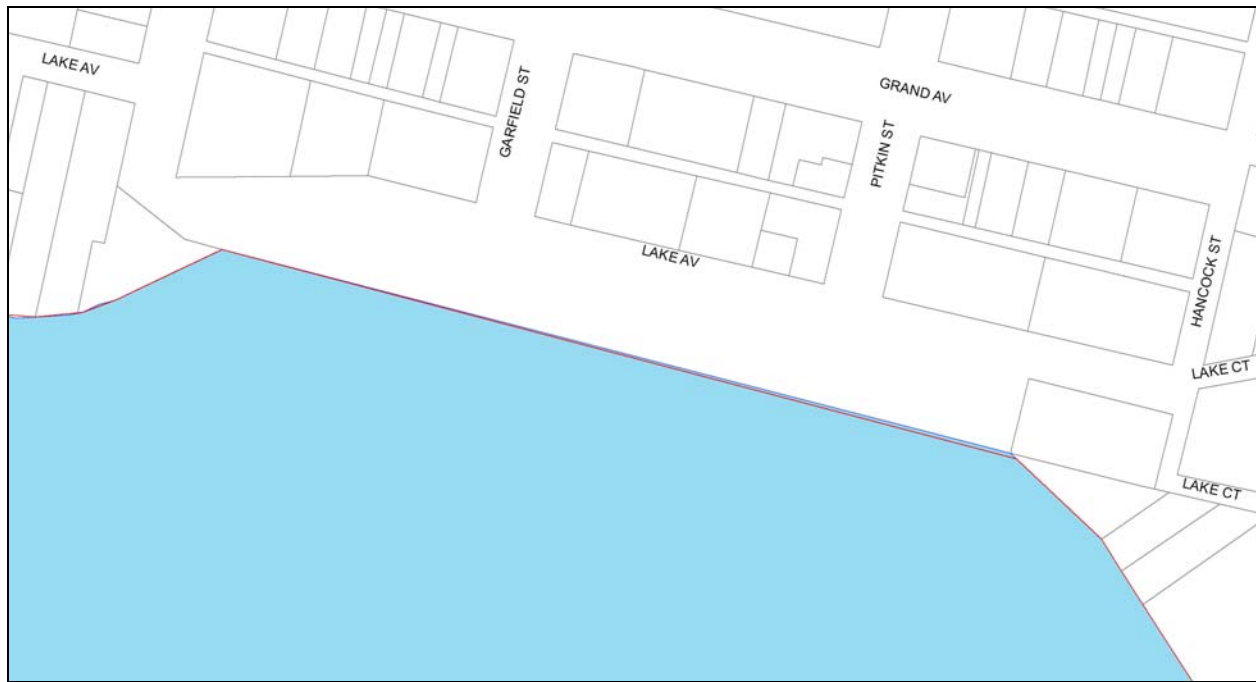


SECTION 2: TOWN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

DRAFT

SECTION 2.1 - Lakeside Park

2.1.1 Lakeside Park: Introduction



Site Size: approximately 3.5 acres

Zoning District: Public

The Lakeside Park is a park located on the north shores of Grand Lake. The Park consists of Lots 12-16, Block 4, Town of Grand Lake and the right-of-way of Lake Avenue. The Park extends from Hancock Street to the east to Ellsworth Street on the west. The park is mostly developed on the east side and consists of bathrooms, parking lots, a sandy beach and nice grassy areas with picnic shelters. The west end of the park has been mostly left undeveloped and consists of beach sand with a volleyball court in the summertime. Currently Lake Avenue is a one-way street that traverses through the park. There is also a non-motorized trail that leads from the volleyball court to Ellsworth Street but its location along the condominiums make this area seem private and therefore a majority of the general public does not travel in this area.



2.1.2 Lakeside Park: Comprehensive Plan

There is great focus on Lakeside Park in the 2006 Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Town. Section 4.2.4.1, *Limiting Parking on the Waterfront*, specifically states:

“The citizens who participated in the Comprehensive Plan workshops suggested a more pedestrian friendly waterfront. A concept that resulted from this comment is to limit parking along the waterfront-specifically, keeping all vehicle parking in the existing Town owned lot across from the Grand Lake Yacht club, while allowing limited vehicular access and parking to patrons of the Lazy Moose Motel. Lake Avenue would not continue through Garfield Street, but end in a cul-de-sac like turn around at the base of Garfield.

By removing vehicles from the south end of Garfield Street, the pedestrian connection from Grand Avenue to the waterfront becomes much more pronounced, easier to walk to and safer. Lake Avenue will continue to function for vehicular movement, but will accommodate many fewer vehicles, allowing the street to be utilized for many more events and pedestrian activities. A dead-end or limited access sign should be posted upon entering Lake Avenue. Physically, the street can be paved with interlocking concrete pavers so that it does not look as much like a street as it does a pedestrian promenade. The intent is to create a pedestrian plaza with a few cars on it, rather than a street with some people on it. The street can be raised to the level of the surrounding lawn areas, effectively enlarging the entire street programming area. This way Lake Avenue can host a variety of seasonal outdoor events...”

Action 4.10 identified in the plans outlines that the Town manager and/or Town planner will work with a landscape architect/planners to redesign Lake Avenue for expanded programming and both limited vehicular and pedestrian circulation.


Additionally, Section 4.2.5, *Fire Ring (gas fired) for Nighttime and Seasonal Events*, was suggested. The location of the proposed fire ring would be in the location of the existing volleyball court for season and nighttime events. The Plan further addresses the benefits of such a project:

- This project requires some capital investment, but can prove versatile in its uses
- A gas fire system will ensure safety and allow the fire size to be safely controlled – it also burns cleaner than wood fires do
- Providing additional evening/nighttime gathering places can create positive community gatherings (“*we want a nighttime gathering place – that is not a bar*”, public open house comment) for all ages, where neighbors can interact and get to know one another
- This activity can help support local businesses – hot chocolates/smoes and other refreshments can be catered to the event by local restaurants and participant may desire to have dinner after the events
- The Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre actors can participate throughout the summer and fall months with children’s events such as evening story time and spooky stories in the fall. Kaufman house docents can participate with historical/era-dress-story

telling events – similar to the fall cemetery tour event. Professional storytellers can be invited on a weekly basis throughout the summer months for story telling events and workshops.

An additionally action item outlined in the Plan (Action 4.11) indicates the Town “*work with a landscape architect/planners to conduct a detailed sub-area study to evaluate in more detail the boardwalk extension alignments and waterfront program usages.*”

2.1.3 Lakeside Park: Future Uses for the Park

- The 2006 Comprehensive Plan recommends the Town close Lake Avenue after the parking lot and replace the road surface with an interlocking paver type material. This would allow the roadway to be closed to the general public but still be open for delivery vehicles and hotel guests at the lodging facilities located on Lots 10-13 of Block 5. If the road is closed to the general public it will encourage more pedestrian traffic along the lakefront and will add to the ambiance of the area. This space could be used for events on the lakefront similar to the Buffalo BBQ Weekend in 2009. Additionally, 55% of individuals surveyed indicated they would like to see this area turned into a pedestrian walkway and 71% of respondents indicated they believe this would be a positive amenity to the Town of Grand Lake.
- 
- The roadway should be closed with a moveable barrier on weekends in the summer preceding the adoption of this plan; the roadway shall remain as is until funding is available for the pavers. Head-on lakefront handicap parking should be developed next to the beach for lake viewing.
 - The Town should seek grants to remove the asphalt and concrete sidewalks and replace it with interlocking pavers that would not only allow for delivery vehicles and hotel guests to use the roadway but also for winter maintenance. The recommendations of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan should be followed.
 - Of the total survey respondents who answered the question “*Do you feel that the following would be valuable assets to the community if placed in high profile areas (such as Town Square Park or Lakefront Park)*”, 79% of respondents indicated an Amphitheatre would be while 71% of individuals indicated a Gas-burning Fire Ring would also be. An amphitheater should be constructed in the Lakeside Park as this would provide an excellent atmosphere for such an event; . Two possible locations include:

- An amphitheater could be constructed on the east side of the Park adjacent to the restrooms near the parking lot. The rock walls that have been constructed offer a natural bowl for patrons to sit in and also would provide wind protection. The stage could be constructed near the existing Lake Avenue roadway.
- An amphitheater could be constructed in the southwest corner of the existing beach area near the lakeshore. The amphitheater should be sunk into the ground to provide wind protection and allow patrons a better view of the lake and Mount Baldy. This area could also have a gas fire pit that visitors could use when events are not being held.

The Town owns a gazebo at the far southwest corner of the park that sits on the water's edge. The boardwalk should be extended from where it currently ends at Garfield Street to the gazebo. Signage should be installed identifying the gazebo as a public amenity as it currently feels private. The hillside near the gazebo should be planted with wildflowers and small evergreen trees to replace the mature trees that were recently removed. The entire western portion of this park should be developed to mirror the development of the east side of the park.



- The western edge of the park is undeveloped and the following improvements could be constructed to create a finished appearance:
 - The volleyball court should be relocated to the far northern edge of the park, along the existing retaining wall and beach sand should be installed just where the court is located.
 - The retaining wall should be faced to improve its appearance. A natural rock façade could be placed on the wall or large perennial flower beds could be built along it as a screen.
 - A small playground could be constructed where the volleyball court is currently located if the Town does not choose to construct an amphitheatre in this location.
 - The boardwalk should be extended to the proposed amphitheater and continue to the gazebo.
 - The area not covered by improvements should be planted with grass similar to the rest of the park.
- The area in front of the Condominiums on Lots 9-12, Block 11, is a non-motorized public roadway and the Town uses it for access to the western edge of the Park to store snow in the winter. This area feels very private and the following should be improved to encourage public use:

- This area should remain open for Town vehicles and for emergency services that may need to access the back of the condominiums (fire department). An interlocking paver roadway should be constructed that will draw visitors to the area but won't limit motorized use by authorized vehicles.



At the intersection of Ellsworth and Lake Avenue the “Do Not Enter” sign should be removed and a new sign stating “Public Access to Lakeside / No Motorized Access” should be installed to encourage the public to use this area. The current sign is not friendly and does not identify this area as public land.

Lastly, the improvements identified in the 2006 Comprehensive Plan for Garfield Street and Pitkin Street should be incorporated into the Lakeside Park. Entrance arches could be constructed over these roadways to draw visitors from the boardwalks to the lakefront.

2.1.4 Lakeside Park: Steps to Develop Future Uses

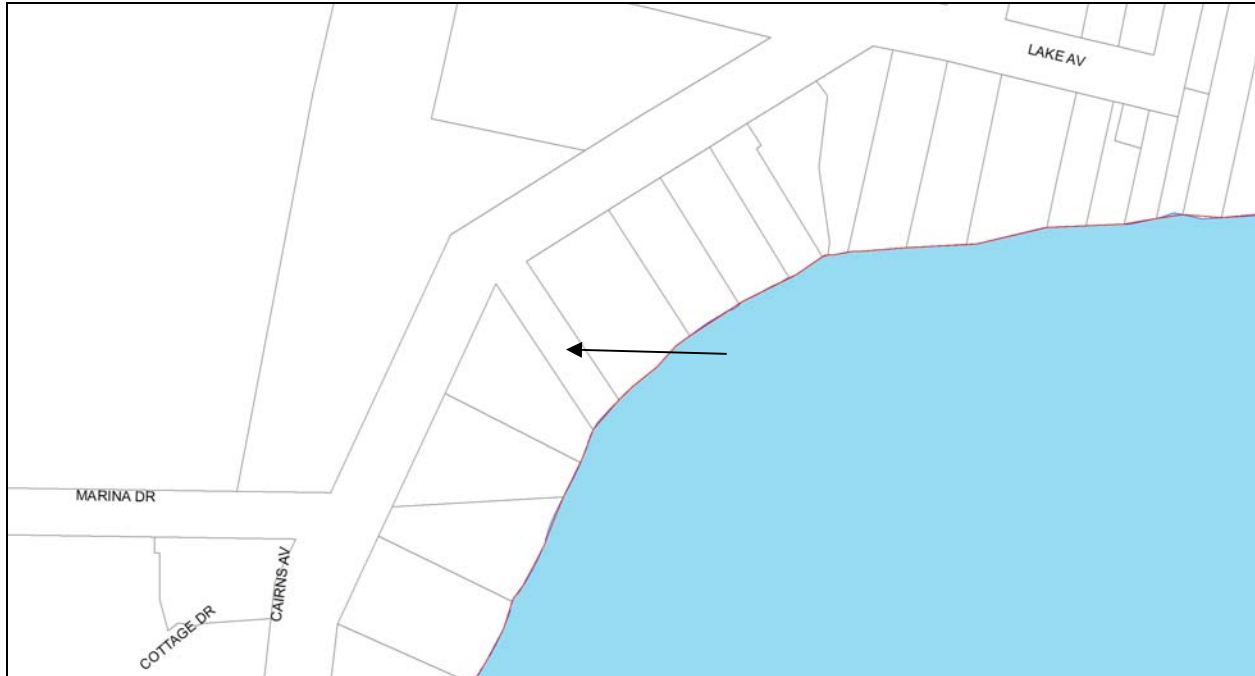
There are a number of improvements the Town can take to complete this Park. The Town should take the following steps:

- First and foremost, public signage should be installed as described above. This is a low cost improvement that will direct the public to the wonderful amenities that currently seem private.
- The roadway should be closed on weekends with a moveable barrier in the summer preceding the adoption of this plan. The barriers could be moved for hotel guests and commercial delivery vehicles. If closure on the weekends is successful, the closure could be expanded for the entire summer.
- The other recommendations should be implemented as funding is available.

SECTION 2.2 - Mt. Craig View Park

2.2.1 Mt. Craig View Park: Introduction





Site Size: 50' X 200'

Zoning District: Municipal Right of Way

Once known as McLaren Street, Mt. Craig View Park is a lot that was once used for rescue boats or for fire engines to draft water. While it is often used for non-motorized boat access and fishing, there is little current use for the park. Two benches, facing Grand Lake, have a classic view of Mt. Craig (a/k/a 'Baldy'). Some snowmobiles access Grand Lake in the winter through this parcel.

While it is a secluded location, the wire rope at the entrance on Cairns Avenue gives the impression of a private and/or closed area. With a PortaJohn at the entrance, the entrance to this open space parcel is not the most welcoming.



2.2.2 Mt. Craig View Park: Future Uses for the Park

Little change of this park is proposed as more passive recreation options in this location are ideal to blend with the existing residential neighborhood. This underused park can be a stop on a trail system or even a short destination hike from the town core.

- By installing signage (“Public Access to Lakeside” / “Day Use Only” / “Please Respect Neighboring Private Property”), at the entrance area and redefining the parking and utilizing removable posts and/or parking blocks on Cairns Avenue, the rope chain may be able to be removed to make the entrance more visitor friendly. Additionally, a wooden

fence should be built around the PortaJohn for screening should be considered. A long-term solution would be the installation of a vault toilet in this location.

- A picnic table placed in this location would encourage visitors to utilize this area for a larger variety of uses. To expand on the current uses, the irregular rocks on the shoreline could be reworked to make a safer environment and the water more accessible. A non-motorized boatdock, similar to that in Lakeside Park, could be installed.

2.2.3 Mt. Craig View Park: Steps to Develop Future Uses

- Higher priority items would include low cost items to beautify the entrance and make it more visitor friendly to encourage use of this area. The installation of a picnic table, fencing of the PortaJohn and parking/signage improvements would be minimal efforts for the greatest impact.
- Long-term plans for the park would include the installation of a vault toilet, reworking the rocks on the shoreline and installation of a non-motorized boat dock.

SECTION 2.3 - East Inlet

2.3.1 East Inlet: Introduction



Site Size: approximately 85 acres

Zoning District: Open Space

Owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, this area contains the only public boat launch access on Grand Lake; ample trailer parking is located in this area. In addition to this amenity, this is

picnicking options near the lake shore and the entrance to the Alva B. Adams Tunnel. Adjacent to the parcel is the trailhead access to Rocky Mountain National Park's East Inlet Trail; ample vehicular parking is located in this area.

In 2009, the Town of Grand Lake worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to dredge the existing boat ramp in this location. The Town awarded a private contract to have the ramp reconstructed utilizing the existing rock and with new rock material.



2.3.2 2006 Comprehensive Plan

Action 4.22 indicates: *“Town planner to research dredging procedure(s)/costs, grants and potential cost sharing of boat ramp reconstruction with Bureau of Reclamation staff.”*

2.3.3 Future Uses for the Park

- The most immediate improvement proposed for this area would be the installation of signage indicating: “Day Use Only” / “Managed By The Town of Grand Lake” – with the Town’s regulations.
- All existing dead trees should be removed from this parcel; these are in violation of the Town’s Tree Mitigation Ordinance. The Town should work with the Bureau of Reclamation on a tree mitigation plan for this parcel.
- The existing parking lot should be reduced and better defined. By moving the parking area further from the lake, more picnicking areas could be placed near the lake in this location.
- The Town needs to work with applicable agencies to ensure misuse of this area does not occur. The area needs to have all items removed from the area or the construction of a storage shed in this location needs to occur.



- This may aid in the reduction of illegal dumping that occurs in this location. The Town has experienced the illegal disposal of boats and other large bulky items because the existing boats, barges, etc. make the area look trashy.
- With approximately 100’ of lake front, the existing picnicking area should be improved. With seven picnic tables, two of the tables (in the worst condition) should be removed from the site. The other tables should be strategically anchored on the site.

- Large shrubs should be planted on the site to provide privacy and space between each picnicking area.
- Some of the picnic tables could be covered to protect from elements.
- Picnicking parking should be delineated and signed; parking should not be located on the lakeshore. If parking is not preferred in this location, parking should be noted at the existing parking facility. Walking paths should be created from the designated parking area to the picnicking facilities.



- Picnicking areas, even if not further developed, should have trash cans installed in this location.
- Of the total survey respondents who live in the Town of Grand Lake or the Grand Lake area, 71% of respondents indicated they would utilize a fully-fenced Dog Park. A Dog Park in this location is ideal. The Dog Park should be fenced (with a smaller fence enclosure for small dogs), have benches and plantings to provide some shade as well as access to pet drinking water. Minimal improvements to a Dog Park are necessary outside those listed.



- The most ideal location for a Dog Park would be in the 1.6 acre circular area near Alva B. Adam tunnel. The Town should work with the Bureau of Reclamation, and any other applicable agencies, to explore the feasibility of a Dog Park in this location. Parking for a Dog Park should not be located on the shoreline.
- The second option for a Dog Park would be located to the east of the existing parking area. The Town should work with Bureau of Reclamation and Rocky Mountain National Park to ensure the use would be appropriate in this location.
- As the survey results indicate, 41% of the total respondents indicated they ‘often’ utilize/enjoy motorized boating; this was the third highest chosen recreational option for those individuals who primarily reside in the Town of Grand Lake. The Town should

explore the feasibility of creating a cement boat ramp in this location to reduce the need for continued maintenance.

- A 404 permit may be required for this construction.
- The survey results indicate non-motorized boating as the most often utilized/enjoyed recreational opportunity indicated by people who reside in Grand Lake; a total of 37% of the total respondents indicated this was the most often utilized recreational amenity enjoy/utilized. A non-motorized boat dock should be installed to the south of the existing motorized boat ramp. Benches should be placed in this location to promote passive recreational use in this location.



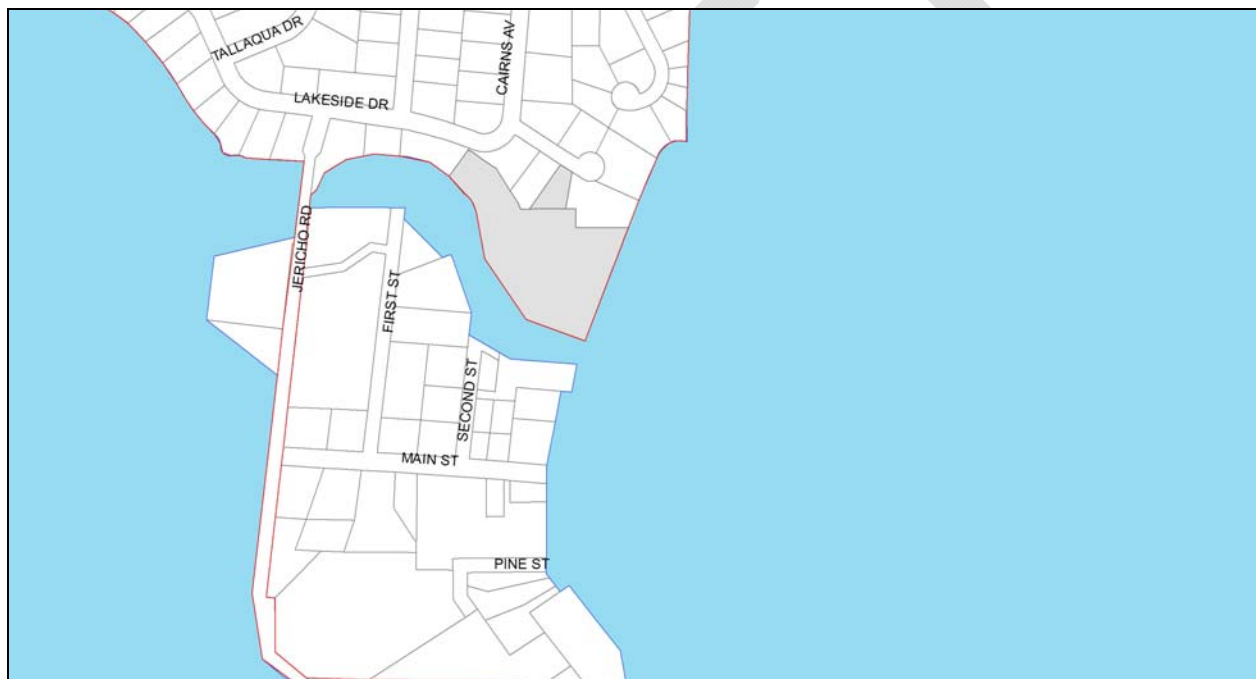
2.3.4 Steps to Develop Future Uses

As with all agreements, the Town should ensure an updated service agreement/Memorandum of Understanding is in place between the Town and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Town should discuss all of the recommendations outlined in the aforementioned Section with the Bureau of Reclamation and the neighboring property owners. The Town should prioritize the recommendations of the development of the park in accordance with the assistance and guidance with the Bureau, Rocky Mountain National Park and any other applicable agencies/organizations.

SECTION 2.4 - Point Park

2.4.1 Point Park: Introduction



Site Size: approximately 2.8 acres

Zoning District: Open Space

This park is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and maintained by the Town through an expired agreement. Point Park's main attraction is the views over the lake and into the mountains. It is used for hiking, fishing, special events (permitted by the Town), dog walking, and viewing scenery. The park is surrounded by private residences and is a day use only area.

Park facilities consist of a permanent toilet, four pavilions with picnic tables and fire grates, sitting benches, two accessible fishing piers, parking for seven vehicles, and entrance sign, and interpretive sign, and the walk-over bridge.

Over the last five years the Forest has removed trees killed by the mountain pine beetle. In 2008 the remaining large trees were removed for public safety reasons. In the late spring of 2009 a combination of local volunteers, Forest and Town employees combined to plant about 80 trees in the park. Six additional spruce trees were planted in the fall of 2009. No more tree planting is planned for the park but wildflower seeds will be spread in the spring of 2010.

2.4.2 Point Park: Future Uses for the Park

No changes are currently planned to the facilities (other than those Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District additions listed below) or to the uses by the Forest or the Town. Proposed trails include Point Park as a destination on local tour routes.

In August of 2010 Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern) is proposing to reconstruct the walk-over bridge mainly to improve their ability to install stop logs. These stop logs enable Northern to block water from flowing to Shadow Reservoir thereby letting them lower Shadow without lowering Grand Lake. This should not have any long term impacts to park users except for two proposed additions. One addition would be a new accessible fishing platform on the north side of the bridge. The second addition would be an interpretive sign with Northern / Forest Service information. Northern also plans on re-paving the section on hiking trail from the gated entrance to the bridge.

2.4.3 Point Park: Steps to Develop Future Uses

While no changes are planned for the facility, the Town can take several actions to ensure the long-term maintenance of this park and its uses:

- Update and enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service to ensure open line of communication and more defined roles in the upkeep of the property and its facilities.
- Conduct annual plantings of the flower beds and/or utilize permanent and less costly maintenance of perennial plantings (planting high altitude species and installation of irrigation) to reduce annual Town costs for plantings and maintenance.

SECTION 2.5 - Town Square Park

2.5.1 Town Square Park: Introduction



Site Size: approximately 1.8 acres

Zoning District: Public

This park is located in the center of Grand Lake’s downtown and is owned by the Town. It is the focal point of many of the Town’s planned outdoor activities and community events. Its location provides visitors an opportunity to take a break from their shopping or enjoy the playground facilities.

The existing facilities of this park are the most diverse in the municipal Parks, Open Space and Trails system, utilizing both passive and active recreation options and public services for a variety of users. Town Hall, the Juniper Library (including public restrooms), the Community House (coupled with the Annex storage building houses Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre in the summer months), a theatre box office (which doubles as a small Chamber of Commerce Information Center) a municipal gazebo and Heckert Pavilion (with abundant moveable picnic tables) are the municipal and community structures located in this park. Ample parking is located in the rear (North) of the park, servicing the facilities of business as well as users of the park.



Active recreational options include a large playground facility and basketball courts (which services as an ice skating rink in the winter time). Passive recreational activities include benches located in the full sun and shade with views of all areas of the park and informational

areas on community organizations and events and trail maps. The park has landscaping pockets surrounding the larger structures, the gazebo and on the south side of the boardwalk paralleling Grand Avenue.

2.5.2 Town Square Park: Future Uses for the Park

- Removal of under-utilized amenities should be considered (telephone booth without a telephone, newspaper stands, etc) and be replaced with amenities that will be utilized (signage kiosks for trail maps and community brochures). These kiosks, if constructed new, should be covered for protection from the elements.
- Improve landscaping on edges of park with a variety of trees, shrubs and flowers. Tree plantings should be planned now for the future loss of the healthy mature trees in the park. Leave lawn open for play areas.
 - Plantings, to partially screen at the base, should be encouraged in those areas where local trail posts may need to be installed.
 - Plantings should be perennial to reduce the maintenance required with annual plantings.
- Installation of an outdoor fireplace in Heckert Pavilion, or just south of library, could encourage year-round events that may continue well into the evening hours. As Section 2.1.2 indicates, the individuals of the community would appreciate a gathering place of this nature. Additionally, the Town allows the private use of this facility for group gatherings; this type of amenity may expand those uses in times when the pavilion is typically vacant.
- The Town should consider the expansion of Heckert Pavillion for a wintertime ice skating rink. By moving the ice skating rink to the edge of the boardwalk, it will encourage further awareness of this wintertime amenity in the community.
 - The Town should further promote wintertime uses through public/private partnerships.
- Conversion of the Annex storage area into a community gym should be analyzed by the Town in the advent this structure would no longer be utilized by Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre.
 - Conversion of the Annex should be examined, as outlined in the survey results (gym, senior center, community recreation rentals, etc), for the highest and best community use based on need.



2.5.3 Town Square Park: Steps to Develop Future Uses

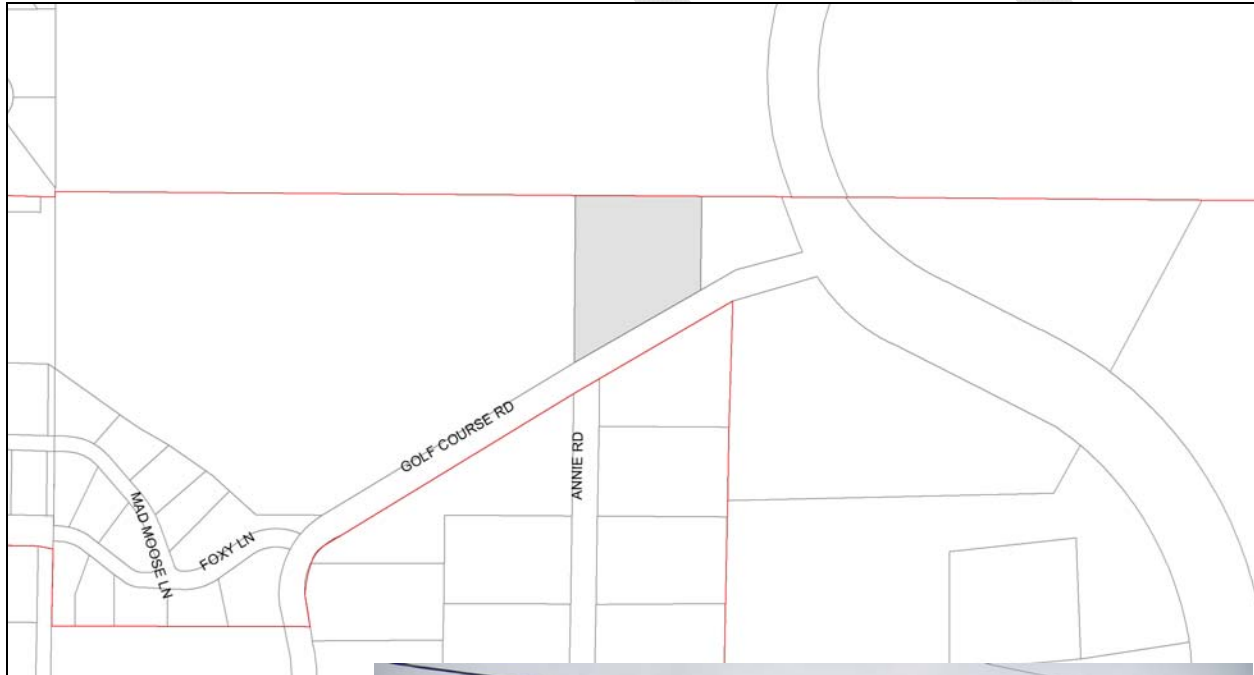
Since the improvements for this park range from small-scale items to larger municipal improvement projects, the Town should consider the small-scaled projects to enable general beautification of the park. Larger capital improvement projects should be analyzed throughout the community to determine the effectiveness and priority levels.

SECTION 2.6 - Ridge at Elk Creek Open Space

2.6.1 Ridge at Elk Creek Open Space: Introduction

Site Size: approximately 1.5 acres

Zoning District: Open Space



The Ridge at Elk Creek Open Space, located in the northwestern section of Town, is a parcel that was acquired in 2004 during the subdivision of the Ridge at Elk Creek, a 19 lot single family development. The parcel consists of mostly wetlands and springs that



keep the area under water most of the year. In the winter, the snowmobile trail that leads from the downtown to the national forest passes through this parcel.

2.6.2 Ridge at Elk Creek Open Space: Future Uses for the Park

- The area should be left in a natural state as it is a high quality wetland.
- The Town should investigate the possibility of installing a floating boardwalk across the wetlands to allow for a hiking trail to be created from County Road 49 to the Thomasson Park trail and into the downtown.
 - This proposed trail would allow for safe non-motorized travel during the busy summer months from Columbine Lake Subdivision to the downtown.

2.6.3 Ridge at Elk Creek Open Space: Steps to Develop Future Uses

- The Town should work with the County and Park Service to establish a non-motorized trail through this parcel and the National Park Service property as described above.
- A boardwalk should be installed across the parcel to create a safe and environmental friendly trail through the wetlands.
 - A 404 permit may be required for this construction.

SECTION 2.7 - Thomasson Park

2.7.1 Thomasson Park: Introduction

Site Size: approximately 8 acres

Zoning District: Single Family Residential – High Density

Thomasson Park, located adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and US Highway 34, is a parcel of property is not currently owned by the Town but is under a lease purchase agreement; while also making payments to the property, the Town is attempting to purchase the property by obtaining grants from various sources.

The property is a mixture of lodge pole pine, willows and wetlands that Columbine Creek flows through. This area is pristine in nature for being located within municipal boundaries and the Town intends to keep this parcel in a relatively undeveloped state. \



The property was placed under a lease purchase agreement so access for a snowmobile trail could be secured and a location for a future cremation cemetery. The Town has limited what improvements they complete in the Park until they actually own the property fully. In early 2002 the Town installed a 16' wide wood chipped trail through the Park that allows snowmobiles to travel from the Gateway Inn through RMNP to the national forest. The Town permits non-motorized use of the park in the summer but due to the current state of the trail the park is seldom used in the summer other than a commercial horse operation. The Town has allowed Sombrero Stables to use the 16' wood chip trail and build a new trail to the Grand Lake Lodge. Neither trail is maintained by the Stables but the Town intends to require a maintenance agreement with them in the near future.

The Town has been actively seeking grants (Colorado State Parks Association and Great Outdoors Colorado) to purchase the property without success. With limited motorized use permitted in the park the Town is having a difficult time finding grants that fit the diversity of uses permitted.

2.7.2 2006 Comprehensive Plan

As the Town's 2006 Comprehensive Plan indicates: *A pedestrian underpass is proposed under Highway 34 for safe access across the busy corridor. The box culvert should accommodate horseback riders, snowmobilers and hikers/pedestrians.* Action 4.15 further indicates: *Town planner to contract with Civil Engineering Company to evaluate the cost, feasibility and alignment of the proposed pedestrian underpass (box culvert style) at the northern Town boundary.*

The feasibility of this has been briefly explored by the Town Planner. Due to the massive amounts of surface and groundwater in this location, a box culvert would not be feasible. The box culvert would consistently be flooded in times of peak runoff making this trail inaccessible and unusable at those times.

2.7.3 Thomasson Park: Future Uses for the Park

- The area should be left in as natural state as possible as it has a high quality wetland with a large population of wildlife including several species of birds, moose, elk, fox, etc... All work performed in the park should be assessed for the need to obtain an Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit.
 - Re-establishment of the natural stream course through this park is something that should be considered.
 - A wildlife viewing platform could be installed along the wetlands to allow tourists to view the wildlife that live and visit the wetlands. The platform would allow users to be above the large willows that line the trail and limit visibility into this wildlife oasis.
- The Sombrero Stables commercial horse operation should not be permitted to travel through Thomasson Park and an alternative route should be created.
 - Thomasson Park is a high quality wetland and large amounts of animal waste could be harmful to the wetlands.
 - The 16' trail through the Park is wet for the majority of the summer and heavy horse traffic causes trail erosion.
 - An alternative route could be to use the Walden Street trail to Patterson Street and then through the top of Thomasson Park along the power lines or the existing trail in RMNP. This route is along ridges and therefore much drier.
 - Any trail that is used as a stock trail should be constructed to handle the heavy traffic and a required maintenance schedule should be created between the Town and the commercial vendors.
 - The 16' trail should have the wood chips removed as they are unfriendly for summer users and detrimental to the wetlands. A natural surface would be more beneficial for



trail users in the summer and would still allow for all winter time uses.

- The trail should be narrowed to a single track (4' max) and grass seed placed on the remaining portion of the existing trail. The easement width needs to be maintained for snowmobile use in the winter but during the summer the trail could be restored to a single track trail which is more inviting for users.

The 16' trail should be closed prior to where the trail climbs toward the highway and all summer time uses should be moved onto another trail that is more sustainable. By closing this section of trail the Town can prevent erosion that has plagued this trail for years and caused sedimentation into the wetlands.

- The stock trail for Sombrero Stables is currently constructed around this area and could be used for mountain bikers and hikers.
- The water that causes all of the erosion on this section of trail should be contained within a ditch with proper erosion control installed. The remaining portion of the trail should be revegetated.
- Moveable fence should be installed at both ends of the trail to prevent motorized use during the summer months and during the spring and fall when snow cover is not adequate for snowmobile use.
- The single track trail that was constructed from the 16' trail to the Grand Lake Lodge by Sombrero Stables is currently eroding and in need of repair. The trail should be rebuilt and maintained for non-motorized use or closed and reclaimed. This section of trail could be used as part of the Patterson Street Trail.
- Picnic tables and shelters should be installed along the trail to allow for picnicking and resting. The Visitors Center could direct our tourists and guest to this area for a great experience.
- Winter time non-motorized uses for this park are not recommended due to the heavy amount of motorized use. It is possibly that this area could be used for cross country skiing / snowshoeing if trails were combined with trails from the Grand Lake Lodge and RMNP.
 - The Town should require the Grand Lake Lodge analyze the possibility of connecting trails from the Lodge to Thomasson Park if any amendments to the Planned Development are requested.
- The northeast corner of the park should be reserved for the future cremation cemetery.

2.7.4 Thomasson Park: Steps to Develop Future Uses

There are a number of items the Town needs to address to get this park to a sustainable summer time use. The Town should take the following steps –

- The Town should first focus on the erosion control issues with the 16' trail as described above (i.e. closing a portion of the trail, installing the ditch, etc...).
- The Town should seek funding to purchase the property. The Town may consider a public / private partnership with the companies that use the property, such as Grand Adventures, Spirit Lake Polaris, Sombrero Stables, etc...
- The Town should review the possibilities of reducing the 16' trail to a 4' natural surface.
- The Town should prohibit Sombrero Stables from using the Park and an alternative route should be established. If the Town permits the use, a Trail Maintenance Agreement should be established by the 2010 season.
- The Town should install a moveable fence as described above.
- The Town should review the possibility of installing a wildlife viewing platform over the wetlands and picnic shelters along the trail.

SECTION 2.8 - Triangle Park

2.8.1 Triangle Park: Introduction



Site Size: approximately 1/2 acres

Zoning District: Open Space

Triangle Park, the first park one sees when you travel toward the center of town, is currently being used for picnics, bar-b-que's and general open space recreation (soccer, ball catching, dog running, etc) on its large grassy area.

It has a small fence that borders the park along with bushes & flower gardens that are annually maintained by the Town through the Public Works Department and private contract.

2.8.2 Triangle Park: Future Uses for the Park

- The area would be left as mostly an open green area.
- The future development of Triangle Park would be to increase its size by eliminating the West Portal Road access. This would greatly increase the size of the park, which would allow for, Horse Shoe Pits, a covered picnic area, & bar-b-que's. Continued plantings of bushes, shrubs and perennial flowers around the perimeter of the park will enhance the area that has been claimed by the road closure.



- Haskell Street should be widened to allow for a safe parking area.
- A boardwalk on the North and South sides of the park would allow for safe access.
- The road closure would promote the use of this park. The currently

location of the intersection of West Portal Road and Grand Avenue make this park a less desirable park to utilize due to perceived safety concerns. If the West Portal Road is not eliminated in this location, a turning lane on Grand Avenue should be added to access West Portal Road.

- The existing fence could be used or a split rail fence could take its place. Either fence needs 2-3 foot of wire placed at the bottom for safety (small dog, ball and child retention) reasons.

- Signage about Grand Lake and what Grand Lake has to offer could be added.
- As with other recreational areas, it is recommended to utilize a fenced PortaJohn for the immediate future with anticipated plans to construct a vault toilet in this location.

2.8.3 Triangle Park: Steps to Develop Future Uses

- The Town should work with a Transportation Planner to have a better understanding of the options surrounding the potential closure of West Portal Road.
 - This investigation should consider the opinions of the local residence owners in this neighborhood.
- Immediate improvements include the installation of a fenced PortaJohn and the placement of 2-3 foot of wire on the lower level of the existing perimeter fencing.

SECTION 2.9 - Winters Pioneer Park

2.9.1 Winters Pioneer Park: Introduction



Site Size: approximately 2.1 acres

Zoning District: Public

Winter Pioneer Park property was donated to the town with the intent of using the land for public recreation. Located south of the fire station and west of the school, the park is little used or

known as public property. The NW corner of the property may have an abandoned underground fuel or septic tank site.

The 1980's agreement indicates that *'The purpose of these restrictions is to insure that the subject be used for recreation purposes...the Town of Grand Lake shall...have the responsibility of assuring that the restrictions are not violated...property shall be used only for user recreation purposes, such as, but not limited to, picnics, handball and racquetball, playgrounds, shuffleboard, swimming, saunas, hot tubs, tennis, cross-county skiing, snowmobiling, recreation vehicle sanitation disposal, baseball, basketball, card games, chess, checkers and meetings for public or non-profit organizations.'*



The Town of Grand Lake has been using the east side of the parcel to store boulders, material and snow. The north side of the lot borders the Town of Grand Lake maintenance facilities. The parcel has a few small trees, tall grasses, and dirt piles. It is little used or maintained.

2.9.2 Winters Pioneer Park: Future Uses for the Park

- The future use of this parcel should fulfill the donor's intended recreational use of the parcel to the maximum fullest extent.
- Signage installed in this area would allow the general public awareness that this parcel is public property and useable.
- Proposed day-use activities could include adding a picnic table and a temporary (fenced) PortaJohn. These would be temporary recreational amenities to ensure immediate use of the property.

- The PortaJohn could be replaced by vault toilet in this location.
- Grand County is recognized as a national leader in mountain bike recreation. A Mountain Bike Terrain Park can provide recreation for area teens and visitors at a low cost and minimal infrastructure. A Terrain Park using boulders and dirt on site can be temporary and easily removed if future development is planned. The park can consist of dirt ramps, log and rock features, and a circular dirt track.
 - Sol Vista ski area has a seasonal .5 acre Terrain Park at the base area which is well used by locals and visitors.
- Parking should be developed in those sections currently used by the Town for boulder storage. Boulder storage could still be utilized but placed in ways to define the separate uses of the park (parking, picnicking, biking, etc).
- This parcel is also a potential alternative site for a Dog Park; please see Section 2.3 for Dog Park recommendations.



2.9.3 Steps to Develop Future Uses

- The Town should explore signage opportunities consistent as identified in this Plan, install a picnic table and place the fenced PortaJohn for immediate use, as identified in the aforementioned section.
- The Town should work with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) on the development of a Terrain Park.
 - Once a design for the Terrain Park is developed, the Town could utilize the expertise of the Public Works Department to move dirt and rocks with machinery.
 - The Town could utilize donated work from local contractors for tax donations.

SECTION 3: TRAILS

DRAFT

SECTION 3.1 – Existing Trails and Recreation

This Section has been taken from the Town of Grand Lake’s 2006 Comprehensive Plan. Where the Comprehensive Plan outlined a community goal, and that goal has been met, the goal has been omitted from this Section.

3.1.1 Existing Trails

Grand Lake has a plethora of trail opportunities for trail users from all walks of life. Grand Lake is surrounded by Rocky Mountain National Park to the north, east, and south. West of Town is Arapaho National Forest. With the vast amounts of public land that surround Grand Lake come a number of regional and local trails. Several of these trails connect directly to Grand Lake with trail heads located on the outskirts of Town. One of the more significant trails that connects to and runs through the Town of Grand Lake is the Continental Divide Trail (CDT).

The CDT is a 3,100 mile-trail traveling from Mexico and Canada through Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. 70% of this trail is in existence today, and the entire trail will be completed by 2008. The CDT travels directly through Grand Lake – the only incorporated town on the CDT trail, entering the town from the south, over the Jericho Bridge, traveling north through town in a zigzag pattern and then entering Rocky Mountain National Park.

The Tonahutu Creek Trail follows the same path as the CDT, north of the Tonahutu Trailhead and into Rocky Mountain National Park. Located directly adjacent to the Tonahutu trailhead is the North Inlet Trailhead. The North Inlet Trail travels northeast from this trailhead into Rocky Mountain National Park where it links with several other trails, including the Tonahutu Creek Trail.

The East Inlet Trail is another Rocky Mountain National Park Trail that runs into Grand Lake. This trail leaves town from the East Inlet Trailhead, which is located at the far eastern end of Portal Road. The East Inlet Trail follows the East Inlet and ends at Spirit Lake, inside Rocky Mountain National Park.

Another Rocky Mountain National Park trail, the east shore trail connects with the CDT south of Grand Lake, just east of Shadow Mountain Reservoir. This trail travels along Shadow Mountain Reservoirs’ east shoreline and then spur trail, the Shadow Mountain trail climbs Shadow Mountain to the lookout tower located at 10,155 feet, overlooking the Town of Grand Lake.

Within the Town of Grand Lake are two historic walking tours, which are sponsored by the Grand Lake Area Historical Society. The two separate loops consist of the Main Beach Loop, which travels through Grand Lake’s commercial area, and the Old Grand Lake City Loop, which runs through the Town’s oldest residential neighborhoods. Each loop is slightly less than one mile in length.

3.1.2 Trail User Groups

Snowmobilers

Voted the “Snowmobile Capital of Colorado,” Grand Lake has one of the largest snowmobile trail systems in the state. Trails are specifically designated for snowmobiles. Streets are also left snow packed in the winter to allow snowmobiles to travel through the Town with other vehicles. There are over 150 miles of groomer snowmobiles trails located around Grand Lake.

Snowshoers

Snowshoeing is a popular activity in Grand Lake. During the winter, the Grand Lake Touring Center turns from golf course into a popular snowshoeing destination. The area offers over 30 kilometers of trails. Snowshoers also utilize many of the trails that begin in Grand Lake and travel into Rocky Mountain National Park.

Skiers

Many trails around Grand Lake are designated as ski trails in the winter. Over 30 km. of tracked cross-country trails exist on the Grand Lake Touring Center and many more miles of trails are located outside of the Town boundary. Sol Vista basin at Granby Ranch (Granby) and Winter Park resort (Winter Park) ski areas both attract many wintertime visitors to the Town of Grand Lake.

4 Wheelers

4 Wheelers in the Grand County area take advantage of old logging and mining roads. There are over 100 miles of trails and roads located in Grand County that allow ATVs.

Hikers

Hiking is one of the most popular activities for locals and tourists in Grand Lake. With the large number of trails in Rocky Mountain National Park and Arapaho National Forest, Grand Lake is a point of departure for many hikers to begin their journey.

Bikers

Grand County attracts a number of bicyclists, both road and mountain bikers. Grand County offers numerous scenic highways and trails for road and mountain bicycling enthusiasts. The Grand Lake Touring Center offers cyclists many trail-riding options. Trail Ridge road within Rocky Mountain National Park challenges road cyclists with elevations over 12,000 feet. With plans to extend the Headwaters Trails Alliance’s (HTA) trail that runs from Winter Park via Granby to Grand Lake, Grand Lake may begin attracting a number of regional bicyclists. In the Grand Lake area, there are over 80 miles of biking trails in the Arapaho National Forest.

Horseback Riders

A number of tourists participate in horseback riding, taking advantage of trails in Rocky Mountain National Park. Sombrero Stables and the Grand Lake lodge offer a number of horseback riding tours.

3.1.3 Missing Links to the Existing System

The existing trail system in and around Grand Lake is extensive, but there are a few crucial gaps in the network. By making two key trail connections, a continuous trail loop around both Shadow Mountain and Grand Lake can be created. The two “missing teeth” in the lakes loop system are:

- The connection between the East Inlet Trail on the east side of Grand Lake to the East Shore Trail
- The connection from the East Shore Trail (further south), around the south side of Shadow Mountain Reservoir, back to Town Center.

A continuous loop system around the lakes can be a regional draw for trail users, thus supporting local businesses by bringing more visitors/tax dollars into Town. Trail users can rent horses, bikes, skis, or snowshoes (dogsleds eventually) in Town for trail usage. It is recommended that the loop be non-motorized to avoid wintertime trail user conflicts. The trail connection between the East Inlet Trail and the East Shore/Continental Divide Trail will need to be closely coordinated with the National Park Service and Arapaho National Recreation Area.

Visitors to the Grand Lake Lodge will be able to better negotiate day trips into the central business district with improved signage and trail connections. ... Accessible trail routes would have to be evaluated and designed for accessibility.

A pedestrian underpass is proposed under HWY 34 for safe access across the busy corridor. The box culvert should accommodate horseback riders, snowmobilers and hiker/pedestrians.

Additional trail connections that would link up important Town destinations are:

- A trail along Grand Avenue and West Portal starting from the central business district to Lake Ave where the existing multi-use trail starts
- A more defined and improved trail connection from the Grand Lake Lodge to West Portal Avenue – and ultimately into the central business district. A new directional sign on West Portal should direct trail users to both Garfield and Hancock (The Spitzmiller Trail) for routes to the central business district
- A new trail connection on Patterson Street would take trail users from Garfield, west to the proposed Highway 34 pedestrian underpass
- Trail signage from Hancock Street to West Portal via Grand Avenue is proposed for a short term trail connection to the East Inlet Trail

- A trail connection from West Portal starting at Garfield heading east along West Portal to the East Inlet Tail is proposed (Propose a long term trail connection)

3.1.4 2006 Comprehensive Plan Action Items

Action 4.14: Town planner to work with the Headwaters Trail Alliance to evaluate alignments and feasibility of all proposed trail connections outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. Also to be discussed with the Headwaters group is the eventual inclusion of the Grand Lake trail system into the “Fraser to Granby Trail” network.

Action 4.15: Town planner to contract with Civil Engineering Company to evaluate the cost, feasibility and alignment of the proposed pedestrian underpass (box culvert style) at the northern Town boundary.

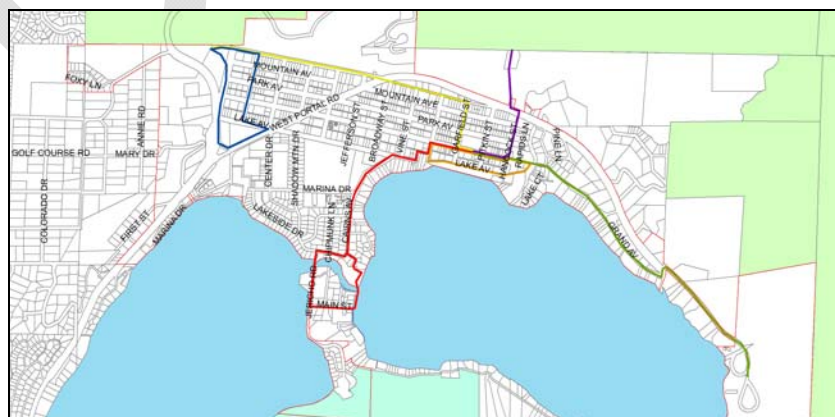
Action 4.16: Town planner to closely coordinate proposed trail connections with the National Park Service on linking the East Inlet Trail and the East Shore / Continental Divide Trails.

Action 4.17: Town planner to work with landscape architects to establish Town trail signage that works for way finding from West Portal and are designed in the same style as the Town entry monuments.

Action 4.18: Town manager to discuss concept of themed transportation between the Grand Lake Lodge and the Town with the Lodge proprietors. If concept is deemed worth while, Town planner to work with landscape architects / planners to locate and design trail connections for accessibility from Grand Lake Lodge to the central business district.

Action 4.19: Town planner to discuss Spitzmiller trail entry monuments with Tom Clarke (homeowner / architect) to evaluate using comparable scale and materials for trail signage, as proposed for Grand Lake central business district entry monuments, to ensure signage design consistency.

SECTION 3.2 – Proposed In-Town Trail Network



While the Town continues to work on regional connectivity, there are numerous in-town trails that could be developed at a relatively low cost. These trails would not only support community goals of connecting local landmarks and destinations but would also enable visitors to enjoy scenic walks and hikes throughout the Town's incorporated limits.

The proposed trail system would be signed with routed posts along the route. Posts would be fashioned with a colored band (indicating the trail route) as well as uses along the trail. Trail uses change at various points (such as when a trail leads to areas where dogs are not allowed), the signed uses may be changed at the various points along the route.



3.2.1 Orange Trail

Short Description

The Orange Trail is an easy walk from the Town Center Park of Grand Lake via the Downtown business district to the Tonahutu River through a residential area to the beautiful Lake Front Park with vistas of Mt. Craig.



Long Description

Starting at Grand Lake Town Park on Garfield Street and Grand Ave. head East on the Boardwalk through historic Downtown Grand Lake (shopping is permitted and encouraged along the way). Cross at Hancock St. onto a gravel road past some cute little cabins that lead to the River. Rest a spell on the benches (one on either side of the river) and enjoy the music of the river. Head south on Lake Court through a residential area with access to the beach. Take the roadway to Grand Lake, the Largest Natural Lake in Colorado. Walk along the beach front and dip your toes in the icy cold waters past the Kaufman House Museum. Head towards the boat docks or drop in for a pick-up game of beach volley ball. Head West on the trail to the town Gazebo for a moment of solitude while taking in the majestic Mt. Craig jutting out of the lake. Head up the trail behind the condos to Ellsworth St. and on to Grand Av then head East on the boardwalk for more shopping. Return to Town Square Park.

User Ability: Recommended for all Users

Difficulty: Easy

Mileage: 1.15 Miles (One-Way)

Roundtrip Walking Time: 20 minutes

Route Description

Head east from town square past downtown shops cross Hancock Street to Tonahutu river head south on lake court to go to Lake Ave to beach front walk along shore line to Ellsworth street head east on Grand Ave to Town Square Park.

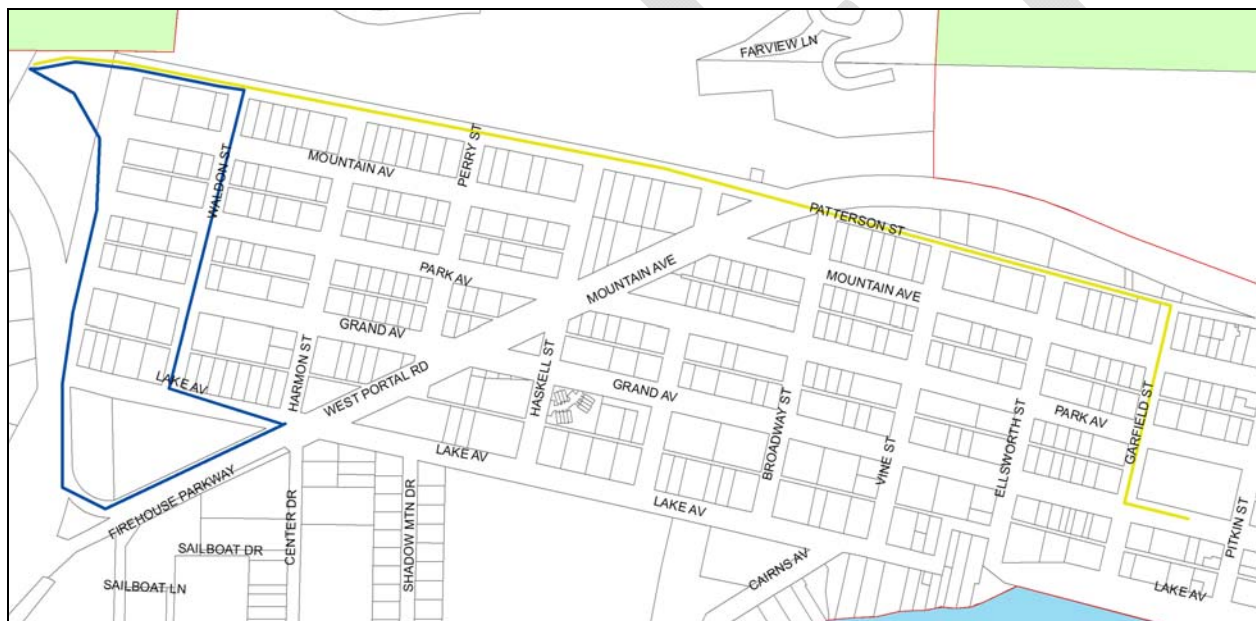
Posts Needed: 6-8

Steps for Development: As it exists solely on the public right of way, once posts are installed, there are no improvements that need to occur for use. The Town may want to consider outlined recommendations for Lakeside Park for enhancement and beautification to make this walk even more enjoyable.

3.2.2 Yellow Trail

Short Description

The Yellow Trail is a future trail starting from Town Square and following the Patterson Street right-of-way to the Grand Lake Lodge and Thomasson Park. The trail has wonderful views of Mount Baldy, Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Lake and the Vasquez Mountain Range.



Long Description

Starting from Town Square, the future trail will follow Garfield Street north to the Patterson Street right-of-way where a single track trail begins heading west through the forest. The trail continues west and crosses West Portal Road (Tunnel Road) and climbs steady following the power lines along the hill. At this point of the trail, views of Mount Baldy, Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Lake and the Vasquez Mountain Range come into view. This is an excellent place to take a rest and enjoy the scenery. The trail begins to descend for a short distance prior to beginning another steep climb up the hillside to where the right-of-way is developed as a dirt road. From here the trail follows the roadway for a short distance and then again becomes a single track trail along the power

lines. The trail leads to the Grand Lake Lodge or to Thomasson Park, Rocky Mountain National Park or the Grand Lake Metro Recreation District.

User Ability: Trail recommended for experienced Hikers and Bikers

Difficulty: Expert users with elevation gains of approximately 300'

Mileage: 1.2 Miles (One-Way)

Roundtrip Walking Time: 1 hour (plus time enjoying the vistas)

Route Description

This trail has not been established and therefore a route Description is not available. This trail will lead from the Town Square to the Grand Lake Lodge, Thomasson Park and Rocky Mountain National Park using the Patterson Street right-of-way. The Town may need to acquire an easement from the Grand Lake Lodge in order to construct a portion of the trail due to topography constraints within the right-of-way.

Post Needed: Unknown At This Time (To be determined with Trail Planning/Construction)

Steps for Development: This trail will require connectivity from West Portal Road to the Patterson Street Right of Way. The trail will be designed with switch backs to traverse up the steep slope.

Once the trail has reached the Patterson Street Right of Way, the land levels out and a trail will need to be cut and surfaced to Thomasson Park. Once in Thomasson Park, the trail will meet up with the existing trail system.

3.2.3 Green Trail

Short Description

The Green Trail is a strenuous 1.6 mile hike from downtown to the West Portal Town Park. This rolling trail follows a dirt road above the north shore of Grand Lake to access waterfront picnic tables or the trailhead to Adams Falls in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). This trail has views the entire way and works well for hikers, dogs, and bikes. *(Please Note: Dogs and Bicycles are not allowed in RMNP).*

Long Description

This is an ideal 3-4 hour (allotting for time for picnicking, side hikes and/or rest) hike with views, sun, and water access. From downtown follow historic Grand Avenue due east. Grand Avenue becomes a dirt road and continues east for 1.2 miles on hilly terrain.

Continue east for .4 miles along paved West Portal Road to the town park. This park offers lake access, picnic tables, a boat launch, sandy beach, and nice views to the west of mountains behind Grand Lake. The park is the site of the Adams Tunnel which delivers west slope water to the east. Interpretive exhibits describe the Big Thompson Water Project. The road continues 100 yards beyond the waterfront to The East Inlet Trailhead of Rocky Mountain National Park. This trailhead has restrooms and free access to RMNP's trail system. Adams Falls is a .5 mile hike up the trail. Return to Grand Lake the same route.



User Ability: Trail Recommended for Hikers, Bikers and Dogs

Difficulty: Strenuous with rolling hills

Mileage: 1.6 Miles (One-Way)

Roundtrip Walking Time: 1 hour each way, extra time for a waterfront picnic or hike to Adams Falls.

Route Description

From Town Square Park follow Grand Avenue east for 2 blocks to a T intersection, left for 100 feet, then right and east again on Grand Avenue as it turns to a dirt road. Follow green posts and the main road east for 1.2 miles, as it rolls over small hills and through historic neighborhoods with constant views of Grand Lake below. After 1 mile Grand Avenue climbs up to left and joins the paved West Portal Road. Follow the shoulder of the pavement east for .4 miles to the West Portal Town Park with water access and picnic tables.

Long Description

Starting from the Visitor's Center the trail follows Columbine Creek on a level woodchip trail to Thomasson Park. The trail continues along a large wetland where moose are often found munching on willows and enjoying the seclusion that comes with the Park. The trail turns north onto a single track trail that climbs toward the ridge with views of the surrounding peaks becoming available. Follow the single track trail to where the trail turns south and follows Walden Street (developed road) for a short distance and then back to a single track trail where views of Mount Baldy, Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Lake and Byers Peak come into view. Take a seat on one of the many rocks to enjoy the view. From there the trail descends through a series of switchbacks to Lake Avenue, turn east and head down Lake Avenue and back to the woodchip trail, follow it back to the Visitor's Center.

User Ability: Trail recommended for hikers and experienced bikers

Difficulty: Moderate with elevation gains of approximately 100'

Mileage: 1.06 Miles

Roundtrip Walking Time: 30 minutes (plus time enjoying the vistas)

Route Description

This trip will follow the hiking posts that have the blue ring. Start from the Visitor's Center and go north on the woodchip trail along the highway. The trail continues along the woodchip trail and enters Thomasson Park where the trail crosses Columbine Creek and starts heading west. Look for the single track trail that is north (right) of the woodchip trail and follow it up the hill towards the top of the ridge.

Side Trip

From the top of the ridge a side trip can be made to the Grand Lake Lodge by continuing north on the single track trail.

Continue climbing a short distance until you're at the top of the ridge, then turn east (right) and continue to climb adjacent to the fence. Where the fence turns south (right) follow the single track trail to the developed road and continue straight (south). The trail turns back into a single track trail and follows a ridge into a clearing where views of Grand Lake, Mount Baldy, Shadow Mountain Lake and Byers Peak are visible. Take time to enjoy the view, you're at the highest point of the trail. After soaking in all the views start the descent through a series of switchbacks toward a developed roadway (Lake Avenue), turn east (left) and follow it downhill till the

woodchip trail reappears. Follow the trail west (right) and climb slightly up hill back to the Visitor's Center.

Posts Needed: 10

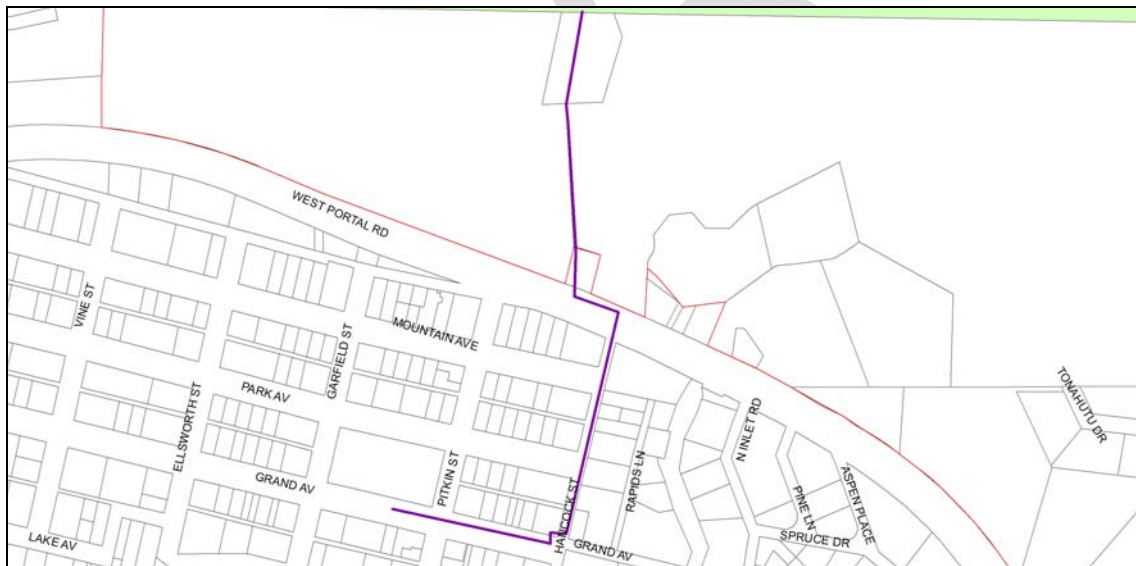
Steps for Development: This trail is predominately constructed. Once posts are installed, the Town may want to look into options for improving the existing trail (widening, resurfacing, etc).

3.2.5 Purple Trail

Description

The Purple Trail begins in downtown at the Town Square and connects to Rocky Mountain National Park. At Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) you are at the Tonahutu Creek Trail head which continues to RMNP's visitor center or Big Meadow's and beyond. RMNP visitor is approximately ½ miles from the town square. The purple trail is .56 mi. one way. The North inlet trail system also begins at the Tonahutu Creek Trail Head.

User Ability: Recommended for Hikers, Bikers, & Snowshoers (*Please Note: Rocky Mountain National Trail system adjoins the purple trail which only allows for Hikers, Snowshoers & Skiers*)



Difficulty: Mild to moderate as elevation inclines are present

Mileage: .5 miles to RMNP

Roundtrip Walking Time: 30 Minutes

Route Description

This trip will follow the hiking posts that have the purple ring. Start at Town Square Park, head East on Grand Avenue. Turn North (left) on Hancock, go to the end of the road. The purple trail continues up a steep hill with two benches located on the hill. This is a great view point of Grand Lake. At the top of the hill you will cross West Portal Road (Tunnel Road) and continue North on a dirt road CR 663. You will reach the end of the purple trail and access the Tonahutu & North Inlet Trail System.

This is a connector trail and it is best to park at Town Square due to limited parking at the Tonahutu and the North Inlet Trail Head.

Posts Needed: Maximum of 4

Future Plans for Development

In the event the Town annexes the property West of CR 663 there should be an easement secured that would move trail users from the road to the easement.

Steps for Development: As it exists solely on the public right of way, once posts are installed, there are no improvements that need to occur for use. The Town may want to consider enhancement and beautification to make this walk even more enjoyable.

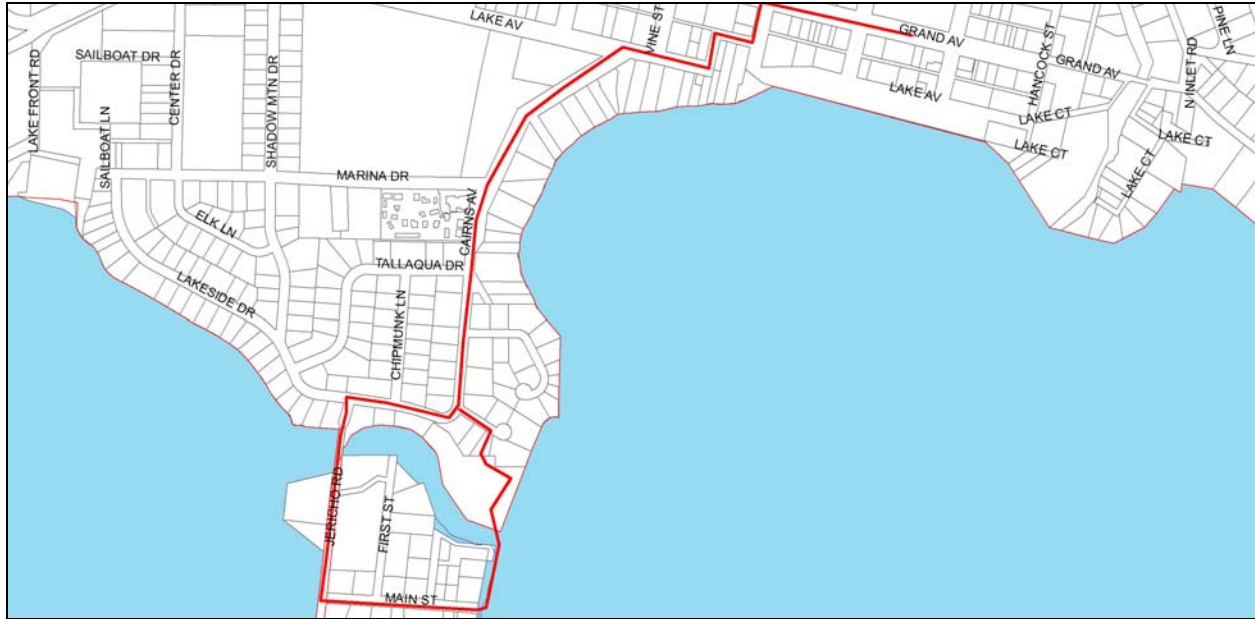
3.2.6 Red Trail

Description

The Red Trail begins in downtown at the Town Square Park and goes to Mt. Craig Park and Point Park and back to downtown. Mt. Craig Park is a very small lake shore park with two benches, a portable toilet and great view of Baldy. Point Park is another lake shore park with a heated flush toilet, covered picnic tables, handicapped accessible fishing platforms and great views of the lake and mountains. Side trips can take the user from Point Park along the lake and out to Jericho Road. This first option goes past the Hilltop boat launch area, across the Rainbow bridge and back to Point Park.

Option 2 goes from Point Park, along the lake and out to Jericho Road. Turn right on Jericho Road for .4 miles to the East Shore Trailhead which leads onto the Forest Service and Rocky Mountain National Park trail.

User Ability: Trail recommended for hikers, bikers, strollers, fishermen,



Difficulty: Easy (Flat Terrain Along Town Street System)

Mileage: 2 Miles (Roundtrip)

Roundtrip Walking Time: 1 Hour

Route Description

This trip will follow the hiking posts that have the red ring. Start at Town Square Park in downtown Grand Lake. Go west on Grand Avenue and take a left (south) on Ellsworth (4 minutes). Go for one short block and take a right (west) on Lake and then a quick left and right while staying on Lake (4 minutes). Turn left (south) on Cairns and go past the historic homes to Mt. Craig park (2 Minutes). (Visit the park for its great lake shore views). Continue down Cairns, take a left (east) on Shadow Mountain Lane and then a quick right (south) into Point Park. (5 minutes). Return to Town Square Park (20 minutes).

Option 1:

Go over the channel on the bridge and south along the lake shore trail for one block. Turn right on Main Street for 3 blocks to Jericho Road. (8 minutes). Take a right on Jericho past the Hilltop boat launch area and over the Rainbow Bridge. Take a right on Lakeside Drive back to Point Park. (5 minutes). Return to down town (15 minutes).

Option 2:

Go over the channel on the bridge and south along the lake shore trail for one block. Turn right on Main Street for 3 blocks to Jericho Road. (8 minutes). Take a left (south) and wlk along the edge of Jericho Road for .4 miles to the intersection. Take a left for 100 yards and into the East Shore Trail parking lot on the right side of the road (10 minutes). (This trail goes into onto National Forest for .8 miles and then into Rocky Mountain National Park.) From the trailhead return to downtown (30 minutes).

Posts Needed: 12 (main trail), 8 (optional trails)

Steps for Development: The Town may want to consider a pathway paralleling Cairns Avenue. If this is considered, the Town will need to construct a new trail along this route and account for the existing drainage in this area. This trail should be surfaced with a natural material.

For the development of Option #2, the Town will need to have title work done on the adjacent parcels and then work with Grand County to ensure coordination and cooperation of the development of this Grand County Right of Way.

SECTION 4: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DRAFT

SECTION 4.1 – Introduction

The improvements proposed in the Parks, Trails and Open Space plan range from minor improvements such as adding or removing a sign to major development like the creation of an amphitheater. The improvements will require capital funds be set aside by the Town to fund such ideas and maintain them after construction.

SECTION 4.2 – Funding Opportunities

The Committee has reviewed several alternatives to fund the improvements identified in the plan:

Section 4.2.1: 7% Land Dedication

The Town currently receives a 7% land dedication fee when property is subdivided. This fee is to be used for public improvements, such as the development of public open space, parks and other public uses. This fee, as well as all other funds obtained for the purposes and scope outlined in this plan, should be placed in a separate account and used strictly for parks, trails and open space development, acquisition and maintenance throughout the Town. Park development and maintenance are both important but currently the Town is need of more park development than anything, so it is recommended that the fund be established with 75% being used for development and acquisition and 25% being used for maintenance. Having a secure fund that is paid for through land development would allow for matching grant opportunities and ensure upkeep and continuance of our parks, open space and trails for future generations.

Section 4.2.2: Grants

Grants should be actively sought after to secure funds for capital projects such as a dog park, amphitheater, trail development, etc... As a local government, the Town has several organizations where grants can be obtained from. A few of the most popular include Great Outdoors Colorado and Colorado State Parks. Private grants such as Pepsi Refresh Grant could be obtained from corporations.

Section 4.2.3: Real Estate Transfer Taxes

Real Estate Transfer Taxes can utilized when an annexation or planned development is proposed, the Town may have an option to request a developer provide a Real Estate Transfer Assessment on the property. The assessment, which would be a recurring fund, could be used for park development, trail improvements, etc...

Section 4.2.4: Private Donations

The Town should seek private donations from members of the community. Incentives could be offered such as naming rights for donated buildings, trail construction and park improvements.

Section 4.2.5: Private Foundations

The Town could seek funds from private foundations such as Grand Foundation, Sprout Foundation, Rotary Club, Pet Pals and other foundations and organizations.

Section 4.2.6: Taxes

The Town could consider a lodging tax, additional sales tax or additional property tax to be used for park development similar to other resort communities.

Section 4.2.7: Partnerships

The Town should continue to pursue partnerships with HTA and the Grand Lake Metro Recreation District (GLMRD) to further the actions identified in this plan.

Section 4.2.8: Miscellaneous Opportunities

There are other possibilities for funding and this section should be updated as those ideas are discovered.

DRAFT