

## SECTION III

### PARKS AND RECREATION

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## PARKS AND RECREATION



*Leap and the net will appear.*

ZEN SAYING

### PARKS AND RECREATION

.....

#### *Introduction*

Residents in Milliken and Johnstown are very proud of the existing park system, as evidenced by its heavy use. For example, the park shelters in Johnstown are so busy that citizens must sign up for them, and by April they are usually booked for the summer. The children really appreciate the parks in town and generally use them quite often. The elementary school student council found that most children who live in Town reported using the parks at least three to five times a week. Families come from throughout the recreation district to enjoy the parks in the older parts of the communities because there are no facilities within walking distance of their homes.

The citizens strongly support the development of new parks. They feel the demand placed on the parks will only continue to grow because the majority of people moving into the area are young families with children. **They feel parks serve as gathering places for community members of all ages and they will help new citizens meet long-time residents.** The Recreation District feels it is important to expand the park system because there are insufficient facilities for practicing sports and playing pick-up games.

The community's highest priority is the need for more recreation opportunities close to home. Many people currently travel to nearby communities for their indoor and outdoor recreation needs. This is true for all ages and user groups. The most commonly requested facilities that citizens would like to have include: additional playing fields (for soccer, football, softball/baseball, and non-organized sports), a gymnasium or field house, classrooms/meeting rooms, an indoor swimming pool, a teen center, and a library. Several people also requested a theater, fishing ponds and a shooting range. The activities most frequently requested by citizens include: competitive youth sports, non-competitive sports for teens, special interest classes for adults and youths (such as photography, nutrition/health, arts and crafts, and dance), adult fitness programs (such as aerobics, kickboxing and weight training) and adult athletics (especially softball and basketball).

It is clear that the current mill levy will not fund new recreational facilities. In order to get support from the community for any sort of tax increase, the proposed facilities would need to benefit people of all ages (not just children). Citizens recommend the following funding options for recreational facilities: corporate sponsorships,

grants, bonds, sales tax (need more commercial uses to make this option work), increase development impact fees, Colorado Rockies for baseball fields, privately funded facilities (i.e. bowling alleys, movie theaters, health clubs).

This plan does not address programming for recreation activities within the community. It will serve as a guide for the development of adequate parks and recreation facilities to support the citizen's programming needs. The Recreation District currently provides the programming and organization of activities. The Towns and the School District develop, own and maintain the facilities. The Towns and the Recreation District cooperate with the School District to share facilities and are still unable to meet the demand. This arrangement will continue to evolve as the communities grow and the demands for services increase with the population.

Cooperation is essential to meet the increasing demand for services. **The citizens want to reinforce and nurture this spirit of cooperation.** It is important to develop partnerships with businesses, service groups and organizations, landowners and developers. For example, teachers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Future Farmers of America are cooperating with the Town of Johnstown to help build Sunrise Ridge Park. This cooperation helped the community get financial support from a Great Outdoor Colorado grant. The Town of Milliken partnered with Hall-Irwin and Bestway Concrete to develop two fisheries. This cooperation made possible a \$260,000 grant from Colorado Division of Wildlife's Fishing is Fun program to stock the ponds and install trails, parking lots, restrooms and educational signage. Continued support from other State agencies such as the Division of Local Governments and Colorado State University will extend limited resources. By sharing facilities with the School District, maintenance costs can be shared. Cooperation is also a key component of the design process for all parks and recreation facilities. The

community must cooperate with the Recreation District and school districts to identify needs and determine the best location for facilities.

***The citizens of Milliken and Johnstown feel that all parks should:***

- Serve as community gathering spaces to foster strong connections within and between Johnstown and Milliken;
- Provide a variety of activities for different age groups and users;
- Include open areas for group activities and smaller, quiet spaces for individuals;
- Be connected to the community and each other with safe pedestrian access;
- Include grass, shrubs, trees, annuals and perennials, and where possible, water;
- Provide educational opportunities; and
- Be developed as shared, multi-purpose facilities.

*Intent:* \_\_\_\_\_

***The purpose of this section is to:***

- Define the community's vision for Milliken/Johnstown's park system;
- Help ensure the parks system will provide adequate facilities to support existing and future recreation opportunities;
- Ensure parks and recreational facilities are available to all citizens and foster both individual and family activities;
- Put standards in place for new development and to help the towns estimate park development costs so

Milliken/Johnstown can more easily explore funding opportunities;

- Ensure each park is a unique, special place and includes education opportunities; and
- Provide design guidelines and development standards that ensure all facilities are sensitive to the environment and context within the community.

### *Function of Parks*

Parks fulfill a variety of needs within the community. They provide opportunities for passive and active recreation. They help reinforce a sense of community by providing places for members of the community to gather and interact. Parks also enhance the community's image and quality of life.

### *Types of Parks*

**Pocket Parks** are small (minimum one acre) sites within walking distance of residential units. They are designed to fit the style and needs of the homes they serve, are installed by the developer and owned and maintained by homeowners' associations. A pocket park for a senior community may include a contemplative garden and a picnic area while a pocket park for a multi-family project with young families may include playground equipment for small children, a picnic area and a basketball or volleyball court. Because pocket parks are within walking distance of most users, restrooms and parking areas are not typically provided.

**Neighborhood Parks** provide places for informal recreation and gathering places within 1/2 mile of most residences in the neighborhood they serve. They often serve more than one type of residential unit,

including single family homes, apartments and senior housing. Neighborhood parks are often linked via the trail system. They are 7 to 10 acres in size and may include multi-use lawn areas, picnic areas, shelters, playground equipment, small court games, restrooms, parking, and community gardens. They are designed to fit the needs of the neighborhood they serve and provide places for both individual and group activities.

**Community Parks** are larger parks (approximately 25 acres or more) designed to be used by the residents of more than one neighborhood and the community at large. They serve as a focus for community activities and events (i.e. town greens, outdoor concerts, amphitheaters, family gatherings) and typically include many of the amenities in neighborhood parks. They provide places for organized group activities, (could be indoor or outdoor) as well as individual activities and family gatherings. They may also take advantage of unique natural settings and provide recreational facilities compatible with the site (i.e. fishing where there is a pond).

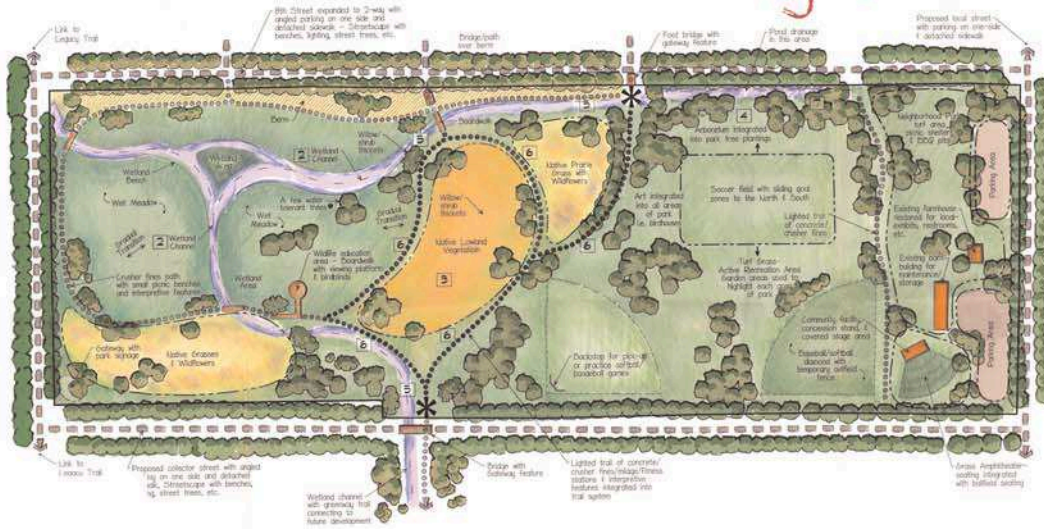
**Regional Parks** will include special places with unique geographic characteristics such as Johnstown Reservoir or the Community Green. They may also include areas that need preservation and limited public access such as the Sparrow property in Milliken.

**Linear Parks** will include the Little Thompson, Big Thompson and South Platte River Corridors. They may also function as links between special places. Please refer to the **Parks Standards** on page 30 for more details about each type of park.





# Community Park



# Neighborhood Park

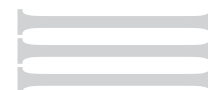


# Pocket Park



## PARKS STANDARDS

TYPE OF PARK	MINIMUM SIZE	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE	FACILITIES INSTALLED BY DEVELOPER	COMMENTS
Pocket Park	1 acre	within ½ mile without crossing an arterial street (min 1 per 250 units)	Play area for children, grassy area for informal activities such as frisbee. To be based on the needs of the immediate neighborhood.	Trees, flowers, grass, benches, trash receptacle, irrigation system, play equipment, and shelters	Safe access within the neighborhood is critical. Provide access via off-street trail connections, sidewalks and low volume neighborhood streets. Users should not have to cross major streets to access the park. This can be waived if there is a neighborhood park within walking distance (½ mile) without crossing arterial streets. Pocket parks are to be owned and maintained by the homeowners association of the neighborhood that they serve.
Neighborhood Park	7 acres (If adjacent to a school this is in addition to the minimum for a school site.)	½ mile radius (users should not have to cross an arterial road to get to a neighborhood park)	Serves as the focal point for neighborhood activities. Should provide a balance of opportunities for active and passive recreation and neighborhood gatherings.	<p>Site grading and native grass establishment.</p> <p>Refer to town ordinances and comprehensive plan regarding park land dedication and park locations.</p> <p>Developer is encouraged to work with the town to install additional improvements as agreed upon in annexation agreements.</p>	<p>Park should be centrally located within the neighborhood. Provide safe access via off- street trails. Users should be able to access the park without crossing any major streets or other physical barriers. If a neighborhood park is within ½ mile, separated by an arterial street, the developer may install a grade separated crossing in lieu of creating an additional park. "Left-over" parcels with physical development constraints (i.e. detention areas and oil and gas facilities) are not desirable and should not be included in minimum acreage calculations unless it can be demonstrated that they are designed to function as open space for the neighborhood. Lighting for security and safety only. Should be sited adjacent to a school whenever possible. Parks should contain restroom and parking facilities. Developers are to stub in utilities to the park wherever possible.</p>



## PARKS STANDARDS (CONTINUED)

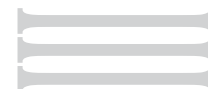
TYPE OF PARK	MINIMUM SIZE	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE	FACILITIES INSTALLED BY DEVELOPER	COMMENTS
Community Park	25 acres (Size may vary depending on the types of activities to be included.)	5 mile radius	Serves several neighborhoods and focuses on the recreational needs of the whole community. Should provide room for organized active recreation, informal active recreation and passive recreation. They should also provide places for community gatherings and activities.	Refer to town ordinances and comprehensive plan regarding park land dedication and park locations.  Developer is encouraged to work with the town to install additional improvements as agreed upon in annexation agreements.	Provide good access via major streets. Consider impacts of park activities on adjacent land uses. Design park to preserve unique natural settings. Include opportunities for wildlife viewing and quiet, isolated areas for quiet walks and contemplation. Create spaces for community events and activities. Community Parks could also be used for day camps and Girl/Boy Scout activities in the summer. Parks should contain restrooms, parking areas, and lighted ballfields.
Regional Park	size will vary	region	Serves the community and region as a whole.	Refer to town ordinances and comprehensive plan regarding park land dedication and park locations.	These parks are typically defined by special physical opportunities and constraints. They can include special areas that require conservation and limited assess or unique areas such as lakes. Access, activities and design elements will be determined on a case by case basis and will respond to the unique setting and character of each site.



## PARKS STANDARDS (CONTINUED)

TYPE OF PARK	MINIMUM SIZE	SERVICE AREA	PURPOSE	FACILITIES INSTALLED BY DEVELOPER **	COMMENTS
Linear Park	size will vary	communities	Provide links along river corridors and/or between special places within the communities.	<p>Developer to design and install trail, necessary trail crossings, landscaping, and all other required improvements per town ordinances.</p> <p>Refer to town ordinances for trail land dedication requirements.</p>	Width and facilities will vary. Sites will be evaluated on a case by case basis at the time of annexation and again during the preliminary plat process to determine appropriate facilities and improvements.

Park locations and sizes will be determined in cooperation with land owners at the time of preliminary plat.





## *Parks and Recreation Goals, Policies and Strategies*

### **GOAL P1:**

Provide a comprehensive parks and recreation system that provides for a variety of activities and serves all age groups.

#### **Policy P1.1:**

Develop and maintain pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks and linear parks to serve the present and future needs of Milliken/Johnstown residents. All parks shall be multi-purpose, safe and accessible to all citizens.

##### **Strategy P1.1.1:**

Locate parks in accordance with the Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Map and the Milliken and Johnstown comprehensive plans.

##### **Strategy P1.1.2:**

Ensure that all new parks comply with the design standards, parks standards and community facilities plan set forth in this section of the Plan.

##### **Strategy P1.1.3:**

Develop parks as integral parts of other public facilities such as schools to avoid duplicating services.

##### **Strategy P1.1.4:**

Include trailheads in parks located near neighborhood and river corridor trails.

##### **Strategy P1.1.5:**

Design all parks and recreation areas in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

#### **Policy P1.2:**

Work with local governments, the land development community and government agencies to develop parks and recreation facilities.

##### **Strategy P1.2.1:**

Work with Larimer and Weld Counties to plan and construct strategically located regional and linear parks along the Big Thompson, Little Thompson and South Platte River corridors.

##### **Strategy P1.2.2:**

Cooperate with the Weld County RE-5J and Thompson RE-5J School Districts to allow joint use of existing facilities and to develop new facilities.

##### **Strategy P1.2.3:**

Cooperate with landowners and Weld County to incorporate community gathering spaces in the area identified as the community green between Johnstown and Milliken.

##### **Strategy P1.2.4:**

Cooperate with State and Federal agencies to develop and enhance fisheries in existing and future ponds and along the river corridors where appropriate.

##### **Strategy P1.2.5:**

Require the development community to design and install drainage facilities that will also function for informal activities and practice fields.

##### **Strategy P1.2.6:**

Investigate the potential for cooperative agreements with developers to install needed facilities.



## GOAL P2:

Develop a comprehensive network of multi-purpose recreation facilities to expand recreation opportunities for the community.

### Policy P2.1:

Cooperate with the Recreation District and various activity groups to plan, fund and develop a recreation center or centers to serve the recreation needs of the community.

#### Strategy P2.1.1:

Build a multi-purpose field house that can function for indoor sports, special interest classes for youth and adults, and fitness/exercise programs.

#### Strategy P2.1.2:

Cooperate with the school districts to build an indoor swimming pool.

### Policy P2.2:

Cooperate with the Recreation District and various activity groups to plan, fund and build additional recreation facilities throughout the community.

#### Strategy P2.2.1:

Cooperate with the Weld County Library District to expand library facilities.

#### Strategy P2.2.2:

Investigate ways to develop new facilities and expand use of existing community facilities for classrooms and meeting rooms.

#### Strategy P2.2.3:

Cooperate to fund, build and operate a teen center.

#### Strategy P2.2.4:

Incorporate a community theater into one of the planned or existing facilities.

#### Strategy P2.2.5:

Continue to support senior centers and expand recreation opportunities for seniors.

#### Strategy P2.2.6:

Cooperate to fund and build athletic fields to meet the needs of local organized sports groups.

## GOAL P3:

Use parks to enhance the quality of life in Milliken and Johnstown.

### Policy P3.1:

Design parks to draw the members of the community together by providing locations for community activities.

#### Strategy P3.1.1:

Develop a multi-purpose pavilion to allow for concerts and movies in the park, a farmer's market, a place for festivals, large group picnics and other community events and activities.

#### Strategy P3.1.2:

Ensure that every park has at least one trail connection and is easily accessible by residents. Include trailheads in park design as appropriate.

### Policy P3.2:

Design all parks to reflect Milliken and Johnstown's unique character and context.



**Strategy P3.2.1:**

Obtain neighborhood and community input when designing parks to determine individual park components. Be sure to encourage children to participate in this process.

**Strategy P3.2.2:**

Ensure that proposed parks address the design elements outlined in the parks design, development and maintenance standards section of this Plan.

**Policy P3.3:**

Integrate oil and gas facility setbacks into the parks and open space network.

**Strategy P3.3.1:**

Work with oil and gas companies to locate new facilities to limit impacts on parks, open space and environmental resources.

**Strategy P3.3.2:**

Work with oil and gas companies and developers to locate new facilities in residential areas so that the well setback can function within the neighborhood until the well is capped and abandoned.

**Strategy P3.3.3:**

Work with the oil and gas companies to ensure that facilities within residential neighborhoods are fenced and screened to increase safety and limit visual impacts.

**Policy P3.4:**

Continue to foster the spirit of cooperation that allows for shared facilities and the provision of services.

**Strategy P3.4.1:**

Continue quarterly summit meetings with the Weld County Re-5J School District, Thompson Rivers Parks and Recreation District, Milliken and Johnstown. Invite the Thompson Valley School District to attend the meetings.

**Strategy P3.4.2:**

Include language regarding shared facilities in the Intergovernmental Agreement between the entities.

**Strategy P3.4.3:**

Design and locate facilities so that they are spread throughout both



communities and are accessible to all residents.

Strategy P3.4.4:

Continue to involve the public in discussions regarding the provision of parks and recreation facilities.



## Parks Inventory

Existing parks are described below with a list of enhancement opportunities for each site. A complete inventory of each park is included in the appendix.



## Milliken Parks

### Frank Farms #1

Lilac Street and Rachel Court

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Install a xeriscape demonstration garden and home idea garden. Provide bird habitat for bird watching, a picnic area, and possibly a trailhead.

- Design the area within the oil and gas setback to function as a pocket park. At a minimum, seed the area and install street trees.

### Frank Farms #2

Between Rachel Avenue and Tamara Avenue

#### Enhancement Opportunities



- Install trash receptacles, restroom facility, lighting, picnic structure, and additional plantings.
- Incorporate activity areas for older children.
- Add more imaginative play areas using natural materials and interesting spaces created with plants and structures.





### **Lola Park**

Irene and Forest to Josephine and Forest

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Install a more prominent park identification sign.
- Install additional trash receptacles.
- Plant additional trees on the east side of the park.
- Coordinate with middle school regarding educational elements that could be incorporated and used by the children.
- Transition the elevation of the sidewalk onto turf more smoothly.



### **Mountain View Park**

Juneberry and Olive Street

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Install trash receptacles, bathroom facilities, barbeque grills, trees and two park identification signs with entrance plantings for Katsura and Juneberry access.



- Install landscaping between the different areas to identify the separate uses.
- Install street trees along Katsura Street.
- Install educational signage about the pipeline running through the park.

### **ADA Park**

Aragon Court

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Install additional trash receptacles.
- Install a metal picnic table to replace the existing damaged table.
- Install a park identification sign and a sign indicating park rules.
- Add landscaping throughout the park, including street trees along the edge.





- Install flowering shrubs and perennials to add color to the park.



### **Avila Park**

Adjacent to Town Hall on Grace Avenue

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Install landscaping such as canopy trees along the side of the park to screen the side of Town Hall and the parking lot from the park.
- Install security lighting (perhaps foot lighting would be effective).
- Install trash receptacles and a barbeque grill.

## *Johnstown Parks*

### **Parish Park**

Raymond Place and Charlotte Street

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Create a gateway by installing plantings and signage at the intersection of Raymond and Charlotte streets.
- Separate uses by planting trees along the west edge of the volleyball court and the west end of the picnic shelters.

- Install enclosures for dumpster and port-a-let.
- Install additional picnic tables.
- Install smaller trees to begin regenerating the tree canopy layer.
- Create outdoor rooms within the park by planting more small trees and shrubs to define distinct spaces.
- Control volunteer seedlings of White Poplar trees.
- Add alternative activity features to playground equipment, taking inspiration from nature and the history of the town to inspire more imaginative play.

### **Hays Park**

Country Acres Drive

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Install additional plantings to create a theme and define spaces within the park.
- Build enclosures for trash dumpsters.



- Install a walking path around the perimeter of the park or within the park to get from one activity area to the next.
- Define an entrance with a park sign and landscaping.
- Install barbeque grills for the eastern picnic shelter.
- Incorporate interpretation of agriculture (i.e. corn or sunflower plantings) into an educational element in the park.
- Install additional street trees.

### **Eddie Aragon Park**

Weld County Road 17 and Johnstown Center Drive

#### Enhancement Opportunities

- Repaint the wood benches in the picnic structure.
- Provide trash receptacles.
- Repair the skating rink sign.
- Add plantings and maintain the park identification sign.
- Use xeriscaping principles and zone the irrigation so that it isn't the same in all places. Install low water plants rather than Aspen trees to match the other plants.
- Plant more shade trees along the perimeter to help define the spaces within the park.



## PARK DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

### *Park Design*

Each park in Milliken/Johnstown contributes to the community wide parks and recreation system.

An overall Community Facilities Plan is described below. The Community Facilities Plan serves as a guide to ensure that facilities will be distributed throughout the parks and recreation system to provide the widest range of activities for citizens. Not all parks will have all facilities. It is important to work with the Recreation District to ensure that there are

adequate facilities throughout the community to meet the District's programming needs. Additional facilities, not included on the list may be considered for specific parks within the system.

Specific facilities to be included in each park will vary and will be determined through the design process in cooperation with the Recreation District and the neighborhood at the time of development. Public participation should be included in the initial program development for the facility as well as the preliminary design process to ensure that each park meets residents' needs and expectations.



### COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Basketball	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Safe pedestrian or bike access, may be included in neighborhood or community parks.
Tennis	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Best if sited in groups of 2 to 4 courts, may be located in neighborhood or community parks or adjacent to a school site.
Volleyball	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Safe pedestrian or bike access, may be included in neighborhood or community parks.
Baseball/Softball	1/4 to 1/2 mile	Consider access and adjacent neighborhood. Best located in community parks, no lighted facilities in neighborhood parks.
Football/Soccer	15 minutes travel time	Usually part of sports complex in community park or adjacent to high school. May also include practice fields and youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to neighborhood parks.
Hard-Surfaced Recreation Court (Roller Bladers / Skateboarders)	1 - 2 miles	May be included in either a neighborhood or community park.
Swimming	15 minutes travel time	Swimming pools may be included in recreation center or other community parks. Not appropriate for neighborhood parks.

## Site Selection



Park design and development begins with the selection of a site. The Master Plan Map identifies the general location of potential park sites within the Milliken/Johnstown Planning Area. One neighborhood park is required in every section. Specific park locations will be determined as each neighborhood develops. The size and location of each park will be determined by the community in cooperation with the landowner at the time of preliminary plat for the neighborhood that the park will serve.

*...each site has its own special qualities of stone and earth and water, of leaf and blossom, of architectural context, of sun and shade and of sounds and scents and breezes. Seek these out and you will discover promises of formal order or artful naturalism - the beginnings of your garden.*

THE POETICS OF GARDENS

## Site Analysis

Each park must be designed in the context of the unique opportunities and constraints associated with its site. Existing topography, water resources, vegetation, drainage patterns, views, surrounding land use, proximity to utilities and other facilities, roads, and access must be

inventoried and evaluated to determine the types of facilities that the site can support. See resource assessment section page 21.

## Recreation Analysis

Once the site has been evaluated, determine recreational demands of the park's service area in cooperation with the residents and the Recreation District. This can be best accomplished through a neighborhood workshop. Encourage children of all ages to participate in this



process. In addition, consider facilities available at nearby schools and parks and the physical attributes of the site to help determine the type of facilities for the park.

## Preliminary Design

The next step in the design process is preliminary design development. During





this process, specific activities and facilities are organized on the site. Another community workshop or design charrette should be included at this point in the process.

At a minimum, each park site should have a distinct entry, destinations within the facility and pathways connecting the activities. Include trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials, and grass or appropriate ground cover in every park. Park design considerations are outlined on page 45. Each park within Milliken/Johnstown will have a unique context, site attributes, and user groups. The design and development of each facility should reflect this unique set of circumstances.

Consider long term maintenance in the design process. The types of materials selected for site furnishings, the extent of irrigated turf, types of plant materials, and the transition from one material to the next can all have a significant impact on the overall costs of maintaining park facilities.

All park improvements should be sensitive to the setting and minimize potential impacts to environmental resources.



Include water conservative landscaping which incorporates the following xeriscape principles in the design of all parks.

- Turf Alternatives: Consider alternatives to turf grass such as native and low water-use plantings. Native turf grasses should be used in areas where intense traffic is not anticipated.
- Mulches: Use mulches to cover the soil, minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth and slow erosion.
- Zoning of Plants: Group plantings based on their water use and locate them to take advantage of microclimates and their specific needs.
- Soil Improvements: Prior to planting, enhance soils with organic matter to allow for better water absorption and improved water holding capacity.
- Appropriate Maintenance: Apply water according to plant needs rather than a schedule; prune, weed and fertilize as necessary to further water savings.

### *Park Development*

From this preliminary design, construction drawings detailing all park components can be completed. Once complete plans have been developed and reviewed by the Town, site development can begin. Construct facilities that are consistent with all applicable town, state and federal standards in place at the time of development.

Construction of park facilities may be accomplished in phases. Develop phasing plans in the context of the surrounding land use and create interim plans for the site.



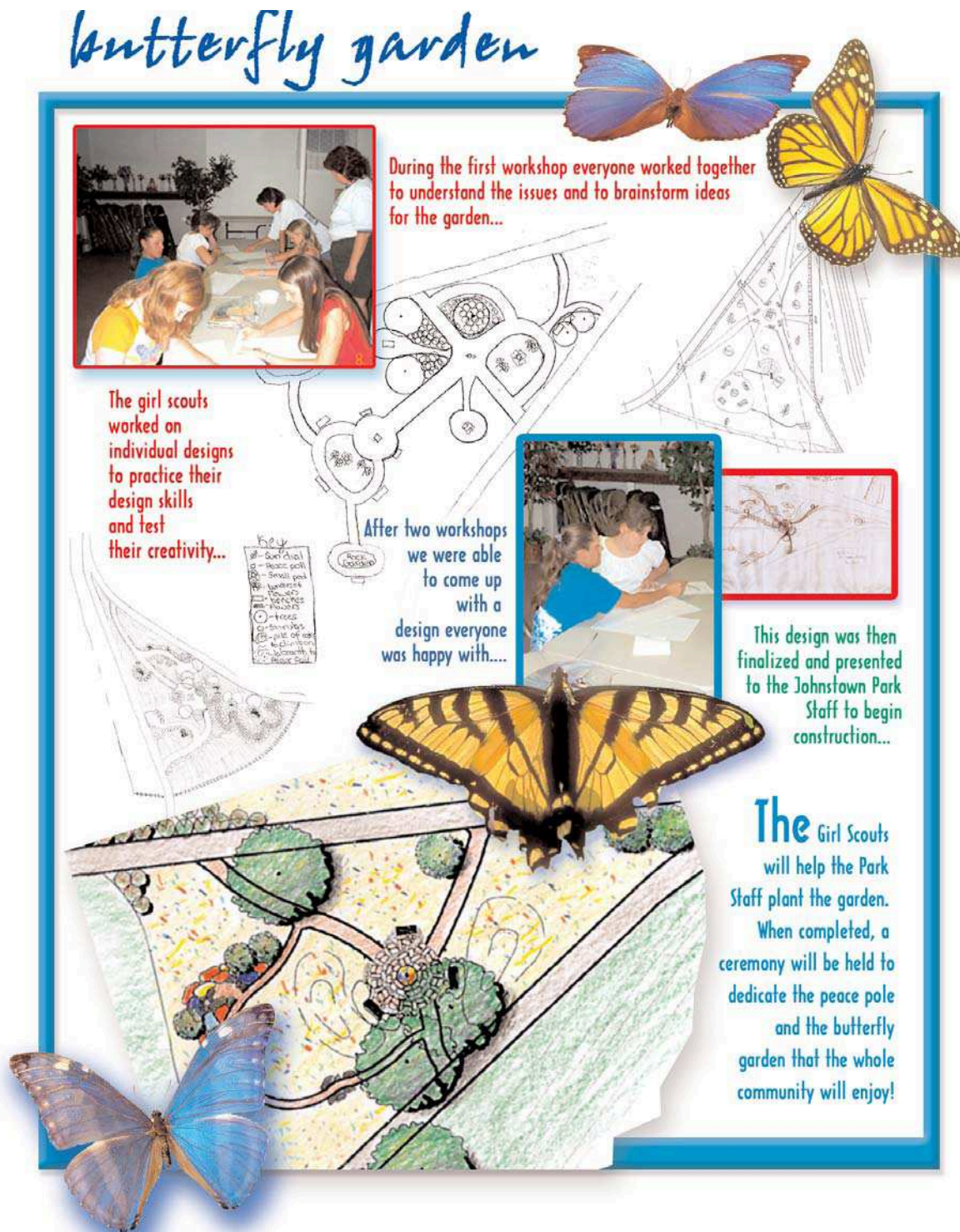


Carefully consider the impacts of future improvements on initial improvements. This will help to avoid additional costs due to damage to existing improvements when future phases are constructed.

The community is willing to participate in both the design and construction of park facilities.

***Include public participation at several points***

***in the process.*** For example, a community group could be responsible for planting the flower beds in the park or a community work day could be organized to help install a piece of equipment. The graphic below illustrates how the Girl Scouts helped design the butterfly garden in Sunrise Ridge Park, a project funded in cooperation with GOCO.



## Park Maintenance

Consider park maintenance during design and development of the facility. Design facilities to minimize long term maintenance obligations. For ease of maintenance, address grading, drainage, types of materials, and access in the design process.

Develop an operations and maintenance program for each park in conjunction with the design of the facility. Consider things like repair and replacement of



equipment and site furnishings, irrigation and mowing requirements, water resource management, and on-going site cleanup and security. This will allow the community to understand the long term costs associated with each facility at the time of development and allocate resources accordingly.

Maintenance of park facilities is a community responsibility (except pocket parks, which are to be maintained in perpetuity by the homeowners' associations). Interim maintenance of park facilities may be accomplished through an agreement with a land developer or homeowners' association. However, the community should work toward public ownership and maintenance of public park facilities.

Educate park users to ensure they are sensitive to the care of the facilities and aware of their impact on the park. Establish park hours to help minimize user impact. Locate trash receptacles to make it easy for users to keep the park clean.

Maintenance of parks will vary with the type of facility according to the level and types of activity in each park. A park designed as a natural area with a fishing pond will have different maintenance requirements than a sports complex.



## PARK DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

ISSUE	THINGS TO CONSIDER
Access	Is there adequate vehicular access for users and maintenance equipment? Will traffic from the park have a negative impact on adjacent land uses? Are the facilities visible from adjacent streets and properties for security purposes? What is the level of activity and capacity of adjacent streets to handle traffic? Can emergency vehicles access the park?
Community Garden	Is there an opportunity to include a space for a community garden within the park? Is the area easily accessible for all age groups? Will weed seeds from adjacent properties blow into the garden? What will the space look like during the dormant season? What are the garden's irrigation needs?
Connections	Are there safe, accessible trail connections to the site and other facilities in the neighborhood and the community? Are all elements of the park tied together with a comprehensive system of pathways and walks? Do the trail links through the property contribute to the overall trails network for the community?
Context	How will the design impact adjacent land uses, views, environmental resources, nearby utilities and other community facilities? Does the orientation of park components reduce the impact of elements and exposure on the park site? Will the land uses adjacent to the site have a positive or negative effect on anticipated use of the facilities?
Character/Heritage	How could the community's heritage and character be integrated into the park's features?
General User Groups	Who will use the park? Do the park facilities respond to all age groups? Are there activities for groups and individuals? Is the park accessible to all users? Will people feel safe while in the park?
Landscaping	Do landscape improvements consider context, anticipated activities, maintenance and environmental resources? Do the plant materials compliment the setting and anticipated activity areas? Is there a variety of colors, textures, fragrances and seasonal interest? Are native plantings incorporated where possible? Are there areas that will benefit from a wind break or additional shade or sun? Does the landscaping incorporate xeriscape design principles? If the site is adjacent to undeveloped land or open space, is there a native transition area between the park and the adjacent property? Does the landscaping enhance opportunities for wildlife habitat (i.e. food, cover, water) which may expand viewing opportunities for park users? Does the entry invite people into the park while providing a sense of security and enclosure for park visitors?
Maintenance	Have the maintenance requirements of all components been considered? Are the anticipated operational and maintenance requirements for the park reasonable? Is there any special equipment required to maintain facilities? What are the overall maintenance and irrigation demands? Have you selected equipment and site furnishings that will be durable, difficult to damage and easy to maintain?





## PARK DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS (CONTINUED)

ISSUE	THINGS TO CONSIDER
Overall Site Design	Do all of the elements fit together into a unified whole? Has the design integrated the elements of gateway, pathway and destination into the overall plan for the park? Does the design respond to the town's unique setting, character and heritage? Is the design consistent with the goals and policies and standards outlined in the Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and all other town rules and regulations? Does the design work in terms of all three dimensions? Does the site respond to the senses? How will you feel when you enter the site, sit on the benches, play on the equipment and walk along the trails? What will you see, hear, smell, touch? Will you feel safe or exposed? Will you know that you are in Johnstown or Milliken, Colorado?
Park Entry	Does the entrance to the park create an distinctive gateway to the facility and encourage entry? Is there a gateway with an entry feature, signage and plantings? Consider developing a signature park entry structure (i.e. pillar, arch).
Physical Characteristics	What are the physical opportunities and constraints (i.e. size, topography, drainage, vegetation, soils, water resources)? Can the site accommodate the intended uses? What are the physical constraints that will limit the types of activities that can be accommodated in the park or present unique opportunities for special activities (i.e. is there a protected east-facing slope that could accommodate a sledding hill; is there enough level area for an open play area for softball or soccer)?
Playground Equipment	Will the playground equipment serve all age groups? Is the equipment safe, sturdy, and durable? What are the maintenance requirements for the equipment? Does the equipment provide a variety of activities for a variety of age groups? Does the equipment meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards? Have natural features been incorporated as play elements (i.e. shrub maze or rocks)?
Public Art	Is there an opportunity to include public art in the park? Can the public interact with the art? Is there a location for public art within the park that will also be visible to people passing by the park on a trail or street? Can the art be climbed on or played in without damage?
Safety	Do all improvements conform to Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards, American Society for Testing and Materials Standards, Americans with Disabilities Act standards, and all Federal, State, and local ordinances? Think about possible safety issues: what happens when kids chase a ball, will the ball roll all the way to the street or will something keep it within the park; is there a maintenance plan for de-icing the sidewalks in the winter; is the park safe at night; is there appropriate safety surfaces under all equipment; are the plants non-toxic and thornless?



## PARK DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS (CONTINUED)

ISSUE	THINGS TO CONSIDER
Signage	Does signage address safety, education, park rules? Is the signage integrated into the overall design of the park? Consider developing signature signage for all of the community's parks. Does the signage incorporate the town's logo? Is the signage durable and relatively low maintenance?
Site Furnishings	What site furnishings should be included within the facility (i.e. benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, light fixtures, drinking fountains, restrooms)? Do they serve the needs of the anticipated users? Are the furnishings located to compliment different activities? For example, does the placement of benches encourage conversation in some areas and allow for quiet contemplation in others?
Special User Groups	Have the needs of special user groups (i.e. little league, roller bladers, school children, etc.) been addressed? Have you determined users in cooperation with the neighborhood or community?
Trailheads	Can a trailhead for the community trail system be integrated into the site? Is the signage, parking and access consistent with the overall intention of the community trail system? Is the location appropriate relative to the park, neighborhood and overall trail system? Have the impacts of trailhead activity on the park and neighborhood been mitigated?
Types of Activities	What types of activities should take place in the park? Is the park to focus on the needs of the immediate neighborhood or the community as a whole? Are there any activities that would be especially well-suited to the site? Are there any activities that would have a negative impact on the site or the surrounding neighborhood? How will park activities impact adjacent land uses? How will adjacent activities impact park users (i.e. is there traffic noise from an adjacent street)?
Utilities	What utilities are available to the site? Are water, sewer, electric, and gas easily extended to the site? What facilities can be accommodated with the available utilities?
Visual Complexity	Does the design incorporate a variety of forms, colors, and textures as well as reflect the unique setting and context? Does the design incorporate views, vistas and connections to the natural environment? Do the park elements work as a whole? Have color, texture, scale and context of each element been considered as they relates to the site and other elements of the park and community?
Water	Is there an opportunity to include water-based activities in the park? Is the quality and quantity of available water sufficient to maintain a fishery, develop a swimming facility or include some other type of water feature? Will water-based activities have a negative impact on the water resource? (This may limit types of uses allowed— i.e. no motorized boats on a particular lake, limit access to portions of the shoreline, etc.)





## NON-TOXIC PLANT SELECTION GUIDE FOR PARKS

Select plant materials that are thornless and nontoxic for all parks. Below is a plant list intended to act as a selection guide. Additional plantings may be considered if they do not pose a hazard to park users.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>Trees:</b>	
<i>Acer</i> species (no rubrum)	Maple varieties
<i>Aesculus octandra</i>	Yellow Buckeye
<i>Betula platphylla</i> 'Whitespire'	Whitespire Birch
<i>Cercus canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud
<i>Fraxinus</i> species	Ash varieties
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> species	Honeylocust varieties
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree
<i>Pinus</i> species	Pine varieties
<i>Quercus gambelli</i>	Gambel Oak
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese Lilac Tree
<i>Tilia</i> species	Linden varieties
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rocky Mountain Juniper
<b>Shrubs:</b>	
<i>Amorpha</i> species	Leadplant varieties
<i>Artemisia</i> species	Sagebrush varieties
<i>Buddleja davidii</i> species	Butterfly Bush varieties
<i>Caragana</i> species	Peashrub varieties
<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	Bluemist Spirea
<i>Cerocarpus</i> species	Mahogany varieties
<i>Cornus</i> species	Dogwood varieties
<i>Cytisus</i> x 'Lena'	Lena Broom
<i>Euonymus alata</i> species	Burning Bush varieties
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> species	Euonymus varieties
<i>Euonymus klautschovica</i> 'Manhattan'	Manhattan Euonymus
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Apache Plume
<i>Neomexicana forestiera</i> species (no <i>savina</i> )	New Mexico Privet



## NON-TOXIC PLANT SELECTION GUIDE FOR PARKS (CONTINUED)



BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>Shrubs (continued)</b>	
<i>Juniperus</i> species	Juniper varieties
<i>Lonicera</i> species (no <i>tatarica</i> or <i>xylosteum</i> )	Honeysuckle varieties
<i>Philadelphus</i> species	Mockorange varieties
<i>Pinus</i> species	Pine varieties
<i>Prunus americana</i>	Wild Plum
<i>Prunus besseyi</i>	Western Sand Cherry
<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	Nanking Cherry
<i>Ribes</i> species	Currant varieties
<i>Salix</i> species	Willow varieties
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Buffaloberry
<i>Spiraea</i> species	Spiraea varieties
<i>Syringa</i> species	Lilac varieties
<i>Viburnum</i> species (no <i>opulus</i> )	Viburnum varieties
<b>Perennials:</b>	
<i>Achillea</i> species	Yarrow varieties
<i>Agastache cana</i>	Double Bubble Mint
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Poppy Mallow
<i>Coreopsis</i> species	Coreopsis varieties
<i>Gallardia</i> species	Blanket Flower varieties
<i>Gallium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Geranium</i> species	Cranesbill varieties
<i>Hemerocallis</i> species	Daylily varieties
<i>Liatris</i> species	Gayfeather varieties
<i>Penstemon</i> species	Penstemon varieties
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> species	Phlox varieties
<i>Salvia</i> species	Salvia varieties
<i>Sedum</i> species	Sedum varieties
<i>Silene laciniata</i>	Indian Pink

## NON-TOXIC PLANT SELECTION GUIDE FOR PARKS (CONTINUED)

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>Perennials (continued)</b>	
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lamb's Ear
<i>Thymus serpyllum citroides</i>	Lemon Thyme
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle
<i>Zauschneria californica latifolia</i>	Hummingbird Flower
<b>Ornamental Grasses:</b>	
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama
<i>Calamagrostis acutifolia strictus</i>	Feather Reed Grass
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Northern Sea Oats
<i>Erianthus ravannae</i>	Plume Grass
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue Avena
<i>Miscanthus sinensis species</i>	Maiden Grass varieties

