

Silverthorne

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan



Silverthorne Department of Recreation and Culture

U r b a n E d g e s
D H M D e s i g n C o r p o r a t i o n

January 2001



“ ...To provide a year-round family community with economic, recreation and social opportunities for all citizens to have a mountain quality of life... ”

--Mission Statement of the Department of Recreation and Culture

Table of Contents

Introduction

- A Vision for Silverthorne’s Future
- The Purpose of This Plan I-1
- The Planning Process I-1
- Guiding Principles for Open Space, Trails and Parks I.2

Chapter One—Needs and Aspirations

- Community Growth Trends 1.1
- Community Needs and Level of Service Standards 1.1
- What The Community Wants 1.3
- Inventory of Existing Facilities 1.4

Chapter Two—Definitions and Standards

- Definitions of Plan and Management Standards 2.1
- Open Space 2.2
- Trails 2.4
- Parks 2.14

Chapter Three—Plan Recommendations

- Open Space, Trail and Park Site Selection Criteria 3.1
- Roster of Projects 3.3
- Operations and Maintenance Considerations 3.13

Chapter Four—Implementation

- Overall Implementation Strategy 4.1
- Cost Estimates and Implications 4.1
- Project Phasing 4.2
- Organizational Leadership to Champion the Plan 4.3
- Building and Maintaining Community Support 4.3
- Funding and Policy Resources 4.4

List of Tables and Maps

List of Tables

1.1 Comparison of Levels of Service in Selected Communities	1.2
1.2 Inventory of Existing Facilities Year 2000	1.5
3.1 Projected Annual Maintenance Costs	3.13
3.2 Roster of Projects Summarized	3.15
4.1 Overview of Costs	4.2
4.2 Potential Funding Sources	4.2
4.3 Early Action Projects	4.3

List of Maps

3.3 Recommended Plan Map	3.16
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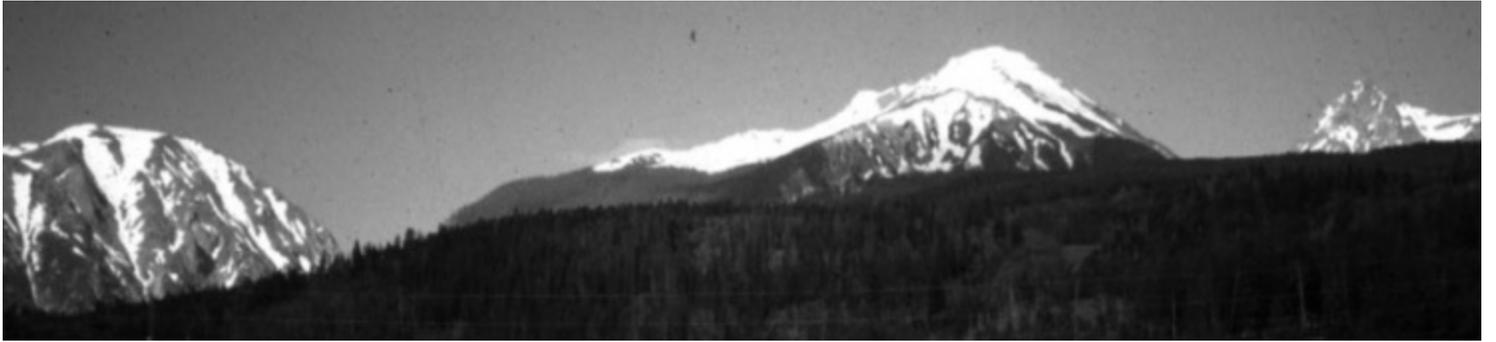
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Introduction



Introduction

Just over a decade ago, Silverthorne set out to reinvent itself. Building on its spectacular natural attributes, Silverthorne has been undergoing an impressive transformation. Today, thanks to the commitment and vision of its citizenry, Silverthorne is a first-class mountain community. Site-appropriate architecture, new, quality residential development, a superb recreation center, a river trail and new pavilion are helping to shape that identity. Indeed “mountain community” is the operative word as Silverthorne strives to keep this special and distinct character in the face of pressures to urbanize.

A Vision For Silverthorne’s Future

This plan sets out to continue the vision of Silverthorne as a distinct mountain community over the next decade, by creating a town defined by a walking scale, a network of easily accessible trails, preservation of scenic vistas, community gathering spaces, places of cultural and artistic expression, places of spiritual renewal and a high quality park and recreation system sufficient to meet the needs of the town’s residents. As in the past, Silverthorne aims to achieve this vision through hands-on participation and dedication of its citizenry.



The Purpose of This Plan

This plan was produced in pursuit of Silverthorne’s stated mission:

...to provide a year-round family community with economic, recreational and social opportunities for all citizens to have a mountain quality of life...

It strives to do this by recommending recreational amenities and the protection and enhancement of Silverthorne’s environmental and cultural resources. The purpose of this plan is to realize this vision through well thought-out definitions, guiding criteria, a physical layout and roster of projects. This plan is also intended to guide cooperative efforts among citizens, businesses, visitors, surrounding communities and partnering agencies. The goal is to realize an outstanding system that is affordable to create and maintain.

The Planning Process

This plan grew out of the joint efforts of Town staff and citizens. The *Town of Silverthorne Recreation and Culture Department* produced it, guided by the *Silverthorne Parks and Outdoor Recreation Taskforce (SPORT)* citizen’s committee. A consulting team led by Urban Edges, Inc. and DHM Design Corporation facilitated the effort. The plan was funded by a grant from the *Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund*, with cost sharing by the Town of Silverthorne.

The planning effort began in March of 2000 and was completed with a final draft plan in November 2000. The process included a series of technical reviews by key Town departments including *Public Works, Community Development* and the *Town Manager’s Office* and three participatory public forums. The *SPORT Committee* played a key role at both the technical review sessions and the public meetings. The Town Board adopted the plan on January 10, 2001.

Guiding Principals Open Space, Trails And Parks

The following principals set the benchmark for Silverthorne's open space, trails and parks planning. It is the Town's intent that these principles are adhered to in all land use and amenity development decisions.

OPEN SPACE

1. Open space shall be naturalistic, undeveloped and set aside in addition to active park and recreation facilities. Open space may be privately or publicly owned, provided open space guiding principles are met.
2. An inter-connected system of open space shall be conserved including Silverthorne and surrounding Denver Water, Forest Service, Summit County and other jurisdictional lands.
3. Open Space corridors shall be continuous, of adequate width, and inter-connected to accommodate the movement of wildlife and create a sense of separation from adjacent urban uses.
4. Special open space areas and corridors such as the Blue River, creeks, ponds and wetlands shall have a vegetated buffer strip (within the designated open space) on each side of sufficient width to protect visual, water quality and wildlife integrity.
5. Mountain and rangeland vistas shall be preserved when viewed from roadways, trails, parks and other vantage points.
6. Adequate open space shall be set aside along drainageways to naturally contain the 100-year flood.
7. Open space shall be used as a way to store and convey stormwater as an alternative to channelization and hard structures.
8. Open space shall not create nuisances, adversely impact or be adversely impacted by homes, places of business, roads, parks and other land uses.
9. Open spaces shall be safe and affordable to set aside and maintain.



TRAILS

1. There shall be an integrated network of multi-use trails readily accessible from neighborhoods, schools, businesses, activity centers, and transportation systems, regardless of income, age, physical ability, or location in the town.
2. All trails shall meet state-of-the-art design standards appropriate to the types of trail uses, with attractive fixtures and furnishings and an integrated information/ interpretive system.
3. Trails shall run through pleasant settings offering a variety of experiences as well as connecting to places of interest such as historic sites, parks, waterways, forest service lands and wildlife areas.
4. There shall be a variety of trail lengths, including both short and long trail loops that provide a range of trail experiences from a 20-minute work out to a daylong outing.
5. Wherever feasible, trails should be grade-separated from street traffic using safe underpasses and overpasses traversing Highway 9 and other high traffic routes.
6. No home shall be more than ½-mile from a multi-use trail with safe on-street bicycle and sidewalk connections to trails.
7. The trail network system shall tie into the town center and regional trails.
8. There shall be an on-street bikeway and sidewalk system that ties to the trail network.

9. Trails and trail facilities shall not adversely impact or be adversely impacted by homes, places of business, roads or the natural environment. Wherever feasible, sustainable, low-water-consumption techniques should be used.
10. Where appropriate, trails may serve multiple objectives such as drainageway maintenance roads and non-motorized transportation.
11. The trail system shall be properly designed and adequate to avoid user conflict and overcrowding;
12. Trails shall be safe and affordable to build and maintain.

PARKS

1. Park acreage shall meet the needs of current and future populations and recreational demands, regardless of income, age, or physical ability.
2. Parks shall be carefully integrated with the trails and open space network and readily accessible from homes and places of employment, via trails and walkways.
3. Park and recreational facilities shall integrate with, and enhance the quality of neighborhoods.
4. Park and recreational facilities shall not adversely impact homes, places of business or the natural environment.
5. Wherever feasible natural, sustainable, low water consuming landscapes should predominate park settings.
6. Park sites shall be located to take advantage of existing topography, views, vehicular access, interpretive opportunities and school facilities.
7. Park and recreational facilities shall be safe and affordable to build and maintain.



1. Needs and Aspirations

1. Needs and Aspirations

Summary of Key Points

- *Silverthorne's current population is 3,492 with 12 acres of developed parkland.*
- *By 2010, the service area population is anticipated to be 10,000.*
- *Silverthorne is currently deficient in developed park acreage compared to several other communities and national standards.*
- *If the plan recommendations are implemented, Silverthorne will compare favorably to other communities and national standards*
- *More importantly, this plan responds to what residents said they desired.*

With its unmatched scenery, nearby recreational amenities, and easy access to the Front Range metropolitan areas, Silverthorne has been experiencing explosive growth. Given current subdivision filings and growth that can be accommodated by current zoning regulations and available building space, Silverthorne's population is expected to increase substantially.

Community Growth Trends

With a population of 3,492 (within the current town limits), Silverthorne is Summit County's largest population center. Taking the surrounding unincorporated areas and nearby Dillon into account, there are over 7,500 permanent residents and as many as 21,000 second home residents potentially impacting Silverthorne's open space, trail and park facilities. It is also noteworthy that Summit County has 20,000 permanent residents with a peak population of over 117,000 when totaling residents, second homeowners and visitors.

According to Summit County Planning Department figures, over the next decade, the residential population of the Silverthorne/Dillon area will climb to over 10,000 with as many as 30,000 second home residents. Given current growth projections, the incorporated portion of Silverthorne can anticipate growth to over 6,000 by the year 2010. If the adjacent areas not currently part of the town are annexed, we can

anticipate a population of 8,000 to 12,000 or more using Silverthorne facilities.

Community Needs and Level of Service Standards

Because Silverthorne is both a residential and tourist/second home community, population projections and user demand on recreational facilities are difficult to define. It is also noteworthy that a number of the developed areas in and around Silverthorne are self-contained or gated enclaves with internal golf and trail facilities. Nonetheless, it is anticipated that many part-time residents and people in the self-contained residential areas will use Silverthorne's park and recreational facilities. In addition to recreational-oriented residents, there is also a growing population of business people, laborers and service employees residing in the area. For planning purposes this study will rely on the current population figure of 3,492 and assume a Year 2010 projected resident population of 10,000.

Levels of Service Compared

Tables 1.1a and 1.1b below illustrate a comparison of existing and planned facilities and levels of service for parks and recreation for Silverthorne and three other communities. The service level is also compared to National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards. It should be born in mind, however, that NRPA has more recently moved toward considering each community’s distinct population characteristics and needs. Therefore, NRPA standards should be

considered only as a general benchmark. Other factors such as popularity of certain types of recreational activities, demographics, and other factors such as organized sports participation may significantly impact an appropriate level of service for any given community. Park planning, therefore, must take into account local information such as input by citizens and park and recreation staff.

Table 1.1: Comparison of Levels of Service In Selected Communities (Year 2000)

A. Current Levels of Service (numbers in brackets reflect regional park)

Community (Population)	Developed Parkland Pocket, Neighborhood & Community Parks (Regional Parks)	Developed Playfields (Regional)	Recreation Center	Developed Park Acres Ratio per 1,000 pop.
Silverthorne ¹ (3,500)	12 (34)	5 (4)	1	3.4 (4.5) ²
Carbondale (7,000)	26 (0)	12	0	4 (0)
Aspen (10,500)	73 (0)	9	0	7 (0)
Ken Caryl Ranch (15,000)	92 (0)	12	2	6 (0)
Average	NA	NA	NA	5.1 (NA)
NRPA	NA	NA	1/50,000	6 (5)

B. Projected Levels of Service 2010

Community (Population)	Developed Parkland Pocket, Neighborhood & Community Parks (Regional Parks)	Developed Playfields (Regional)	Recreation Center	Developed Park Acres Ratio per 1,000 pop.
Silverthorne ³ (10,000)	75.9 (46)	9 (6)	1	7.6 (4.6)
Carbondale (12,500)	84	24	1	7
Aspen (12,500)	88 (63)	11	1	7
Ken Caryl Ranch (15,000)	90	13	3	6
Average	NA	NA	NA	6.9
NRPA	NA	NA	1/50,000	6 (5)

1..Population living within the current town limits.

2. Regional Park ratio is calculated using greater Silverthorne/Dillon Population of 7600 that use the regional park.

3. .Population of town and adjoining neighborhoods adjusted for seasonal usage residences.

Sources: Master Plans and phone conversations with subject towns. National Recreation and Park Association reports 1983 and 1995. Note that the later NRPA report all but abandons the fixed numerical standards for a local needs assessment approach based on participation surveys and other local factors.

Overall (excluding Blue River Park which serves a regional population), Silverthorne lags behind both the comparison communities and the NRPA benchmark of 6 acres of developed parkland per 1000 population. The deficiency is even greater if we consider the adjoining unincorporated areas which could almost double the service population. Based on this, we can project a need for 60 acres (net 48 additional acres) by 2010 when the service area population is estimated to be 10,000. Five years out (year 2005) we may see a need for 42 acres (net 30 acres) of developed parks based on a population of 7,000. Note that if the proposed parks and parkland acquisitions proposed in this plan are implemented, Silverthorne will compare favorably to both other communities and NRPA standards.

Needs by Neighborhood

It is also noteworthy, that Silverthorne's neighborhoods have different characteristics and recreational objectives that make park and recreation planning somewhat different from ordinary urban communities. For example a number of communities are golf course-oriented and may appeal to older adults or function as second homes. This makes park planning for Silverthorne more neighborhood-specific. Park acreages requirements may also vary from ordinary urban communities and national standards for similar reasons.

What The Community Wants

In community forums, staff reviews, discussions with individuals and input from the consultant a number of specific desires were identified. These are summarized and listed below. While this list is by no means all-inclusive, it does provide a core working guide and checklist for shaping the master plan. This list will no-doubt grow and evolve over the years as the plan is implemented. The plan should be flexible to incorporate this change while remaining true to its overall vision.

Open Space

- Integrate of open space into the town fabric.
- Preserve scenic vistas including the river and hillsides.
- Preserve surrounding wilderness values.
- Have places for spiritual renewal and contemplation.
- Preserve a "beltway" open space surrounding the town.
- Buffer between land uses.

- Protect resources such as water and air quality.
- Reduce sprawl.
- Encourage volunteer community participation—community spirit.
- Develop a nature center.
- Protect Westside wetlands.
- Preserve open lands along Route 9 with setbacks.

Trails

- Create an interconnected multi-use trail network in town with links to Dillon.
- Link to the countywide trail system.
- Access National Forest and Lake Dillon with trail links and trailheads.
- Create a trail loop following the ridgelines around the town.
- Provide trails for biking, mountain biking, walking, hiking, skiing, and horseback use.
- Develop extreme sport trail facilities.
- Provide trail rest areas, overlooks and places for spiritual renewal.
- Provide interpretive/educational facilities including history (settlers/Ute Tribe).
- Provide non-motorized circulation around town.
- Create context-appropriate trailheads (avoids adverse neighborhood impact).
- Provide opportunities for volunteer community participation—community spirit.
- Canoe, raft and kayak trail along Blue River with boat chutes
- Provide more fishing access facilities along the Blue River.
- Provide trail underpasses beneath major highways.
- Create a signage/way-finding system.

Parks and Recreation

- Provide adequate facilities for field sports both organized/informal and youth/adult
- Provide adequate facilities for court games such as basketball and tennis.
- Develop water recreation park/wading pool.
- Create cross-country ski courses.
- Provide fishing ponds.
- Provide dog play areas
- Develop ski-teaching/practice facilities including jumping and extreme skiing.
- Develop bike recreation facilities including BMX and extreme biking.
- Create places for yoga, Ti Chi, meditation.
- Develop a fitness track.
- Public golf facilities such as 9-hole, par 3, executive golf, *Frisbee* golf

- Provide miniature golf facilities.
- Develop in-line skating facilities.
- Provide outdoor cultural facilities such as amphitheater at 4th St. and festival/exhibit areas.
- Create a community garden including possible “bio-sphere” for year round growing.
- Provide covered over skate-park.
- Provide access to covered hockey facility.
- Maintain quality recreation center.
- Provide batting cages and driving ranges.
- Create public/youth gathering spaces.
- Provide a climbing wall.
- Create a sledding hill/toboggan run.
- Create public art and sculpture.
- Provide indoor soccer facilities.

Inventory of Existing Facilities

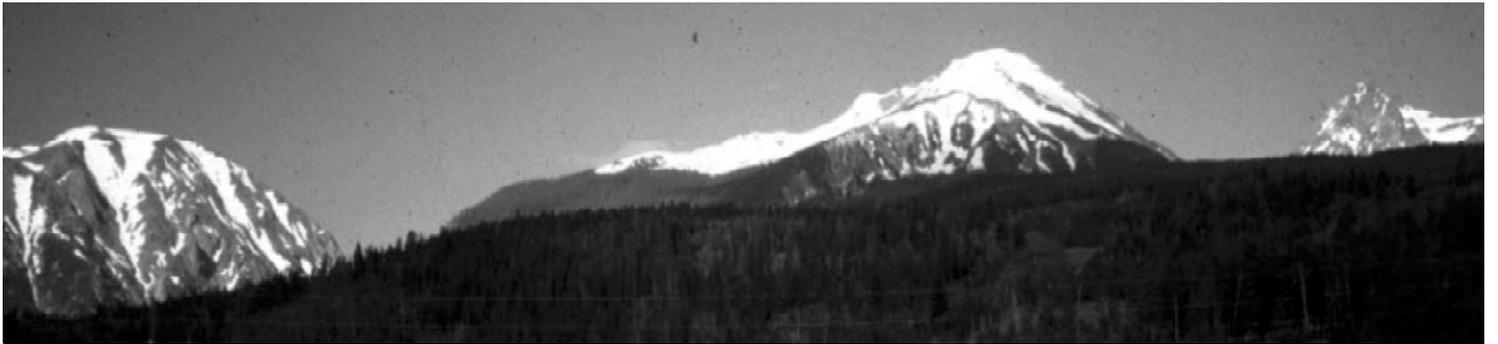
Table 1.2 below lists currently existing facilities. Generally, Silverthorne’s physical facilities are in good condition and readily accessible to most neighborhoods though the level of service may not be optimal for current and future populations.



Soccer Practice at Elementary School

Facility	Location	Size (acres/Miles)	Cultural	Tot Lot	Playfield	Soccer/Football	Baseball/Softball	Tennis	Basketball/Volleyball	Picnic Shelter	Swimming	Fitness/Aerobics	Boating	Skating	Fishing	Skateboard	Golf	Nordic Trail	Toilet	Parking	Trailhead	Trail	
Community Parks																							
Cottonwood	NE	17U					U								❖							U	
Trent	NW	3.8		1			1	2		1					❖				1	12			
Rainbow	EC	7	❖	2		1		2	1b	3		❖				❖			2	18		❖	
Sub-Total:		27.9		3		1	1	4	1b	4		1			2	1		3	30			1	
Pocket/Neighborhood Parks																							
Artic Placer	WC	1		1						1										2			
El. School	WC	4.5	❖	1	1		2		1b											150		❖	
Sub-Total:		5.5	1	2	1		2		1b	1										152		1	
Regional Parks																							
Blue River Pk.	S	34	❖			2	4		3						❖					200	1	❖	
Greenways																							
Blue River	C	1.5											❖		❖					200	❖	❖	
Urban Trails																							
Blue River	C	1.5													❖					200	❖	1.5	
Rt. 9	C	2.5																				2.5	
Willowbrook	WC	0.7																				0.7	
Eagle's Nest	NW	0.8																❖				0.8	
Sub-Total:		5.5																1			1	5.5	
Forest Trails																							
USFS Trails	ALL	20+																				❖	20+
Recreation/Cultural																							
Rec. Center	EC	1							1v		❖	❖									220		

Table 1.2: Inventory of Existing Facilities Year 2000



2. Definitions and Standards

2. Definitions and Standards

Summary of Key Points

- *These standards are intended to guide the planning of open space, trails and parks.*
- *As a mountain town with unique characteristics, Silverthorne’s park standards will vary from other communities.*

This chapter presents basic definitions and standards for desired open space, trails, parks and way-finding amenities serving Silverthorne. The standards are based on commentary at community meetings, planning by the *Recreation and Culture Department*, input by Town staff and guidance by the consultants. Interested parties from the surrounding jurisdictions were consulted and materials were used from the *National Recreation and Park Association* and other nationally recognized and accepted sources. It is important to note that because of Silverthorne’s special characteristics as a mountain/resort area community some of the definitions will vary from those found in more conventional urban areas such as the Colorado Front Range. It is the intent of Silverthorne that both public and private sector projects adhere to these standards as closely as possible as the town and the surrounding areas continue to develop.

Definitions, Planning and Management Standards

In discussing open space lands it is important to first define the functions of open space. For purposes of this plan nine different functions are identified. Functions 3-9 are derived from the Summit County Open Space site selection criteria. These functions include:

Infrastructure—serves a specific community safety or welfare purpose such as conveyance and storage of storm water runoff, aquifer recharge, steep slopes, unsuitable soils for building, wetlands, ponds and other necessary natural functions. These are sometimes referred to as *primary conservation areas* or as *de-facto* open space in that they are lands not suitable for development for public safety or health reasons.

Infrastructure open space may also include canals, utility rights-of-way, and noise attenuating buffering zones along major highways. Infrastructure open space may be publicly or privately owned property.

Core Reserves—protects significant natural habitat, agricultural lands, visual or historic values. They are generally deep rather than narrow and linear. They are large enough to sustain and support diverse plant and animal populations, including large mammals such as deer, elk, bear and lynx. Note that core reserves exist within existing *National Forest* and *Wilderness* lands that virtually surround Silverthorne.

Access—provides access to trails, trailheads, and other public recreation areas on National Forest and other significant properties.

Agricultural/Cultural—contributes significantly to Silverthorne and Summit County’s past and may include agricultural lands with irrigated meadows or open cropland, ranching areas and historical sites. The historic, cultural or social aspects of these lands should contribute or have the potential to contribute to the community’s identity and well being. These lands might be publicly or privately owned with a preference for private ownership.



Buffers—natural and undeveloped lands that separate and reduce the impacts of development. They also define the boundaries of urbanized areas, preventing urban sprawl and strip development, and contribute to the rural mountain quality of the local landscape. They occur along the margin of greenways, rivers, core reserves, trail routes agricultural lands and other open spaces. Buffers help protect natural resources, water quality, and wildlife habitat. They also help avoid land use conflicts and protect privacy and security of properties adjacent to open spaces. Buffers may also serve to separate various land uses such as residential areas and roadways. Buffer lands may be publicly or privately owned property.

Open Space Extension—lands adjacent to publicly held (or in some cases privately-held) property that meets open space criteria and that can be combined with other open space properties to enlarge and/or connect existing open space parcels.

Recreational—offers significant recreational value particularly passive uses not requiring

intensive maintenance or management. Generally, recreational open space will be publicly owned.

Unique Lands—possess unique values such as outstanding scenic quality, rare flora, riparian quality, wetlands, critical wildlife habitat, fragile alpine areas or unusual geologic or topographical formations. These may be publicly or privately owned.

View Corridor—offers high aesthetic appeal and variety within major view corridors. They may protect or enhance the visual integrity of a scenic backdrop. These lands are generally visible, apparent, and appreciated by residents as well as visitors and whose preservation is important to maintaining the rural mountain character and appearance of Silverthorne and Summit County. These lands may be publicly or privately owned.

OPEN SPACE

This plan defines two basic types of open space:

1. Greenways
2. Resource Conservancy Areas

1. GREENWAYS

Definition and Purpose

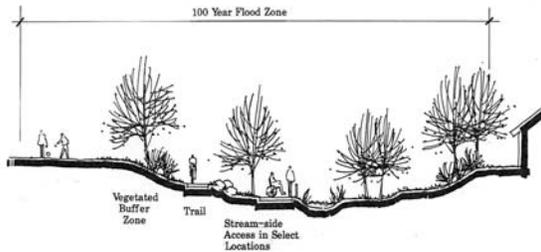
Greenways are linear parks and open space corridors that serve recreational and conservation purposes. Recreational uses include multi-use trails, trailheads, paddle craft routes, fishing and possibly other attractions such as parks, playgrounds and interpretive facilities. Conservation and infrastructure objectives of greenways include preserving wildlife habitat and routes of wildlife circulation, protection of water, air, and scenic qualities, protection of historic and cultural values and public safety from floods. Many greenways serve both conservation and recreational purposes. Greenway land may be on both public and private property.

Example: *Blue River Corridor*, Silverthorne, *Mary Carter Greenway*, Littleton

Minimum Standards

1. Adequate width and buffer zones to protect desired recreational, aesthetic or wildlife benefits—generally 200’ to 400’ or more on each side of the water course or sensitive area (such as a wetland) measured from the top of the channel bank or edge of the sensitive area in outlying areas depending on

wildlife and aesthetic functions to be protected, and 50' to 150' on each side of the water course or sensitive area measured from the top of the channel bank or sensitive area edge in town core areas. Note that widths may vary depending on site-specific wildlife or aesthetic objectives. A wildlife expert should be consulted.



Greenway Cross Section Concept

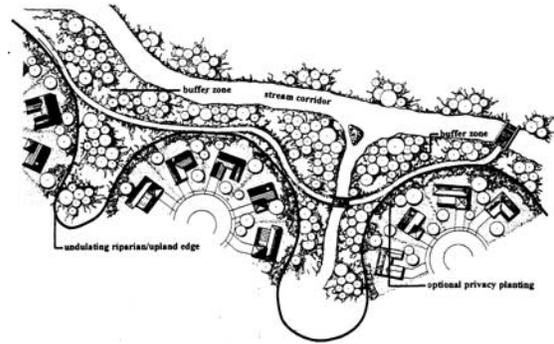
2. There are adequate buffer zones and vegetative screening of trails and other routes of public access to project privacy and security of adjacent properties.
3. There is minimum intrusion into sensitive areas by trails and other human activities. Active park areas may encroach to within 150' of the stream bank.
4. Avoid windowless walls, unscreened outdoor storage, loading docks, trash receptacles and other incompatible uses along the edge.



5. Avoid continuous, solid screen fences, walls, or non-coated chain link fencing along the edges.
6. There is attractive interface (including landscape buffering) with adjacent development.

Management Guidelines

1. Maintain trails and other recreational improvements (see trails above).
2. Prevent encroachment, filling or dumping, including yard wastes.
3. Control invasive, noxious weeds and feral animals (such as loose dogs and cats).
4. Control erosion and dust.
5. Patrol where necessary and appropriate.
6. Maintain infrastructure such as firebreaks, erosion control devices, check dams, etc.



Greenway Interface with Adjacent Development

**2. RESOURCE CONSERVANCY AREAS
Definition and Purpose**

Resource conservancy areas are places with unique scenic quality, sensitive lands including wildlife habitat, breeding areas and routes of movement and migration, or other visual or cultural significance protected through cooperative public/ private efforts. They may be publicly (in fee or through conservation easements) or privately owned and protected through cooperative agreements or as part of subdivision land dedication.

Development, while limited, may be integrated where compatible with the character of the resources. These areas are not generally accessible by the public and trails are limited or non-existent though there may be opportunities for guided visits and tours in some instances where appropriate and approved by the landowner. In some instances trails and

greenways may cross a Conservancy Area or there may be private trails open to homeowners and local residents only. Other private recreational uses may occur such as a golf course—ideally designed to preserve and enhance scenic and conservation values. A non-profit land conservancy or trust offering certain tax benefits to the landowners or developers might hold the land or easement.

Example: Ken Caryl Valley Open Space, Jefferson County, CO (6000 acres of privately held forest and prairie lands owned and maintained by the Homeowners Association)

Minimum Standards

1. Adequate width and buffer zones to protect desired wildlife and scenic benefits—generally 200’ to 1000’ or more in width depending on site characteristics, landowner approval and management objectives. A wildlife expert should be consulted in designating these areas.



2. There are adequate buffer zones and vegetative screening of any trails and other routes of public access to project privacy and security of adjacent properties.
3. There is minimum intrusion into sensitive areas by trails and other human activities. Active recreational areas such as a golf course should be buffered from streams, wetlands and other waterways.
4. Avoid continuous, solid screen fences, walls, or non-coated chain link fencing along the edges.

5. There is attractive interface including landscape buffering with adjacent development.



Management Guidelines

1. Landowner, conservation trust or other appropriate entity provides maintenance.
2. Prevent encroachment, filling or dumping including yard wastes.
3. Control invasive, noxious weeds and feral animals (such as loose dogs and cats).
4. Control erosion and dust.
5. Patrol where necessary and appropriate.
6. Maintain infrastructure such as firebreaks, erosion control devices, check dams, etc.

TRAILS

Twelve classes of trails are addressed:

1. *Multi-Use Trails (Paved and "Soft" Surface)*
2. *All-Terrain Trails (hiking/mountain bike, equestrian)*
3. *Wilderness Trails (bikes excluded)*
4. *Roadside Multi-Use*
5. *On-Street Routes*
6. *Local Service & Link Trails*
7. *Sidewalks*
8. *Loop Trails*
9. *Fishing Trails*
10. *Nordic Trails*

- 11. Paddleway Trails
- 12. Extreme Trails

1. MULTI-USE TRAILS

Definition and Purpose:

Multi-use trails form an interconnected off-street recreational and transportation right of way system serving a variety of non-motorized uses including biking, hiking, jogging, horseback riding, and cross country skiing. Multi-use trails may be paved or non-paved. Paved regional trails accommodate *street* (narrow tire) bicycles, as well as *all-track* bikes and in-line skates. Multi-use trails link to regional trail systems and other communities, ultimately forming a countywide and even statewide network. They may have a crusher-fine (granular stone), asphalt, concrete or other suitable surface depending on anticipated use (i.e. paved for skates).

Example: Blue River Trail, Silverthorne

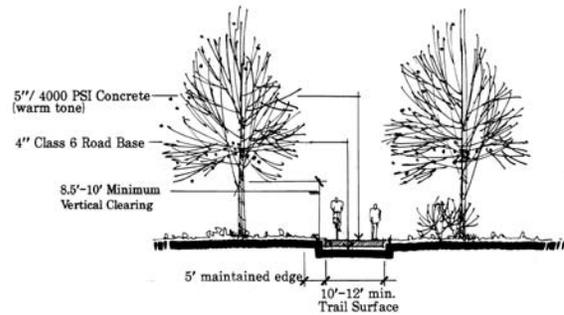
Minimum Standards

1. Built on a compacted, properly graded surface meeting state and national design standards. (Refer to American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials *AASHTO* guidelines).



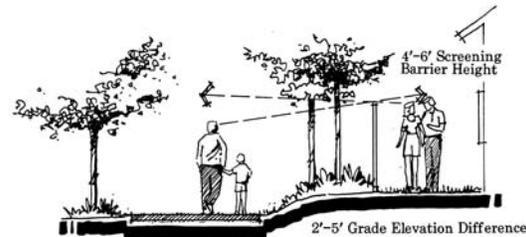
2. Trail tread adequate width (minimum 10' wide, upgradeable to 12' wide) with 2.5' to 5' wide shoulders and headroom (8.5' to 10' with horse use) to accommodate multiple uses.
3. One to fifty or more miles in length built in logical segments with no dead ends or dangerous barriers such as busy highways.
4. Grade-separated and buffered from street traffic.

5. Located in attractive corridors such as linear parks, greenways, stream corridors, canals, and ridgelines.
6. Easy to find with attractive, highly visible trailheads, rest areas, benches, water fountains, toilets, interpretive signs, published mapping and public information, and other amenities.
7. Signage is provided at entry points informing users of trail distances, level of difficulty, accessibility information and user responsibilities and laws. Signs also identify street crossings and mile marks.



**Paved Trail Concept
(Asphalt or Concrete May be Used)**

8. Readily accessible to area users including meeting standards under the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.
9. Meander sensitively through the landscape with adequate buffer zones provided between trail and environmentally vulnerable areas and sensitive land uses such as residences, to ensure preservation of environmental integrity and privacy.

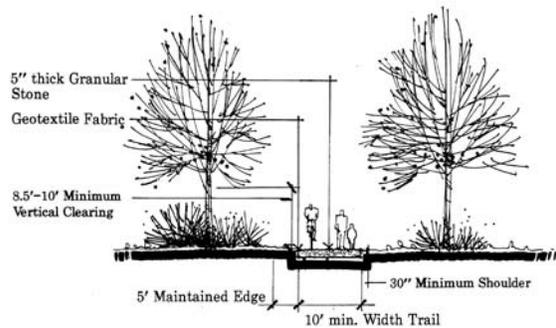


Trail with Privacy Screening Concept

10. Connect to local service trails, parks, and other attractions.
11. Maximum 5-minute drive or 10-minute bike trip to a multi-use trail.
12. Extended grades in excess of 5% are avoided.
13. Constructed to be durable and easy to maintain.
14. Attractive interface including landscape buffering with adjacent development.

Management Guidelines:

1. Managed by local or regional park agencies.
2. Kept in good repair, free of litter and debris and groomed.
3. Adequately patrolled to ensure user safety and security as well as privacy of adjacent properties.
4. Have mile markers for easy reporting of maintenance problems.
5. Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.
6. Provide safe detours at disruption points.



Granular Stone Trail Concept

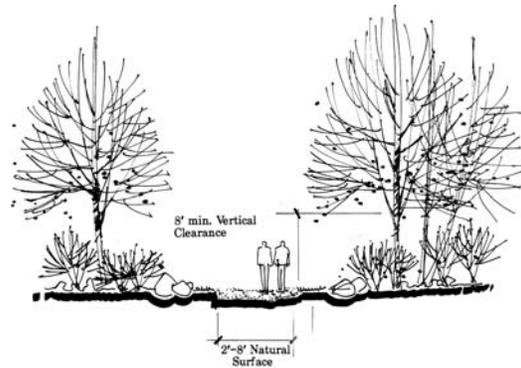
2. ALL TERRAIN TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

All Terrain Trails are natural, soft surface trails designed primarily to accommodate hikers and all-track/mountain bikers, although equestrians and cross-country skiers may use these trails as well.

Example: Peaks Trail, Frisco/Breckenridge
Minimum Standards

1. Built on a compacted, properly graded earthen surface.
2. Avoids conflicts with sensitive wildlife or private property areas.
3. Adequate width (2' to 8' wide) and vegetation is trimmed to a prism of 8' to 14' wide and 8' high—depending on trail tread width.
4. They are 1 mile to 10 miles or more in length.
5. They are grade-separated and buffered from street traffic.
6. They are readily accessible to local users including, wherever feasible, meeting “challenge” standards under the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.



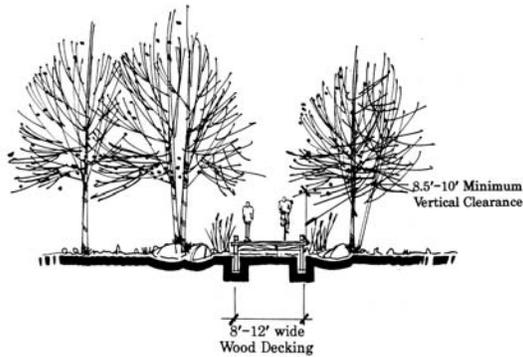
All Terrain Trail Concept

7. Signage is provided at entry points informing users that trail is primitive and may not meet AASHTO standards for certain uses. Trail map, accessibility, user responsibility and interpretive signage may also be provided.
8. There is an attractive interface including landscape buffering, with adjacent development.

Management Guidelines

1. Managed by public agency or homeowners association.
2. Kept in good repair, free of erosion, washouts, litter and debris, with vegetation grooming.

- Trails are adequately patrolled to ensure user safety and security and privacy of adjacent properties.
- Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.



Trail on Decking

3. WILDERNESS TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

Wilderness Trails are natural, soft surface trails designed to accommodate hikers, equestrians (where permitted) and cross-country skiers. They access National Forest designated Wilderness lands and other sensitive lands or open spaces where a wilderness character is desired.

Example: Ptarmigan Wilderness Trail, Silverthorne

Minimum Standards

- Built on a compacted, properly graded earthen surface.
- Avoids conflicts with sensitive wildlife or private property areas.
- Adequate width (1.5' to 5' wide) with vegetation trimmed to a prism of 4' to 8' wide and 8' to 10' high—depending on trail uses (i.e. wider and higher dimensions are for equestrian use).
- Where feasible they are accessible meeting “challenge” standards under the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA).
- Signage is provided at entry points informing users they are entering a designated wilderness area and that uses are

restricted. Trail map, accessibility, user responsibility and interpretive signage may also be provided.

Management Guidelines

- Managed by public agency with assistance of volunteers.
- Kept in good repair, free of erosion, washouts, litter and debris, with minimal vegetation grooming.
- Hand tools are used for all maintenance and repair to minimize noise disturbance.
- Records are kept of maintenance, security and resource damage problems.



4. ROADSIDE MULTI-USE PATHWAYS

Definition and Purpose

Roadside pathways facilitate bicycle and pedestrian transportation along highways, principle and minor arterial streets and collector streets where traffic speeds and volumes make it unsafe or unpleasant for bicycle or pedestrian traffic. Wherever feasible, they are separated from auto traffic by a landscaped median or a painted bike lane delineator.

Example: Route 9 bicycle trail, Silverthorne

Minimum Standards

- Built on a compacted, properly graded surface meeting state and national design standards. (Refer to AASHTO guidelines).

2. Durable, 10' to 12'-wide paved surface with 8.5' to 10' of headroom depending on level of use with no dead ends or dangerous barriers such as highways.
3. Separate from, and in addition to, sidewalks.
4. Off-street option is generally located on the north sides of east-west streets to facilitate snow melt.
5. Signage is provided at entry points informing users of trail distances, level of difficulty, accessibility information and user responsibilities and laws. Signs also identify street crossings and mile marks.
6. Minimal driveway cuts intersect multi-use roadside path.
7. Ramps provided at street crossings.
8. Separated from street by a 6'-12' wide landscaped median where feasible.
9. Avoid extended grades in excess of 5%.
10. Provided on at least one side of all arterial streets unless bike lane option offered.
11. Attractive interface including landscape buffering, with adjacent development.

Management Guidelines

1. Managed and maintained by public agency.
2. Kept in good repair, free of litter, debris, ice and snow.
3. Potholes, bumps and cracks are quickly remedied.
4. Provide safe detours at disruption points.
5. Monitor conflict and safety problems.

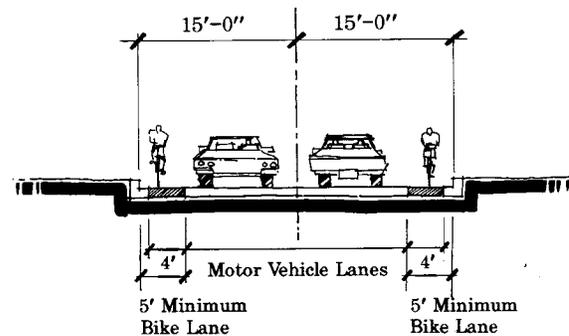
5. ON-STREET ROUTES

Definition and Purpose

On-street routes include local streets, collector streets, and arterials suitable for bicycle use. They are used for bicycle transportation and may link regional and local trails and trail segments together. On-street routes may have defined bike lanes or "bike route" designation. **Note that design requirements for on-street bicycle usage will vary depending on traffic speed**

and volumes, grades, parking and other factors. Planners and engineers should consult *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* and *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*, both published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Example: Boulder's and Denver's on-street bicycle system



On-Street Concept (See Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO, 1999)

Minimum Standards

1. Designs conform to current AASHTO and other applicable standards.
2. Except on very low speed, low volume local streets, provide a 15'-wide traffic lane (width totals 14' plus 1' curb pan) where parking is not permitted. In some instances such as very low volume local and unpaved street lane width might be narrower where bikes and autos share the full land width—consult a traffic engineer with bicycle expertise.
3. Has minimum 12'-wide parking/bicycle travel lane where parking is permitted with an additional 1'-2' where parking volume and turnover is high (refer to AASHTO guidelines).
4. "Share the Road" yellow diamond-shaped signs with bicycle icon and green "bicycle route" signs are posted along on-street routes at appropriate locations.

5. On-street routes are identified with signage and guide maps.
6. Drain inlet grates are designed so they do not catch bicycle wheels.

Management Guidelines

1. Maintained by town Public Works Department.
2. Streets and street shoulders are kept in good repair, free of litter, snow, ice and debris.
3. Potholes, bumps and cracks are quickly remedied.

6. LOCAL SERVICE AND LINK TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

Local service and link trails meet local circulation needs, linking neighborhoods, schools, shopping, parks and other community destinations. They also connect to and feed into multi-use trail systems. They may be paved or unpaved depending on local preference.

Example: Aspen/Snowmass Trail System, Ken Caryl Ranch Trail System

Minimum Standards

1. Built on a compacted, properly graded surface meeting state and national design standards. (Refer to AASHTO guidelines).
2. Trail tread adequate width (minimum 8' wide, upgradeable to 12' wide), 2.5' to 5' wide shoulders to accommodate multiple uses.
3. Length varies with no dead ends or dangerous barriers such as busy highways.
4. Grade-separated and buffered from street traffic.
5. Located in attractive corridors such as parks, greenbelts, and stream corridors.
6. Is readily accessible to local users including meeting standards under the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.
7. Meander sensitively within a 50' to 150' landscaped corridor with adequate buffer zones provided between trail and environmentally sensitive areas and land

uses, such as residences to ensure preservation of environmental integrity and privacy (optimal width is 150' to accommodate a double row of trees on either side).

8. Signage is provided at entry points informing users of trail distances, level of difficulty, accessibility information and user responsibilities and laws. Signs also identify mile marks.
9. Connect to regional trails, parks, schools and other neighborhoods.
10. Avoid extended grades in excess of 5%.
11. Constructed to be durable and easy to maintain.
12. Has attractive interface (including landscape buffering) with adjacent development.

Management Guidelines

1. Managed by local community or homeowners association.
2. Kept in good repair, free of litter and debris and groomed.
3. Adequately patrolled to ensure user safety and security and privacy of adjacent properties.
4. Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.

7. SIDEWALKS

Definition and Purpose

Sidewalks are paved pathways located along the edge of streets. They are for pedestrian use only. Ideally, they are separated from the street by a landscaped median.

Example: Sidewalk on 4th Street next to Recreation Center

Minimum Standards

1. Durable paved surface— 4 ½'-wide (local street), 5'-wide (collector) 6'-wide (arterial) paved surface.
2. There are ramps at street crossings for wheelchairs.

- Where feasible, separated from street by a 5.5' to 12'-wide landscaped median.

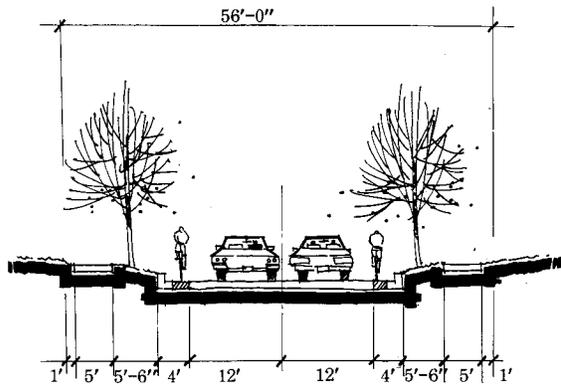


Sidewalk Near Recreation Center

- Provided on both sides of collector and arterial streets.

Management Guidelines

- Managed by Town Public Works Department or homeowners association..
- Sidewalks and medians are kept in good repair, free of litter and debris and groomed.
- Provide safe detours at disruption points.



Collector Street with Sidewalk Concept

8. LOOP TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

The trail is entirely contained within a single park, subdivision, or other limited area. They are generally circuitous. They may accommodate hikers, bicyclists, in-line skaters, equestrians, cross country skiers, and interpretive programs.

Example: Crown Hill Open Space Park, Jefferson County

Minimum Standards

- Built on a compacted, properly graded surface meeting state and national design standards. (Refer to AASHTO guidelines).
- Adequate width—minimum 8'-wide, upgradeable to 10'-wide—with 2.5' to 5' wide shoulders to accommodate multiple uses.
- They are ¼-mile to three miles in length.
- They are grade-separated and buffered from street traffic.
- They are readily accessible to local users including meeting standards under the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.
- Signage is provided at entry points informing users of trail distances, level of difficulty, accessibility information and user responsibilities and laws. Signs also identify mile marks.
- Wherever feasible, they are provided in neighborhood, community and regional parks.
- Avoid extended grades in excess of 5%.
- Have rest areas, toilet facilities and drinking water facilities for trails of two miles or longer.
- Constructed to be durable and easy to maintain.
- There is an attractive interface, including landscape buffering, with adjacent development as described previously.

Management Guidelines

1. Parks agency or homeowners association manages trail.
2. Trails are kept in good repair, free of litter and debris and groomed.
3. Trails are adequately patrolled to ensure user safety and security and privacy of adjacent properties.
4. Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.

9. FISHING TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

Fishing trails are natural, soft surface trails designed to accommodate anglers moving along the edges of popular fishing areas along river, stream and pond banks. In some cases they may accommodate kayakers moving up and down a popular whitewater area although this may present conflicts of use.

Example: Blue River, Silverthorne

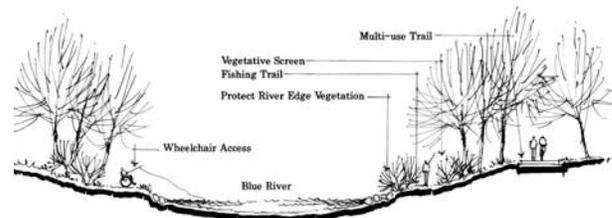
Minimum Standards

1. Built on a compacted, properly graded earthen surface.
2. Separated from multi-use paths but may share use in linking a series of fishing trail together.
3. Set back from stream edge to avoid damage to aquatic habitat and conflicts with sensitive wildlife
4. Avoids conflict with private property areas with vegetative screening where appropriate.
5. They are of minimal width (1.5' to 3' wide) with minimal vegetation trimming.
6. They are 100' to several hundred feet in length.
7. They are readily accessible to local users. Wherever feasible there are fishing pads that meet standards of the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.

8. Signage is provided at entry points informing users of the sensitivity of fishing habitat as well as angler rules, courtesies and responsibilities.

Management Guidelines

1. Managed by public agency or homeowners association.
2. Kept in good repair, free of litter, debris, and erosion problems, with vegetation grooming to avoid conflict with users.
3. Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.



Fishing Trail Cross Section

10. NORDIC TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

Nordic trails are loop trails designed exclusively for cross-county skiing and ski “skating”. Generally, they are temporary ski tracks identified by signage and/or maps located on golf courses or other open areas during the winter season. Ideally, there is a pre-set track in the snow and there may even be a number of parallel tracks serving different levels of speed and ability.

Example: Raven Trail, Silverthorne

Minimum Standards

1. Has a groomed set track for different skiing abilities and speeds.
2. Avoids conflict with sensitive wildlife or private property areas.
3. Adequate width (2' to 8'-wide) with vegetation trimmed to a prism of 8' to 14' wide and 8' high—depending on trail tread width.

4. They are 1 to 5 miles or more in length.
5. Signage is provided at entry points, informing users of rules, responsibilities and courtesies. Trail maps, accessibility, and interpretive signage may also be provided.
6. There may be a ski rental, warming hut and other supporting winter amenities.

Management Guidelines

1. Managed by public agency or homeowners association.
2. Kept groomed, free of litter and debris.
3. Trails are adequately patrolled to ensure user safety and security and privacy of adjacent properties.
4. Laid out and managed to avoid damage to underlying uses such as golf course greens and fairways.
5. Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.



11. PADDLEWAY TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

Paddleway trails are waterways made suitable for canoeing, kayaking, and rafting. Improvements include removal or modification of hazardous obstacles such as diversion structures to promote safe water recreation. Boat launch and landing facilities with parking and support facilities are also provided. Other

improvements may include white water kayak courses, slalom competition facilities and challenge rocks placed strategically in the river. Designed properly, boating improvements such as dam modifications can benefit aquatic life and fishing by improving water quality and habitat, although boating and fishing may conflict.

Example: Upper Arkansas River, Salida, Confluence Park, Denver

Minimum Standards

1. Need to maintain adequate flows for boating use—minimum 9” of flow depth.
2. Remove, modify, or provide well-marked portages around all hazardous structures such as dams.
3. Provide marking of difficult or potentially hazardous areas or objects.
4. Assure adequate clearances under bridges during ordinary and seasonal high flows.
5. Provide well marked put-ins and landings with support facilities such as information signage, boat and raft unloading areas, toilets and parking.
6. Avoids conflicts with anglers especially in popular fishing areas.
7. Avoids conflicts with sensitive wildlife or private property areas.
8. Provide “boater trails” (a way to carry your kayak or tube back up to the top of a popular white water run or practice area).
9. Make facilities readily accessible to local users including, wherever feasible, meeting standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
10. Signage is provided at entry points with “trail” map, accessibility, user responsibility, safety and interpretive information.



Management Guidelines

1. Managed by public agency or possibly boating association or commercial interests.
2. Have policies in place to maintain optimal flows for boating without adversely impacting fishing.
3. Structures are kept in good repair and waterway free of litter and debris.
4. The corridor is adequately patrolled to ensure user safety and security and privacy of adjacent properties.
5. Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.



12. EXTREME SPORTS TRAILS

Definition and Purpose

Extreme Sports trails are natural, soft surface trails through rough and challenging terrain. The corridor may have rubble, rocks, roots, steep grades and other challenges. The corridor designed primarily to accommodate appropriately engineered mountain bikes, joggers, hikers and others wanting a challenging

course. Generally, this is a single-track course although it may be wider especially if heavily used or if competitions are held. The trail may be linear or configured in a loop or series of loops.

Example: Vail and Winter Park Mountain Bike Trails

Minimum Standards

1. Built on a compacted, properly graded earthen surface.
2. Avoids conflict with sensitive wildlife or private property areas.
3. Adequate width (2' to 8'-wide) and vegetation is trimmed to a prism of 8' to 14'-wide and 8' high—depending on trail tread width.
4. They are 1 to 10-miles or more in length.
5. They are readily accessible to local users including, wherever feasible, meeting standards for specially designed athletic wheelchairs under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
6. Signage is provided at entry points informing users that trail is primitive and does not meet AASHTO standards. Trail map, accessibility and user responsibility signage may also be provided.
7. There is an attractive interface (including landscape buffering) with adjacent development.

Management Guidelines

1. Managed by public agency or possibly commercial interest.
2. Kept in good repair, free of litter and debris with vegetation grooming as appropriate.
3. Trails are adequately patrolled to ensure user safety and security and privacy of adjacent properties.
4. Records are kept of maintenance, safety and security problems.



PARKS

Five classes of parks are addressed:

1. *Pocket/ Neighborhood*
2. *Community*
3. *Regional*
4. *Specialty*
5. *Golf Courses*

Note that park sizes and definitions vary somewhat from national standards for urban parks, due to a number of factors including smaller population centers, varied development densities, and the presence of many second and seasonal dwellings.

1. POCKET/NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Definition and Purpose

Pocket and Neighborhood parks range in size from less than ½ acre to 20-acres and serve the surrounding neighborhood within an approximate radius of ½ mile. Pocket parks may provide small turf areas for informal play, attractive landscaping, walking paths, benches, picnic tables, a volleyball court and a tot lot. The definition of pocket parks also includes civic plazas and gathering places in the central areas of town.

Neighborhood Parks include facilities for field and court games, playgrounds, picnicking and walking/jogging paths. These parks should be a focal point of the neighborhood or activity center. A neighborhood park may be integrated

with a school, overlapping uses where appropriate. Pocket and Neighborhood parks are generally not appropriate sites for organized sports events, except team practices, unless it can be demonstrated that such events can be accommodated without adversely impacting adjacent areas.

Example: Trent Park, Artic Placer Park Silverthorne

Level of Service Standard: 2.5 acres per 1000 population

Minimum Standards:

1. Pocket Parks are 3 acres or less. Neighborhood Parks are large enough to accommodate at least one playfield and range in size from 4 to 12 acres (size may include some overlap if combined with a school site).
2. They are located in residential areas or in activity centers, approximately one per every square mile and, where feasible and appropriate, adjacent to an elementary or middle school.
3. They are within walking distance of users and have good pedestrian/bicycle access with service by low volume local streets.
4. Sites must be suitable for year-round use with suitable topography and soils for quality play fields and facilities.
5. Developed portions of the park (irrigated turf, playfields, playgrounds, parking, hard courts, shelters) must be built above the 10-year floodplain and at least 150-feet from the bank of any creek. All park development must conform to Silverthorne's floodplain and setback ordinances.
6. Parking should be provided for 5 to 20 cars with spaces accessible for people with disabilities and at least 4 bike spaces with

<u><i>Neighborhood Park Active Uses</i></u>	<u><i>Neighborhood Park Passive Uses</i></u>
Soccer field	Picnic tables and benches
Softball field	Open turf free play areas
Informal football field	Natural areas and native landscape areas
Volleyball court	Riparian and wildlife areas
Horseshoe, shuffleboard court	Jogging, bike and in-line skate trails
Free play improved turf areas	Buffer zone around perimeter
Tennis court	
Fitness trail	

lock-up posts. For larger lots, the number of bike spaces and posts must equal 5% of the number of auto spaces provided. School and park parking facilities may overlap and be shared.



7. If appropriate and dictated by site uses, there may be adequate low-level lighting for evening activities and safety of users, but the lighting must not adversely impact neighbors.
8. Landscaping should provide a balance of screening, shade, color, and texture that creates year-round visual interest and a strong park identity.
9. Park facilities and activities such as picnic areas, spectator facilities, play equipment, surfacing, court games, walking/jogging paths, drinking fountains and restrooms should be accessible by people with disabilities (ADA compliant).
10. There should be a balance between active and passive activities based on the need and desire of the neighborhood with active recreation being informal and unstructured, with the exception of some youth teams.
11. There should be an attractive interface with adjacent development including a landscaped park edge buffer with trees and

shrubs along the perimeter of the park with a jogging trail.

Management Guidelines

1. Neighborhood parks are managed and maintained by the Town or by homeowner associations.
2. They are well maintained free of litter, debris, weeds and unkempt vegetation, although managed natural vegetation is encouraged where appropriate.
3. Play equipment, sports facilities, portable toilet enclosures, parking lots, roadways, and other infrastructure are kept in excellent condition.
4. They are adequately patrolled and there are appropriate rules and regulations to ensure visitor safety, protection of park facilities and privacy of adjacent properties.
5. Detailed records are kept of maintenance, safety and security conditions and remedies.

2. COMMUNITY PARKS

Definition and Purpose

Community Parks serve multiple neighborhoods with a greater variety of recreational opportunities than neighborhood parks. They serve large community events and may preserve larger areas of open space. Community parks may include organized sport and regulation athletic fields, court game facilities, walking paths, preserved natural areas and may incorporate natural features such as wetlands, ponds, rivers or creeks. A community park may be adjacent to a school site with some overlap of uses where appropriate. Community parks should be buffered from surrounding neighborhoods and have adequate internal parking to accommodate users, including organized sports events.

<i>Community Park Active Uses</i>	<i>Community Park Passive Uses</i>
Informal and/or regulation softball fields	Water features such as ponds, rivers
Youth and Little League baseball fields	Open turf free play areas
Adult baseball fields	Natural areas and native landscape areas
Soccer and/or football fields	Informal and group picnic facilities
Court play facilities (i.e. tennis, basketball)	Amphitheaters
Special event areas	Riparian and wildlife areas
Skating rink and boating ponds	Jogging, bike and in-line skate trails
Internal (off-street) parking facilities	Buffer zone around perimeter
Skate park, BMX course, climbing wall	

Examples: Rainbow Park, Silverthorne, Kingdom Park, Breckenridge

Level of Service Standard: 3.5 acres per 1000 population

Minimum Standards:

1. Community parks should be of adequate size to accommodate playfields and internal parking including spaces for people with disabilities and bike spaces with lock racks equal to 5% of the number of auto spaces provided. Parking should accommodate organized sports, team practices and special events internally on the park site, without adversely impacting adjacent residential areas.
2. They should be sited to serve several neighborhoods with a service radius of approximately one mile, preferably adjacent to water features or other natural resources.
3. Community parks should have good vehicular access from adjacent arterial and/or collector streets. The park should be easily accessible by interconnecting trails, greenways and sidewalks.
4. Approximately 50% of the site should be reasonably flat with suitable topography and soils to accommodate field sports such as soccer, baseball and football.
5. Sites should be suitable for year-round use with suitable topography and soils for quality athletic facilities and not prone to erosion.
6. Developed portions of the park (irrigated turf, playfields playgrounds, parking, hard courts, shelters) must be built above the 10-year floodplain and at least 150 feet from the bank of any creek. All park development must conform to floodplain and setback ordinances.
7. If night use takes place, there should be lighting for parking and to accommodate uses such as tennis, baseball and football, to ensure the safety and comfort of park users. Lighting must not adversely impact adjacent homes, businesses, wildlife or thoroughfares.

8. Landscaping should provide a balance of screening, shade, color, and texture that creates year round visual interest and a strong park identity.
9. The park should include loop trails accessing at least 75% of the site and connect to adjacent trails, greenways, and sidewalks.
10. There should be an attractive interface with adjacent development, ideally a landscaped park edge buffer with trees and shrubs along the perimeter of the park with a jogging trail.

Management Guidelines

1. Community parks are managed and maintained by local or regional park agencies.
2. They are well maintained free of litter, debris, weeds and unkempt vegetation, although managed natural vegetation is encouraged where appropriate.
3. Play equipment, sports facilities, restrooms, parking lots, roadways, concession facilities and other infrastructure are kept in excellent condition.
4. They are adequately patrolled and have appropriate rules and regulations to ensure visitor safety, protection of park facilities and privacy of adjacent properties.
5. Detailed records are kept of maintenance, safety and security conditions and remedies.

3. REGIONAL PARKS

Definition and Purpose

Regional parks range in size from 50 to 200 or more acres and serve several communities. They provide a full spectrum of recreational activities and generally are contiguous to, or encompass a significant natural resource such as a river, lake, or forest. A regional park accommodates more heavily programmed athletic fields for organized sports and a wider variety of activities.

Example: Blue River Park, Silverthorne Clement Park, Jefferson County

Level of Service Standard: 5 acres per 1000 population

Minimum Standards:

1. Regional parks are strategically sited to serve populations within a reasonable driving distance, easily accessible from major highways and thoroughfares.
2. Unless there is careful impact planning and buffering, they are not located adjacent to residential areas and avoid access through residential areas.
3. They are programmed to accommodate league play and other organized sports events with quality play fields, facilities and adequate parking for participants and spectators.
4. Sites should be suitable for year-round use with suitable topography and soils for quality athletic facilities and not prone to erosion or frequent flooding.
5. The park should have lighting to accommodate organized evening programs such as tennis and softball and provide enough light to ensure safety and comfort to park users. Lighting should not adversely impact adjacent homes, businesses or thoroughfares.
6. Landscaping should provide a balance of screening, shade, color and texture to create year-round visual interest and a strong park identity.

spaces with lock-up posts equal to 5% of the number of auto spaces provided. All parking needs should be accommodated internally and not impact adjacent areas.

9. The park should include loop trails accessing at least 75% of the site and connect to adjacent trails, greenways, and sidewalks.
10. There should be an attractive interface with adjacent development as described above.

Management Guidelines

1. Regional parks are managed and maintained by local or regional park agencies;
2. They are well maintained free of litter, debris, weeds and unkempt vegetation although managed natural vegetation is encouraged where appropriate.
3. Play equipment, sports facilities, restrooms, parking lots, roadways, concession facilities and other infrastructure are kept in excellent condition.
4. They are adequately patrolled with appropriate rules and regulations to ensure visitor safety, protection of park facilities and privacy of adjacent properties.
5. Detailed records are kept of maintenance, safety and security conditions and remedies.

<u>Regional Park Active Uses</u>	<u>Regional Park Passive Uses</u>
Regulation Softball fields	Water features such as ponds, rivers
Youth and Little League baseball fields	Open turf free play areas
Adult baseball fields/complexes	Natural areas and native landscape areas
Soccer and/or football field complexes	Informal and group picnic facilities
Court play facilities (i.e. tennis, Racquetball)	Amphitheaters
Special event areas	Riparian and wildlife areas
Skating rink and boating ponds	Jogging, bike and in-line skate trails
Internal (off-street) parking facilities	Buffer zone around perimeter
Skate park, BMX course, climbing wall	Sculpture garden

7. Park facilities such as picnic areas, spectator facilities, play equipment, surfacing, court games, walking/jogging paths, drinking fountains and restrooms should be accessible by people with disabilities (ADA compliant).
8. There should be adequate on-site parking for the specific program elements including spaces for people with disabilities and bike

4. SPECIALTY PARK

Definition and Purpose:

A specialty park provides special facilities or takes advantage of unique natural, historic, interpretive or scenic attributes and accommodates special recreational activities such as extreme mountain biking, ski jumping,

sculpture garden, performing arts or cultural events. A specialty park may serve the entire community, region or even visitors from outside the region. Size varies depending on the character and use of the park ranging from a ½ acre public square to a recreational forest park of hundreds of acres.

Examples: Confluence Park and Kayak Course, Denver, Hudson Gardens, Littleton

3. The specialty park should have good vehicular access from adjacent arterial and/or collector streets. The park should be easily accessible by interconnecting trails, greenways and sidewalks.
4. There should be an attractive interface with adjacent development with buffering to avoid conflicts between parklands and adjacent development.

<u>Specialty Park Active Uses</u>	<u>Specialty Park Passive Uses</u>
Hiking/jogging trails	Wildlife viewing
Fishing	Natural areas and native landscape areas
Mountain bike trails	Informal picnic facilities
Multi-use trails	
Extreme sports facilities	
Climbing walls	
Freestyle and ski jumping	

Recommended Level of Service: No standard identified.

Minimum Standards

1. Where applicable, park development should be compatible with, and carefully protect and enhance existing natural, scenic, historic or cultural values of the site.
2. Visitor parking should be accommodated without adversely impacting adjacent properties including spaces for people with disabilities and bike spaces with lock racks equal to 5% of the number of auto spaces provided.



Management Guidelines

1. Managed and maintained by local or regional park agencies.
2. They are well maintained free of litter, debris and noxious weeds. Special care is taken to preserve unique natural, scenic, historic or cultural attributes.
3. Trails, equipment, sports facilities, restrooms, parking lots, roadways, and other infrastructure are kept in excellent condition.
4. They are adequately patrolled and there are appropriate rules and regulations to ensure visitor safety, protection of park facilities and privacy of adjacent properties.
5. Detailed records are kept of maintenance, safety and security conditions and remedies.

5. Golf Courses

Definition and Purpose

Public golf course facility may be 18-hole or 9-hole upgradeable to 18 holes or larger. May require 100 to 200 acres or more. Course may be executive with par 3 and 4 holes or full size. The facility should also include a driving range, putting green, and pro shop. Ideally there is a clubhouse with snack bar or restaurant.

Examples: Aspen Municipal Golf Course, Aspen, Buffalo Run Golf Course, Commerce City

Level of Service Standard: 9 holes per 25,000 population

Minimum Standards:

1. Golf course should be strategically sited to serve populations within a reasonable driving distance, easily accessible from major highways and thoroughfares.
2. May be located adjacent to a residential area and be a main feature of a residential development.
3. There is adequate street access to avoid adverse impacts on residential areas.
4. Site should be suitable for year-round use with suitable topography and soils for quality fairways and greens not prone to erosion or frequent flooding.
5. Landscaping should provide a balance of screening, shade, color and texture to create year-round visual interest and appropriate screening of adjacent uses to avoid distraction to golfers.
6. Park facilities such as fairways, greens, spectator facilities, drinking fountains and restrooms should be accessible by people with disabilities (ADA compliant).
7. There should be adequate on-site parking for the specific program elements including spaces for people with disabilities and bike spaces with lock-up posts equal to 5% of the number of auto spaces provided. All parking needs should be accommodated internally and not impact adjacent areas.
8. Natural, sustainable (low chemical use) and wildlife-friendly landscaping is preferred wherever feasible including fairways and rough areas.

Management Guidelines

1. Green fees are affordable for low and moderate-income families.
2. Municipal golf course is managed and maintained by local or regional park agencies or by a private concessionaire.
3. The golf course is well maintained free of litter, debris, weeds and unkempt vegetation although managed natural vegetation is encouraged where appropriate.
4. Clubhouse, pro shop, restrooms, parking lots, roadways, concession facilities and other infrastructure are kept in excellent condition.
5. The golf course is adequately patrolled with appropriate rules and regulations to ensure visitor safety, protection of facilities and privacy of adjacent properties.

SILVERTHORNE WAY-FINDING SYSTEM

Definition and Purpose

The way finding system is an attractive, distinct, uniform system of signs, displays and possibly artistic elements that guides and informs both local and out of town users with respect to greenways, trails and park facilities. The system is comprehensive and town-wide. The system includes: entry monuments, gateway information signs with maps where appropriate directional signs, traffic and safety signage, mile markers, interpretive signs, displays, artistic/sculptural elements and artifacts.

Example: Keystone Resort, Keystone Colorado, Lockheed Martin Discovery Pavilion, Littleton, CO

<u>Golf Course Active Uses</u>	<u>Golf Course Passive Uses</u>
Recreational golf and lessons	Nordic ski in winter w/ rental/warming hut
Golf competition and tournaments	Water features such as ponds, creeks
Driving practice on driving range	Natural areas and native landscape areas
Putting practice on putting green	Riparian and wildlife areas
	Buffer zone around perimeter



4. Detailed records are kept of maintenance, safety and security conditions and remedies.

Minimum Standards

1. A consistent style and information system is provided for all greenways, trails and parks throughout the community.
2. Key gateway signs are provided at major entry points that include: a map of the system, accessibility information, estimated travel time, user safety guidelines, emergency contact and user feedback telephone numbers, *leave no trace* information; code of conduct and other pertinent information.
3. Structures are designed for easy repair and maintenance.
4. Bicycle and traffic signage conforms to the Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines.
5. Signs and other structures are set back from the trail at least 30" to avoid hazards to trail users.
6. Mile markers are provided every ¼ mile for user guidance, maintenance and emergency reporting.

Management Guidelines

1. Managed and maintained by local or regional park agencies and/or tourist business interests.
2. Signs, displays, mileposts, and artifacts are kept in excellent condition.
3. Text and content is kept current and updated.



3. Plan Recommendations



3. Plan Recommendations

Summary of Key Points

- *The plan identifies 38 projects including seven greenways, ten conservation areas, eight trail projects, and ten park projects.*
- *A graphic way-finding system for Silverthorne is also recommended including trail signage, interpretive signs and guides to important community features and destinations.*
- *New open space, trail and park amenities will require a maintenance commitment. Silverthorne should keep these potential costs in mind when planning new facilities.*

This chapter recommends specific proposed open space, greenways, trails and parks for Silverthorne with suggested locations. The preservation areas and improvements are depicted on the plan map and in the roster of projects that follow. It is a policy of Silverthorne to either achieve the layouts shown in this plan or to work with partnering agencies, landowners and developers to provide alternative schemes that meet the same criteria and objectives depicted in the guiding principles, standards and master plan map.

Open Space, Trail and Park Site Selection Criteria

In developing this plan, specific criteria were used in selecting sites for parks, routes for trails and recommending open space areas for preservation. The criteria were derived from the *vision statement, guiding principles and standards* presented above, from previous plans and advice from citizens, staff and the planning consultant.

- **OPEN SPACE SELECTION CRITERIA**
- Protects floodplains, floodways and other areas unsuitable for development
- Attractive sites with attractive views

- Highly visible sites to help preserve a sense of mountain wilderness, historic ranch land and mountain character
- Adequate size and shape to support natural vegetation, wildlife movement and habitat
- Preserves sites with distinguishing topographic, high elevation points, historic, ecological or cultural features
- Helps create an interconnected system linking wildlife habitat areas, parks, trails and open space

- Areas that buffer sensitive places such as wildlife habitat, wetlands, and drainageways
- Supports current open space planning such as the Forest Service, Dillon, Summit County, adjacent developers, etc.



TRAIL ROUTE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Attractive corridors with attractive views
- Corridors with distinguishing topographic, historic, ecological or cultural features
- Ability to link neighborhoods, civic areas, schools, shopping and other important destinations
- Ability to link parks, trails and open space with interconnected networks
- Grade-separated corridors creating minimal conflict with automobile traffic such as streets or driveway cuts



- Available rights-of-way such as the Blue River, major road corridors, open space and creeks
- Opportunities for multi-objective benefits such as drainageway and utility maintenance roads serving as trails

- Opportunities to cross barriers such as using existing or proposed highway underpasses or crossings
- Avoids adverse impacts on sensitive wildlife areas, agricultural activities and private property
- Avoids steep grades, crossing hazardous barriers such as existing or proposed highways or arterials, noisy or unpleasant settings
- Avoids close proximity to sensitive stream bank areas

PARK SELECTION CRITERIA

- Availability of affordable land.
- Attractive sites with attractive views
- Sites with distinguishing topographic, historic, ecological or cultural features not adversely impacting wildlife areas
- Good existing (or future) road, sidewalk and trail access
- Level, well-drained sites suitable for park development
- Parcel size and shape suitable for park uses and recreational facility development
- Neighborhood/Pocket Park sites located on an approximate one-mile spacing grid
- Sites not prone to erosion or frequent flooding (above the 10-year storm event)
- Soils suitable for park development
- Potential for park site to enhance and complement future residential or commercial development
- Compatibility of park use with existing or future adjacent land uses
- Ability to share sites with schools
- Ability to link parks, trails, open spaces and neighborhoods with interconnected networks

Roster of Projects

OPEN SPACE

GREENWAYS

1. Blue River Way

Location:

Along Blue River from Dillon Dam to Maryland Creek (parallel and east of Highway 9)

Rational:

Forms a central recreational and open space spine to the community.

Size/Length:

30,000 ft (5.6 miles) long, 250' to 1000' wide, 350 acres

Description:

River greenway with continuous hike/bike path (paved through central portion of town/ crusher fine surface north of Hamilton Road). The system also includes a loop on along Bobo Ditch. Includes fishing access, boating from 6th Street north, boat landings, a kayak slalom course located in Blue River Park rest areas, natural landscape buffer areas, resource protection and enhancements.

Estimated Cost: \$ 3,000,000 *Priority:* 1st



2. Silverthorne “Loop” Trail

Location:

Runs along the hillsides above town through and adjacent to Arapahoe National Forest lands on the east and west sides.

Rational:

Provides access to National Forest and Wilderness Areas, defines town edge.

Size/Length:

80,000 ft (15.6 miles) long, view and access to thousands of acres of wilderness



Description:

Natural surface (primitive) walking/hiking trail running through wooded and attractive hillside environments. Portions of the pathway follow existing Gore Range and Ptarmigan Wilderness trails. Includes overlooks, rest areas and meditation/storm shelter structures. Trail forms a continuous loop around Silverthorne. Key trailhead access points with maps, parking and trail information area provided at Wilderrest Road and the Blue River, Maryland Creek, and existing Ptarmigan Trail head above Ptarmigan Ranch subdivision. There are also informal and local access points (parking not provided) from several neighborhoods. Portions of the trail follow the Maryland and Blue River Greenways. The loop trail also passes through Rainbow Park and accesses the Recreation Center.

Estimated Cost: Volunteers *Priority:* On-going



3. Maryland Creek Greenway

Location:

At north end of town west of Route 9, approximately 5 miles north of I-70.

Rational:

Defines north edge of town and completes trail loop.

Size/Length:

14,000' (2.7 miles), 600' to 1000' wide, approximately. Approximately 60% of the corridor is in Arapahoe National Forest.

Description:

Hiking trail corridor along Maryland Creek with a trail extending from the Blue River up into the Gore Wilderness. The trail has dirt surface and forms part of the Silverthorne "Loop" Trail connecting to the Gore Range Trail.

Estimated Cost: Volunteers/In-Kind

Priority: On-going

4. Park-to-Park Greenway

Location:

West side of town running from Willowbrook to Wilderness Road.

Rational:

Preserves wet meadows and provides trail circulation on west side.

Size/Length:

11,000' (2 miles), 50' to 500' wide, approximately 25 acres.

Description:

Runs along the west edge of town at the base of the hills from Trent Park through five existing and proposed parks and also adjacent to the National Forest wetlands near 10th Street. Joins Blue River Trail at Wildernest Road and at Willow Creek forming a loop with both the Route 9 and Blue River Trails.

Estimated Cost: \$ 500,000 *Priority:* On-going

5. Heitt Ranch Greenway

Location:

East side of Blue River near Hamilton Road

Rational:

Protects open space and views on east side and provides trail access between Heitt Ranch and town.

Size/Length:

Trail segment is 11,000' (2-miles). Open Space corridor is 500' to 1000' wide.

Description:

Open space/trail loop corridor with dirt all-terrain trail ascending from the Blue River Trail and forming a loop through Heitt Ranch open space areas.

Estimated Cost: \$ 250,000 *Priority:* On-going



6. High Meadow Greenway

Location:

Heitt Ranch

Rational:

Protects open space and view on east side and provides trail access to National Forest.

Size/Length:

3000' (.6 miles), Width varies

Description:

Crusher fine trail winding through open space corridor on proposed Heitt Ranch development accessing the Ptarmigan Wilderness. Follows open space and golf course areas through attractive meadow and aspen groves. Forms a portion of the "Silverthorne Loop". Connects to Rainbow Park and Recreation Center via Heitt Ranch Greenway.

Estimated Cost: \$100,000 *Priority:* On-going

7. Mesa Cortina Greenway

Location:

Mesa Cortina/Wildernest Neighborhood

Rational:

Provides trail access to Mesa Cortina and National Forest

Size/Length:

8000' (1.5 miles) 500 to 1000' wide, approximately 110 acres

Description:

Dirt all-terrain trail follows drainage and open space corridor through Mesa Cortina and Wilderness neighborhoods. Grade is fairly steep, but could serve as walking, equestrian and mountain bike trail. There is potential to link to Lily Pad Trail in the National Forest.

Estimated Cost: Volunteers/In-Kind

Priority: On-going

RESOURCE CONSERVANCY AREAS

8. Chain of Ponds

Location:

North central area of town between Willow Way and County Rd 1900 (Hamilton Creek Drive)

Rational:

Preserves important natural and open space feature in the heart of town.

Size/Length:

5500' x 1600' (approximately 200 Acres)



Description:

Unique mountain wetland and pond area. Lands are preserved as open space and wildlife habitat. Recreational opportunities include canoeing, bird and wildlife viewing, river and pond fishing, interpretive activities. Trail access is along Blue River and via a loop trail around the two

northerly-most ponds. Potential site for a nature center or outdoor classroom for a future adjacent school. Protect and buffer private properties adjacent to the Chain of Ponds. Town may want to explore options for public access to the ponds for recreation, such as fishing and canoeing (enhanced by linking the ponds together).

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

9. Maryland Creek

Location:

At north end of town west of Route 9 approximately 5 miles north of I-70.

Rational:

Defines north edge of town and protects habitat/wildlife movement area.

Size/Length:

14,000' (2.7 miles), 600' to 1000' wide, approximately 60% of the corridor is in Arapahoe National Forest.

Description:

Corridor along Maryland Creek extending from the Blue River up into the Eagle's Nest Wilderness. A trail and greenway (see "Greenways" above) runs along the edge of the corridor. This area forms part of the "Silverthorne Loop". This area includes Elk habitat.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

10. Eagle's Nest

Location:

Northern part of town west of Highway 9 between Willow Creek and the north end of Three Peaks development

Rational: Helps protect wildlife areas and provides visual break in developed landscape.

Size/Length:

8000' x 1200' (Approximately 200 acres)

Description:

Includes an interconnected system of open space, wooded areas, fens, drainages and golf course fairways. The goal is to preserve an integrated system of open lands providing for wildlife movement and visual relief. The area is not generally accessible by public trails, although there is access by golfers and cross county skiers.

Area is property of golf course and homeowner associations.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

11. Willow Creek

Location:

West central portion of town, north of Ruby Ranch Road, primarily west of Highway 9 (plus the portion east of Highway 9 connecting to the Blue River). A stub ties into wooded areas on Ruby Ranch to the south.

Rational: Protects important wildlife area and a visual break in the urban landscape between Willowbrook and Silver Mountain Ranch developed areas.

Size/Length:

4100' x 200' (approximately 19 acres)

Description:

Narrow but richly vegetated stream corridor with associated wetlands and fens. Area has significant scenic value with the Gore Range in the background. It also acts as an open space buffer between Silver Mountain Village and Willowbrook. Except for the portion between Highway 9 and the Blue River and a trail crossing upstream, this area will not be accessible by trails and will remain in private ownership. A multi-use trail is recommended along the bank of the creek forming a link from Trent Park to the Blue River with a safe pedestrian and wildlife underpass beneath Highway 9 along the Creek.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

12. Ruby Ranch

Location

North central part of town, west of Highway 9 and just South of Ruby Ranch Road.

Rational:

Protects drainages and wetland network on west side of town.

Size/Length:

150 acres plus

Description:

Includes wooded drainage areas running the central and the south portions of Ruby Ranch development. System also includes wet meadows and drainages in the "West Side Swale".

Corridors link to the Park-to-Park Greenway. Corridors would offer visual and wildlife benefits and would be privately owned with no public access.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going



13. Bushee Creek

Location:

North end of town east of Highway 9 (TyL Ranch)

Rational:

Defines the northern edge of the town and protects historic ranch, visual and wildlife values.

Size/Length:

8000' x 2000' (approximately 370 acres)

Description:

Primarily the Ty-L Ranch property. The area includes Bushee Creek watershed, rangelands, pasturelands and open hillsides surrounded by National Forest. An existing dirt road accesses the property and a mine site in the National Forest above. There is potential for a trail link to the Ptarmigan Wilderness Trail and Silverthorne "Loop" Trail through, or adjacent to, this property. In conjunction with the Maryland Creek Corridor, this property forms an important "green gateway" and defines a visual boundary to the north side of town. Recommend working cooperatively with the property owner to either preserve historic ranch use or conserve visually sensitive areas should the site develop.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

14. Hamilton Creek

Location:
Northeast area east of the Blue River at County Road 1900 (Hamilton Creek Road). Includes portions of the Eagle’s Nest East development.

Rational:
Protects drainage corridor for water quality, visual and wildlife benefits.

Size/Length:
3700’ x 2500’ (approximately 212 acres)

Description:
Includes creek corridor, open rangeland, steep open and wooded slopes. Goal is to preserve the open land and visual character of this area, including visually vulnerable steep slopes and wildlife habitat. Area not to be accessible by public trails and would remain in private ownership.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

15. High Meadows Conservancy

Location:
In the proposed Heitt Ranch Development

Rational:
Protects important scenic and wildlife values.

Size/Length:
100 acres plus

Description:
Includes an integrated network of open areas and golf course space weaving through Heitt Ranch and linking through the National Forest to the Ptarmigan Wilderness. Land is privately held and maintained by property owners association. Does not have trail or public access.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

16. Straight Creek Wetlands

Location:
South of I-70 at Route 9

Rational:
Preserve an existing wetland and open space break in highly developed landscape

Size/Length:
3000’ x 500’ (approximately 34 acres)

Description
Existing Wetland and beaver pond area formed by Straight Creek. Preserve area and provide an interpretive overlook.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority* 1st

VIEW PRESERVATION AREAS

17. View Preservation Areas

Location:
Hillsides surrounding town

Rational:
Protects scenic mountain character of town.

Description:
These areas are primarily hillsides above 8900’, where slopes are 15%-25% or more. Areas include west side hills, east side hills and Lake Hill south of I-70. These areas should be protected from visual intrusion including residences, other buildings, utility structures, advertising signs and lights. Any necessary structures should have subdued colors and architecture and stay off tops of ridges to blend with backdrop

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going



TRAILS

The trails listed below include trail corridors that are not within a Greenway. That is, they may follow roadways or other corridors with the purpose of linking destinations. Note that each of the greenways described above includes a trail. For purposes of this study, trails may be multi-use (paved or crushed stone); all-terrain

(dirt surface hike/bike); wilderness (dirt surface with bikes restricted); Roadside multi-use (paved surface, sidewalks (bikes restricted) and on-street bicycle routes. Refer to chapter 2 for more detailed definitions.

18. Route 9 Trail

Location:

West side of Route 9 from Summit Place Shopping Center to Maryland Creek

Rational:

Provides a major non-motorized transportation route through town.

Size/Length:

25,000 ft or 4.8 miles

Description:

Forms the primary north/south non-motorized transportation. Runs adjacent to Route 9. Suggest upgrading the corridor with landscaping along its length where space permits. Provide a similar trail/walkway along the east side of Route 9 where space permits.

Estimated Cost: \$900,000 *Priority:* On-going

19. Eagle's Nest Trail System

Location:

Eagle's Nest along edge of Golden Eagle Road (existing)

Rational:

Provides non-motorized circulation through residential area.

Size/Length:

12,000' (approximately 2.2 miles)

Description:

Paved and non-paved trail/sidewalk system provides non-motorized access to the Eagle's Nest development. This system also connects to trail stubs and links, tying into other developments, National Forest/Silverthorne Loop.

Estimated Cost: Others *Priority:* On-going

20. Village Trails

Location:

South Eagle's Nest, Willow Creek Heights, Silver Mountain Village

Rational:

Links neighborhoods

Size/Length:

6000' (approximately 1.1 miles)

Description:

Paved multi-use trails that link the upper portions of Eagle's Nest, Willowbrook and Silver Mountain Village with ties to Trent Park, Silver Mountain Village Park and the Park-to-Park Greenway. Includes an access to National Forest at "Filing 7" location

Estimated Cost: Others/Volunteers

Priority: 1st

21. Willowbrook Trail

Location:

West side of Highway 9 at Willowbrook Road

Rational:

Non-motorized circulation and access.

Size/Length:

4000' (approximately .8 miles)

Description:

Paved multi-use roadside trail along edge of road serving Willowbrook and Willow Creek High Lands—existing. Provide a link under Route 9 connecting trail to the Blue River Greenway

Estimated Cost: \$800,000 *Priority:* On-going

22. Frisco Trail

Location:

South of I-70 parallel to Old Dillon Dam Road

Rational:

Provides a vital link to Summit County Trail System and to Frisco/Breckenridge/Vail.

Size/Length:

13,000' (approximately 2.5 miles)

Description:

Crushed stone multi-use path provides access to Lake Dillon Trail and Summit County Trail System. Trail links the Blue River Trail to Frisco via the Lake Dillon Trail. The trail follows utility easements through the National Forest with access to Old Dillon Reservoir and the Heaton Lake Camp Ground and Day Use Area. The trail is accessible to people in wheelchairs.

Estimated Cost: \$600,000

Priority: 1st(planning)

23. Lake Dillon Link Trail

Location:
South of I-70, east of Blue River

Rational:
Provides a direct link to Summit County Trail system and to Dillon.

Size/Length:
3,000' (approximately 0.6 miles)

Description:
Paved multi-use path provides access to Summit Place Shopping Center, Lake Dillon Trail/Summit County Trail System and Dillon. This path also links Blue River Trail to Dillon and Frisco via the Lake Dillon Trail. The trail follows dedicated right-of-way on private ownerships and on Denver Water property. An interim connection to Summit Place Shopping Center is proposed pending acquisition of the remainder of the rights of way.

Estimated Cost: \$900,000 *Priority:* 1st

24. East Side Trail

Location:
Runs along Rainbow Drive from 4th Street to County Road 2016 then loops northward to Cottonwood Park.

Rational:
Provides a non-motorized circulation system on the east side of town.

Size/Length:
11,000' (approximately 2 miles)

Description:
On-street route and multi-use trail linking center of town and Recreation Center to the Heitt Ranch and Blue River Greenways. Trail is on-street from the Recreation Center to County Road 2016. Then the trail is a paved or crusher fine multi-use path looping to join the Blue River Trail at the south end of Cottonwood Park.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going

25. Adams Street Trail

Location:
Runs along Adams Street and other local streets, providing a non-motorized circulation system on the west side.

Rational:
Provides a non-motorized circulation system on the west side of town with less noise and traffic than the Route 9 bike path.

Size/Length:
7,000' (approximately 1.5 miles)

Description:
Primarily on-street bike and sidewalk route running along Adams Street and adjacent streets from Wilderrest Road to Ruby Ranch Road, completed as west side street system is built.

Estimated Cost: Cooperative *Priority:* On-going



PARKS

Pocket/Neighborhood Parks

26. Trent Park

Location:
West side of Highway 9 at Willowbrook Road

Rational:
Important park serving north end neighborhoods

Size/Length:
1000' x 800' (approximately 12 acres as expanded)

Description:
Includes ball fields, soccer playfield, picnic shelter, pond, tennis, pond, natural area along bank of Willow Creek and walking paths. The park is to be expanded to the south side of Willowbrook Road. Trail to link this park with new playfields park proposed in Buffalo Mountain Village development plan.

Estimated Cost: \$750,000 *Priority:* 1st (planning)

27. Silver Mountain Park

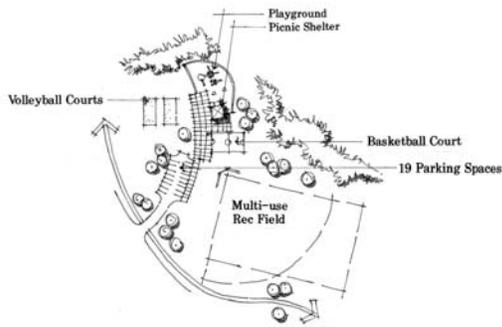
Location:
West of Highway 9 along Ruby Ranch Road in proposed Silver Mountain Village.

Rational:
Will serve new populations created by development.

Size/Length:
800' x 700' (approximately 12 acres)

Description:
Includes ball fields, soccer playfield, picnic shelter and walking paths. Path links to Trent Park, Willowbrook neighborhood and parks and neighborhoods to south

Estimated Cost: \$1,200,000
Priority: 1st (planning)



Neighborhood Park Concept

28. West Side Park

Location:
West central area in vicinity of Villa Sierra Apartments (West 11th Street)

Rational:
Serves higher density residences on west side.

Size/Length:
Approximately 1 acre

Description:
Informal turf areas, tot lot, and shelter with walking path. Path links to Silver Mountain, Trent and Artic Placer Park

Estimated Cost: \$400,000 *Priority:* On-going

29. Artic Placer Park

Location:
West Central, end of 4th Street

Rational:
Serves west side neighborhoods

Size/Length:
Less than 1/2 acre, possible tie to school playfields.

Description:
Pocket park with tot lot, picnic shelter, trailhead. Possible cooperative use of playfields and interpretive area on adjacent school site. Suggest upgrade to school fields if cooperative arrangement can be made.

Estimated Cost: \$250,000 (field upgrade)
Priority: On-going



30. Blue River Pocket Parks

Location:
South and central parts of town along Blue River

Rational:
Provides access to Blue River and community cultural centers.

Size/Length:
Totals approximately 4 acres

Description:
Includes a series of smaller parks along the banks of the Blue River. These sites include trailheads with parking, fishing access, feature areas, amphitheaters, picnic shelters and other amenities. The pocket parks are linked together by the Blue River Trail. The pocket park at Silverthorne Pavilion includes turf areas, water features, rock climbing, wetland interpretive

areas and outdoor performance areas. The pocket park at Wildernd Road includes a trailhead to the Silverthorne Loop and the Eagle’s Nest Wilderness with parking and trail information for trail users. Panhandle segment of this park follows a swale behind Formby Ford.

Estimated Cost: \$ 750,000 *Priority:* On-going

COMMUNITY PARKS

31. Rainbow Park

Location:

East central part of town at 4th Street next to Recreation Center

Rational:

Major centrally located park

Size/Length:

600 x 750 plus 200’ x 1800’ “panhandle (approximately 18 acres)

Description:

Major community park with soccer field, skate park, picnic shelter, court games and walking paths. Priority to relocate basketball courts, build volleyball courts and create an outdoor skating/roller sports rink that could have a cover and ice making capability in the future. Could expand into panhandle area to north with additional play fields.

Estimated Cost: \$690,000 *Priority:* 1st



32. Cottonwood Park

Location:

North end of Town east of Highway 9

Rational:

Will serve growing population and needed playfields.

Size/Length:

4000’ by 200’ to 600’ wide (approximately 23 acres—wraps around some development)

Description:

Major community park with baseball fields, soccer fields, picnic shelter, walking paths and adjacent nature preserve/interpretive area. Could extend park to south to include Hamilton Lake fishing area and ice skating. Joint use of playfields with school possible.

Estimated Cost: \$2,550,000 *Priority:* 1st
Community Park Concept

33. Future Park Site

Location:

North end of Town west of Highway 9

Rational:

Will serve growing population and needed playfields.

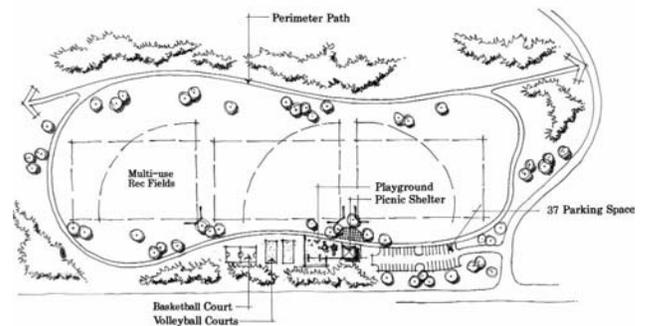
Size/Length:

20 acres

Description:

Land bank area along west side of Highway 9 for future park development. Would be a major community park with baseball fields, soccer fields, picnic shelter, and walking.

Estimated Cost: In-Kind *Priority:* 1st



Community Park Concept

REGIONAL PARKS

34. Blue River Park

Location:

Along Blue River south of I-70 below dam

Rational:

Meets regional organized sports needs and river recreation access.

Size/Length

1500' x 1500' as expanded (approximately 51.6 acres)



Description:

Existing 4-plex regulation baseball complex with, shelter, trails walking paths and river access for fishing. Also includes an events area with rodeo grounds. Suggest expanding along west bank of river wrapping around development (CDOT relocated) to add opportunities for soccer fields, expanding fishing amenities, trails, and picnic shelters. This would also be the gateway to the Frisco Trail and Lake Dillon Commons Park.

Estimated Cost: \$1,800,000 *Priority:* 3rd

SPECIALTY PARKS

35. Lake Hill Commons

Location:

North Shore of Lake Dillon from Blue River to Frisco south of I-70

Rational:

Provides a major open space and recreational opportunity for a range of outdoor sports desired by Silverthorne.

Size/Length:

1700' x 10,000' triangular (195 acres)

Description:

Accessible forest recreation park with multi-use trails, challenge/extreme trails, fishing in Old Dillon Reservoir, ski touring, picnicking, and camping (at Heaton Bay). Includes a major trailhead at the east end in conjunction with redevelopment of private properties there. Could also be a site for extreme sports, ski jumping, sledding, tobogganing and other specialized outdoor recreation. Emphasis on making this an accessible park for recreationalists in wheelchairs.

Estimated Cost: \$800,000 *Priority:* 2nd

36. Cross Country Ski Tracks

Location: Golf Courses and other appropriate sites.

Rational:

Provides venue for popular winter recreation and fitness.

Description:

Winter use for cross county ski—set track and possible temporary rental warming hut. Suggested locations include the Raven (Eagle's Nest) and proposed Heitt Ranch golf courses. A challenge course could also be provided in the Dillon Lakes Commons Park.

Estimated Cost: In-kind *Priority:* 1st

37. Golf Course

Location: To be determined.

Rational:

Provides affordable golf facility for local players.

Description:

Develop 9-hole golf course, upgradeable to 18 holes with pro shop, clubhouse, driving range and putting green. Suggest a joint venture with other communities and Summit County.

Estimated Cost: \$ 3-\$6 Million

Note: This is a very long term concept that would most likely be developed in partnership with other towns—not included in planning budget.

WAY-FINDING SYSTEM

38. Way-finding System

Description:

A system of directional signage, sculptural elements and public art that helps provide direction and unify Silverthorne’s greenways, trails, parks and other attractions.

Rational:

Silverthorne should also have a graphic way-finding system helping residents and visitors to find, interpret and understand parks, trails, and greenways.

Estimated Cost: \$75,000

Priority: 1st

Operations and Maintenance

Considerations

New open space, trail and park amenities will require a maintenance commitment. Silverthorne should keep these potential costs in mind when planning new facilities. A quality system calls for a quality maintenance program. Following are some typical unit costs for maintenance that can be applied as a rough guideline in anticipating maintenance expenses. Note that volunteers can perform some maintenance functions, especially on all-terrain and wilderness trails.

Facility	Annual Maintenance
■ Multi use trail— (mow, trim, debris removal, sweep, repair, patrol)	\$ 2,000 to \$4,000/mi .
■ All Terrain/Wilderness Trails/ (groom, erosion control, trim, patrol)	Nominal to \$1,500/mi.
■ Natural stream channel (debris removal, erosion control, vegetation)	\$500 to \$1,000/mi.
■ Natural Open Space	Nominal to \$ 150/ac.
■ Active park maintenance	\$3,500 to \$4,500/ac.

Table 3.1 Projected Annual Maintenance Costs

Sources: Urban Edges, Inc; DHM Design Corporation; Greenways, Inc; Denver Urban Drainage and Flood Control District; South Suburban Park and Recreation District; Denver Parks; Boulder Parks and Recreation; and East Bay Regional Park District, CA— adjusted for inflation .

Facility	Location/Description	Est. Cost*	Priority
Greenways			
1. Blue River Way	Center of town/river corridor preservation, continuous trail, fishing, boating, parks and feature areas. (5.5 Miles Long, 270 +- Acres, 4 Miles of Trail To Build)	\$ 3,000,000	1st
2. Silverthorne Loop	Hills above town/highlands hiking trail surrounding the town and accessing National Forests and Wilderness areas (19 Miles Long, 10 Miles to Build)	Volunteers/In-kind	On-going
3. Maryland Creek Greenway	North end of town/hiking. Open space preservation and trail access. (150 Acres)	Volunteers/In-kind	On-going
4. Park to Park Greenway	Westside/multi-use trail linking Trent Park to Blue River Trail at Wildermost Road. (1.5 Miles Long, 55 Acres +-)	\$ 500,000	On-going
5. Heitt Ranch Greenway	Northeast area/all terrain trail and open space loop (2.5 Miles, 100 Acres +-)	\$ 250,000	On-going
6. High Meadow Greenway	East central area/all terrain trail link to Parmigan Trail (1 Mile, 60 Acres +-)	\$ 100,000	On-going
7. Mesa Cortina Greenway	Southwest area/all terrain trail accessing National Forest via Mesa Cortina/Wildermost area	Volunteers/In-kind	On-going
1.6 miles 115 Acres +-)			
Resource Conservancy Areas			
8. Chain of Ponds	North central area/cluster of ponds, river, riparian areas and wetlands (90 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
9. Maryland Creek	Northwest area/open space corridor along Maryland Creek (160 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
10. Eagle's Nest	Northwest area/interconnected fens, wooded areas and golf course lands on Eagle's Nest Development (200 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
11. Willow Creek	West central area/preserved riparian corridor, fens and wetlands (140 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
12. Ruby Ranch	Westside/wooded drainage corridors (100 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
13. Bushee Creek	Northeast area/open space corridor along Bushee Creek (400 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
14. Hamilton Creek	Northeast area/open space corridor along Hamilton Creek (130 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
15. High Meadows	East side area/interconnected meadows, wooded areas and open lands on Heitt Ranch and National Forest properties (110 Acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
16. Straight Creek	South of I-70/existing wetland preserve along Straight Creek (34 acres +-)	Cooperative	On-going
17. View Preservation Areas	Preserve quality of views on hillside above 8900' surrounding the town	Cooperative	On-going
Trails			
18. Route 9 Trail	Central area/multi-use trail along Rt. 9 through town. (5.5 Miles Long, 3 Miles to Build)	\$ 900,000	On-going
19. Eagle's Nest Trails	Northwest area/system of sidewalks, paved and soft surface trails linking neighborhoods (2.7 Miles Total)	Others	On-going
20. Village Trail	Westside/multi-use trails linking Eagle's Nest, Willowbrook and proposed Silver Mountain Village and access to National Forest at "Filing 7"(1 Miles Total)	Others/volunteers	1 st
21. Willowbrook Trail	Westside/trail serving Willowbrook and Willow Creek Heights, link to Blue River (.8 Miles)	\$ 800,000 (link)	On-going
22. Frisco Trail	South of I-70/multi-use trail link to Lake Dillon Trail and Frisco (2 Miles to Build)	\$ 600,000	On-going

Table 3.2 Roster of Projects Summarized

23. Dillon Link Trail	South of I-70/multi use link to Summit Place, Dillon and Lake Dillon Trail (.5 Miles)	\$ 900,000	1 st
24. East Side Trail	East central area/on street and multi-use trail loop from Rec. Ctr. to Cottonwood Park (2.2 Miles, .7 Miles On-Street)	\$ 750,000	On-going
25. Adams Street Trail	West central area/on-street (1.5 Miles, signage only)	\$ 2,000	On-going
Parks			
Pocket/Neighborhood Parks			
26. Trent Park	West central area/neighborhood park with playfields, picnic, tennis, pond, paths (Total 8.8 Acres, 5 to build)	\$ 750,000	Planning 1 st
27. Silver Mountain Park	West central area/neighborhood park with playfields, picnic, paths (8 To Build)	\$ 1,200,000	Planning 1 st
28. West Side Park	West central area/ pocket park with turf, shelter, tot lot, paths (1 Acre, Acq. Land)	\$ 400,000	On-going
29. Artic Placer Park	West side/ pocket park with turf, shelter, tot lot, paths, possible shared playfield with school. (Total 4.5 Acres—1 Acre Pocket Park plus 3.5 Acres School Site Upgrade)	\$ 250,000	On-going
30. Blue River Pocket Parks	South central area/series of 4-5 parks/feature areas along the Blue River (5 Acres Total)	\$ 750,000	On-going
Community Parks			
31. Rainbow Park	West central/major park with playfields, picnic, court games, skate board. Includes relocation of basketball, volleyball and pad for skating and upgrade with cooling and cover at a later date. (11.6 Acres Total, 4.6 to Build)	\$ 690,000	1 st
32. Cottonwood Park	North central area/major park with play fields, fishing pond, picnic, natural areas (17 Acres Total and to Build)	\$ 2,550,000	Planning 1 st
33. Future Park Site	Northwest Area (Maryland Creek). Site for Future Community Park (20 acres)	Future/Land Bank	On-going
Regional Parks			
34. Blue River Park	South of I-70/Major park with playfields, fishing, events area, picnic (Total 46 Acres, 12 Acres to Build)	\$ 1,800,000	Planning 1 st
Specialty Parks			
35. Lake Hill Commons	South of I-70/Forest recreation area with trails, extreme sports areas, natural areas, fishing. (400 Acres +/-)	\$ 800,000	Planning 1 st
36. Cross Country Ski Tracks	Ski tracks at several locations.	Cooperative/in-kind	1 st
37. 9-hole Golf Course	Site not determined. Likely a shared facility with Frisco and Dillon, Expand to 18 in Future.	\$3-\$6 Million	Very Long-term
Way-finding System			
38. Way-finding System	Uniform information and signage system all around town	\$ 75,000	1 st

*Approximate costs to acquire and develop in year 2000 dollars

Table 3.2 Roster of Projects Summarized (Continued)



4. Implementation

4. Implementation

Summary of Key Points

- *Estimated cost of the recommended parks, trails and open space is \$15-\$20 million with implementation extending over the next 10-15 years. This is an ambitious but realizable target if there is a committed effort.*
- *Silverthorne should move forward immediately to secure critical open space and trail rights-of-way, and build partnerships to protect conservancy areas.*
- *Silverthorne has identified 8 immediate action projects lead by linking the Blue River Trail to Dillon and planning for Blue River Regional Park*
- *Silverthorne and the surrounding communities should pursue the formation of citizen and staff task forces to adopt, champion and implement the projects identified in this plan.*
- Silverthorne should review its development regulation ordinances, including subdivision, storm drainage, and utility policies to assure conformance with the plan.

This plan strives to be visionary and it is ambitious. Like any plan, however, it will mean little if not implemented. Realization of a plan calls for addressing several important factors including:

- Organizing and sustaining staff and community leadership to champion the plan.
- Understanding the cost implications of the plan—both capital and maintenance.
- Securing necessary land and rights of way for future open space, trails and parks.
- Identifying specific funding sources and partners.
- Having a phasing scheme with a schedule of projects to be implemented.
- Building and maintaining strong long-term community support for the plan.

Cost Estimates and Implications

Overview of Costs

This plan calls for the creation or expansion of 10 parks (including expansion of Blue River Park), 47 miles of trails and roadside pathways, amenities and almost 2,500 acres of preserved open space. Estimated dollar cost to implement

all of the recommended improvements is estimated at \$12 to \$20 Million. This breaks down approximately as follows:

Table 4.1 Overview of Costs

Greenways	\$ 3-\$4 Million
Conservancies:	Cooperative
Trails:	\$2-\$4 Million
Parks:	<u>\$7-\$12 Million</u>
Total:	\$12-\$20 Million

Silverthorne and its partners will clearly need both time and ingenuity to garner the resources necessary for implementation.

**Potential Funding Sources and Partners
(Please See Detailed Listing of Sources at the End of This Chapter)**

Assuming a 10 to 15-year implementation program and the potential funding sources listed in table 4.2 below, we can project the availability of as much as \$900,000 annually, with a total of close to \$15 Million available over the next 15 years. In addition, there may be potential for user fees, development impact fees, funds from general revenues, public/private partnerships and other sources not shown in the table. Note that these are not guaranteed amounts, but rather a planning benchmark showing the potential scale of funds that could be raised under an optimistic scenario.



They suggest that many of the proposed projects are realizable. Long-term commitment and partnering with both private and public sector stakeholders will be essential.

Table 4.2 Potential Funding Sources

<u>Potential Funding Sources</u>	<u>Annual Amount</u>	<u>15-yr Amount</u>
Lodging/Conservation Fund	100,000	\$ 1,500,000
Regional Partners	40,000	600,000
County Open Space	50,000	750,000
GOCO Trails	75,000	1,125,000
GOCO Parks/Open Space	25,000	375,000
GOCO Legacy	200,000	3,000,000
Philanthropic	50,000	750,000
Volunteers	50,000	750,000
Bonds	<u>400,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>
Totals:	\$ 990,000	\$14,850,000

Project Phasing

To assure realization of the plan’s vision and that future resident needs are met on a timely schedule, Silverthorne should have a strategic phasing plan to bring projects on-line so that facilities are available to new residents, and open space and trail right-of-way opportunities are not lost. Based on this and other factors, several important criteria to guide project phasing can be identified:

- Meets an identified community shortfall or need
- Availability of funds, resources or regulatory tools to complete the project
- Critical properties, natural resources and rights of way that might be lost
- High visibility, usable projects, with broad community benefit
- Project demonstrates the plan’s vision
- Trail or open space corridor forms a vital link or spine of a larger system or network
- Project takes advantage of special funding, acquisition or partnering opportunities

Using these criteria and input by staff, elected officials and the SPORT Committee, a number of projects were also identified for immediate action as listed in Table 3.3 below:

Project	Strategy
1. Complete preliminary engineering for Blue River trail from Dillon to the Sewage Plant	Pursue GOCO planning funds
2. Prepare Blue River Plan/Feasibility Study for lease renewal (urgent).	Pursue funds from GOCO, Denver Water, Dillon, County
3. Complete Rainbow Park planned improvements including basketball relocation, volleyball, and covered roller/ice rink.	Phased effort with upgrades as funds become available
4. Pursue rights of way for Blue River Trail and other trail routes.	Refine Blue River plan, initiate negotiations with landowners
5. Prepare Master Plans for Trent and Cottonwood Parks	Pursue GOCO funding and Rockies funds for Little League.
6. Develop way-finding system	Pursue private and Energy Impact funds.
7. Improve Willowbrook (Filing 7) forest access and trail links.	Create citizens task force and recruit volunteers
8. Initiate planning and permitting process on Frisco Trail Link/Lake Hill Commons Park.	Commit staff and citizen task force effort. Partner with Frisco, County and Forest Service.

Table 4.3: Early Action Projects

Organizational Leadership to Champion the Plan

Long Term Committed Leadership

The *commitment factor* will be vital to the success of this plan. This means sustained leadership by staff, elected officials and especially the community. This requires an effective and enduring organizational structure and process. Key functional areas include:

- **Citizen Advocacy to Champion the Plan**— The SPORT Committee needs to move forward as the champion of this plan. Sub-committees chaired by dedicated individuals should also be created to work with staff to oversee and promote the implementation of the various identified priority projects. At some point, if private sector funds are raised, this group might incorporate as a non-profit under *Sec. 501(c)(3)* of the *Internal Revenue Code*.
- **Staff Advocacy and Oversight**—To accomplish this, Silverthorne should designate a project manager assigned to oversee this effort addressing such issues as land acquisition, volunteer projects, fundraising, design, construction, and maintenance of facilities. This person should also enjoy the continued participation and support of the SPORT Committee and project sub-committees in realizing this vision.
- **Build and Maintain Effective Partnerships Among Agencies, Jurisdictions and Stakeholders**—This will help optimize funds and resources, strengthening the position of all the partners in securing grants, and promoting policies and programs that support the plan. Coordination will also help promote an integrated system of trails, parks and open space corridors that transcend jurisdictional lines.
- **Garner Resources and Funds**—This includes grant writing, financial strategizing and partnership building.
- **Assure Policy Consistency**—Silverthorne should review its development regulation ordinances including subdivision, storm drainage, and utility policies to assure they are in conformance with the plan.

Building and Maintaining Community Support

Solid community support for the project is critical. Citizens must not only be inspired by the plan, but also embrace it over the long term. Clearly, Silverthorne residents, property owners and business people need to be kept informed, involved and realize a direct benefit to them and

their neighborhoods. This can be accomplished by:

- **Having an Effective Public Information Program** including clear, easy-to-read reports, brochures, web site updates, posters, and progress presentations. A prominently located “status board” is also recommended to post the plan map and key objectives. The board should be regularly updated to show progress and need for additional support or funds.
- **Prioritizing Projects** that will benefit all town residents and provide linkage to the larger Summit County recreation system.
- **Immediately Moving Forward with Pilot Projects** that demonstrate the plan’s vision as well as completing and dedicating additional projects or project elements year by year.
- **Having a Quality Management and Maintenance Program** that includes an effective citizen/user feedback mechanism to provide a responsive ear for each user concern.

Funding and Policy Resources

Following is a list of potential funding sources and policy measures that can benefit implementation of the plan. This list should not be interpreted as all-inclusive since new programs appear while others are reduced or phased out.

Local Funds

Bond Issue—Currently Silverthorne has two bond-funded projects—the Recreation Center and the Pavilion—totaling \$11.4 million. The town pays approximately \$ 1 million per year toward retiring these two project costs from sales tax. Currently (Year 2000), the town is at full bonding capacity for the foreseeable future. This, however, does not preclude a property tax based bond perhaps through the formation of a metropolitan park district or fundraising through other mechanisms such as the sale of certificates of participation tied to future revenues. **Contact Barbara Monseu, Hanifen Imhoff Company 303-296-2300 for additional information on bonds and other forms of public financing.**

Sales Tax—Sales tax is currently at 7.5% with 4% going to the town. This suggests little capacity for additional sale taxes.

Lodging Tax—Currently brings in \$ 95,000 to \$110,000 annually, of which 85% is available to the town for park and recreation purposes (This includes revenue from the Conservation Trust Fund approximately \$25,000/yr).

User Fees and Joint Ventures—facilities such as golf courses, group picnic facilities, fields, batting cages and even trails can generate revenue. Silverthorne could also joint venture with developers and other private interests in such projects. **Contact Bob Kelly or Al Cunningham at Redstone Group 303-623-3466 for information on golf course development costs and net revenues.**

Property Taxes—Silverthorne residents do not pay a town property tax although they do pay property tax for fire protection and other services. Elections to impose a property tax in Silverthorne in the past have not been successful.

Development Impact Fees and Excise Taxes—These are fees or taxes assessed on new commercial and residential property. Impact Fees reflect the need for facilities created by new development. By example, the City of Arvada assesses \$ 1,000 for a single-family residence and \$ 840 for a multi-family unit.

County and Regional Funds

County Open Space Program—Summit County funds this by property tax mill levy. The County has raised \$7 million with a 2nd mill levy poised to raise \$3 million per year 2000 through 2009. Of this funding, 85% goes to open space acquisition. Non-paved paths on open space properties can be funded, but not bike paths. All funds are spent at County level. County will partner with towns for projects in towns if criteria are met. **Contact the Open Space Advisory Council. Todd Robertson (970-668-4061)**

Creation of a North Shore Park and Recreation Metro District—There has been some discussion of a consolidated park and recreation program among Dillon, Frisco, Silverthorne and the unincorporated portions of the County on the North Shore of Lake Dillon. Creation of such an entity might benefit Silverthorne as well as the other partners by reducing duplication of services and facilities, providing a better funding base for capital projects, programs, operations and maintenance, and providing additional bonding capacity for

projects. A public golf course, completion of the Lake Dillon Trail with links to Silverthorne, creation of the Lake Dillon Commons Park (Lake Hill Area), and local management and enhancement of Blue River Regional Park might fall under the purview of a special district effort.

This approach however, might have to compete for funds with other interests such as schools and open space and might imply Silverthorne giving up some autonomy over its park and recreation facilities.

Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT)—This is a tax assessed on the sale or transfers of real estate dedicated to open space, park and trail benefits. The Town of Vail generates \$1.3 to \$2 million or more annual, with a 1% tax on transfers. Under current State requirements this program is limited to newly annexed areas and subdivisions where there is voluntary approval.

State Funds

GO Colorado—The Great Outdoors Colorado program has several funding sources available including grants for trails, open space, parks, planning and small projects. Individual grants typically range from \$10,000 to \$200,000 with grants of several millions of dollars under the *Legacy* Program for projects of statewide interest. **Contact the State Trails Program at 303-866-3203 or GO Colorado at 303-863-7522**

Fishing is Fun—Sponsored by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, this program provides matching funds on a 75% CDOW share/25% local share matching basis for habitat improvements, barrier free fishing access, parking, signage and other improvements supportive of fishing. **Contact Mr. Tom Kroening, District Wildlife Manager 970-468-5848**

Energy Impact Funds—Primarily allocated to communities with a large energy impact fund. Annual amount of \$15 Million is available statewide. Maximum grant amount runs about \$300,000. Park, greenway and trail projects and planning may be eligible. **Contact Kathy Shipley, Colorado Office of Local Affairs 970-468-2183**

Federal Funds

Tea 21 Transportation Enhancement Program—This program runs through 2003 and

funds bicycle transportation and pedestrian projects under several categories, including: *Recreational Trails Program*; *Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways*; and *Surface Transportation Program (STP)*. Funds are available to develop and maintain recreational trails and trailside facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users. Local match of at least 20% is required. "Soft-match" (credit for donations of funds, materials, services, or new right-of-way) is also permitted. **Contact Cecelia Joy, CDOT Region 1 Planning and Environmental Manager 303-757-9112 or Gay Page CDOT Statewide Bicycle Coordinator at 303-757-9982.**

National Scenic Byways Program—grants to states for scenic byway programs and related projects (recreational trails have been funded through this program) along roads designated as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads, or as State Scenic Byways. **Contact Gay Page CDOT Statewide Bicycle Coordinator at 303-757-9982.**

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Permanent funding for LWCF is pending passage of *the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999* (CARA) that would provide an estimated **\$12 to \$20** million annually for Colorado to support the creation of national and community parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and open space to guarantee outdoor recreation opportunities and a clean environment. **Contact Colorado Division of Parks and Recreation 303-866-3437.**

Forest Service (USDA) Many recreational facilities in National Forests are created through public-private partnerships with the Forest Service. Through special use permits, fees and concessionaires, the Forest Service is able to meet some of the rising demand for recreational services. Collaboration with the Santa Fe National Forest office on joint venture trail related projects should be explored. The Forest Service may be able to assist through the following programs:

Cost Share Program: The Cost Share program can provide cash and in-kind resources to projects that expand trails and recreation amenities through National Forests. Bringing the Forest Service in as a partner in the early stages

of planning is important in order to gain their support.

Right-of-way (Grants and Acquisitions): The Forest Service can provide access across National Forest System lands to intermingled and adjacent lands, and acquire public access across private land to National Forest land.

To coordinate activities with the National Forest, contacts include: Angela Glenn Recreational Forester, 970-468-5400 Paul Zimmer, Land Planner 970-262-3448,

Federal Lands Highways (FLH)—funding for projects on certain federal lands including National Forests that has funded trails on public lands.

Federal Lands-to-Parks Program—Periodically, the General Services Administration identifies properties the federal government no longer needs and initiates a formal process to dispose of them. The National Park Service and General Services Administration notify States and local governments when properties become available in their area. The program enables States and local governments to establish park and recreation areas and adapt historic buildings for public uses. Applicants must agree to manage the property in the public interest and for public park and recreational use. **Contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program, National Park Service, Atlanta Support Office 404-562-3175 ext. 511**

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program: The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program is a community resource that works with local citizen groups to revitalize nearby rivers, preserve valuable open spaces, and develop local trail and greenway networks. The program does not provide funding; rather it offers expertise to local groups trying to get their project off the ground. **Contact Duane Holmes, Denver Office National Park Service 303-969-2855.**

Volunteer and Youth Programs
Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado. Organizes trail and land stewardship projects on public lands in Colorado. **Contact Kate Boland, Director, 303-715-1010**

U.S.F.S Volunteer Program Organizes volunteer projects on federal lands. Contact

Angela Glenn, Recreational Forester, White River National Forest 970-468-5400

Local Wilderness Groups—Including Friends of Eagle’s Nest Wilderness and About Wilderness, Inc. **Contact Maryanne Gaug megaug@csn.net**

Mountain Bike Organizations—Including the International Mountain Bicycling Association and the Fat Tire Society—**Contact IMBA 303-545-9011**

Youth Programs—Including programs under the Job Performance Training Act (JPTA) Program for at risk youth. **Contact “Shape our Summit” Jennifer Pratt-Miles 970-513-8340 Also contact NCCC/Americorps 303-844-7439**

In-kind Resources—use of town, county, or donated labor and equipment to build projects.

Military/Corrections Labor—This is the use of military or corrections institution labor and equipment to build projects. **Contact military bases or Colorado National Guard**

Settlement of Environmental Lawsuits—Proceeds from settlements on lawsuits based on violations of federal laws, often through the Sierra Club, Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund or similar organization. **Contact EJDF at 303-871-6996**

Private Sector Grants

Philanthropic Funds—grants from local and national private foundations. In some cases wealthy individuals may contribute to a project. **Contact Community Resources Center 303-623-1540 or www.crcamerica.org**

Corporate Contributions—These are grants of funds or in-kind materials or services by businesses. Companies generally will expect a promotional or advertising benefit commensurate with the grant amount.

Entrepreneurial Partnerships—include special projects such as wetland banks and water storage reservoirs where a business interest has a financial incentive to fund an open space project.

Joint Ventures Around Lake Dillon Summit Leadership Forum—Council of elected officials and managers from the jurisdictions of Summit County.

Dillon Recreation Resource Coordinating Committee (DRRCC). Includes White River National Forest Denver Water, National Forest, Summit County, Dillon, Frisco, Silverthorne.

Policies and Regulatory Measures Local Provisions

Following are policies and regulatory measures that may be applicable. Some of these are already enforced in Silverthorne. Others would require further investigation and action.

Subdivision Regulations—requires developers to submit plans for review and approval. The plans must meet certain engineering criteria as stipulated in the Town zoning ordinance and municipal codes. The Town can require that land unsuitable for development due to flooding, improper drainage, steep slopes, unsuitable soil conditions, utility rights of way and other conditions that may be harmful to public safety, health and general welfare may not be developed unless adequate methods are formulated and approved. Furthermore, the town may withhold approval of the subdivision if it is determined that increased stormwater runoff may overload existing downstream drainage facilities. In addition, developers are required to dedicate land for parks, open space and recreational facilities or make cash-in-lieu-of-land dedication and pay fees for park and recreation facilities. The developer is also required to make certain street and sidewalk improvements. (See subdivision code).

Floodplain Ordinances—requires that all structures or land modifications in the designated floodway and floodplain comply with certain requirements. Specifically, a permit is required before any construction can take place in the floodplain. Any encroachment in the floodway is prohibited unless a licensed professional engineer or architect can demonstrate that encroachment will not increase the flood level of the 100-year flood by more than one foot in the floodway fringe and result in no flood level increase in the floodway.

Buffer Zones— requires the developer to dedicate open space and/or setbacks along the edges of stream corridors, wetlands, and other places where potentially incompatible land use may abut. The goals may include preserving water quality, protecting groundwater discharge, attenuating stormwater runoff and other general health, safety and welfare benefits.

Conservation Subdivision Techniques— encourage the developer to plan the property with an emphasis on preserving the natural and cultural resources of the site. The developer is also given the flexibility to “cluster lots” on land more suitable for building in order to set aside more sensitive areas such as floodplains and floodplain buffer areas for open space. The open space might be held by a non-profit land trust controlled by the homeowners affording certain tax benefits. Under such a program the town may provide technical assistance as well as certain incentives such as reduced application fees, increased density bonuses, and speedy application review.

Watershed Protection and Storm Drainage Impact Fees—provides for an impact fee based on the square footage of impervious surfaces such as those created by roads or rooftops. The funds are earmarked for storm drainage facilities including acquisition of open space (including stream corridors, wetlands and ponds) for stormwater storage and conveyance.

Dedication/Density Transfers—allow the dedication of greenway corridors or open space by the transfer of density to other portions of the property or to contiguous land that is part of a common development plan. The greenway or open space may be deeded to the Town or owned and maintained by a property owners association. While the overall density of the development remains the same, development may be clustered onto smaller lots. Some communities also allow the transfer or sale of density bonuses to other developers or locations.

Conservation Tax Credit Program—In 1999, the Colorado Legislature passed a bill permitting landowners, who forgo development and gift to a land trust or public agency, the development rights on their property, the right to receive up to a \$100,000 tax credit. The credit can be spread over a period of up to 20 years.

Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP)— Through the Colorado Division of Wildlife, this program helps private landowners and public land agencies identify and protect land with special wildlife habitat values. Protection is through voluntary cooperative agreements. Small grants are sometimes available. The Division of Wildlife can also acquire wildlife conservation easements.

Federal Policies and Regulations

Clean Water Act—Section 404—probably the most powerful and effective non-local regulatory tool. Permits are required when a project will disturb wetlands defined as *jurisdictional waters of the U.S.* Related programs such as the *Wetlands Reserve Program* and *Conservation Reserve Program* promote the preservation of wetlands on agricultural properties.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)—

The Federal government will provide for flood hazard insurance to property owners in communities that meet guidelines set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This provides a strong incentive for communities to write and enforce floodplain protection ordinances. FEMA has also created a *community rating system* that provides an insurance premium reduction if communities go beyond the minimum requirements.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA)—The ESA is designed to protect the wrongful killing or injury of wildlife. Court decisions have also broadened this interpretation to include the protection of wildlife habitat and movement routes under certain conditions, including potential impact on federally listed threatened or endangered species. If the presence or potential of listed species is indicated, private and public land developers are obliged to prepare critical habitat and recovery plans for any identified listed species. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accept plans, a permit may be issued to alter habitat and possibly impact some listed wildlife. If no permit is issued, then penalties may be imposed or legal action by citizens upheld in court with substantial damage settlements.

Land and Right of Way Acquisition Techniques

Note: Colorado has a Recreational Use Statute (RUS) (Sec.33-41-101 thru -105, C.R.S.) meaning that the liability of property owners and adjacent property owners who grant right of way for recreational purposes is limited. An attorney, however, should be consulted to determine current status of the law.

Fee Simple Purchase--includes the entire "bundle" of rights in perpetuity—usually the most costly acquisition

Easements—a conveyance of certain, but not all, rights associated with a property. Several types of easements may be applicable here including: *public access* (i.e. for trails); *conservation* (to protect natural resources, floodplain or water quality values); and *preservation easements* (to protect historic integrity or values of a property) or combinations thereof. Many easements may allow the owner to continue his use of the property for compatible purposes such as farming and some easements may allow the owner to restrict public access. In some cases, the town may simply purchase the development rights.

Donation/Bargain Sale./Tax Incentives

A willing property owner conveys the property or interest in property as a charitable contribution or at a less than fair market value price (bargain sale). The donor may be eligible for federal, state and local tax deductions and may be able to avoid inheritance taxes, capital gains or recurring property taxes. In some cases, the owner may donate a future interest in the land or retain a life tenancy allowing the donor to remain on the property, use the property, or take income from the property for the remainder of their life or lives.

Option, Lease-Option or First Right of Refusal—

This is an agreement with the owner to secure the right to acquire the property in the future. This protects the land in the short term until funds are found to make the purchase. Variations on this might include transaction through a third party such as a land conservancy or The Trust for Public Lands, where the third party buys and holds the land on the town's behalf. The city might make rent payments or installment payments on the property over an extended period of time.

License or Revocable Permit--A property owner grants the right to use the property (usually a trail right-of-way) for a period of years (usually 25 yrs. or more). In the case of a revocable permit, the grantor may terminate the right of use or access under certain conditions. Examples include the right for a trail to pass through a State Highway right-of-way or through a property where the owner is hesitant to grant permanent access.

Cooperative Partnership Land

Management—Certain public agencies may choose to cooperate and partner in the pursuit of

mutual land management benefits. Under this scenario, public land managers agree to manage the land for multiple objectives such as conservation, land treatment of wastewater, wetland banking, joint use recreational/ maintenance trails and water quality benefits. These might be implemented through short and long term intergovernmental agreements.

Condemnation—Under certain circumstances, the Town may need to take property through its powers of eminent domain. This may be a forceful taking or a “friendly condemnation” where eminent domain may resolve difficult legal problems for both sides. It should seldom be used with an unwilling property owner and only when the need for the property is critical and all reasonable efforts to negotiate a settlement with the owner have been exhausted.

