservoir that provides fishing, hiking, swimming, picnicking, and motorized and non-motorized boating for local and regional residents, and visitors. Foot trails circle the lake, and hiking and biking into the State Park is free. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is planning a future expansion that would add camping near the park entrance. Multiple routes to connect the community with Sweitzer Lake were assessed during this planning process, and following the canal made the most sense since it is level and connects directly to the State Park. The segment between Mountain View Park and East 16th Street (F Road) is most feasibly accommodated along the eastern property boundary of Delta High School because a maintenance road does not exist in this location.



GUNNISON RIVER TRAIL (HWY 50 TO COTTONWOOD PARK)

This trail is proposed to connect the existing trail east of Confluence Park to Cottonwood Park. It would be located primarily along the north bank of the Gunnison River, and begins with building a trail under the south end of the US50 bridge. This segment of trail would be subject to flooding during high flows, but this is quite typical for trails throughout Colorado, and is preferred over creating a trail overpass because overpasses are extremely expensive, require very long approach ramps, and are visually intrusive. The trail would emerge on the east side of the bridge, head south for a short distance in order to meet the grades of the roadway. From there it would loop back north as an attached trail, adjacent to the northbound travel lanes. To facilitate access to the bridge by pedestrians and bicyclists during high water, the crossing at Gunnison River Drive and US 50 should be improved, and continuous wide sidewalks constructed that can function as a multi-purpose trail connection from Confluence Park to the south end of the bridge.

The northbound lanes on the bridge have a much wider shoulder than the southbound lanes, (a total of approximately 14 to 15 feet including the existing sidewalk, versus 8 feet). Ideally, the walking/bicycling section on the bridge would be 10 feet wide, which results in a 4 to 5 feet wide shoulder parallel to the vehicular travel lane (same as the width of the shoulder on the southbound lanes). The trail surface should be slightly raised from the vehicle lanes, safety barrier installed, and railing improved to meet required heights and openings for pedestrians and bicycles. Because the bridge was not originally designed to accommodate a trail, and its structure may not support the weight of additional concrete that would be required to meet the existing sidewalk elevation, the sidewalk may need to be demolished and the resulting trail may only be slightly above the grades of the vehicle lanes. Discussion with Colorado Department of Transportation should begin immediately to determine what is required to implement this concept. After crossing the Gunnison River, the trail heads northeast to the city park properties. Delta already has an easement through Riverwood Inn and RV Park property, and most of the property northeast of that segment cannot be developed because it is in the 100-year floodplain.



Before



After (Simulation)



GARNET MESA TRAIL TO MOUNTAIN VIEW PARK

This segment of trail would combine on and off-street features to connect the Garnet Mesa Trail to Delta High School and Mountain View Park. Garnet Mesa Trail is intersected by E. 9th Street on the steep portion of the road that descends the mesa to the Delta Middle School ballfield. There is a narrow walk with stairs along the north side of the road which should be improved, and E. 9th Street widened to provide shoulder for bicycle lanes. At the top of the mesa, the bicycle lanes could run south on Leon Street to E. 10th Street, where they could continue to the east. East of A street, after the electrical substation, an off-street trail could connect to Pioneer Road using an electric easement, eventually connecting to the high school and Mountain View Park.

ON-STREET CONNECTIONS

Connecting the east and west neighborhoods in downtown with bicycle-friendly paths or on-street bike lanes has been a challenge for Delta. The master plan shows potential streets to consider for on-street bicycle lanes, which would provide a safer route to Confluence Park and Cleland Park, as well as to schools and destinations in the downtown. Palmer Avenue and Grand Avenue are low traffic volume roads that have adequate width to add 4 foot wide bicycle lanes on either side. Palmer connects to the trail to Confluence Park, but crossing 1st Street is a challenge because traffic on 1st is not required to stop at the intersection. Delta should consider adding a pedestrian/bicyclist activated signal at this location to improve safety. This has been done on arterial and collector roadways at trail and important non-motorized crossings in many communities. Pedestrian-activated signals have also been installed on highways, and could be considered at 5th Street and the new US50 bypass to provide access to Kellogg Street.

Sixth Street was indicated during workshops with the CAC as a preferred east-west connection, and additional crossings were identified at 9th, 4th, and 2nd Streets. The city should continue to work on specific design solutions to create a bicycle-friendly network through the downtown, which may require changing angled parking to parallel parking in limited locations. Steamboat Springs recently implemented back-in angled parking along Yampa Street in downtown when they added an on-street bike lane. This technique has been used for many years in other cities, such as Tucson, Portland and Washington DC.



Grand Avenue



Palmer Avenue



04 / **BUDGET, PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA, COSTS & IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS**

The future vision for the parks, outdoor recreation, trails and open space system is ambitious, but necessary if Delta is to keep pace with other communities, and provide a high quality of life for its citizens. Funding to construct, operate and maintain public assets is always a challenge, and in Delta, especially so.

This chapter includes a summary of the Parks, Recreation and Golf budget, a list of prioritization criteria, budgetary capital costs for projects, and potential strategies for implementing the plan recommendations.

EXISTING DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Delta's Parks, Recreation and Golf Department budget totals approximately \$2.67 million. The department's primary revenue source is \$1.8 million from a dedicated 1% sales and use tax that is assigned to the Parks and Recreation Fund. Other revenue comes from fees for services, rentals, grants, and miscellaneous programs. Revenue from the Conservation Trust Fund (GoCo lottery proceeds) adds approximately \$94,000 per year, which is the only money that is guaranteed to be available for maintenance and repair projects. Sometimes City Council allocates additional money from the General Fund for special projects, but the overall city budget is lean, and the department competes with other services.

Expenditures for the department's administration, operation and maintenance of the recreation center, and the parks and trail system are fairly fixed. Devil's Thumb Golf Course has its own budget, operating as an enterprise fund, but in 2017 the Parks and Recreation Fund allocated \$100,000 for its operation, which further reduced funds that are available for the parks system.

The estimated cost to catch up with the maintenance items for the parks system, which were previously described, is a minimum of \$200,000 per year, a deficit of \$106,000 annually. These costs are solely capital construction and do not include the cost of additional staffing, which is greatly needed. Grants from various agencies are available, but they typically require matching funds and/or services in-kind from the community that is applying for the grant.

It is clear that additional revenue is required to keep the city's park system from further decline, and also to fund new projects.

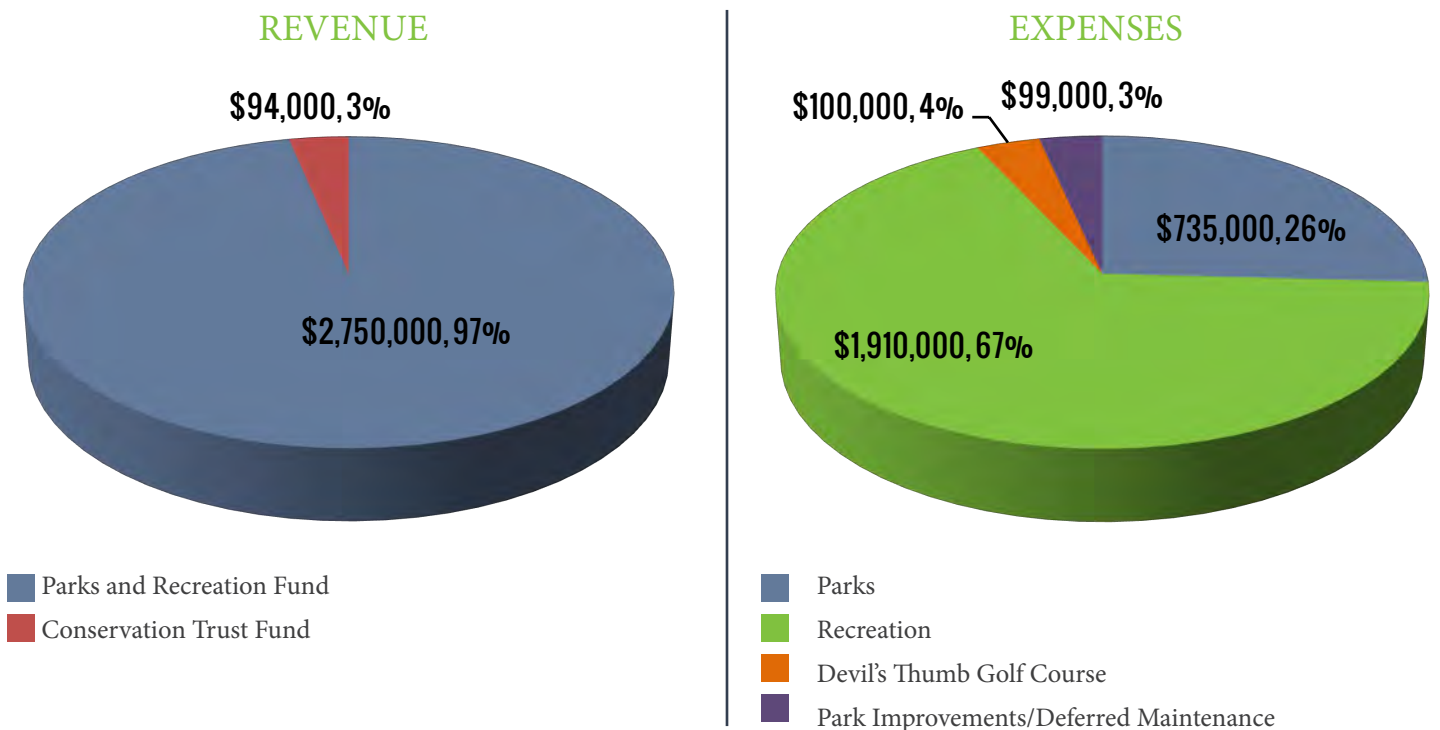


Figure 10 / Parks, Recreation and Golf Department Budget (Approx. \$)

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

Priorities must be defined to make sure that funds are used to best meet the needs of the community. When prioritizing projects, the following criteria should be carefully considered. The criteria are not listed in any particular order, and one criterion is not weighted more than any other - every situation is unique. Projects that address immediate issues of public health and safety, and meeting existing codes and Federal and State requirements should take precedence over other choices. That being said, it is critical to address deferred maintenance needs to provide a high quality and safe parks and recreation system.

HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE AND CODE COMPLIANCE

- Does the project involve upgrades that will bring a site or facility into compliance with codes and regulations, and improve the health, safety, and welfare of users?

COMMUNITY SIGNIFICANCE

- Does the project provide benefits to a large number of people within the community?
- Does the project contribute to the broader city vision and community goals, such as economic development, increased tourism, environmental sustainability, and non-motorized connectivity?

COMMUNITY BALANCE

- Does the project contribute to the balance of needs across the community, such as geographic equity, and providing for unmet needs of segments of the population?

PARTNERSHIPS FOR FUNDING

- Does the project leverage available partnership and grant opportunities for funding (e.g. GOCO, CPW, CDOT, USFWS, School District, County, private, etc.)?

SATISFIES URGENT NEED

- Does the project satisfy urgent parks and recreation needs within the community?
- Does the project help to fill a clear recreation facility/amenity shortage?

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Does the project capitalize on opportunities that are easily implemented (e.g. low cost project with large gains, ready implements, available property, etc.)?

ECONOMY OF SCALE

- Does implementing several projects or portions of projects simultaneously save money or time (e.g. bulk purchase of materials, more efficient management, lower mobilization costs, etc.)?

COMPLETE PHASING OF CURRENT PROJECTS

- Does the project help to complete ongoing phases of current projects that have yet to be finished?

ONGOING MAINTENANCE COSTS

- Are the future ongoing maintenance costs funded and proportionate to the benefit that the community receives?
- Is the project built in a way that minimizes long-term maintenance costs?

PROJECT COSTS

The deferred maintenance and recommended projects were described in the previous chapter. Table 15 is a summary of the potential capital costs in 2017 dollars for both deferred maintenance and new projects that were identified as very important to the community. These cost estimates are very preliminary and must be updated when the projects are actually designed. Increased costs of maintenance, and design and engineering fees, necessary permits and other potential costs have not been assessed, though it is common to budget 10% of construction costs for design and permitting of projects. Costs will also need to be escalated over the years to adjust for inflation and current market conditions.

Table 15 / Potential Capital Costs

PROJECT	ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST	NOTES
Deferred Maintenance	\$1,500,000	At Bob Jay, Opera House, Welcome, Emerald Hills, Cleland, Tamarac, Cottonwood, Confluence, and Mountain View parks, and Garnet Mesa Trail. Primarily restroom, play area, and irrigation replacements plus court resurfacing and miscellaneous items.
Emerald Hills Park	\$160,000	Basketball court and playground upgrades.
Centennial Plaza	\$300,000	New urban space with amenities.
Confluence Park	\$6,200,000	River access points and park areas, river bank grading and stabilization, performance venue, bouldering play area, trails, bike challenge course, group rental pavilion, and parking and landscape improvements. Splash pad at recreation center.
Cleland Park	\$1,600,000	Interactive water feature, skatepark, walks, shade pavilions, and landscape, irrigation, and parking improvements.
Mountain View Park	\$74,000	Play area, batting cage and spectator safety netting.
Cottonwood Park - Soccer Fields	\$2,105,000	A significant portion of the cost is to reconfigure and pave the parking areas (approximately \$900,000).
Riverbend Park	\$2,210,000	Boat launch, 3-D archery course, special events and group camping area, vault toilets, fishing/boating dock, swim beach, gravel roads and parking, electric and minor potable water utilities, crushed gravel trails, and landscape restoration.
Gunnison River Trail	\$1,750,000	Assumes a paved trail. Costs can be reduced if the trail is stabilized gravel or asphalt.
Mountain View Park to Sweitzer Lake Canal Trail	\$555,000	Stabilized gravel trail.
Garnet Mesa to Mountain View Park Trail	\$325,000	Costs do not include widening 9th Street near the school for on-street bike lanes. Costs include a concrete trail between A Street and Pioneer Road and an allowance to improve the walk connection up the hill on 9th Street between Bluff Street and Leon Street.
Total Cost for Priority Projects	\$16,779,000	
Future Cottonwood Park - Full Development	\$12,500,000	4-field ballfield complex, multi-purpose fields, restrooms/concessions building, shade pavilions, open play turf area, parking and trails.

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

Implementing improvements to the parks and recreation system will require multiple tools, which are described below. Two key factors that are important to long-term success to keeping the existing system in good condition are: continuing to partner with the school district to maximize the benefits of public properties for recreational purposes; and establishing a dedicated funding source that will provide money to match grants. A new funding source would allow investments in projects in the near-term that attract tourists and employers, which would improve the economy and sales tax base of the community.

SALES TAX

As outlined previously, the City of Delta currently has 1 percent sales and use tax to fund the Parks and Recreation Fund, which currently generates \$1.8 million per year. A new ½ cent sales and use tax would produce approximately \$900,000 annually. This level of funding would cover the priority needs that are identified in this plan. A ¼ cent sales and use tax would generate one-half this amount, totaling \$450,000 annually, which is approximately 60% of the capital costs of identified projects.

GRANTS

Various organizations 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 COLORADO LOTTERY - GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO)

This is a source of grant funding that is generated from Colorado Lottery proceeds. The types of projects GOCO funds vary widely. The GOCO web site lists these types of projects, which are directly related to Delta's needs:

- Athletic fields
- Disc golf courses
- Fishing piers
- Land acquisitions for future outdoor recreation facilities
- Land preservation along river corridors
- Master plans for outdoor parks and recreation, trails, or site-specific plans

- Outdoor classrooms and natural areas to be used for environmental education
- Outdoor swimming pools and play features
- Pavilions and shade structures
- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Protection of urban open-space parcels
- Skate parks
- Species protection and wildlife education
- Trails
- Whitewater parks
- Wildlife habitat conservation

There are several types of grants that GOCO offers. Each has a slightly different focus.

The Inspire Initiative aims to connect youth and their families with the outdoors. The Nature Connection has recently included the Gear Hub, trail connection to Fort Uncompahgre, and premanufactured play equipment that is focused on building climbing skills in a larger regional grant application.

The Connect Initiative's purpose is to increase access to the outdoors in Colorado communities by filling trail gaps, building new trails, and providing better walkable and bikeable access for youth and families. Applicants may request up to \$2 million for trail construction projects.

GOCO's Habitat Restoration Grant programs fund habitat restoration to improve and restore Colorado's rivers, streams, wetlands, and critical habitat. The program offers \$500,000 of funding each grant cycle.

Local Park and Outdoor Recreation grants are also available from GOCO. These are up to \$350,000 per project, and mini grants are up to \$45,000 per project that costs \$60,000 or less. These grants fund: new park development, enhancing existing park facilities, park land acquisition, and environmental education facilities: Building new facilities or enhancing existing ones.

Youth Corps Grants are a partnership with the Colorado Youth Corps Association. GOCO offers \$500,000 in funding each year to local governments to hire youth conservation corps for land, water, and energy conservation projects on permanently conserved properties.



COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

The Fishing is Fun involves local communities in a three-way partnership with the CPW and Federal Sportfish Restoration Act monies. Eligible applicants can apply and compete for financial assistance for specific projects. Applicants must match their Fishing is Fun award with non-federal cash or in-kind services.

The Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program funds projects for recreational trail grants, trail planning, and trail support grants for non-motorized activities.

The Shooting Range Development Grant Program provides matching grants to towns and sportsmen recreation organizations to establish, improve or expand shooting ranges, including archery, across the state. The Shooting Range Development Grant Program (SRDG) allocates up to \$250,000 annually in matching funds through a competitive grant process.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

CWCB Healthy Rivers Fund has grants for up to \$50,000 for constructing projects related to improving water quality, and \$20,000 for planning them. This source requires a 20% local match.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocates federal funds for transportation improvement projects that expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve quality of life and protect the environment. Many TAP projects enhance non-motorized forms of transportation like

biking and walking. TAP was authorized in 2012 by federal transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and is now continued under the current federal transportation legislation, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST). CDOT is an important partner for implementing the recommendations regarding the US50 Bridge over the Gunnison River and the trail connections under, and at either end of the bridge.

Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) uses a comprehensive approach to make school routes safe for children when walking and bicycling to school. The program is used not only fund education and safe infrastructure, but also to encourage healthy options for our children that are safe for both walking and bicycling.

DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The City currently requires new residential development to provide parkland. Delta should update the development code to include requirements for trail and on-street bicycle connections, and include considerations for single track trail connections in developments where appropriate.



PARTNERSHIPS

The provision of outdoor parks and recreation is increasingly becoming a key element of economic development, healthy lifestyles, and quality of life. Therefore, partnerships with other local agencies and private companies are crucial to assist in the implementation of this plan's recommendations.

CITY AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Other city departments have a role in implementing this plan. The Community 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. In addition, regional trail planning should be coordinated with Delta County's comprehensive, transportation, and trail plans.

DELTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

Delta has an agreement with the Delta County School District 50J to utilize Delta Middle School and High School sports fields for the City's baseball programs and special events, the School District track and field facility for the Hershey Track Meet, and Middle School football field for pass, punt, and kick competitions. Other facilities may also be used if approved by the District. The school cross-country track team uses the trails at Confluence Park for training and hosts a large regional tournament that utilizes the gravel trails around the park. The school district also has specific rights to use some facilities at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center. This agreement should be continued and periodically evaluated as the city grows and new schools and

recreational facilities are developed.

TOURISM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Delta County Tourism and Economic Development organizations play a role in marketing not only the recreation amenities, services and events within the City of Delta but also the surrounding vast public lands and recreation amenities to potential visitors and employers. Partnerships could be strengthened with the other communities in Delta 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.

HEALTH INDUSTRY

Partnerships with Delta County Memorial Hospital and health care providers who promote healthy lifestyles and active aging could support development of additional facilities and increase participation rates of residents.

