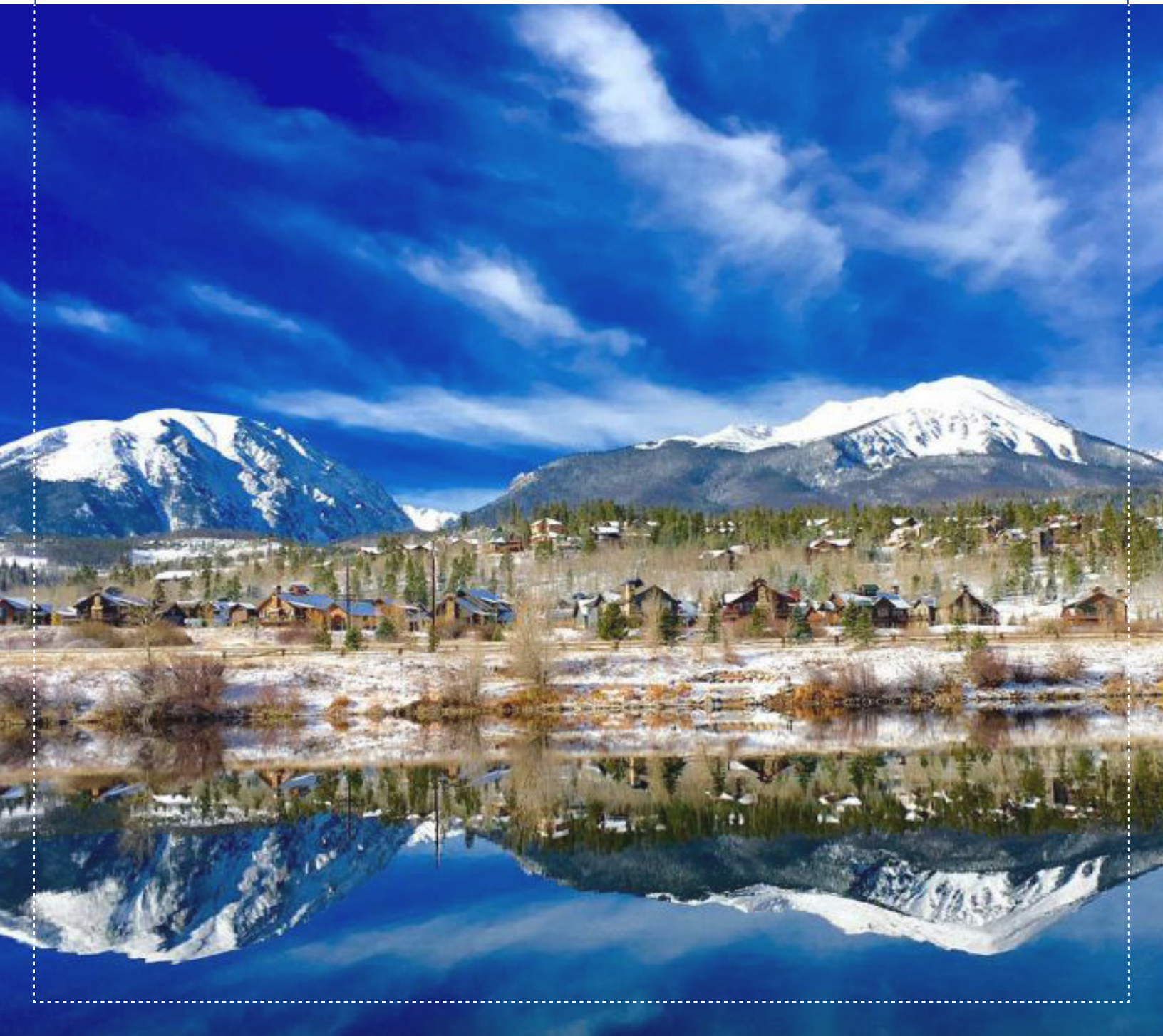




Blueprint: **Silverthorne**

Parks, Open Space & Trails Master Plan
Update 2021



Introductory **Remarks**

At the time of the last Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan update, a key theme was to promote parks and recreation to become part of the community fabric of Silverthorne. In 2021, that has fully solidified, as they are integral to the economy, lifestyle, and character in Silverthorne.

Since 2014, the Town has seen considerable growth and revitalization. The 2014 Comprehensive Plan, Blueprint Silverthorne, set the vision for much of that growth along with the POST Plan; ensuring that outdoor spaces and connectivity were a priority for new developments and improvements throughout Silverthorne as development occurred. Beginning with the Town Core at Fourth Street Crossing, the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center and surrounding greens, and access to the Blue River all anchors the downtown and events that take place there. Farther north, Trent Park takes on an important role in serving Silverthorne's primary locals' neighborhoods — Willowbrook and the newly developed Smith Ranch. Maryland Creek Park is the Town's newest and largest park and serves new homes built at Summit Sky Ranch, as well as the greater community, as it is the only dog park found in this area of Summit County.

2020-21 brought us unprecedented times in Silverthorne and the Town's recreational resources played a central role in keeping the community thriving. Parks allowed people to safely see one another, exercise, enjoy time outside, and maintain an element of normalcy that was otherwise difficult to find during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parks, trails and open space became even more important than ever for people of all ages to get relief from the crisis that we were experiencing. We'll carry forward experience forward, knowing just how essential parks and the outdoors are to our community's culture and well-being.

This update reflects the changes that our community has seen since 2014 and sets a renewed vision for the years ahead. One in which we will look after the amenities that we have, seek to improve places that are falling short of the current needs, and look for new opportunities to serve our diverse and growing population.



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Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose of the POST Master Plan

Parks and recreation, spending time outdoors, incredible scenic views, and family atmosphere are all integral to life in the Town of Silverthorne (Silverthorne or Town). They are the reasons why many people move here, choose to visit, or buy second homes here. Especially in its recent history, parks, open space and trails have shaped the Town's physical form, identity and quality of life.

The Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan is the Town's guide for future investment in parks, open space and trails. A detailed inventory of current facilities provides a snapshot of what exists today and how those resources are serving the present-day population. Analysis of those resources, coupled with current trends and desires, reveals opportunities that may improve service levels and the ability of the Town to recapture the costs of providing outstanding facilities and programs to its residents. Lastly, the POST Master Plan includes goals, recommendations and guidelines that will guide decision-makers to invest in projects that meet the community's vision for parks, open space and trails in Silverthorne.

Why Update?

The last POST Master Plan was adopted in 2014. That plan led to many achievements in the last 6 years, and the community has also seen significant changes. New trends in sports and recreation have emerged that were just beginning at the time the last plan was written. In addition, the population has changed; new residents and families have moved to Silverthorne (Smith Ranch, Summit Sky Ranch), new areas of town of sprung to life (4th Street Crossing), and overall needs and priorities are different than they were in 2014.

The importance of parks, open space and trails has also increased dramatically since 2014, especially so with the

onset of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021. Never before have our mountain communities seen such a need for places to recreate outdoors. We learned during this time that outdoor spaces play a tremendous role in our community's health and well-being. Resources must be diverse and accessible to all residents and user groups, providing respite from daily life, or in the case of 2020, a place to see friends and family members safely.

The POST Master Plan is a supporting document to the Town of Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan: Blueprint Silverthorne. The two documents work in tandem to promote parks, open space and trails resources that, first and foremost, serve local residents and add to Silverthorne's quality of life. Also written in 2014 and undergoing an update in 2021, the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan identifies the role of those resources in sustaining local businesses and Silverthorne's economy by drawing in residents of greater Summit County and tourists. The POST Master Plan further explores those opportunities with the community and includes recommendations that meet both objectives.

What Makes this Update Unique?

With new trends in activities and sports, there are also new trends in how communities view parks, open space and trails resources. This is especially true in mountain communities where effective populations are much larger than simply their year-round residents. This presents challenges in providing excellent services, but also opportunities. Parks and recreation can serve to draw people into a community, for specific activities and events that cost money to participate in, or for activities that are free but encourage people to spend time in-town at restaurants and shops.

The Town of Silverthorne strives to provide outstanding parks, open space and trails to its residents. The Town also realizes the potential economic development benefits that

may come from drawing in visitors, and that those benefits can help offset the cost of providing resources and facilities to locals. This plan addresses those opportunities and the implications of embarking on such an approach.

Public Engagement

At the time when this update began in the spring of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had ground Summit County and the nation nearly to a halt, making in person interaction extremely limited. Thus, public involvement took on a different form, which included social distancing, face covering and lots of outdoor space. Despite the challenges, staff was able to implement creative techniques such as online surveys, virtual outreach, and outdoor events to capture a broad array of feedback from Silverthorne residents and recreationists.

PUBLIC OUTREACH TIMELINE

The initial outreach occurred over the summer and fall of 2020, during the Covid pandemic, which required creativity and innovation from staff and community members. The timeline included:

- August 14 through September 8 – “Street Stalls” and comment cards posted at Maryland Creek Park, North Pond Park, Rainbow Park, and Trent Park.
- August 14 – Online survey launched.
- August 22 – Community Open House at Trent Park.
- August 27 – Community Open House at Smith Ranch.
- September 9 – Virtual Community Mapping exercise on social media.
- September 16 – Community Open House at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

A more complete summary of input and themes heard during public engagement can be found in Chapter 2.

SILVERTHORNE PARKS, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, AND TRAILS (SPORT) COMMITTEE

The POST Plan is implemented by town staff with direction from the Silverthorne Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails (SPORT) Committee. The SPORT Committee is a team of passionate volunteers dedicated to protecting, improving,

and creating equitable access to the outdoors. We strive to diversify the committee to represent all perspectives, backgrounds, and abilities within our community. It is their duty to honor the interests and well-being of the whole when implementing the POST Plan and making recommendations to Town Council.

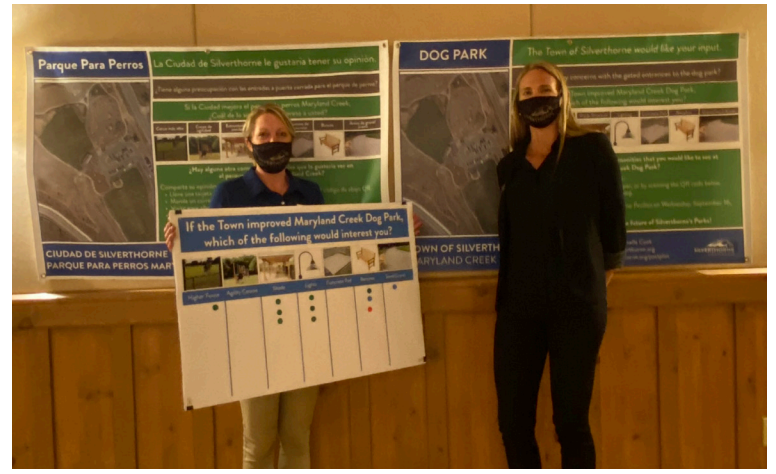
How to Use this Document

This plan is both a reference tool to examine the existing conditions of the Town of Silverthorne’s parks, open space and trail facilities, and a road map for where the community would like to go in the future. As such, each chapter serves a specific purpose: Chapter 2 provides an in-depth summary and analysis of Silverthorne’s existing resources, and summarizes the common themes from the public engagement process relevant to today’s trends and user groups; Chapter 3 states the goals and objectives for the parks, open space and trail resources, which are aspirations that the community has for the future and will guide the community when making decisions about potential opportunities; Chapter 4 presents the Master Plan projects and implementation strategies to be pursued in the future.

RELATED PLANS

This POST Master Plan is informed by, and complements many other plans and policy documents, including:

- 2004 Blue River Trail Master Plan
- 2013 Urban Renewal Plan
- 2014 Comprehensive Plan
- 2014 POST Plan
- 2014 Kayak Park Conceptual Plan
- 2015 Community Profile
- 2015 Arctic Placer Park, Trent Park, and Angler Mountain Open Space Master Plan
- 2017 North Pond Park Master Plan
- 2020 Transportation Master Plan



Themes Heard from the Community

trailhead parking

bikeshare

safe crossings of Hwy 9

accessibility

dog park

nature play

pickleball

complement
Downtown

neighborhoods

views
tourism

Smith Ranch

year-round

plazas
wildlife

trent park

stewardship

connections

education

partnerships

locals-serving

kayak park

indoor activities



Chapter 2: Existing Conditions

Parks, Open Space, and Trails Inventory

The Town has continually made significant investment in its portfolio of parks, open space and trails. The following inventory summarizes the resources and facilities found in Town today. The current inventory is graphically depicted on the Existing Conditions figure.

PARKS

At present, the Town maintains seven parks that serve the diverse needs of residents and visitors alike. These parks range from the larger and more diverse “community parks” to the smaller “pocket parks” that primarily benefit local neighborhoods. Below are brief descriptions of each of these parks, including the key recreational resources they contribute to the community.

COMMUNITY PARK

RAINBOW PARK

Rainbow Park is one of Silverthorne’s most popular parks, with 12 acres of outdoor enjoyment for everyone in the family. Rainbow Park is located adjacent to the Recreation Center at 430 Rainbow Drive. Parking is available in the front and back of the Recreation Center, and a parking area next to the skateboard park.

The park has diverse recreational resources. A popular park feature is a concrete (paved) pathway that encircles the park (three laps equals one mile). The pathway is perfect for adult fitness, parents with strollers, youngsters with tricycles and bicycles or a relaxing stroll with a dog on leash. For young children (5 and under), there is a treasure-hunt themed tot lot area.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Playground
- Tot lot
- 2 Restrooms
- 5 picnic pavilions with 3 BBQ grills
- Skateboard park

- Multi-purpose playing field
- Basketball court with lines for pickleball
- 2 tennis courts
- 4 sand volleyball courts with picnic tables
- Concrete walking track and soft surface trail
- Sledding hill in winter

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

TRENT PARK

Trent Park is located at the entrance to Willowbrook neighborhood, at the intersection of State Highway 9 (SH 9) and Willowbrook Road. The 3.8-acre park has a pirate-themed play structure that is popular with the neighborhood children, as well as families that drive there from other areas. There is also a kids’ fishing pond that is stocked annually for youth ages 14 and under to fish for free, with no need for a fishing license. Trent Park has become a popular place to play pickleball; the tennis courts are striped for both sports. There is also a youth league baseball field, which separates the park area from the bathrooms. The pond and ball field are encircled by a 1/4-mile paved pathway.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Youth league baseball field
- Picnic pavilion, with BBQ grill
- Restrooms (seasonal)
- Fishing pond, with ADA-accessible dock
- 2 tennis and 6 pickleball courts (shared)
- Playground

POCKET PARK

ARCTIC PLACER PARK

Arctic Placer is 1 acre in size and has a small covered picnic area and small playground. Limited parking (3 regular spaces and 1 handicap space) is available as it primarily serves the surrounding neighborhood. Arctic Placer is located at the end of Polar Court, west of 6th Street off of SH 9, near the old elementary school site. The park is adjacent to National Forest lands. The USFS plans to reconstruct the Arctic Placer Trail in the Summer of 2021. The trail is currently a steep social trail leading directly up the drainage and providing

access to National Forest lands. The new pathway will be located in the same general corridor but will meander back and forth to avoid the steep slope.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Picnic pavilion
- Playground

NORTH POND PARK

North Pond Park is a 5-acre park located directly south of the Silverthorne Elementary School at the intersection of SH 9 and Hamilton Creek Road. It is a unique mountain wetland and pond area and is home to nesting osprey and quality catch and release fishing. Non-motorized boating is permitted, as well as swimming. In the winter, the pond is open for skating, although there are currently no skate rentals available. North Pond Park is home to a number of special events such as a pond hockey tournament. North Pond Park is a popular destination for stand up paddleboarding, kayaking, and canoeing.

The park has a small pavilion that is used year-round for small events or gatherings, hosts children's summer camps, and serves as a warming hut during the winter.

In 2015, an 18 panel temporary solar array (5.4 kW) was installed at North Pond Park as a solar demonstration site, that powers the park.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Beach area
- Warming Hut with 2 picnic tables & ice skate cubby storage
- Restrooms
- Bike Racks
- Parking and access for Blue River Trail
- A small pavilion
- Picnic pavilion, with BBQ grill
- Outdoor fire pit, with BBQ grill
- 2 fishing docks, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) fishing access

MARYLAND CREEK PARK

Maryland Creek Park is the Town's newest and largest park. Boasting over 20 acres, the park is located at the entrance to the Summit Sky Ranch neighborhood along Highway 9. The park is host to a variety of amenities, including a loop trail with a route that connects with the Gore Range Trail.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Multi-purpose field
- Picnic Pavilion (no grill)
- Soft surface trail
- 2 Dog parks
- Restrooms
- Warming hut with a small bar sink
- Sledding hill
- 9-Hole disc golf course
- Nature play playground
- Bike rack
- Trailhead
- Nature play area

SPECIAL USE PARKS

RIVER'S EDGE

Built in 2012, River's Edge is located west of SH 9 just north of the Interstate 70 (I-70) Interchange. It has walking paths, picnic tables and benches, providing access to the Blue River within close proximity to the Outlets and its restaurants. It is located along the Blue River south of the Town Center and Silverthorne Pavilion area.

Key Recreational Resources:

- 2 picnic tables
- Blue River Trail access
- Fishing access

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Located next to the Recreation Center, Silvana's Community Garden was brought to life in 2008 by the hard work and dedication of community volunteers and continues to operate solely on a volunteer basis. Silvana's Community Garden, a 0.25 acre area, was created with the intent of inviting individuals and families from all backgrounds to come together to grow produce, flowers and herbs in a friendly and encouraging environment. With 33 raised and in-ground plots varying in size, this working garden welcomes all members of the community regardless of gardening experience.

PLANNED FUTURE PARKS

There are two parcels of land within the Town that are currently allotted to become community or neighborhood parks. While each have conceptual plans in place, all went

Focus on: The Role of Parks in a Pandemic

When the POST was last updated in 2014, recreation was central to the town's economic and growth strategy. Silverthorne was becoming a destination for Summit County locals and visitors for family recreation, sports and fitness, and outdoor activities such as hiking, fly-fishing, and biking. In the years since that plan was adopted, that trend only solidified and gained even more traction with the establishment of the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center and a vibrant arts and culture scene.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020, a new importance emerged for recreation and the outdoors. For nearly a year, people were very limited in their ability to gather indoors, making outdoor spaces absolutely essential to not only fitness, but to social and emotional well-being. Parks became one of the best places for locals and visitors to see one another safely, spend time together, and get much needed exercise without face-coverings. Places like Rainbow Park, Trent Park, North Pond Park and the Blue River Trail, provided much needed respite from the pandemic for children and families, and people of all ages.

One aspect of recreation that took center stage during the pandemic has been visitation management and balancing the needs of diverse users. Parks and trailheads have at times become crowded, exceeding a safe capacity even in normal times. The Town will need to examine visitation trends to ensure that the quality of the parks experience is maintained during peak seasons throughout the year. This is addressed throughout this update.

While the Covid pandemic was an unusual period of time, which we hope to not see again in our lifetimes, the significance of parks and outdoor spaces will endure. That time demonstrated to our communities how essential these community amenities are for health and well-being; for community culture and character; and for our economy.



North Pond



Blue River Trail



Nordic Center at the Raven

through a different process that may or may not have been vetted through public input.

The planning team has considered how each of these planned parks can best serve the community, in light of today's vision, goals, and trends.

TRENT PARK EXPANSION

The area directly south from Trent Park, across Willowbrook Road, is known as the Trent Park Expansion Area. It is approximately 8 acres in size and adjacent to the newly developed Smith Ranch Neighborhood. Conceptual plans were drawn in 2004 and 2015. The plans proposed amenities such as a multi-purpose field, bike pump track, rock climbing wall, basketball, ping pong, bocce ball, and cornhole. After completing community outreach efforts in the Summer of 2020, the Town decided to incorporate the amenities suggested by the surrounding residents into the master plan drawing. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2023.

COTTONWOOD PARK

The "upper bench" of Cottonwood Park is located north of Silverthorne Elementary School and south of the Joint Sewer Authority (JSA), and future Lake Dillon Fire Department and Town Public Works sites. A conceptual plan for the park completed in 2003; however, at this time there are no plans to develop the park further and any future plans would have to be re-imagined under current conditions.

OPEN SPACES

The Town has been active in assembling a patchwork of open space properties within the community. Some of this open space has been acquired through the efforts of the community itself. Other areas have been established as open space through the planned residential development process. Regardless of how established, the presence of open space in the Town supports long-held community values and can enable future opportunities for recreational use and enjoyment. Each of the existing open space properties within the current portfolio are described below. These areas are also shown graphically on the Existing Conditions figure.

COTTONWOOD LOWER BENCH

Cottonwood Lower Bench is a 20-acre parcel located along the Blue River just north of the Silverthorne Elementary School. The property, which is adjacent to the Blue River, contains wetlands, large cottonwoods and open meadow areas. Approximately 60 percent of the property is in the floodplain (approximately 380 feet across property); wetlands are located on south end with minimal vegetation on the property except for along the river. It is called the lower bench as this mostly level site sits 20 or 30 feet below the adjacent land to the west. The area offers scenic views of the Blue River corridor.

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY SLIVER

This 0.6-acre (30-foot wide) strip of property is located between the Joint Sewer Authority (JSA) and the Town's northeastern boundary, northwest of Cottonwood Natural Area. It was acquired from the Forest Service in order to provide additional buffering for the JSA from neighboring landowners. The property has a minimal amount of floodplain, no wetlands and is located adjacent to the Blue River.

RAY PROPERTY

The Ray Property is comprised of two parcels, totaling approximately 11 acres, located within the South Forty subdivision east of the elementary school. The Town purchased the parcels jointly with Summit County, in August of 2013, with open space purposes in mind for the wetland portion of the property. It is envisioned that the upper bench could be utilized for other uses such as a trailhead, or other uses as mutually agreed upon by the Town and Summit County. Approximately 80 percent of the property is covered by wetlands and is mostly vegetated. It is adjacent to the Blue River, but the floodplain is not located on the property.

SMITH RANCH OPEN SPACE

The newly developed Smith Ranch workforce housing neighborhood includes approximately 25 acres of undeveloped open space. The open space includes the Willow Creek watershed, areas of wetlands, and steep slopes on the perimeter of the neighborhood and is zoned "Public Open Space" per the Smith Ranch PUD.

ANGLER MOUNTAIN VISTAS OPEN SPACE

The Angler Mountain Vistas Open Space is 26.6 acres of steep terrain, located within the Angler Mountain Vistas Subdivision. This tract of land was dedicated to the Town of Silverthorne in June of 2021, per the PUD. It is bordered by the Silver Summit Ranch (formerly, The Daley Ranch), Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Estates Subdivision, and the Xcel Energy substation. There is an area of wetlands along the southern boundary.

THE PONDS

The Ponds property is 18 acres located on either side of the Blue River to the east of North Pond Park and north of The Ponds Townhomes. The property is mostly wetlands with thick vegetation. The area along the west side of the Blue River is accessible from the Blue River Trail and anglers can make their way through the willows to fish along the Blue River. The portion along the east side of the river is surrounded by private land which makes the river nearly inaccessible by land. The floodplain runs parallel to and on either side of the river and has wetlands in the northwest corner. Vegetation is mostly around the Blue River and in wetlands.

SOUTH POND

South Pond is approximately 11 acres located between SH 9 and the Blue River south of Bald Eagle Road. Easily accessible from the Blue River Trail, this pond is open to anglers and offers trail users a spot to rest and enjoy magnificent views of Buffalo and Red Mountains to the west. The property has minimal floodplain, potentially includes wetlands, and is adjacent to the Blue River. Vegetation on the property is for the most part located around South Pond. Access to this open space is only by the Blue River Trail (i.e., no parking). It provides limited recreational access to South Pond while preserving the natural characteristics of this open space.

ANGLER MOUNTAIN

Angler Mountain Open Space is approximately 11 acres bordered on the west by the Blue River and Bald Eagle Road to the north and east. To the south are private open space areas associated with the Blue River Valley Ranch Lake Estates neighborhood. The Angler Mountain Open Space contains several acres of woodland along the Blue River.

Access to the parcel and riverside woodland area is from Bald Eagle Road but there are no developed trails or access points.

BLUE RIVER RUN

Located between the Blue River Run multi-family housing development and the Blue River, this 8-acre parcel was dedicated to the Town. The property is adjacent to the Blue River, has floodplain along the river (approximately 150 feet wide) and is mostly wetlands. Vegetation cover is located near river and in wetlands.

WILLOW GROVE OPEN SPACE

Willow Grove Open Space Park is a 15-acre property located on the Blue River, at the end of Mesa Drive, approximately 0.75 mile north of the Recreation Center. It is home of the Tammy Lynn Jamieson Memorial Bridge, a clear span bridge that crosses the Blue River. Park features include a small pond with a walking trail and docks, a horseshoe pit, picnic tables, a gazebo, and fishing access. The Blue River Trail passes through, making this parking area an ideal starting point for Blue River Trail users. Willow Grove Open Space was conserved in partnership with the Colorado Open Lands through a conservation easement. The property has floodplain along the river (approximately 170 feet wide), has minimal wetlands and has vegetation near the river and lake.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Blue River Trail and Willow Grove Open Space Park parking and access
- Restrooms
- Picnic facilities
- Soft surface trail around Willow Lake
- Fishing
- Boating

RIVER CORRIDOR OPEN SPACE

The River Corridor properties are a combination of parcels for a total of 15 acres starting at the Silverthorne town boundary near the Outlets, north through the Town Core, and continuing along the Blue River as it flows out of the base of the dam to the north. Nearly the entire corridor is located in the floodplain or wetlands.

STRAIGHT CREEK

This open space is comprised of four separate parcels for a total of 6 acres which contain the Straight Creek as it leaves the I-70 Right of Way and flows downstream into the Blue River. Most of the property is floodplain and wetlands and has minimal vegetation.

MESA CORTINA 2

This 32-acre property is located in the southwest corner of Town, adjacent to the Mesa Cortina subdivision. Access is via Buffalo Mountain Drive. No floodplain, wetlands or significant vegetation exists on the parcel. The land is predominately steeply sloping sagebrush meadows. It is currently zoned for residential development on the southwest corner, but the property does have a significant, steep side slope that proposes slope stability issues.

BASHORE

This property is jointly owned by Summit County, the Town of Silverthorne, and the Buffalo Mountain Metro District. The parcel is located on either side of Buffalo Mountain Drive just south of the Town's border. Approximately 22 acres in total, the Bashore Property is adjacent to other County open space property. There are minimal wetlands, no floodplain, and minimal vegetation (mostly on southern side of property).

ROCK OUTCROPPING

The Rock Outcropping is a 3-acre property located near Blue River Ball Fields and Rodeo Grounds, with the National Forest to the south. It is visible from many areas of Town. This very steep, rocky piece of land contains no floodplain, wetlands or significant vegetation.

TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

Whether it's a walk down the street or venturing off to explore the vastness of the White River National Forest, the trail and trailheads within Town serve both locals and visitors as a way to get outside and enjoy nature. Trails within the community take on a variety of forms from simple natural walking paths to paved multi-use paths. They provide connectivity between parks, open space and neighborhoods. The existing network of trails and trailheads within the community are discussed below and

are graphically depicted on the accompanying Existing Conditions figure.

BLUE RIVER TRAIL

The Blue River Trail is Silverthorne's recreational backbone and link to the county-wide paved trail system. The trail is ADA accessible and open to non-motorized uses (with the exception of e-bikes). The Blue River Trail connects to the Summit County Rec Path at the Outlets (bottom of the switchbacks) and extends through the upper bench of Cottonwood Park, ending at North Golden Eagle Road. Along the way, it passes by the Outlets, Town Center, the Silverthorne Library, Willow Grove Open Space Park, and North Pond Park. Some of the most spectacular views of the Blue River can be seen from the trail. Numerous public fishing access points are available, along with many benches and picnic areas. Popular trailheads include North Pond Park, Willow Grove Open Space, Town Hall, and the Recreation Center. The Blue River Trail is unique to the Summit County Recreation Path system because it is a meandering, family-friendly paved trail. It is implemented in accordance with the Blue River Trail Plan.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Walking
- Biking
- Fishing
- Birding

ANGLER MOUNTAIN TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD

The Angler Mountain Trail is a local connection to the Ptarmigan Trail, located on the White River National Forest. Angler Mountain Trailhead is located inside Town boundaries, within the Angler Mountain Ranch subdivision. The trailhead is located east of the intersection of SH 9 and Bald Eagle Road, approximately 0.5 mile on the right. A fairly steep elevation gain leads to amazing views of the Town and the Gore Range. The connector trail goes on for approximately 2.5 miles and 1,200 vertical feet gain to reach the Ptarmigan Trail. Along the way, up to 60 plants are marked with name plates adding an educational experience for hikers. Once reaching the Ptarmigan Trail, hikers can continue an additional 3.5 miles to reach Ptarmigan Peak, elevation 12,498 feet.

The Angler Mountain Trail is restricted to hiking only. Other recreation user groups could be provided access from this trailhead location to improve overall connectivity with the National Forest.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Hiking
- Parking
- Informational signage

WILLOW CREEK TRAILHEAD

Willow Creek Trailhead is located within the Town near the top of the Willowbrook neighborhood, approximately 1 mile west of the intersection of Willowbrook Road and SH 9. There are 13 parking spaces available at the trailhead. The Willow Creek Trail traverses through Summit County's Willow Creek Open Space before entering the White River National Forest and the Eagles Nest Wilderness area. It is open to horses, hikers, snowshoers, and skiers. The trail is not open to mountain bikes or motorized vehicles.

This 2-acre parcel was acquired by the Town in 1999 from the developer in order to create and maintain the Willow Creek Trailhead. The property is adjacent to a larger, 38-acre open space parcel owned by Summit County.

The Willow Creek Trail is a local connection to the Mesa Cortina and Gore Range Trail systems. These trails offer beautiful views of Lake Dillon, Silverthorne and the Williams Fork Range. South Willow Creek Trail is approximately 0.25 mile in length before hikers enter the White River National Forest and the Eagles Nest Wilderness. From there hikers can continue to South Willow Falls or Red Buffalo Pass. Willow Creek Trailhead also connects to the Ditches Trail (about 20 yards from the trailhead) which then connects to North Willow Creek Trail. North Willow Creek Trail takes hikers further north on the Gore Range Trail where they can continue on to access Willow and Salmon Lakes. Hikers can also connect North and South Willow Creek Trails with the Gore Range Trail to make a longer loop from the parking lot.

Key Recreational Resources:

- Parking
- Lost and Found
- Informational signage

EAGLES NEST TRAILHEADS

The North Eagles Nest trailhead is located in the Three Peaks neighborhood at the intersection of Hunter's Knob and Game Trail Road. The trail links to the Eagles Nest National Forest and the Wilderness areas beyond, and provides a portal to the National Forest on the northwestern portion of the Town. Trail access is currently limited because there is no available parking at this trailhead.

The South Eagles Nest trailhead is located on Middle Park Court. The trail links to a series of trails that lead to the Eagles Nest Wilderness area of the National Forest. Trail access is currently limited because there is no available parking at this trailhead.

PTARMIGAN TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD

Ptarmigan Trailhead is located outside the Town in Summit County. This is a well-known trailhead for the Summit County community. Trail improvements (grade reductions) should be considered to improve mountain biking rideability and recreational experiences on the National Forest. From the Ptarmigan Trail, opportunities for a larger trail system could be considered.

MESA CORTINA AND SALT LICK TRAILHEADS

Mesa Cortina and Salt Lick Trailheads are located outside the Town boundaries in Summit County, southwest of the Town. These trailheads and the trails provide residents of Silverthorne and Summit County opportunities to enter the Eagles Nest Wilderness. The Salt Lick Trail System has a network of trails that are outside of the Eagles Nest Wilderness and are open to mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians. Most of these trails are Forest Service system trails but there are some unauthorized social trails that the Forest Service has not adopted due to sustainability and resource concerns. Any of these trails that enter the Eagles Nest Wilderness are open to hikers and equestrians but are closed to mountain bikers.

The Mesa Cortina Trail System consists of the main Mesa Cortina Trail but also includes a small network of Forest Service system trails that are open to hikers and equestrians but closed to mountain bikers. Some of the trails in this area are also unauthorized social trails that the Forest Service has not adopted due to sustainability and resource concerns.

Both the Mesa Cortina and Salt Lick trail systems are open to non-motorized uses during the winter.

SUMMIT SKY LOOP TRAIL

The Summit Sky Loop Trailhead is located on the western edge of Maryland Creek Park, just southwest of the warming hut. The trail is approximately 3 miles and encircles the South Maryland Creek Ranch Subdivision (aka Summit Sky Ranch). Although the trail is located on HOA property, it is open to the public. Bikes are allowed on the Summit Sky Loop Trail, but they are not permitted in this location of the National Forest or Wilderness (mountain biking is allowed only on specifically designated trails on National Forests).

OTHER RESOURCES

THE RAVEN GOLF COURSE

The Raven is an 18-hole golf course that winds its way through the Eagles Nest. The golf course is open to the paying public during the summer. During the winter months the Town partners with the golf course to offer two groomed Nordic trails that are free and open to the public. Trail grooming occurs several times per week, however not on a defined schedule.

SILVERTHORNE ELEMENTARY FIELDS

The Silverthorne Elementary School contains a large playground and multi-purpose field. The field and playground are open to the public during hours when school is not in session.

OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD

The old elementary school site off of Brian Avenue is owned by the School District and has a multi-use field that is open to the public.

BLUE RIVER BALL FIELDS AND RODEO GROUNDS

Blue River Ball Fields and the Rodeo Grounds function as an important location for sports in Summit County. The land is just outside of the Town of Silverthorne town limits, behind the Outlet stores on the south side of I-70, is owned by Denver Water, and is managed by Summit County.

While ownership will not change, the management of the land for recreation does have the potential to evolve over time. The facilities also have potential for improvement; Denver Water reserves the right to remove use of the land for a variety of reasons at any time, so significant investment in infrastructure to accommodate new activities

must be carefully considered. Ultimately, Denver Water is the decision-maker on what facilities, improvements, and activities may be pursued at this site.

Key Recreational Resources:

- 4 adult league regulation baseball fields
- 4 shelters
- Connection to the Blue River Trail
- Fishing access along the Blue River
- Rodeo Grounds

Recreational Needs Assessment

Evaluating the current conditions and functionality of the Town of Silverthorne's recreational resources and facilities is a critical component of this update. As part of this assessment, it is also helpful to gauge how the Town compares to other mountain communities, and to identify gaps for future improvements and opportunities.

For the purposes of the 2021 Update, rather than a traditional level of service analysis and comparing Silverthorne to communities throughout the state, the POST Plan examines how Silverthorne fits within the context of the greater Summit County system, including the resources and amenities provided in the communities of Breckenridge, Frisco, Dillon and outlying county lands. Summit County is a premier recreation destination and each of these communities serve a particular niche to collectively provide a huge array of resources and amenities. Discussed below is where Silverthorne fits into this network for residents and visitors to the area. The analysis is now 'community context' in Summit County, as the resources all work together to provide the outstanding recreational landscape that is found here.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT IN SUMMIT COUNTY

BRECKENRIDGE

OVERVIEW

Breckenridge is a center of tourism activity in Summit County, with Breckenridge Ski Area taking center stage. No other town in Summit County has a ski area within / next to the town as Breckenridge does. Thus, they see a high volume of

out of town visitation and have to strongly consider visitor management at parks, trailheads, and throughout town.

Breckenridge has strong funding for parks and recreation, and as such, has invested significantly in world-class recreational resources, well-designed parks and play features, and connectivity throughout town; making improvements not only for visitors but in workforce housing neighborhoods for locals.

KEY RESOURCES

Breckenridge classifies its parks resources in the following way:

- Playgrounds (6 total, plus sledding locations)
- Carter Park & Pavilion
- Carter Park Dog Park
- Breckenridge Skate Park
- Kingdom Park
- Kayak Park

In addition, Breckenridge has an extensive open space and trails network, the Gold Run Nordic Center, and a full service Recreation and Aquatic Center, and the Stephen C. West Ice Arena.

ROLE WITHIN SUMMIT COUNTY

Silverthorne and Breckenridge provide recreation anchors on opposite sides of Summit County, complementing each other, especially in terms of serving the local population. Residents in Breckenridge mostly stay within their communities for the use of neighborhood parks and playgrounds, but share in the use of larger amenities like ball fields, tennis courts, and river access. Both communities also have larger community-style parks for gatherings and events.

FRISCO

OVERVIEW

Frisco is located in the geographic center of Summit County, between Breckenridge and Silverthorne, serving a slightly different purpose than either of them. Frisco has invested significantly in the Peninsula Recreation Area (PRA)-including the tubing hill, Nordic Center and skatepark, and mountain biking trails; and the Frisco Bay Marina. These amenities do serve locals, but have a large draw for tourists from around the country and the Front Range.

In addition, Frisco has several neighborhood parks throughout town with play equipment, fields or greens, and other unique features like volleyball or tennis courts. They do mostly serve locals who live there, or visitors staying within town.

KEY RESOURCES

As mentioned above the PRA and Marina are regional amenities for Summit County, providing a mix of revenue-generating and locally-serving activities. Tubing and boating are oriented towards visitors primarily; while skateboarding, mountain biking and Nordic skiing equally serve the local community.

Walter Byron Park is Frisco's flagship park, just a two blocks from Main Street and set along 10 Mile Creek. Walter Byron has somewhat of a countywide draw for its newly designed playground, large field and pavilion for small gatherings.

The Summit County Middle School is located in Frisco and also has multi-use fields and tennis courts, available to the community outside of school usage.

ROLE WITHIN SUMMIT COUNTY

Frisco is within a unique space within the county and is complementary to what Silverthorne is providing for parks, open space and trails resources. There is not much overlap and they tend to serve distinct local populations.

DILLON

OVERVIEW

The Town of Dillon is situated on the shores of Lake Dillon and as such, the Dillon Marina is the focal point for its parks and recreational amenities. The town land area is somewhat small compared to other towns in Summit County, so the parks serve very specific purposes for local residents and those staying at hotels and vacation homes nearby.

KEY RESOURCES

The Dillon Marina and Marina Park Playground are the largest of Dillon's amenities and include lake shore access, picnic tables, a playground, lawns, and multi-use fields. Dillon Town Park offers a more secluded location but also an array of amenities including a playground, tennis courts, bocce-ball and more. Dillon also has a nature preserve and a disc golf course.

ROLE WITHIN SUMMIT COUNTY

The Dillion Amphitheatre draws a large number of people to Dillon for concerts and events during the summer. The parks and open space resources mentioned here serve specific purposes for people staying in Dillon or who live there. There is not a great deal of overlap with Silverthorne, but they do complement each other in terms of providing similar facilities nearby to one another; i.e. tennis and pickleball, basketball, and other field sports. This would allow for overflow across the two communities, given their close proximity.

GREATER SUMMIT COUNTY

OVERVIEW

Summit County has a well-funded and robust open space and trails program, that has over many years, protected and restored thousands of acres across the region. The program “identifies, protects and manages open spaces, trails and trailheads to preserve and maintain Summit County’s rural mountain character, unique natural areas and high quality of life for residents and visitors.” The County has protected over 17,000 acres of open space through land acquisitions, conservation easement donations, access easements, and through partnerships. Summit County also maintains the recreational pathway system and many trails and trailheads.

KEY RESOURCES

Summit County has hundreds of miles of trails and dozens of trailheads that residents and visitors can use for a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, horseback riding and motorized riding; the County maintains approximately 45 miles of natural surface trails and 40 miles of dirt roads. Many of these are shared ownership with the Town of Breckenridge and/or U.S. Forest Service.

The Summit County Recreational Pathway, or commonly referred to as the Rec Path, is a premier regional multiuse pathway for locals and visitors to the region. The County built and maintains 38 miles of the pathway, with an additional 17 miles maintains by the towns of Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco, Silverthorne and Keystone Resort.

Summit County has several community recreation amenities as well including the shooting range, the Blue River Ballfields, and the Rodeo Grounds.

ROLE WITHIN SUMMIT COUNTY

The Rec Path is a sort of main arterial to recreation that moves bicyclists and other recreationists through and around the communities of Summit County, much like the Blue River Trail does specifically in Silverthorne. Ensuring connectivity to this system maintains a regional level of connectivity for the area.

Open space resources are critical to the landscape character of Summit County and Silverthorne, in conjunction with town-owned open space and U.S. Forest Service lands. When evaluating future open space acquisitions, coordination with the county will maximize resources across jurisdictions and agencies.

COMMUNITY COMPARISON TAKE-AWAYS

What does all of this mean? Silverthorne is uniquely positioned within Summit County as a recreational hub. Unlike any other town except Breckenridge, Silverthorne has an emphasis on sports and playfields, providing ample space for sports leagues and recreational play for all ages. Unlike Breckenridge though, the composition of users is different, not having a ski area in town. The emphasis in Silverthorne is appropriately tailored to meet the needs of local residents and families, along with guests from around the county and region. For example, Rainbow Park provides a place for large local events and games, alongside an state-of-the-art playground (full size and tot lot) and skatepark.

With the PRA in Frisco, the two marinas, and other tourist-specific activities provided in other communities, there is not a significant need to provide a new revenue-generating, large-scale, programmed recreational amenity in Silverthorne. By bolstering and continuing to enhance features for locals, visitors will also enjoy the natural environment, recreational amenities, and sense of community that Silverthorne has to offer.

WALKABILITY ANALYSIS

Walkability and connectivity have become widely accepted indicators for a community's quality of life and urban design. A well-planned community offers residents and visitors ample opportunities to move about between destinations without an automobile, resulting in health and environmental benefits, as well as an increased sense of place. People who walk and bike feel connected to their environment, are aware of their surroundings and enjoy more interaction with their neighbors and community members.

In 2009, Summit County conducted a Walkability Report, which included Silverthorne. Many of the principles and recommendations found in that report hold true today and are worth including in the POST Plan. "In one sense, walkability not only determines whether people will continue to have walking as a viable mode of transportation and as a restorative measure for personal health; but as a means and method to provide sustainability, as well as set a scale, pace and measure for community building and eventual economic prosperity. Walkable scale forms a blueprint for what we value. When so honored, walkability principles and scale assure compact land form, restoration and protection of landmark buildings. They provide a richer, more diverse mix of important community parts, and a sensible pattern and distribution of these parts. Through its time honored, compact form, walkability assures proximity to nature, protection of rural lands and open space. Although walkability audits are only one set of steps to assess economic and community health, they bring together and inspire a broad range of people; they restore confidence, build collaboration and bring about a collective community vision that has legs and traction (page 3, Walkability Report)".

For most Americans, walkability is generally thought to be approximately 0.25 miles, or a 5 minute walk. In the case of Summit County residents and visitors, a distance of 0.5 miles, or a 10 minute walk is acceptable, or even sought after, most times of the year.

Rainbow Park and Trent Park serve their surrounding neighborhoods. Because of their varying size and range of facilities, different walkability radii were used. A summary of each park, its methodology, and its walkability are summarized here.

Pocket parks (Arctic Placer) and tot lots were not included in the walkability analysis because they serve their immediate vicinity, have very limited facilities, and in many cases, are private.

RAINBOW PARK

Given its role in the local community, its adjacency to the Recreation Center and the downtown, and its array of facilities, Rainbow Park functions as a community park. Rainbow Park is well-connected to the neighborhoods on the east side of the Town (Willow Grove, Ptarmigan) because of a logical, gridded street pattern west of Highway 9, and the Blue River Trail, and is served by numerous transit stops nearby. Connectivity to the west side of Silverthorne is constrained by SH 9, but the highway is not a complete barrier. There are four signaled crossings (Annie Road, 6th Street, 4th Street, and Rainbow Drive—which includes an underpass on the Blue River Trail) that do serve neighborhoods on the west side of SH 9. During the winter months though, this distance can be formidable, leading to a partial, seasonal gap in service for this part of the Town of Silverthorne.

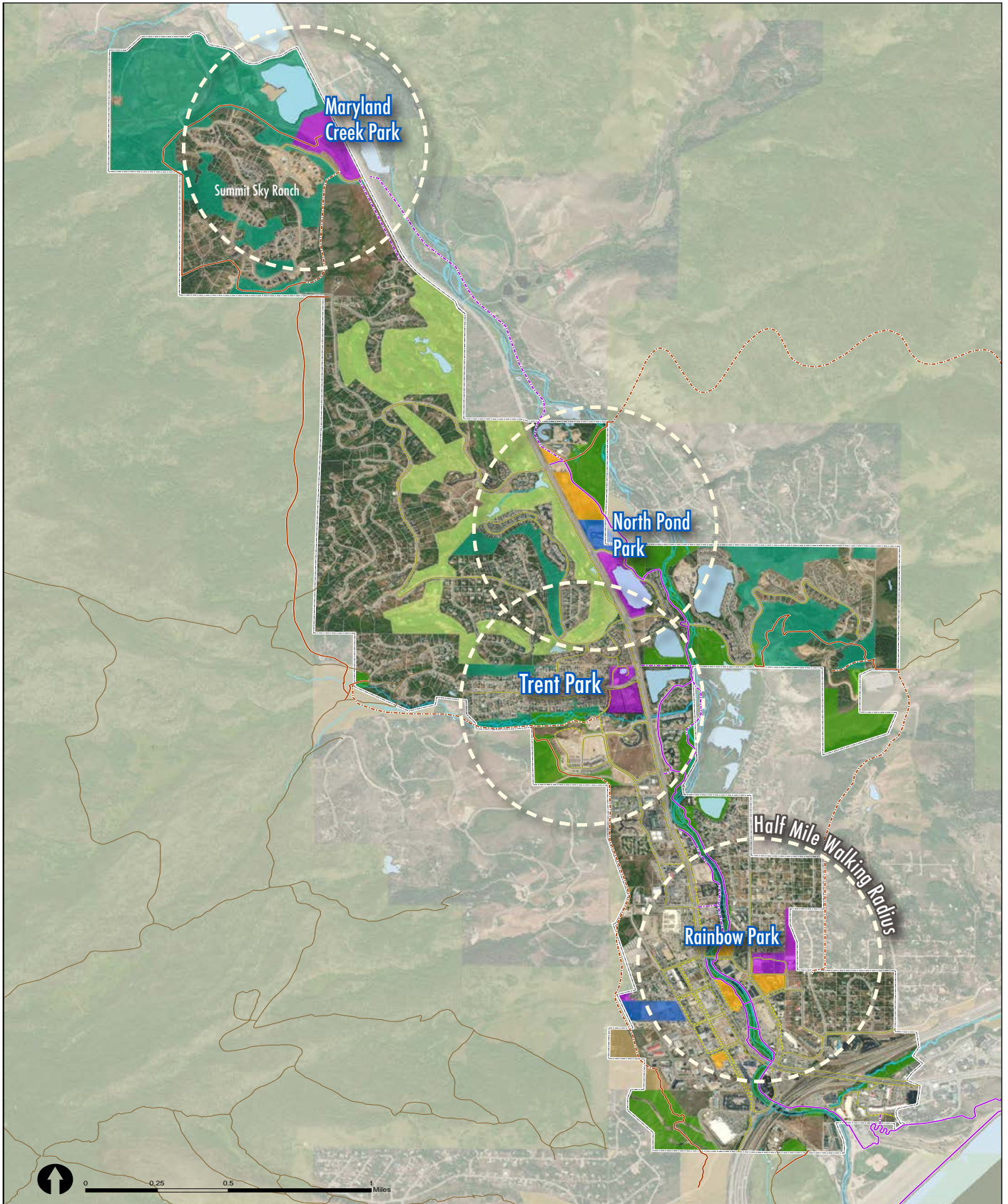
TRENT PARK

From a walkability standpoint, Trent Park plays an important role for locals who live in the Willowbrook Neighborhood, the newly developed Smith Ranch Neighborhood, and a portion of Eagles Nest. For residents of the Ponds and other neighborhoods immediately to the east, the closest signaled highway crossing is at the Elementary School (Hamilton Creek Road), which is a half-mile from Trent Park.

A safe crossing at Ruby Ranch Road and SH 9 would essentially double the service area of Trent Park from a walkability and bike-ability standpoint. The crossing should be considered in conjunction with a connection to the Blue River Trail.

MARYLAND CREEK PARK

Maryland Creek Park anchors the northern portion of town, providing amenities within walking distance to residents of the Summit Sky Ranch Neighborhood. Without significant improvements to the Hwy 9 corridor, Maryland Creek Park is mainly a drive-to destination.



WALKABILITY MAP

Based on half-mile, or 10 minute walk

COMMUNITYWIDE CONNECTIVITY

In addition to the Walkability Analysis, overall connectivity within the community was examined. The Town of Silverthorne is fairly well-connected, though there are some constraints to being truly walkable or bikeable, depending on where you live. SH 9 is a barrier to movement, except where there are signaled crossings. This is worse during the colder months, when reasonable walking and biking distances and visibility are more limited.

The Town of Silverthorne has made incremental improvements to sidewalks and bike lanes or routes over the years, especially downtown, but there are still areas to improve or complete. The community has continually voiced interest in completing the sidewalk networks on both the east and west sides of SH 9 to encourage more fluid pedestrian movement within neighborhoods and between key destinations, such as large employment or shopping centers and transit. Brian Avenue is a critical route for improvements in both directions of the roads (there have been bike lanes added, but not in both directions or throughout the grid); but will become less traveled with the development of 4th Street Crossing.

Sidewalks and bike routes intersecting the Blue River Trail must function seamlessly and should continue to be thoughtfully designed in the future. Two intersections in need of improvements and identified most often by the public were at the intersection of Stephens Way and Wildernd Road (where the Blue River Trail crosses Wildernd Road), and 4th Street and the Blue River Parkway. Both intersections have been identified because of the difficult access to the Blue River Trail from sidewalks, particularly while cycling.

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

As part of this POST Master Plan, it is important to classify existing open space properties in light of community values and to establish a strategic framework for future acquisition and management of the open space portfolio.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Town of Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan identifies several broad land use policies that clarify the defining characteristics of open space within the community. These characteristics include:

- Public – open spaces are outdoor places that directly benefit the broader public.
- Conservation/Preservation – open spaces act as greenspace that maintains or preserves areas of natural resource, scenic or cultural importance or supports hazard mitigation efforts within the community.
- Buffering – open spaces provide effective buffering between areas of high environmental resource sensitivity (wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife habitats, steeper slopes, etc.) and adjacent land uses.
- Access – open spaces support meaningful access to the outdoors for residents and visitors of the Town of Silverthorne.
- Recreation – open spaces function as part of an integrated recreational system.

Based on this, and for the purposes of the POST Master Plan, open space is generally defined as **“an outdoor area designated for resource conservation and management, for outdoor recreation, or for public access and civic use.”** What is important to consider in this definition is the balance between resource conservation and recreational uses. Open space is distinguished from parks by a generally greater emphasis on resource conservation and a more limited scope and scale of developed recreational infrastructure.

VALUES AND ASSESSMENT

The value that open space provides to the Town is highly variable and complex. Each open space property or area

has unique qualities that may resonate differently with different individuals. Some areas provide multiple benefits, while others may be more singular in the values they bring. Regardless, each open space area contributes something to the community and identifying these contributions is critical to ensuring those qualities are managed effectively in the future.

Based on the broad public input received in the development of the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan as well as input gathered in the development of the POST Master Plan, the following “resource value attributes” for open space are established:

- Natural Resource Significance – the degree to which the open space supports significant natural resources such as wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife habitats and movement corridors, forest lands, etc.
- Scenic Significance – the importance of open space in maintaining undeveloped ridgelines, in supporting scenic views from within Town or providing vistas of important scenic views.
- Cultural Significance – open space can be identified as an area of cultural or historic importance or a potential to host relocated historically significant structures (use resources such as the Summit Historical Society to preserve features from Silverthorne’s past).
- Adjacency – the proximity of the open space relative to other conserved lands; whether town-owned or controlled, private open space, Summit County Open Space or National Forest lands.
- Connectivity – the importance of open space for expanding existing trail networks or in providing new trail connectivity.
- Recreational Function – the capacity of open space to support public recreational use including both active and passive uses.
- Hazard Mitigation – the role of open space in managing flooding, providing stormwater retention or aquifer recharge, and/or wildfire protection.
- Natural Buffering – the function of open space to act as a naturalized buffer between land uses.

The existing inventory of open space parcels has been evaluated based on these resource value attributes and are shown in the Existing Open Space Resource Value Attributes Table.

As the table shows, many of the existing open space properties share common resource value attributes. This is not surprising. Much of the existing open space within the Town of Silverthorne is consolidated in areas of identified natural resources and scenic importance.

No attempt to weigh the various resource value attributes has been made at this level of evaluation. Every existing open space area has a unique “blend” of attributes that combine to establish its role on the overall open space portfolio. Recognizing how these resource values contribute to the role an open space plays in the overall system is important when considering specific proposals and/or management objectives for each open space parcel.

A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OPEN SPACE

The Town is surrounded by significant open space, including lands managed as part of the White River National Forest. Future development within the Town of Silverthorne is constrained by the existing built pattern and significant development constraints such as steep slopes, river/riparian crossings, wetlands and limited road access. In fact, the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan’s Future Land Use (“Community Blueprint”) Plan identifies most of the undeveloped portions of Town as either low or medium residential. For the POST Master Plan to be most effective in guiding the Town of Silverthorne forward related to its management of existing and/or future acquisition of open space, it needs to establish a strategic framework. The tenets of this framework are:

1. Always consider the resource values supported by the open space when developing specific proposals or defining management objectives.
2. Use a three-tiered functional classification approach for management of open space. The tiers relate to the expected level of use for an open space.
 - » Tier 1: Areas expected to remain generally undeveloped and whose primary function would be

for resource conservation. These areas should have a high dominance in natural resource, scenic, natural buffering or hazard mitigation value attributes. These areas would function largely as preserves and public access may be restricted to protect critical resources.

- » **Tier 2:** Areas where limited passive recreation and/or outdoor educational uses are possible while maintaining the largely natural state. Open space identified as Tier 2 would function as natural areas where significant emphasis is placed on maintaining the identified natural resource, scenic, natural buffering or hazard mitigation values.
- » **Tier 3:** Areas where improvements for recreational use are likely, particularly as part of efforts to expand overall system connectivity. These areas function essentially as greenways; interconnected linear open space linked by natural or limited surfaced trails, which preserve significant identified natural resource, scenic, natural buffering and/or hazard mitigation values. Some “park-like” features may be included in these areas. Development of specific proposals within a Tier 3 should be undertaken with the greatest emphasis on stewardship.

3. Maximize opportunities to expand the function of existing open space to more broadly address community values (i.e., finding ways to enhance recreation, habitat, conservation etc.) within existing open space parcels.

4. Prioritize adjacency to the Blue River, National Forest or other existing open space when defining management objectives for existing open space parcels or in the acquisition of new open space parcels.

5. Prioritize the acquisition of new open spaces that are multi-dimensional in the resource value they bring to the community.

6. Provide latitude in policy to consider “other” opportunities for open space acquisition that, while still reflective of identified community value, may take advantage of unique circumstances to set aside parcels for future consideration.

7. Fully explore the role that partnerships might play in managing or acquiring open space parcels.

8. Evaluate private open space associated with planned residential development in light of this framework and consider where private open space resource value and function might align with broader community objectives.

Market Assessment

A comprehensive market assessment was conducted in 2014 by RRC Associates, an independent consulting research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The market assessment defined resident demographic profiles, visitor trends and volumes, and a broad analysis of existing regional amenities and attractions in the Summit County area. This research qualified and quantified the opportunity for the broader community’s recreation needs (greater Summit County, Denver/Front Range weekend visitors, and destination visitors), and provided a context for understanding the current and potential role for the Town’s parks, open space and trails. While demographics have changed, population has increased, many of the themes hold true in 2021.

The information below summarizes the key findings and observations of the assessment.

KEY FINDINGS

Small Local Population. The full-time resident population of Silverthorne has grown by approximately 800 residents since 2014, to an estimated 4,700 people (data from the Town Planning Department; 2020 Census data has not been released at the time of the update). The population of Summit County has also grown by about 10% to just over 31,000 people. The small local population of Silverthorne belies a large influx of second homeowners and visitors throughout the year, peaking at over an estimated 10,000-12,000 people during major holiday periods (Christmas and 4th of July). This includes full-time, part-time/second homeowners, and visitors. The variation in the size of the population (residents plus second homeowners plus visitors) during the year creates different levels of demand for parks and recreation services.

Definition of User Segments. Three major parks and recreation user groups are summarized below.



Blue River Trail



North Pond



Blue River

Residents of Silverthorne

- **Full-time residents:** Most recent estimates put Silverthorne's population at approximately 4,700 people. With new local neighborhoods being built in the last several years, the town has a diverse demographic mix (see Second Home Proportions and Resident Demographic bullets below).
- **Part-time residents/second homeowners:** At peak times (Christmas and 4th of July), several thousand part-time residents/second homeowners may be in the Town of Silverthorne. This has increased with the onset of short-term rentals such as Airbnb and VRBO, though those exact numbers are difficult to fully capture.

Summit County Residents

- **Full-time residents:** Summit County has approximately 31,000 full-time residents (including the Town of Silverthorne).
- **Part-time residents/second homeowners:** The number of residents can nearly double (or more) during peak times (including the Town of Silverthorne second homeowners).

Summit County Visitors

- **Overnight visitors:** A very important group, the transient overnight visitor varies by season of the year, but comprehensive estimates of the size of this group are not available. Hotel and short-term condo rentals make up the bulk of overnight visitors in Summit County. Short-term rentals have made it easier to spend more time in Summit County, creating a more robust population of part-time residents who stay several weeks or months out of the year.
- **Day visitors:** Day visitors, primarily from the Denver and surrounding Front Range markets, are also an important group, but estimates of their numbers are not available.

Second Home Proportions. The Summit County Assessor records indicate that approximately two-thirds (68 percent) of the total residential properties in the County are under non-local ownership (second homes). The Town of Silverthorne has the lowest proportion of non-local ownership in the County, estimated at 30 percent, with approximately 70 percent as primary homeowners. At this time, an estimated 6% of the homes in Silverthorne have short-term rental licenses.

Seasonality of Traffic, Lodging. Colorado Department of Transportation traffic numbers indicate that traffic counts on area roads peak in July and March, with troughs in April and October. Lodging stats for the Town of Silverthorne show somewhat different peaks – December and March, with low levels of lodging activity in the April/May and October/November periods. These numbers indicate the times of year when the Town might have the greatest opportunity to connect with visitors, especially in areas proximate to and visible from area highways.

Silverthorne Taxable Sales Increasing. Levels of taxable sales in the Town of Silverthorne continue to increase, showing the strength of retail stores along with the big box retailers on SH 9 and Lowes. These retailers are a critical source of funding for the Town for a variety of services, including the parks, open space and trails resources.

Colorado Welcome Center. The Colorado Welcome Center in the Town of Silverthorne is an exceptional avenue for connecting with visitors to the area. Silverthorne could work closely with the welcome center to distribute information about the variety of activities available in the Town.

Resident Demographics. The demographic statistics of residents of the Town of Silverthorne show some observations of note. Approximately 21.6% are Hispanic or Latino, while countywide that is 14.3%; the town must ensure that this group is included in discussions about parks and recreation on an ongoing basis. Also, the household income stats shows a moderately high level of income, suggesting some level of disposable income.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following observations and recommendations provide a guide for the Town as it positions itself for the greatest opportunity for success.

- **Priority of Local Population.** While Silverthorne hosts second homeowners and visitors throughout the year, the full-time resident population is the priority for parks and recreation facilities and programming. Serving this user group first and focusing on their needs should be the priority, while second homeowners and visitors will also benefit from these amenities and programs.

- **Non-local users.** The Town of Silverthorne has a special mix of current and potential users for its parks and recreation facilities: full-time locals, residents of other communities, second homeowners, day visitors and overnight visitors. While the needs of the full-time residents are primary, these other user groups are important. At certain times of year, there is capacity to absorb these other user groups. Certain events might be designed for local residents, while others might be more targeted at second homeowners and visitors.
- **Importance of Blue River.** The Blue River is a major feature through the middle of Town. Knowledge of and access to the Blue River is well-known among locals but less so among visitors. The bike path, fishing, and other recreational activities are all uniquely available along the Blue River.
- **Wide Variety and Number of Events and Activities.** Summit County communities and resorts have a broad wealth of activities, events, festivals and concerts. Many of these activities are focused during the summer and winter periods of the year. The Town of Silverthorne should consider carefully how potential expanded programs and additional activities might blend into this crowded landscape.

Tourism-Oriented Recreation

The strategic framework for the POST Master Plan seeks to fully consider the tourism-oriented recreation opportunities for the Town in concert with satisfying the recreation needs of local residents. As a mountain community, Silverthorne exists within a larger mountain tourism destination. The mountain resorts, originally conceived as venues for skiing, have evolved over time to become epicenters for year-round recreation. The communities have also evolved, resulting in increased full-time residency in the County as well as second home ownership and annual visitation.

Summit County has a population that is much larger than simply its year-round residents. Each group, and the varying demographics within each group, have a wide range of recreational needs, and the numerous activities, programs

and events offered throughout the County will appeal to different audiences.

The Town has already carved out a niche for itself in the regional economy. Its many retail establishments and outlets attract regional visitors and serve some of the retail needs for Summit County. Through the new development at 4th Street Crossing, the Town has a more diverse and vibrant Town Core. The Town's position as the gateway to Colorado ski country gives it unique opportunities to make a first impression. Considering its role as a regional gateway and attractor the consideration of a specific recreation policy would seem to provide some unique opportunities.

Silverthorne strives to provide outstanding parks, open space and trails to its residents, first and foremost. Parks and recreation can also draw visitors into a community, for specific activities and events that cost money to participate in, or for activities that are free but encourage people to spend time in-town at restaurants and shops. The Town also realizes the potential economic development benefits that may come from drawing in visitors, and that those benefits can help offset the cost of providing resources and facilities to locals. The goal is to have Silverthorne's parks, open space and trails provide an outstanding recreation resource for its residents as well as attract visitors to Summit County.

The process of identifying tourism-oriented recreational opportunities within the Town's parks, open space and trails, involves an evaluation of a number of interconnected factors.

- **Residents and Stakeholders:** The Town must first and foremost provide outstanding parks, open space and trails to its residents. To do this, it is critical to understand the needs, desires and concerns of the local community.
- **The Recreation Marketplace:** This includes understanding the population volumes and demographics of residents and visitors, as well as what is already being offered throughout the County that would appeal to the various user groups.
- **Positioning and Brand Identity:** In a competitive environment all players strive to present an experience that differentiates them within the marketplace. All

opportunities must in some way reflect what makes Silverthorne different and unique within Summit County.

- **Land Use Considerations:** Future opportunities must exist within the context of Silverthorne. This requires an understanding of the Town’s existing and future parks, open space and trails, but also circulation and land use patterns, and the community’s vision and goals for future development.
- **Economic Impacts:** Future opportunities must consider the balance between capital costs, community value, and revenue opportunity. This includes a realistic evaluation of visitation potential.
- **Balancing Local Experience:** Now that the Silverthorne brand is solidified and tourism is at its full capacity, priorities can shift to locals. There is demand for what locals want, across the spectrum of visitors, for an authentic mountain town experience.
- **Meeting the Needs of a Growing and Diverse Population:** Silverthorne has taken strides to connect its diverse residents and visitors to recreational opportunities, and should continue to in the form of advisory groups, ongoing community input, and a variety of activities and events.

Themes Heard from the Community

Throughout the public engagement of POST Master Plan updates, strong themes emerged, including: the Blue River, Rainbow Park, Connectivity, Build Upon and Improve What’s Working, and Finding a Balance (Locals and Visitors).

THE BLUE RIVER

The Blue River is an exceptional resource not only for Silverthorne, but also for Summit County as a whole, including visitors. There is no other experience quite like it, which many feel should be preserved and enhanced because of the views, wildlife habitat and wetland values along the river. The Blue River’s status as a Gold Medal trout stream is vital to drawing in anglers to the Town of Silverthorne, which has far-reaching economic impacts. Local leaders in the fishing, business, and natural resources communities and the local government recognize that placing a priority

on keeping the Blue River watershed healthy is collectively important. Surrounding landowners also care deeply about preserving the character, wildlife value, and in some cases privacy, along the Blue River. Completion of the Blue River Trail and adding neighborhood connections to the Blue River Trail are ongoing community priorities. In terms of the degree to which current programs and facilities are meeting the needs of the community, the Blue River Trail consistently ranks high among community members.

RAINBOW PARK

Rainbow Park is the year-round epicenter of recreation in the Town. It provides space for a wide variety of interests—soccer, playgrounds, picnicking, sledding, skateboarding, tennis, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and more. People are generally very pleased with Rainbow Park and use it frequently (i.e., results of community surveys indicate that Rainbow Park is visited by a majority of households). Suggestions for improvements related mostly to facilities and operations, such as: increased parking, bathrooms, added stairs to the Recreation Center. Ideas for improvements include the area to the south of the current skate park, which is underutilized and would be ideal for expansion of the skate park, and expansion or consolidation of the grill/picnic areas. Looking more broadly, stakeholders voiced interest in improving neighborhood connections from the west side of SH 9 to the Blue River Trail.

CONNECTIVITY

Many community members brought up the desire to improve and enhance the connectivity of the Town’s parks, open space and trails and connectivity to surrounding Forest Service lands. In several cases, the locations/destinations are in place, but the connection to get people there is not or parking is not available. The need for improved walkability and non-motorized transportation routes within the Town was the most important trails and transportation improvement recognized in the 2020 public engagement. Other notable trails and transportation improvements identified were to improve trail connections within town, improve trail connectivity with trails outside of town and improve the safety of highway crossings.

As discussed in the walkability analysis, SH 9 is a significant barrier for residents who live west of SH 9 that wish to



Nordic Center at the Raven



Rainbow Park Courts

Focus on: Serving Locals, Welcoming Visitors

A continual goal echoed throughout the parks and recreation planning over the years in Silverthorne is that the town is planning for locals first. This is seen in the array of local events throughout the year, the emphasis on neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and family-oriented amenities that the Town provides. But, while planning for locals is always a priority, how does the Town ensure that the quality of the experience remains high and the popularity of vacation rentals and tourism in general do not lead to overcrowding, and in turn, eroding the locals' outdoor resources?

The issue of overcrowding has been seen throughout Summit County, especially at very popular Forest Service trailheads such as the Quandary Trailhead outside of Breckenridge and the Rainbow Lake Trailhead in Frisco. Silverthorne also has highly popular trailheads that access Forest Service lands, including the Willow Creek Trailhead, Salt Lick, and Angler Mountain, all of which begin in-town within established locals neighborhoods. Parking can be a serious concern for the neighboring property owners, as well as heavy traffic during peak visitation. The County, the USFS and the Town must continually monitor and consider management strategies to alleviate the pressure on the neighborhoods where popular trailheads exists, and to preserve the experience of hiking and recreating for all users.

Reservation systems for the use of popular park facilities, such as fields and courts, may also play a role in avoiding overcrowding, and thus the experience for all recreationists. With the ebbs and flows of our tourism-based economy, it will be important to monitor when reservations might be necessary; or when the first-come, first-serve approach suits the community better. The downside of reservations is that those with access to the system can block out resources disproportionately and not fully utilize them.

Silverthorne is a locals' town, with well-established and new neighborhoods that provide homes to families and people of all ages that live here year-round. Planning for locals is a priority; but welcoming visitors in a manageable way to enjoy parks, open space and trails alongside full-time residents elevates the experience for all.

access major amenities on the eastern side of SH 9 such as Rainbow Park and the Blue River Trail. One example of this would be getting people who live in Willowbrook across SH 9 to the Blue River Trail. There are several ways to do this, but they are not extremely appealing and are somewhat indirect (e.g., following the highway north or south to a signaled crossing). Another potential area for improvement would be to improve connectivity for those living in the Sierra Madre and Blue River apartments; many children and adults travel to Rainbow Park, but it is a significant distance and involves several high-traffic areas (e.g., Brian Avenue, Adams Avenue and SH 9). This area may also be underserved from a level of service standpoint and parkland acreage.

The Blue River Trail is an excellent backbone from which to build future connections, including trails and on-street bike routes. Additionally, there are well-known routes that people use along roads that could be improved by the addition of sidewalks, and be formalized into bike routes (e.g., road cyclists cutting through town in order to link up to SH 9 and ride onward to Ute Pass).

BUILD UPON AND IMPROVE WHAT'S WORKING

The goal of the POST Master Plan is to identify new opportunities and needs, but also analyze existing conditions to identify what is working and areas for improvement. Through this process, in addition to hearing many great ideas for improvements, it was discovered that several of the parks and trails in Silverthorne currently provide a high level of service to the community. For example, as part of the 2020 public engagement, the Blue River Trail, Willowcreek Highlands Trail, North Pond Park, and Angler Mountain Trail were highly rated in terms of meeting the needs of the community. In addition, the survey found the Blue River Trail, the Rainbow Park concrete pathway, the North Pond Park sandy shore and walking path, and the Angler Mountain Trail were used at least once in the past twelve months by a majority of households. These findings reiterate the high level of parks, open space and trails use and the need for additional amenities in Silverthorne.

FINDING A BALANCE: LOCALS AND VISITORS

Many community members had specific suggestions for improvements, with the overall theme being that in addition to serving the community, the Town of Silverthorne has an opportunity with this Plan to bring more people into the

community to recreate and enjoy the outdoors. The current parks, open space and trails system provides the foundation from which to base future opportunities, while also offering more in terms of a park system and a contributor to the Town of Silverthorne's identity. Residents have voiced concerns over how improvements would impact existing conditions, costs, parking and traffic, and quality of the recreation experience for locals. The POST Master Plan must strive to find the balance between these community needs and the opportunities to attract visitors.

From a standpoint of developed recreation, having more locations and facilities for sports such as baseball, soccer, and lacrosse would open up the opportunity to host large tournaments and camps. From a tourism perspective, having regional destinations such as highly accessible open space areas for picnicking and fishing, a well-equipped dog park, a family-oriented bike trail, or a bike park would appeal to people on vacation and seeking things to do. While open to attracting outside visitors, residents expressed concerns around increased traffic in residential areas, and indicated a desire to limit outside use to the more southern areas of town. In terms of trails, most people—either residents or visitors—just want to take a walk and get outside. Increasing the diversity of trails within Silverthorne would form the connective tissue between its outstanding destinations for people to enjoy. Lastly, many people value the open, scenic qualities of Silverthorne, and believe that identifying and preserving those open space properties should be a priority.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought into focus the need to manage visitation in order to preserve the user experience across the parks system. Trailhead parking has become increasingly difficult to manage, especially during peak times of the year and holiday weekends. The Town will need to consider how to prioritize the user experience and at times more actively manage park visitation and trailhead parking. Potential solutions include utilization of a reservation system for field or court usage, and parking permitting at trailheads.

Silverthorne has also done a considerable amount of work on Recreation and Culture and will continue to strive for diverse representation of its residents in evaluating future parks needs. As the POST emphasises throughout this document, planning for locals elevates the parks system not only for residents, but for visitors alike.



Chapter 3: **Goals & Objectives**

This chapter conveys the aspirations of the community for future management and investments in parks, open space and trails resources through Goals and Objectives. While Chapter 1 introduced the process and reason for the update, and Chapter 2 examined current conditions, trends, and opportunities, Chapter 3 defines the direction for the future. Chapter 4 then builds off of that direction to identify specific projects and implementation strategies to set the plan in motion.

As this is a policy document, the Goals and Objectives provide guidance for decision-makers and Town leaders in the development of Silverthorne's POST resources. Furthermore, they support the policies of the Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan. Given this, an important focus of these POST policies is to consider the economic potential of parks, open space and trails improvements and maximize their fit within the broader economic development objectives presented in the Comprehensive Plan. To do this, the Goals and Objectives must consider the needs of both Silverthorne residents and potential visitors.

Goals focus on a particular idea or direction for resources. The **Goals** are oriented toward development, design, and implementation of POST amenities. They describe "what to do." **Objectives** are oriented toward specific characteristics related to achievement of the Goal. They outline "how to do it."

I. Overall POST Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Provide outdoor amenities that offer a variety of recreational opportunities and learning experiences, and oftentimes an introduction to new recreational experiences. Recognize that recreation begins in Silverthorne for locals and visitors, of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and geographies.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Promote park, open space and trail design that supports the exploration and appreciation of the surrounding natural environment.
- B. Explore opportunities for nature-based play, introductory experiences of activities, and skills development.
- C. Include opportunities for passive recreation that supports the enjoyment of the natural environment.
- D. Support a framework that encourages exploration of new activities (e.g., equipment rentals, skills camps, special events, educational programs).
- E. Support progressive recreational opportunities with relevant programming (e.g., outdoor classroom as a form of recreation, Nordic ski terrain, etc.).
- F. Consider the appropriate type of recreational activity, based on the location, within the different town design districts. For example, while nature-based activity may be suitable along the northern Blue River Trail corridor, more “entertainment” type recreation activities may be appropriate in the Gateway and Town Core District, where the captive audience may seek a break from the shopping experience.

Goal 2: Recognize and balance the appeal and benefits of multi-season parks, open space and trails to locals and visitors within a tourism-driven community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. POST development should enhance the Town of Silverthorne brand identity as a gateway to mountain recreation.
- B. Integrate POST planning with other Town of Silverthorne planning efforts.
- C. Consider the potential need for additional facilities to serve non-resident users (i.e., signage, parking, rest rooms, Town-wide trail map and app); coordinate with Summit Stage and other public transportation.
- D. Foster opportunities for secondary revenue generation by considering adjacency of POST amenities to commercial development.
- E. Incorporate art, history and cultural resources into POST designs to celebrate the unique qualities of the Town of Silverthorne, recognizing the cross-over between the Recreation and Culture Department and planning efforts.
- F. Use partnerships to provide additional attractions within the POST Plan recreation network.
- G. Encourage local recreation-oriented businesses to support POST Plan initiatives.
- H. Promote partnerships with land owners and businesses to encourage the addition of recreation activities and attractions within the Gateway and Town Core Design Districts.

Goal 3: Coordinate the development of POST components to build an interconnected network of outdoor recreational opportunities within the Town boundaries and beyond.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Carefully integrate the POST network so that it is readily accessible from homes, places of employment and key destinations.
- B. Prioritize the development of new POST amenities that improve the connectivity of recreational activities.

-
- C. Wherever feasible, establish connections between POST amenities using the Blue River Trail.
 - D. Ensure that future larger-scale residential developments include POST components that continue connectivity within the community. Development plans should illustrate proposed connectivity to existing and/or proposed POST networks.
 - E. Pursue partnerships that will enhance the POST network.
 - F. Integrate recreational amenities in Town with those located outside of the Town boundaries (i.e. county wide recreational path, mountain biking and hiking trails, and forest service land).

Goal 4: Whenever feasible, use state-of-the-art design and high quality fixtures and furnishings.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Select durable materials that are sustainable, resource efficient, and non-toxic for new construction and replacement of old facilities.
- B. Create highly visible access points with informational signage that provides relevant/critical information related to the use and enjoyment of the POST network.
- C. Install interpretive features that highlight the Town's unique attributes including its history and surrounding natural environment. Examples may include plant or geology signs along the Blue River or popular trails.
- D. Incorporate public art installations within POST locations. Particular focus should be given to the Blue River Trail corridor and the Gateway and Town Core districts.

Goal 5: Encourage environmentally sensitive design in order to minimize impacts to each site's natural characteristics.

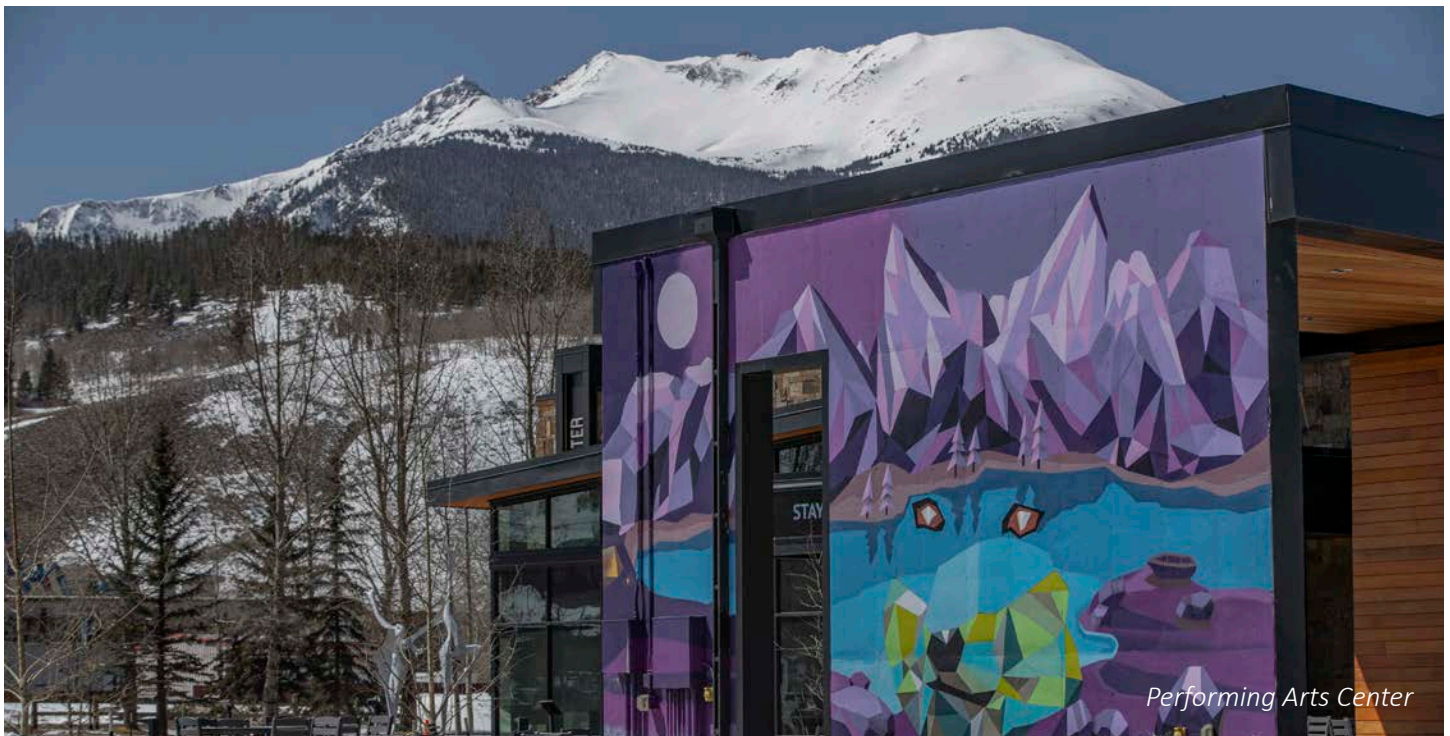
OBJECTIVES:

- A. Identify distinctive scenic areas where viewing opportunities or view corridors could be established, such as along the Blue River Trail at wetland or wildlife habitat overlooks.
- B. Identify environmentally-relevant areas that could become an amenity through the use of innovative design techniques.
- C. Where practical, avoid construction in environmentally sensitive areas.
- D. Identify key areas with high quality native vegetation, wetlands, or wildlife habitats, and manage them to reduce invasive, non-native species.
- E. Utilize non-irrigated landscapes, low-water native species, and low maintenance plant materials when feasible and appropriate for the designated use.
- F. Manage POST features to prevent overuse that could result in irreparable damage to natural landscapes, such as riverbank degradation, erosion, etc.

Goal 6: Promote projects and designs that expand access to the POST network.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Ensure design and maintenance plans meet all applicable Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, as a minimum standard.
- B. Prioritize projects that address identified gaps in recreational access.
- C. Consider use of the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) to enhance trail access and use for a wide variety of users, including older populations, inexperienced trail users, families and people with disabilities.



Performing Arts Center

FOCUS ON: Synergy between Parks, Recreation & Culture, and the Arts

Since the last update in 2014, the Arts have taken off in Silverthorne. The Silverthorne Performing Arts Center, located downtown and along the Blue River, is home to the Lake Dillon Theatre Company. It is the center of all-things-creative in town, and a popular destination for all of Summit County. The facility includes three performance spaces, classrooms, rotating art exhibits, and a large outdoor gathering space and stage. While it sprung to life quickly, forming this arts scene, with its following of loyal patrons, was many years in the making and the work of many community leaders and stakeholders.

The Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan (January 2021) recognizes the synergy between facilities that contribute to overall recreational experience and the community culture found in Silverthorne:

“Overall, the primary thrust of all the Town’s recent guiding documents is to support the evolution of Silverthorne as a place that people will continue to visit, where those who are lucky enough will choose to live, and a place that children will desire to come back to..... Guidance documents have continuously reaffirmed that vision, and often recognize the importance of recreation and culture amenities and offerings in future redevelopment scenarios. The Pavilion, the Recreation Center, the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center, Town Hall and the Library, existing businesses, and the Blue River Trail are all community assets that help provide the framework for achieving that vision. Recreation and culture programming are expected to continue to build upon and activate these physical assets to produce high-quality experiences for residents and visitors alike.”

The goals for Parks, Open Space and Trails found in the POST Plan align with and complement the policies found in the Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan. In particular, ensuring that the entire Silverthorne community is recognized and represented when setting priorities and goals for the future, when it comes to amenities, programming and facilities. “Incorporate diversity and inclusion in everything that we do, fostering a community that values and celebrates differences and a commitment to engaging and empowering people to create a greater sense of belonging for all (Priority: A Culture of Acceptance, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan, page 19)”. The POST Plan also recognizes this priority and seeks to increase ongoing participation from all residents and stakeholders in the future.

Goal 7: Promote the visibility of, and access to, the Town’s POST network through a comprehensive wayfinding system that communicates to all transportation users.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Develop a comprehensive wayfinding plan that directs visitors in vehicles to the POST network especially Blue River Trail access points. Continually update wayfinding to meet the needs of a diversity of residents.
- B. The wayfinding system should reinforce the Town’s identity as a recreational gateway.
- C. Establish a signage system to clearly identify the location of Town facilities, POST amenities and commercial/shopping areas to trail and alternative transportation users.

II. PARKS GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Design and build parks and recreational facilities that integrate with, and enhance the quality of the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Consider the Town’s “gateway to recreation” brand when developing new or refurbishing old park facilities.
- B. Establish connections, or where possible, extend existing ones, between parks to create a community-wide network of amenities.
- C. Ensure that all future residential development includes a park or open space component.

Goal 2: Understand and address community needs regarding current and potential park uses.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Use relevant community data to guide selection of park amenities.
- B. Maintain meaningful public engagement as projects from the POST Master Plan are implemented.
- C. Make decisions with consideration of the varied needs of the community, with an emphasis on facilities and amenities that serve multiple uses.
- D. When practical, seek partnerships to assist in meeting community park needs.

Goal 3: Develop and maintain parks at a level of service that is appropriate for the location and type of use.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Establish standards and management plans, and annually assess the need for maintenance and renovation.
- B. Provide adequate staffing, maintenance and operations funding to maintain acceptable standards, and adjust to keep pace with the addition of future parks.
- C. Manage parks to prevent overuse and irreparable damage.
- D. Utilize native plants, efficient irrigation and other measures that ensure long-term sustainability of parks

Goal 4: Provide sufficient park acreage to meet the recreational demands of current and future populations.

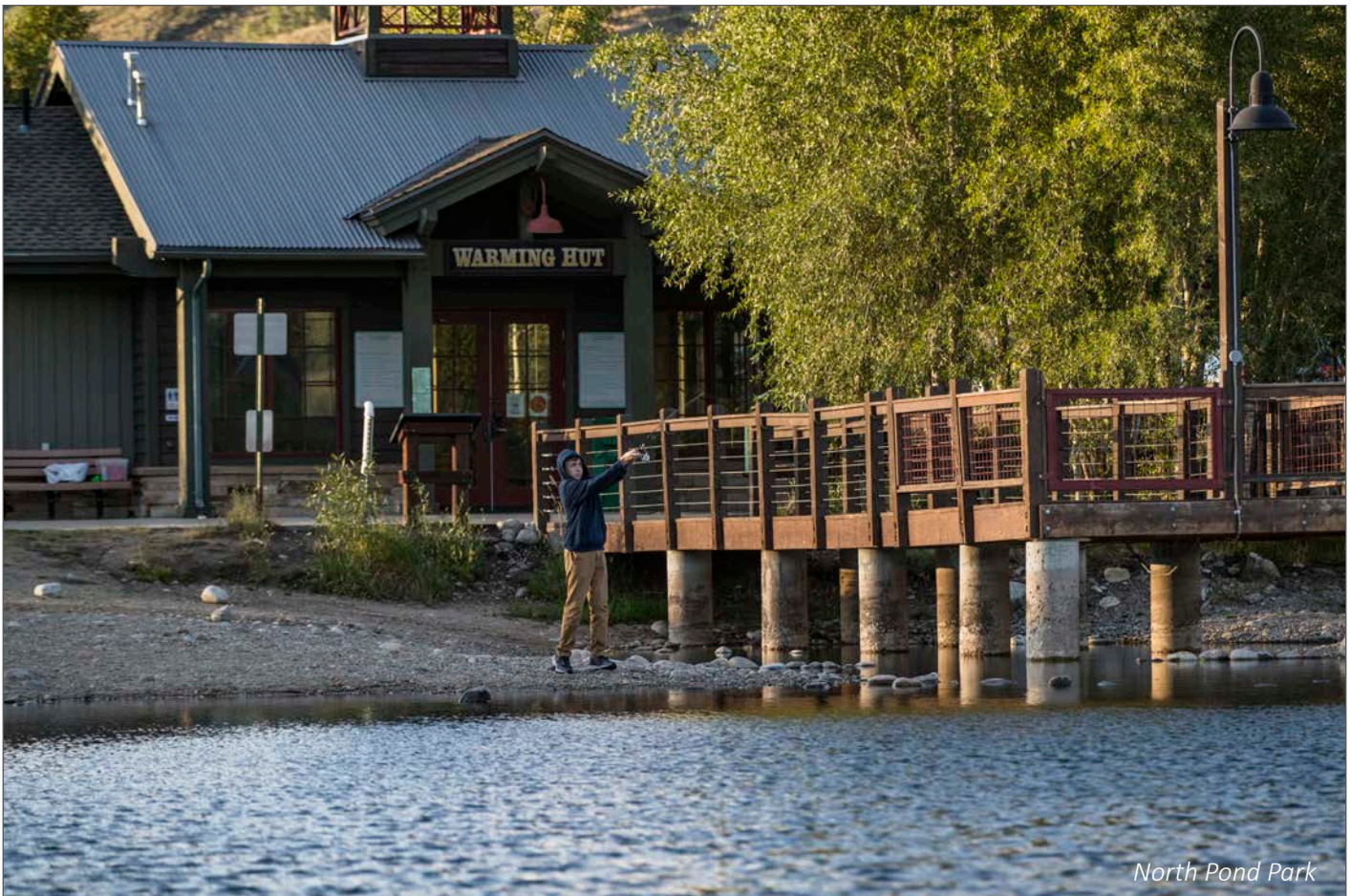
OBJECTIVES:

- A. Regularly survey residents and visitors to provide clarity on the ongoing recreational demands of the community.
- B. Consider comparable mountain communities when determining thresholds for additional parks and facilities.
- C. Encourage future residential developments to include a recreational demand analysis to understand if residents are adequately served and to ensure that the development does not adversely impact existing parks and trails.
- D. When determining recreational demands consider the increased user population resulting from non-resident users.

Goal 5: Development of new parks and recreational facilities should be designed in conjunction with the existing trail network to ensure they promote accessibility from surrounding neighborhoods and commercial development.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. New facilities should expand upon and enhance the existing POST network.
- B. Development plans should illustrate connectivity of proposed parks to proposed development and existing trail networks. The Blue River Trail and Silverthorne Loop are top community priorities.
- C. Emphasis should be placed on connections between proposed parks and the Blue River Trail.



III. OPEN SPACE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Create an interconnected network of open space that complements the Town's recreational objectives and celebrates the natural environment and culture of the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Identify critical areas to be prioritized for conservation and preservation, including environmentally sensitive areas, scenic view and wildlife corridors, riparian areas and wetlands, river corridors, natural filtration and storm water drainage areas, steep slopes, and other community-valued natural resources.
- B. Ensure that all town-managed open space properties are maintained in accordance with their functional classification and in consideration of their recognized resource value attributes.
- C. Prioritize the acquisition of new open spaces that maximize connectivity to existing open space resources, or are adjacent to National Forest System lands.
- D. Strive for a diversity of function (nature preserve, greenway, etc.) within the Town's open space portfolio.
- E. Periodically identify community needs and desires to inform and prioritize open space resources through surveys, engagement with the SPORT committee and community outreach efforts.
- F. Encourage the creation of private open space, established through the planned residential development or subdivision process, that enhances the Town's overall open space strategy.
- G. Consider an "adopt-an-open space" program to promote a sense of community ownership and vesting in long-term stewardship.

Goal 2: Promote the use and enjoyment of open space through the development of context-sensitive recreational amenities consistent with the POST Master Plan.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Communicate the value of town-managed open space and the importance of land stewardship through interpretive educational features.
- B. Conduct detailed inventories of critical or sensitive habitats and important natural or cultural resources prior to advancing site-specific recreation projects.
- C. When implementing site-specific recreational projects, establish relevant management objectives for affected open space considering any resource-specific issues that may be present.
- D. Develop recreational uses within open space properties that minimize adverse impacts to critical or sensitive habitats (such as bird watching next to a wetland area).
- E. Monitor the results of project implementation against site-specific management objectives to ensure conformance, and improve future project development.

Goal 3: Foster cooperative working relationships with adjacent communities, Summit County, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and others who share common interest in open space preservation and management.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Understand the open space plans and objectives of other regional partners and determine where shared interests exist for improving the overall regional system for residents and visitors.
- B. Proactively communicate with regional partners so that unique opportunities for acquisition of important open space are captured.
- C. Partner on grant funding applications to improve chances of success and to leverage financial resources.

IV. TRAILS and Connectivity Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Establish and maintain a highly integrated and safe network of multi-use trails and infrastructure that link parks, open spaces, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, activity centers, and transportation facilities.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Establish the Blue River Trail as the recreational “spine” of the Town of Silverthorne, and maximize connectivity to the trail. Monitor carrying capacity and multi-sport use, as trends and usage change.
- B. Supplement the trail network with an on-street bikeway and sidewalk system that ties to the multi-use trail network at key locations.
- C. Strive for no home to be more than ½-mile from a multi-use trail with safe on-street bicycle and sidewalk connections.
- D. Wherever feasible, trails should be grade separated from street traffic using safe underpasses and overpasses traversing Highway 9 and other high traffic routes. Continue to work with CDOT to facilitate those opportunities.
- E. Create gateways at key locations within commercial areas to facilitate access to the trail network.
- F. Provide signage throughout commercial areas to indicate the location and proximity of the trail network.
- G. Developers should illustrate trail design and connectivity for new residential developments during the planning and permitting process.
- H. Development plans for new commercial uses should address connectivity to existing trail networks. Encourage the use of technology to promote and illustrate connectivity.

Goal 2: Encourage a variety of trail types and experiences that appeal to a wide range of residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Provide both paved and unpaved trails to accommodate different user groups, throughout the year.
- B. Establish trails in a variety of settings. They can provide an experience, connect places of interest, or serve both purposes.
- C. Establish a variety of trail lengths that encourage exploration of recreational amenities in the POST network, and provide a range of recreational experiences from short to day long outings.
- D. Provide rest stops at regular intervals with seating and interpretive features, such as along the Blue River Trail overlooking unique resource areas.
- E. Place rest stops and picnic areas in locations that have long distance views, are adjacent to scenic open space, and allow for additional recreational activities.
- F. Look for opportunities to connect to regional trail systems (i.e., the Summit County Recreational Pathway and USFS trail network) to support a continuous network that extends beyond the Town of Silverthorne (e.g. continue working with County and other entities on linking Salt Lick trail system to rec path and trails in Frisco).
- G. Work to continually improve signage that promotes safety and understanding of the trails, and where appropriate, consider dual language signs.

Goal 3: Encourage sustainable design of trails in order to minimize impacts to natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Utilize current standards for trail surface design that responds to specific location and ground conditions. The Town of Silverthorne has developed a set of trail design standards based on the recommendations of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). While design standards provide specific guidance on the development of new trails within the community, any future design and implementation process should consider other potential guidance such as the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines, the Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) (1991) where applicable.
- B. When practical, avoid trail construction through environmentally sensitive and/or habitat areas.
- C. Design the trail system in response to type and volume of use, to avoid user conflict and overcrowding. Utilize programs such as Adopt a Trail program volunteers to monitor trail maintenance needs.
- D. Use permeable pavements, recycled materials, locally manufactured and/or available materials, and low energy requiring technologies, as possible.

Goal 4: Establish and maintain an active partnership with the USFS that promotes access to public lands.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Create “win-win” USFS trail projects that balance both ecological and recreational values of public lands.
- B. Recognize the value of designated Wilderness areas surrounding the Town. Promote the close proximity to this public resource through educational efforts and interpretive signage at trailheads and on trails. Consider outdoor classroom spaces if or where feasible.
- C. Provide stewardship of USFS lands through proper trail planning, design, regulations and signage. Stewardship can also entail the proper decommissioning of social trails.
- D. Support the USFS in educating the public on the ecological impacts of building social or “bandit” trails.
- E. Continually seek input from stakeholders groups, and where possible, partner with stakeholders to fund local trail projects.

Goal 5: Use nationally accepted Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) standards to guide decision-making for design and construction of bicycle routes.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Seek to maintain and improve BFC designation for the Town (at the time of this update Silverthorne is a Silver BFC, improved from Bronze previously).
- B. Encourage local businesses to provide bicycle friendly amenities and participate in programs such as the Bicycle Benefits Program (www.bicyclebenefits.org). Encourage Town staff to also lead by example by considering providing them with incentives to ride more.
- C. Work with developers during the permit review process to ensure adequate accommodation of bicycles, consistent with BFC standards.



Chapter 4: Master Plan

Introduction

The POST Master Plan includes the following projects, organized into:

- **Parks Projects, Open Space Projects, and Trails Projects.**

These projects reflect issues and opportunities identified by Silverthorne residents and stakeholders. They are also responsive to the findings of the Needs and Opportunities Analysis which addressed walkability and connectivity, and how Silverthorne serves the Summit County community.

This Master Plan is action-oriented; thus, each project contains the following:

- **Vision**
- **Priorities**
- **Actions & Strategies**

COSTS & IMPLEMENTATION

The cost of implementing parks projects fluctuate dramatically year-to-year, due to factors such as cost of construction materials, availability of workforce, and economic conditions. Thus, estimates intend to give an order of magnitude and ideas for potential funding mechanisms. Therefore, the cost information contained in this POST Master Plan should be used only for estimating purposes and not necessarily for determining actual bid prices for a specific site improvement. In addition, operations and maintenance must be taken into consideration.

PRIORITIES & MILESTONES

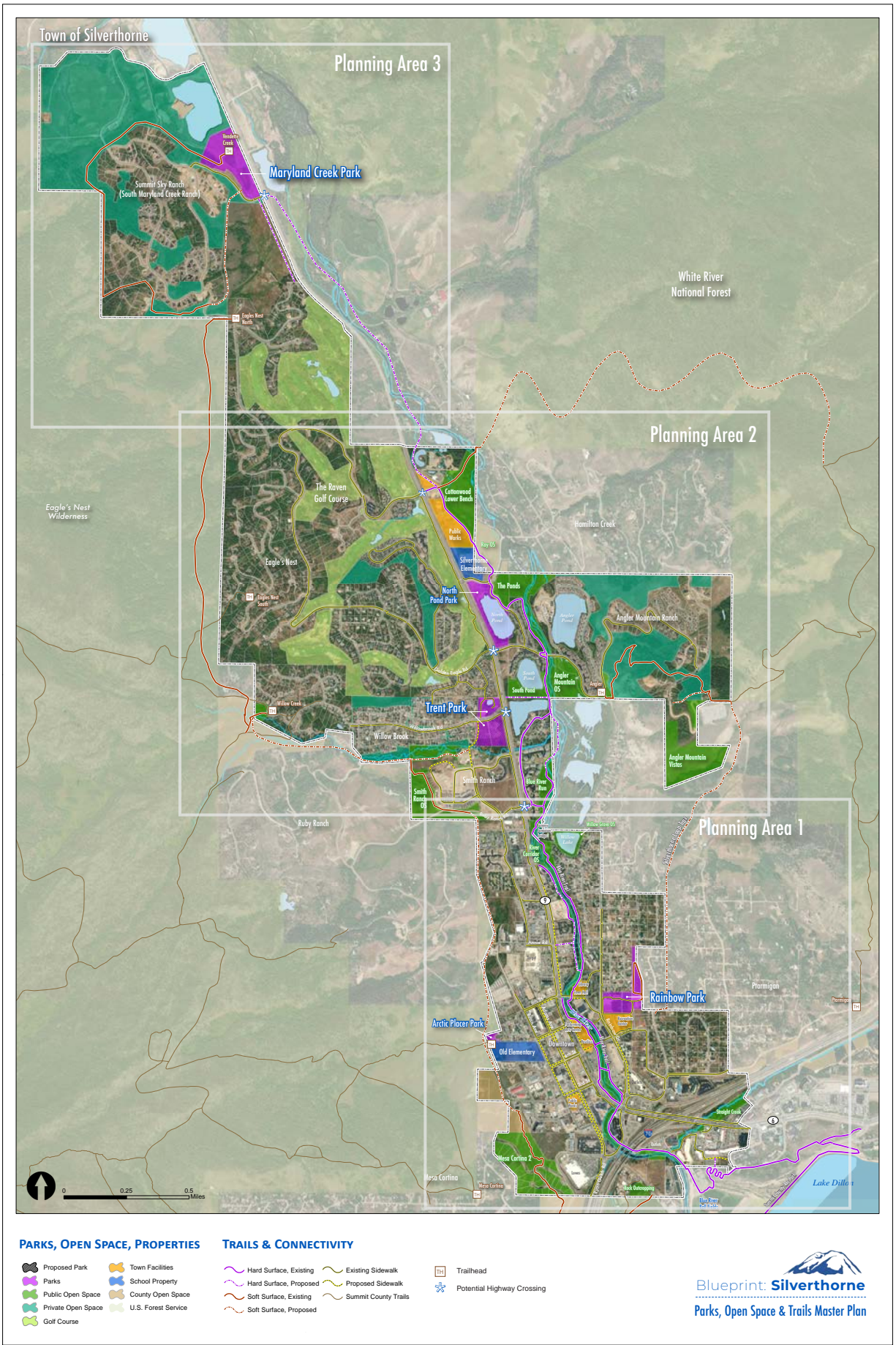
Setting priorities and tracking key milestones are important to the successful implementation of this Master Plan. At the same time, development of parks, acquisitions of open space, and improvements to trails and trailheads can be opportunistic in nature; that is, they can be driven by a particular development, Town initiative, or funding opportunity.

Town Council and the SPORT Committee will monitor the shifts in those priorities on an ongoing basis and adjust actions, as appropriate. Town staff will keep track of key milestones and achievements along the way, in order to understand the progress being made, as well as to update this plan and others. The current community priorities are shown here, based on public engagement and surveys conducted during the POST Update process.

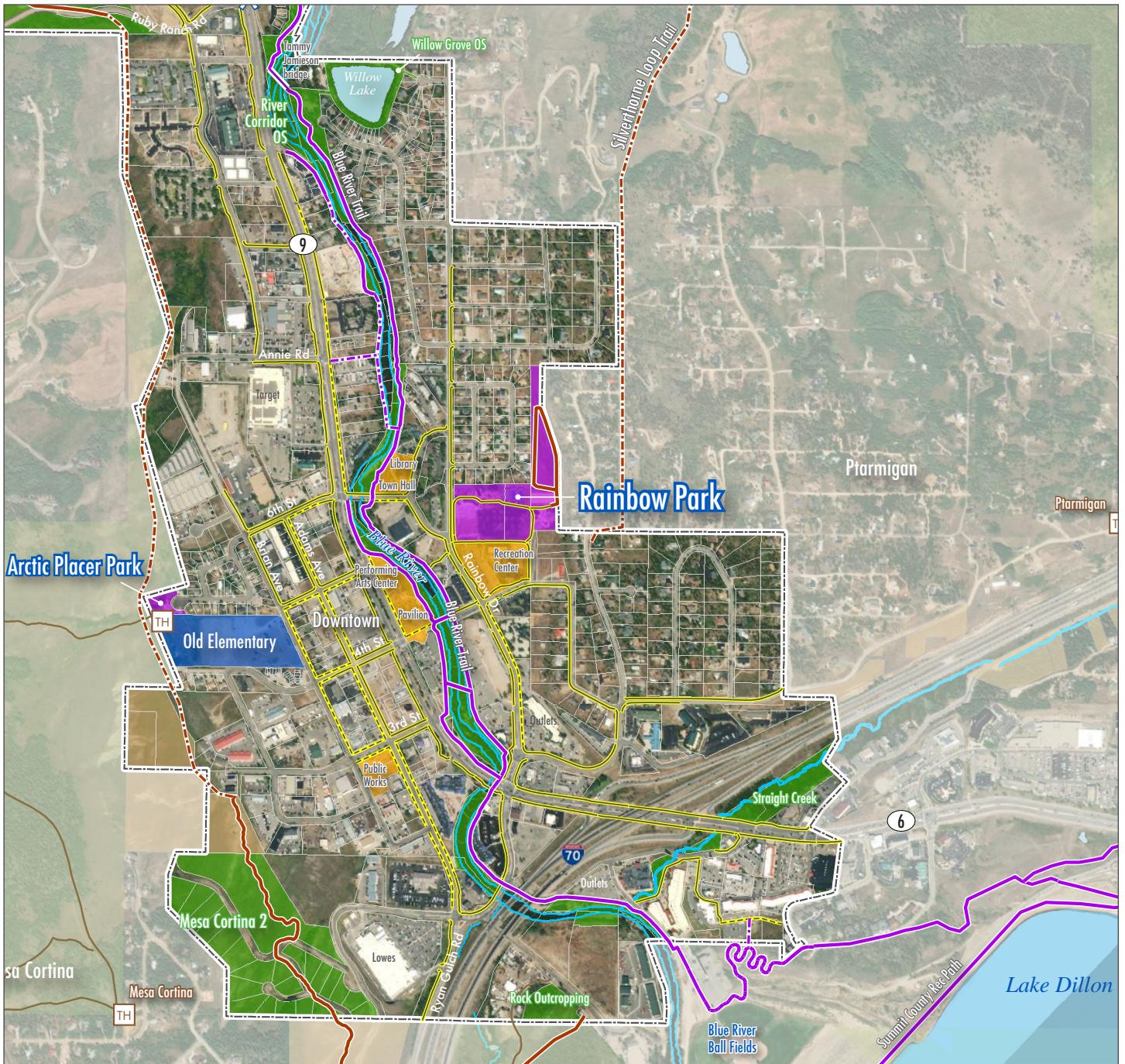
TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Top 11 POST Plan Priorities going into the next 5 years:

1. Connectivity
2. Completion of the BRT
3. Highway 9 Crossing at Smith Ranch
4. Trent Park Expansion
5. Smith Ranch-Trent Park Connection
6. Improved bike-ability and walkability throughout Town
7. Arctic Placer Trail
8. Kayak Park
9. The Nordic Center
10. Salt Lick Trail
11. Acquire Open Space



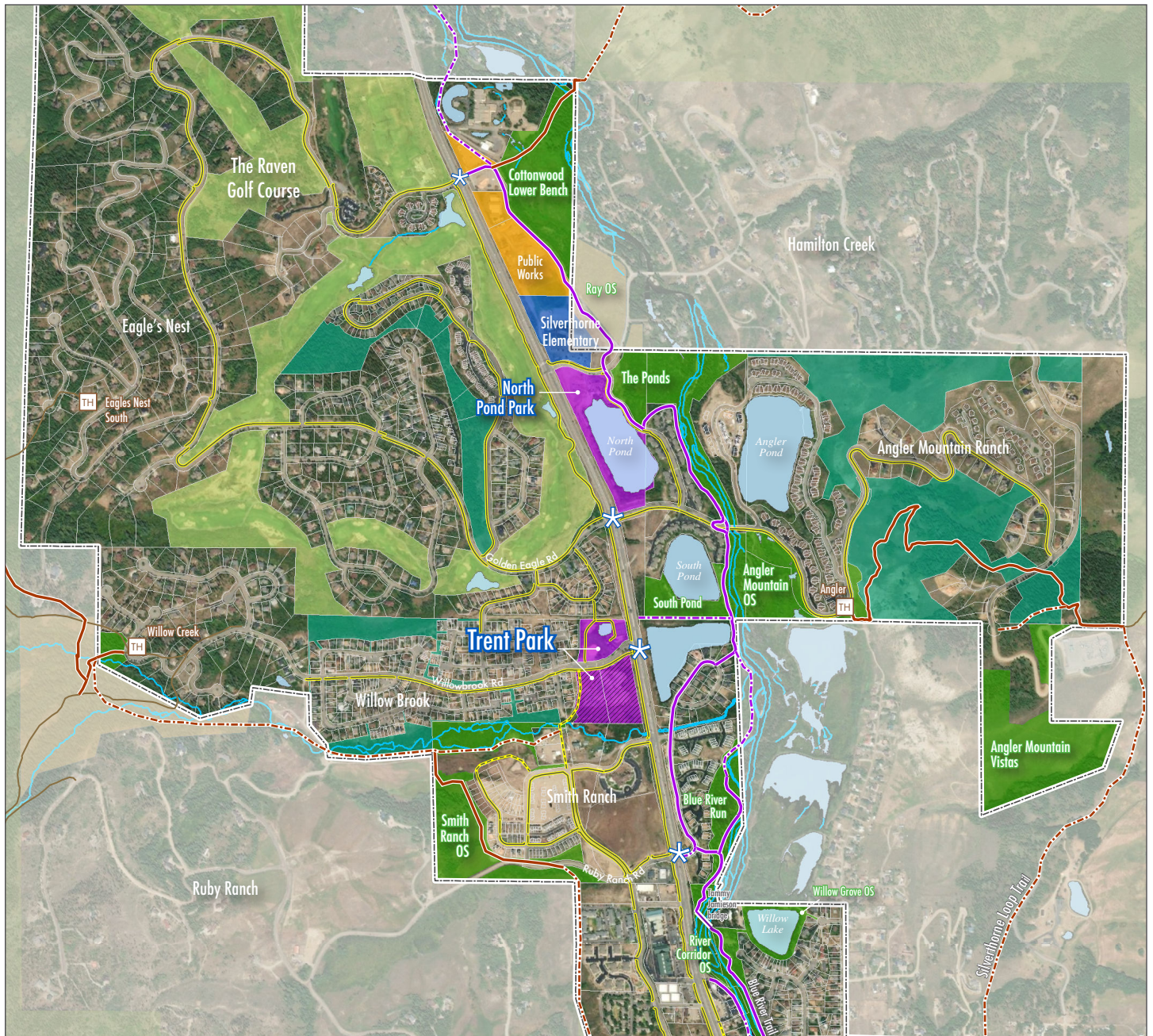
The full-size Master Plan map is 24" x 36"; the following pages provide a detailed view of each planning area.



PLANNING AREA 1

Vision Statement:

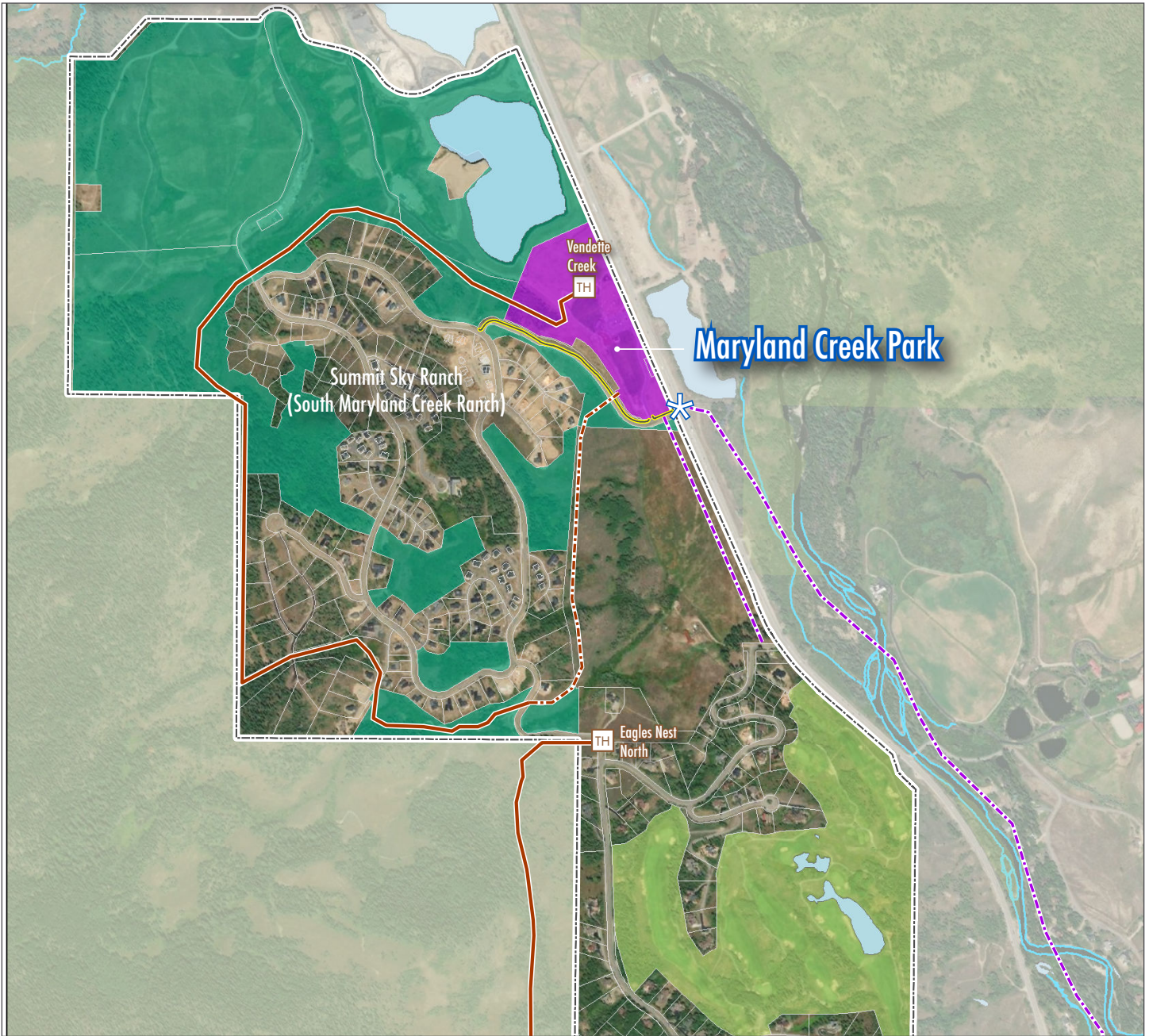
POST Planning Area 1 is the heart of Silverthorne. It is the epicenter of pedestrian activity and has a regular rhythm of activity, events, and mobility. Rainbow Park anchors recreation here, alongside the Recreation Center and downtown Silverthorne. A fine grain network of pedestrian and biking improvements will elevate this area to become walkable year-round and support the vibrant arts and culture scene, and commercial activity taking place downtown.



PLANNING AREA 2

Vision Statement:

POST Planning Area 2 is the locals' neighborhood. The parks here provide daily recreational activity for surrounding neighborhoods, as well as unique recreation opportunities for Summit County and visitors. Connections between Smith Ranch Neighborhood and Trent Park are a priority, as well as overall connectivity of neighborhoods with key resources such as the Blue River Trail.



PLANNING AREA 3

Vision Statement:

POST Planning Area 3 is a destination for recreation, anchored by Maryland Creek Park. The multi-use fields, and dog park provide amenities for the greater Summit County community, while still functioning as a neighborhood park for residents of Summit Sky Ranch.

Master Plan Projects: Parks

Silverthorne has 4 flagship parks that anchor their surrounding neighborhoods: Rainbow Park near Downtown, Trent and North Pond Parks near the Smith Ranch and Willowbrook Neighborhoods, and Maryland Creek Park in the north part of town. These three provide ample opportunities for people of all ages and interests to recreate, with each containing special attributes and features to give them unique character. In addition, Silverthorne has several more smaller or specialized parks that complete a diverse park system throughout town. In this section, each park is discussed individually by: Vision, Priorities, and Actions/Strategies.

First though, there are overarching strategies that should be considered for all POST projects in the years ahead.

SYSTEM-WIDE STRATEGIES

- Pursue state, federal and non-profit grants and funding opportunities for park improvements.
- Explore community support for additional funding sources for POST projects, such as property or sales taxes, and development impact fees.
- Encourage community participation in development of all planning and construction documents to ensure the completed projects serve the needs and values of the community.
- Explore creation of a land dedication ordinance and a revised development impact fee to support the creation of new parks and trails associated with new development in the Town. Ensure both the design and construction, and long-term maintenance of new facilities is considered.
- Prepare an annual progress report to ensure the goals of the POST Master Plan are being met.
- Establish a POST planning protocol to ensure new projects are consistent with the POST Master Plan across agencies and Town departments.
- Maintain strong partnerships with the USFS, Summit County, neighboring communities and other state and non-profit organizations.
- Create performance measures and site-specific plans for the management of the open space parcels to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
- Partner with the school district to disseminate information about recreational opportunities, programming and events for children within the Town.

Rainbow Park

Vision:

The mix of amenities for people of all ages, the flexible space that the fields provide, as well as being next to the Recreation Center and nearby downtown make Rainbow Park Silverthorne’s primary park destination. As such, Rainbow Park should continue to operate at a high level of service and meet the demands of its users. First and foremost to serve Silverthorne citizens, second for county-wide residents, and third for visitors.



Priorities:

- Ongoing Improvements:** Based on the Rainbow Park Master Plan and community needs analysis, standard maintenance and improvements should be made. In addition, the Town should strive to improve upon Rainbow Park by allowing food trucks and addressing security issues.
- Skate Park:** Respond to wide-community support for skate park improvements. Consider the impacts of bikes to the skate park and if improvements need to be made to accommodate them.
- Access and Parking:** Continue to look for new opportunities to better serve patrons, to access specific areas of Rainbow Park and alleviate congestion. Consider access on the north end of the Park.

Action Items:

- Continue implementing the Rainbow Park Master Plan.
- Seek vendors for food trucks during peak times or events.
- Develop and implement security protocols.
- Explore parking policies and planning.
- Assess the feasibility of allowing bicycles to use the skate park.

Action Item	Timeline	Relative Cost	Potential Partners
1	Ongoing	TBD	consultants
2	Near-term	n/a	local businesses
3	Near-term	\$	third-party vendors
4	Long-term	\$\$	consultants
5	Near-term	\$	n/a

Trent Park

Vision:

Trent Park is centrally located in Silverthorne and currently serves nearby neighborhoods. It has a good mix of amenities and is a popular destination for pickleball and tennis. As this area has grown, and especially with the development of the Smith Ranch Neighborhood, it has become evermore important for locals. The property south of Trent Park (across Willowbrook Road) is the Trent Park Expansion area. The vision is for the two areas to eventually function as one park. When this occurs, the Willowbrook street crossing will need to be evaluated to ensure a safe street crossing. Conceptual plans were developed in 2015 including a multi-purpose field, however, a bike pump track and other amenities.



Priorities:

- Bathrooms:** Improvements at the park should include moving the bathroom to a more convenient location (i.e., closer to the tot lot) to better serve Trent Park users.
- Fishing Pond:** The fishing pond at Trent Park should also be improved. It is an important asset for locals’ recreation because it allows free children’s fishing. Improvements may include capping the vertical posts to prevent decay, aerating the pond with a fountain, and landscaping.
- Multi-Purpose Field:** Trent Park Expansion is an ideal central location for a multi-purpose field, serving the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Small Bike Park:** A small bike park or pump track (bike course with berms, bumps and jumps) should be considered to serve the nearby residents, including children of all ages.
- Parking:** For the expansion area, additional parking and access points need to accommodate anticipated use.
- Connection:** Complete the Adams Avenue road connection to the expansion area from Smith Ranch.

Action Items:

- PRIORITY:** Consider the **Trent Park Expansion** plans when implementing improvements to the existing Trent Neighborhood Park to ensure a cohesive user experience.
- Explore the possibility of children’s programming or events at the site.
- Pursue grant funding through the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Fishing Is Fun Program for additional funding.
- Update the 2015 conceptual plan based on community engagement that has been completed.
- Utilize Development Impact Fee funding to fund Trent Park Expansion.
- Obtain easement through West Gas property from Xcel Energy for Adams Avenue road connection.

Action Item	Timeline	Relative Cost	Potential Partners
1	Ongoing	TBD	consultants
2	Near-term	\$	School District, Lake Dillon Theatre, Recreation Dept.
3	Near-term	\$	Staff, third-party vendors
4	Near-term	\$	consultants
5	Ongoing	n/a	n/a
6	Ongoing	\$\$	Property owners

Maryland Creek Park

Vision:

Silverthorne’s newest and largest park serves a variety of functions for patrons at Maryland Creek Park. It has one of the County’s two dog parks, has several multi-purpose fields, a disc golf course, warming hut and bathrooms. The vision for this park would for it to continue to be a destination for diverse recreation in an outstanding, picturesque setting.



Priorities:

1. **Ongoing Improvements:** Monitor usage and visitation at Maryland Creek Park in order to keep the park high functioning, safe, and enjoyable for patrons. Adjust as needed to accommodate for new usage and trends.

Action Items:

1. Seek partnerships to explore the possibility of dog-related events at the site.
2. Engage the USFS on the development of the Vendette Creek Trailhead and Trail.
3. Pursue GOCO Grant Program funding for potential improvements.
4. Utilize Development Impact Fee funding.

Action Item	Timeline	Relative Cost	Potential Partners
1	Ongoing	\$	dog interest groups
3	Near-term	\$	USFS
3	Near-term	n/a	GOCO
4	Ongoing	n/a	n/a

Cottonwood Upper Bench (Public Works)

Vision:

Cottonwood Park is an passive use park that complements the school parkland next to it. At this time, the development of Cottonwood Park is not necessary, as the needs of Silverthorne are being met elsewhere; especially with the onset of Maryland Creek Park to the north and the imminent expansion of Trent Park. This area is used by Public Works at this time as well, a use that is a priority for the foreseeable future.



Priorities:

- 1. Maintain and Monitor:** Allow Cottonwood Park to serve as a placeholder for a very long-term future park for Silverthorne. Maintain the grounds as to complement the neighboring Silverthorne Elementary School, enabling them to function as flexible use fields and play areas.
- 2. Interpretive Overlook:** Develop an interpretive overlook area as part of the Blue River Trail extension to observe the Cottonwood Lower Bench open space and to educate visitors of the natural resources of the Blue River.
- 3. Multi-Use Fields:** Continue to manage the multi-use fields with the Elementary School, as it pertains to the field on Town land and that which is on school property. In addition to field maintenance, other agreements could include parking on weekends or after school hours, bathrooms during events or tournaments, and improved snow removal.

Action Items:

1. Engage the School District throughout the planning and development of the site to ensure compatibility and use of the park by the Silverthorne Elementary School.
2. Engage the Elementary School to develop outdoor educational opportunities within the community, including at Cottonwood Neighborhood Park, and on the National Forest.
3. Pursue Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grant Program funding.

Action Item	Timeline	Relative Cost	Potential Partners
1	Ongoing	TBD	School District
2	Long-term	\$	School District
3	Ongoing	\$	GOCO

North Pond Park

Vision:

North Pond Park is a popular year-round park in Silverthorne that provides unique mountain recreation opportunities such as pond hockey, standup paddleboarding, kayaking, and fishing. Its serene setting should be preserved in the future through visitation management and ensuring that uses are complementary to one another. Rather than seeking more users, the vision for North Pond should be to maintain visitation at a level appropriate to its size, setting, and character. There is also a solar array on the north side of the site, which powers the park and serves as a solar demonstration site, but is temporary.



Priorities:

- 1. Equipment Rentals:** Community surveys determined some interest in availability of ice skates rentals in the winter and SUP/kayak rentals in the summer; however more information will need to be gathered to understand level of support. This may require a small new structure.
- 2. Concessions / Warming Hut:** There is an opportunity to service users with food and beverages out of the small pavilion; however, important for concessions to be done in a minimal way, as not to attract heavy visitation. The location for concessions may be also beneficial as a warming hut in the winter.
- 3. Improve the sand at North Pond Beach:** There has been a beach installed at North Pond, which is in need of improved sand.
4. Improve the landscape buffer along the highway.
5. Improve the fishing dock and picnic shelter, per the 2017 Master Plan.

Action Items:

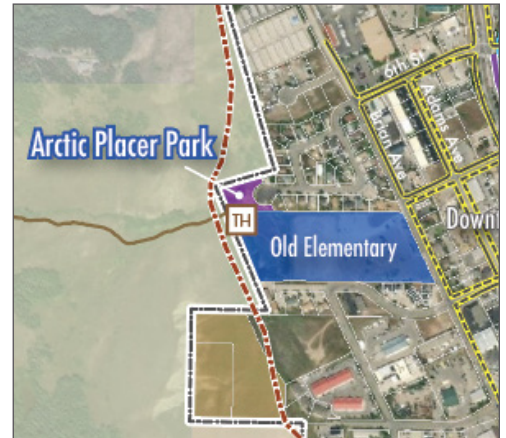
1. Seek community input on concessionaires at North Pond Park to analyze the level of need and preferences.
2. Explore partnerships with independent vendors for the concessions and rentals at the site.
3. Consider all users of the site and seek to minimize user conflict between beach-goers and dogs.
4. Continue working with Silverthorne Elementary School on collaborative education projects at NPP.
5. Utilize the solar installation for education on renewable energy with public outreach, in collaboration with local solar providers and High Country Conservation Center (HC3).

Action Item	Timeline	Relative Cost	Potential Partners
1	Near-term	\$	community members
2	Near-term	\$	concessionaires
3	Ongoing	n/a	n/a
4	Ongoing	\$	Elementary School
5	Ongoing	\$	Solar provider, HC3

Arctic Placer

Vision:

Arctic Placer is Silverthorne’s smallest park, at just one acre, but serves an important role as a pocket park for nearby neighborhoods. Since the last POST update, its playground has been improved and parking area expanded. A social trail currently exists out of Arctic Placer up the drainage to USFS lands in the Mesa Cortina area. This trail is in the process of being formalized and improved to protect the drainage and serve as a connection from the Town Core to the Silverthorne Loop Trail and USFS lands.



Priorities:

1. **New Trail Alignment:** Work with the Forest Service on the new trail alignment with switchbacks up the steep hill and eventually hooking up with the Mesa Cortina trail (expected to be completed in 2021).
2. **Maintain a safe and secure neighborhood park environment.** Consider only allowing parking at Arctic Placer during daylight hours.
3. **Continue to improve upon the parks features,** to meet the needs of all age groups. Consider adding features for younger, toddler-aged children.

Action Items:

1. Continue to engage with the Forest Service on trail improvements at Arctic Placer.
2. Monitor and consider further improvements and usage, based on community needs and trends.

Action Item	Timeline	Relative Cost	Potential Partners
1	Near-term	\$	USFS
2	Long-term	\$	community members

Kayak Park

Vision:

Designed to be located between Wildernd Road and SH 9, behind the Outlets, the kayak park would have 3 structures for kayakers and rafters. The Town has already secured the necessary water rights to pursue the project.

Priorities/Strategy:

Revisit the 2013 Blue River Whitewater Course Conceptual Design for a kayak park through a collaborative public process to ensure the park serves the needs and values of the community.

Adjacent Opportunities:

Blue River Ballfields & Rodeo Grounds

Vision:

The Ball Fields are an important community amenity to both the residents of the Town and Summit County located just outside of Silverthorne Town boundaries. The Town should pursue collaboration with the County to improve the existing condition of the fields to encourage continued use. The Rodeo Grounds are also a visible and unique part of this area. The Town should pursue partnerships to host events in this area to support the creation of this visual attraction.



Priorities/Strategy:

1. Pursue collaboration with the County to improve the existing condition of the fields to encourage continued use.
2. Pursue partnerships to host events in this area, to support the creation of a visual attraction.

Lake Hill

Vision:

The idea of transforming Lake Hill into a recreation area has long been envisioned by a handful of Silverthorne residents. Though developed skiing and snow sports may not be feasible, especially given the proximity to world-class resorts, a outdoor recreation based experience could be. Lake Hill is expected to be developed as a workforce housing neighborhood in the decade ahead, and a large recreation area for hiking, mountain biking and more could be an outstanding amenity there.

Priorities/Strategy:

1. Continue to monitor and work with the Forest Service and neighboring communities, as the development of Lake Hill progresses.



Master Plan Projects: Open Space

Open space properties in Silverthorne generally fall within three categories. The first are those that are relatively undeveloped or wild. These properties have high wildlife, wetlands or floodplain value to the community and function as resource conservation. Secondly, there are properties with limited passive recreation and/or outdoor educational uses, or visual buffers. These may include trailheads or areas of steep slopes. Lastly, there are open space properties that encourage interaction with the natural environment and can include park-like features that are consistent with the natural surroundings, such as trails, picnic areas or park benches.

Site improvements to the open space parcels primarily consist of a trail network that would connect the parcels and create a cohesive outdoor experience through the Town's varied natural areas. This would include soft surface trails, portions of boardwalk trails (to protect sensitive environments), and limited recreational amenities, such as interpretive and wayfinding signs. The cost for developing this trail network is accounted for under "Trails and Connectivity" Master Plan Projects. Likewise, the highway crossings and river crossings discussed for the open space parcels are also addressed in that section. The Angler Mountain and Willow Grove parcels include specific cost estimates for the more park-like site improvements.

In addition, continue to pursue the acquisition of open lands with the priorities of:

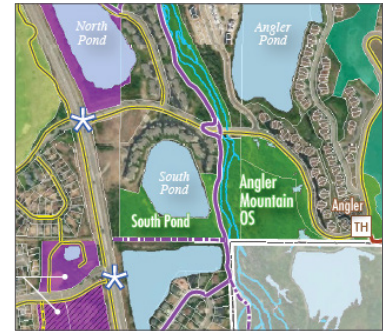
1. Adjacency to the Blue River/Blue River Trail corridor;
2. Expanding existing open space corridors;
3. Protecting significant natural resources;
4. Focusing on parcels neighboring USFS lands;
5. Community buffers;
6. Preserving view corridors.

Note: Open space properties are presented in alphabetical order.

Angler Mountain Open Space

Vision:

The Angler Mountain Open Space area is a unique, wooded natural area located near the entrance of the Angler Mountain development, along the Blue River. The portion of open space within the neighborhood is private, owned by the HOA. The community has explored opportunities for a nature trail within this area. At this time, more community engagement would need to occur to allow for public access and recreation, so the vision currently is to maintain its high ecological value for wildlife, watershed, and educational purposes.



Priorities:

1. Preservation and protection of ecological resources.
2. Community engagement around future recreational use, including trail connectivity.

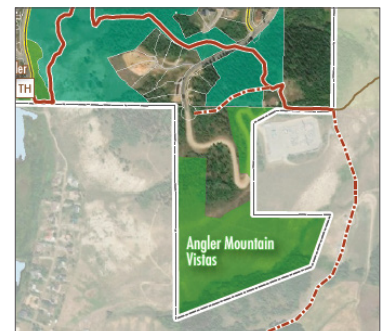
Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.

Angler Mountain Vistas Open Space

Vision:

The Angler Mountain Vistas property should maintain a greenspace buffer between single-family residential and the neighboring agricultural uses, while preserving the steep slope and natural vegetation, including a small area of wetlands at the southern boundary.



Priorities:

1. Maintain the natural character of the steep slope.
2. Preserve the wetlands.
3. As much existing vegetation as possible should be preserved, but dead and downed trees should be removed for fire mitigation purposes.
4. Provide public access to the Angler Mountain Trail.
5. Maintain the existing private social trail, which provides access to the Angler Mountain Trail for the BRVRL residents.

Strategies:

1. Perform regular fire mitigation efforts.
2. Consider potential for future trails connections.

Blue River Run Open Space

Vision:

The Blue River Run contains a floodplain along the Blue River and most of the parcel is wetlands. To protect these resources, the property should be preserved as a natural buffer between the Blue River Trail and Blue River Run residences. The Blue River Trail has been extended, but needs completion.

Priorities:

1. Preservation of wetlands and watershed protection.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality.
2. Completion of the Blue River Trail, expansion segment 6.



Cottonwood Lower Bench

Vision:

Cottonwood Natural Area should maintain its high quality natural resources and location next to the Blue River, while exploring opportunities for education and unique, passive recreation and interpretation.

Priorities:

1. The property should be maintained for its ecological values while encouraging limited (passive) recreational and interpretive activities (i.e., boardwalk trail).
2. It should connect with adjacent County open spaces to promote a more regional network of passive open space.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.



JSA Sliver

Vision:

The Joint Sewer Authority Sliver is small in size, but provides a visual buffer for the facilities there for nearby neighborhoods.

Priorities:

1. Maintain natural character.
2. Consider potential for future river access.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.

Mesa Cortina 2

Vision:

Mesa Cortina 2 is currently assigned development density, but the property does have a significant, steep side slope that creates potential slope stability issues, and should be maintained and managed as open space.

Priorities:

1. The property should be rezoned to Open Space, removing its development density and ensuring it remains natural. The lots should also be vacated.

Strategies:

1. Pursue rezoning and replatting of this property as staff time allows.
2. Continue to manage as open space in the interim.



Ray Open Space

Vision:

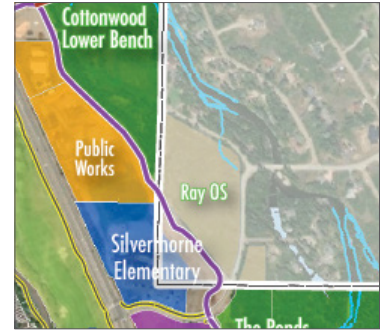
The 11-acre Ray Open Space property is jointly owned between Summit County and the Town of Silverthorne, and is currently designated for open space and a segment of the Blue River Trail. The Blue River Trail was installed here in 2019. Its upper bench is potentially developable.

Priorities:

1. The priorities for the Ray Open Space property are primarily for preservation of wetlands and watershed protection.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
2. Engage the County in the development of the Open Space Trail Network Master Plan to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the County.



River Corridor Open Space

Vision:

These properties should be preserved for their natural riverbank and stream channel while also enhancing river access and associated recreation along the Blue River Trail. Since 2014, the Town has been dedicating other properties along the Blue River with the development of Blue River Flats, River West, and Alpine Lumber.

Priorities:

1. Preservation and protection of ecological resources.
2. Acquisition of river property as adjacent property develops is noted as a goal/policy in the Comprehensive Plan

Strategies:

1. Continue to acquire river property as the corridor continues to develop
2. Conduct ecological inventories to protect environmental quality on the parcel.
3. Promote stewardship of the river corridor through community clean-up events.



Smith Ranch Open Space

Vision:

Silverthorne’s newest open space area provides an important natural buffer for the Smith Ranch Neighborhood, while protecting wetlands and the Willow Creek watershed and the forested knoll that exists on the property. It is approximately 25 acres in size and provides an extension of the Silverthorne Loop Trail, with potential to grow as the development of Smith Ranch is completed.



Priorities:

1. The priorities for the Smith Ranch Open Space property are primarily for preservation of wetlands and watershed protection, as well as wildlife habitat and movement corridor.
2. Explore opportunities for passive recreation for nearby residents and to formalize areas where the public may cross wetlands or stream areas to protect valuable ecological resources.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
2. Engage with the Smith Ranch HOA on a regular basis to ensure that the open space areas to monitor their quality and usage by residents.
3. Install informative signage on the ecological value of the open space.
4. Maintain the segment of Silverthorne Loop Trail through the property.

South Pond Open Space

Vision:

South Pond Open Space is envisioned as an open space connection hub, with no parking or motorized access, that preserves the natural characteristics of the open space. There is a need to connect the Willowbrook Neighborhood to the Blue River Trail via a proposed highway crossing, and connect with Angler Mountain Open Space via an alternative river crossing.



Priorities:

1. Preservation of wetlands and watershed protection.
2. Connectivity to the Blue River Trail.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.
2. Update the 2004 Blue River Trail Master Plan.
3. Prepare Highway Crossings Master Plan.
4. Engage the Colorado Department of Transportation in the design and construction of the SH 9 crossings.

Straight Creek Open Space

Vision:

Straight Creek is adjacent to I-70 and due to the floodplain and wetlands on the parcels should be preserved in its natural condition.

Priorities:

1. Preservation of wetlands and watershed protection.
2. Monitor to ensure there is water flow as expected.

Strategy:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality.
2. Encourage stewardship through community clean up.



The Ponds Open Space

Vision:

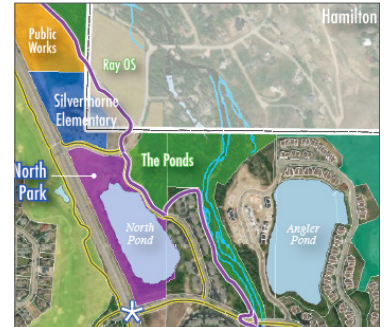
The Ponds property has high quality natural resources and is located next to the Blue River, the Blue River Trail and North Pond Park. The property should be maintained for its ecological values while encouraging limited (passive) recreational and interpretive activities (i.e., boardwalk trail). It should connect with other open spaces to promote a more regional network of passive open space. There is access on east side of river, however no improvements or trails.

Priorities:

1. The priorities for the Ponds Open Space property are primarily for preservation of wetlands and watershed protection.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development.



Willow Creek Highlands Trailhead

Vision:

Willow Creek Highlands Trailhead is adjacent to County open space which connects to USFS Wilderness Area. This parcel should be managed consistent with the County open space. There are current issues with parking and overuse, impacting the surrounding neighborhood, that need to be addressed and managed.



Priorities:

1. Management of parking and overuse.

Strategy:

1. Engage the County and USFS in the management of the site to alleviate impacts to the surrounding residential neighborhood.
2. Monitor and enforce parking regulations at popular trailheads, during peak times.

Willow Grove Open Space

Vision:

Willow Grove should be managed to preserve the existing use of the open space (i.e., parking, trail around lake and viewing platforms) and potentially add or improve picnic tables, additional docks and simple games (i.e., horseshoes). Improve directional and informational signage. This site has a conservation easement which is monitored by Colorado Open Lands.



Priorities:

1. Preservation of wetlands and watershed protection.
2. Connectivity to the Blue River Trail.

Strategies:

1. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas to protect environmental quality and ensure a balance between resource protection and recreation development..
2. Engage the Colorado Open Lands to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the County.



Master Plan Projects: Trails and Connectivity

Trails tie Silverthorne's parks and open space network together. With its long, north-south orientation and allowing people to move safely from north to south and across the Highway 9 corridor from east to west, is essential. The Blue River Trail is an outstanding paved pathway, which provides that safe, maintained access throughout much of town, passing several parks and open space areas along the way. Various spur trails provide local access to the park system, open space areas, and neighborhoods.

The trails and connectivity projects that follow take into account recent developments, the needs to address Highway 9 on a regular basis as the town continues to grow, and current trends for bikable and walkable communities. They also take into account National Forest System lands and trails that can complement the trail system in town and provide unique opportunities for recreation beyond the town boundary. Trailheads will need continual evaluation, as parking issues and impacts to surrounding neighborhoods is an ongoing challenge in Silverthorne with increased popularity of Town and surrounding USFS trails.



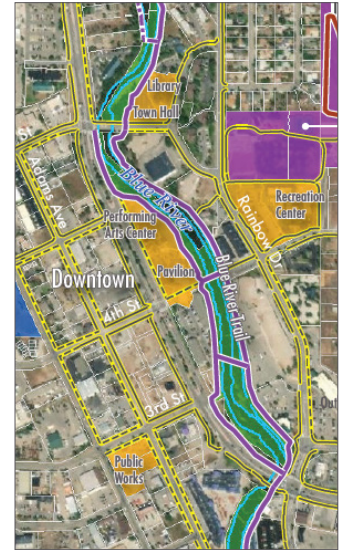
Blue River Trail

Vision:

The BRT is intended to serve Silverthorne residents and visitors of all ages safely and enjoyably. It is used for recreation and commuting. Access points serve as “gateways” for the public to the Blue River Trail and provide parking, restrooms, bike racks and informational signage regarding the opportunities along the trail (picnic spots, water sports, scenic open space, significant flora/fauna, public art, access to other parks or parts the community, etc.). These areas should optimize exposure to commercial activity, to encourage crossover visitation, as well as provide opportunities for refreshment to trail users. There could also be opportunities to rent bikes, or provide a bike share station.

Priorities:

- 1. Continuation to Maryland Creek Park:** In the previous update, Cottonwood Park is the northernmost section of the BRT. Seek to plan and fund the continuation of the BRT northward to the new Maryland Creek Park.
- 2. Downtown Access:** With the continued development within Downtown Silverthorne, ensure that access points to the BRT are well maintained, signed, and promoted for multi-modal access to this vibrant community area.
- 3. Additional Connections:** Maintain access points to the BRT at key locations, including: North Pond Park, Willow Grove, Town Hall. Improve access points at Wilderndest Road, the Recreation Center, and Hamilton Creek Road. Explore more opportunities to connect the BRT to high use areas such as the Summit Place Shopping Center.
- 4. Blue River Run Extension:** Continue to pursue connections at Blue River Run (would require an easement through Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Estates).
- 5. Communication and Partnerships:** Work with local businesses to educate the public on how and where to access the BRT, as well as for businesses to potentially provide services to recreationists during peak times of the year.



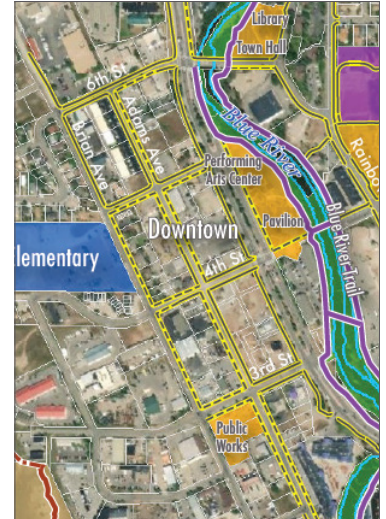
Action Items:

1. Update the 2004 Blue River Trail Master Plan; utilize the feedback from the Bicycle Friendly Community survey.
2. Engage local businesses to maximize exposure of the trail to customers of the local businesses and exposure of the local businesses to trail users. Provide a clear map of the trail and access points for wide distribution.
3. Engage community members, artists and local organizations to facilitate the creation of community art for the public access sites.
4. Explore partnerships with local businesses to provide refreshment, food service and bike share/bike rental services to trail users.
5. Engage the County to ensure a cohesive experience for users of the Blue River Trail and the Summit County bike path in terms of signage, mapping and wayfinding efforts.
6. Pursue funding for a combined Blue River Trail Project that encompasses public access sites, neighborhood access sites, trail extensions and connectors, and trail and sidewalk intersection improvements.
7. Engage the Colorado Department of Transportation to improve signage on SH 9.
8. Engage the County and the Town of Dillon to ensure a cohesive experience for users of the Blue River Trail and the Summit County bike path in terms of signage, mapping and wayfinding efforts.
9. Continue to work with BVRLE to acquire an easement through their property at Blue River Run.

Downtown Sidewalks

Vision:

Silverthorne's Downtown has transformed since the last POST update and continues to rapidly develop. This is an area of town where sidewalks would promote connectivity between existing Silverthorne parks and resources. Particular attention should be focused on sidewalk development in the east-west direction because historically much attention has been given to sidewalk development in the north-south direction. In addition, new sidewalk development along Adams and Brian avenues will improve overall connectivity in Town. A complete streetscape design should be developed with focus on the downtown area. Below are key locations where sidewalk should be developed.



Priorities:

1. **Along SH 9:** From South Maryland Creek Ranch/Vendette Trailhead to Game Trail Road.
2. **North Chipmunk Lane:** From East Rabbit Court to Willowbrook Road.
3. **9th, 11th and 13th Streets:** Between SH 9 and Adams Avenue.
4. **Brian Avenue and Annie Road:** Missing sections on Brian Avenue north of 5th Street to intersection of Annie Road and on Annie Road east.
5. **Adams Avenue:** From 6th Street to the south, on both sides.
6. **4th Street:** Missing sections from Adams to the west, both sides.
7. **3rd Street:** From Adams to the west, both sides.
8. **Stephens Way:** Fashion Lane to Blue River Trail.

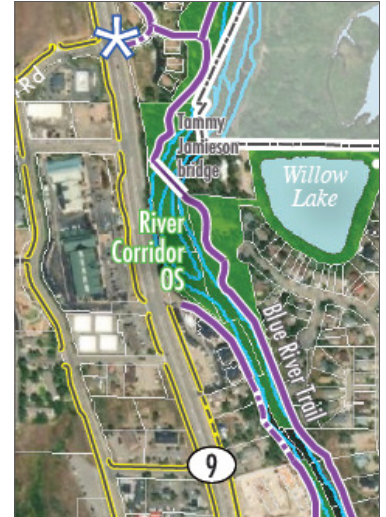
Action Items:

1. Evaluate all sidewalk segments that are necessary, as many are currently being developed.
2. Explore installing an interim surface crossing at Trent Park-South Pond and SH-9 to assess usage before moving forward with a more developed overpass.
3. Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.
4. Ensure that all development in the Town Core includes the creation of sidewalks on the street in the Town Core District.
5. Prioritize the continuation of sidewalks and encourage ADA and universal design compatibility.

Highway 9

Vision:

Highway 9, otherwise known as the Blue River Parkway, is the transportation backbone on Silverthorne. Being a state highway, it can be a formidable barrier to walkability and bikability along this travel corridor, without ample infrastructure for safe crossings. Improving the connectivity of the Highway 9 corridor for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorists is an ongoing priority for the town and part of the vision for a fully connected, walkable and pedestrian-friendly community.



Priorities (south to north):

- 1. 4th Street:** This is a critical intersection in the development of the Town Core. This intersection is considered the ‘epicenter’ of the downtown. As such, the design of the improvements would need to capture that importance, and safely move pedestrians and all modes of transit across Highway 9.
- 2. 6th Street:** An improved signal crossing at this location would serve communities on the west side of SH 9 and the Town Core vicinity. It would provide neighborhood and Town Core access to the Blue River Trail as well.
- 3. Ruby Ranch:** This crossing is a high priority with the development of Smith Ranch. The new signal crossing will serve communities on both sides of SH 9 by providing improved access to parks and trails.
- 4. Trent Park to South Pond:** This location was identified as a possible overpass location because of its central location and proximity to Trent Park, Angler Mountain Open Space Park and South Pond. This location is more immediately convenient to Willowbrook and is closer to Town than Golden Eagle Road South which would maximize improvement to overall parkland level of service. There are drainage and wetland impacts to consider on the east side of SH 9, as well as needing to acquire an easement.
- 5. Golden Eagle Road South:** The new signal crossing would serve Willowbrook, Eagles Nest, The Ponds and Angler Mountain areas, and would easily tie into the Blue River Trail.
- 6. Hamilton Creek (North Pond):** The improved signal crossing is currently the only crossing for the Silverthorne Elementary School and North Pond Park. It should be improved to increase safety of this crossing.
- 7. Golden Eagle Road North:** The new signal crossing would serve the Three Peaks and Eagles Nest neighborhoods, and connect them to Cottonwood Park and the Blue River Trail.

Action Items:

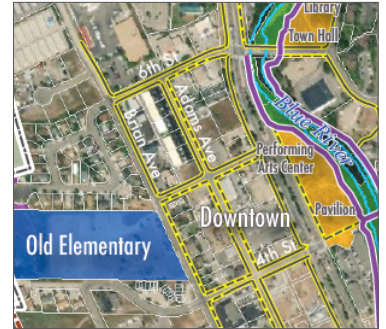
1. Engage the Colorado Department of Transportation in the design and construction of the SH-9 crossings.
2. Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.
3. Consider further measures through a Transportation Master Plan such as: improved bike lanes, additional crosswalks, and reduced speed limits throughout the Highway 9 corridor.
4. Consider additional measures such as traffic calming and on-street parking, where appropriate.

Bike Routes

Vision:

Promote safe bicycle travel throughout town by developing an on-street bike network. This may include a by-pass for cyclists who are traveling northward to Ute Pass, but do not want to use the Blue River Trail. On-street bike routes would appeal to cycling enthusiasts, commuters and improve Silverthorne's overall bikability.

In addition to cycling, mountain biking has been part of the greater trails vision for Silverthorne for many years. Mountain biking in and around Silverthorne is limited due to the USFS Wilderness boundary in close proximity to Town; however, a mountain bike trail has been envisioned for Ptarmigan Trailhead to Ute Pass/Williams Fork. This is an ideal location for a mountain bike trail, as it fills a gap in the trail system in northern Summit County, especially given the climate (one extra month on either side of the season) and existing trails to build upon.



Priorities:

1. **Brian Avenue:** This can be the first phase of developing an on-street bike network. Install a separated bike lane along Brian Avenue from intersection with Adams Avenue and Wildernest Road north to Annie Road.
2. **On-Street Bike Routes:** Seek to identify additional locations for bike lanes, where cycling is preferred and safe travel can be enhanced.
3. **Williams Fork Loop:** Work across agencies to explore the further development of the Williams Fork trail loop.
4. **Mountain Biking:** Identify opportunities to further develop and sign mountain bike trails in and around Silverthorne, such as at Lake Hill and the Salt Lick trail.

Action Items:

1. Prepare on-street route planning through SPORT or another town sub-committee.
2. Prepare construction documents for the separated bike lane.
3. Pursue Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
4. Map the Williams Fork loop and identify lands and easements that would need to be in place or crossed in order to further develop this trail.

Open Space Trails

Vision:

The Open Space Trail Network would connect a series of open space properties to create an overall experience through natural areas.

Priorities:

1. Celebrate the beauty and ecology of Silverthorne's natural areas, specifically Cottonwood, Ray Property, The Ponds, Angler Mountain, South Pond, and Willow Grove open space areas through soft surface trails and interpretive signage..
2. Consider additional interpretive opportunities at Cortina Connect trail, on the soft surface trail in and around Smith Ranch, as well as Eagles Nest and Maryland Creek Ranch.



Action Items:

1. Prepare Open Space Trail Network Master Plan and construction documents.
2. Conduct ecological inventories within project areas.
3. Engage land management partners for the open space parcels, such the County, the Colorado Open Lands, and USFS, to ensure site improvements meet the open space goals for both the Town and the partner.

USFS Trails and Trailheads

Vision:

Silverthorne's trail network resides within a greater system of trails found on public lands throughout Summit County, largely within the White River National Forest. Coordinating trail access and improvements with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure the greatest connectivity throughout the system is part of an long-standing vision to connect multi-use trails across the community for Silverthorne.

Priorities:

- 1. SILVERTHORNE MULTI-USE LOOP TRAIL.** The Silverthorne Multi-Use Loop Trail encompasses the Town of Silverthorne and provides a variety of mostly existing access points for residents to either use for a quick evening jog, day hike or bike ride on this soft surface trail.
 - Vendette Creek TH to Eagles Nest North TH Loop
 - Eagles Nest North TH to Willow Creek TH
 - Arctic Placer to Maryland Creek Trail
 - Lower Ptarmigan Trail to Angler Mountain TH
- 2. WILLOW CREEK TRAILHEAD.** Improved signage from SH 9 to this popular trailhead is key for inviting visitors to use Silverthorne's great amenities. Consider a shuttle and/or reservation system to mitigate parking issues and avoid overcrowding.
- 3. EAGLES NEST NORTH TRAILHEAD.** This USFS trail is heavily used and is located off Hunter's Knob Road. The trailhead at this location should be formalized and allow daytime parking.
- 4. EAGLES NEST SOUTH TRAILHEAD.** This USFS trail starts out of the cul-de-sac off Middle Park Court. Again, the trailhead should be formalized and allow daytime parking.
- 5. ANGLER MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD.** Improved signage from SH 9 will help inform visitors of its location, and improved signage at the trailhead will help guide and educate users.
- 6. ANGLER MOUNTAIN TRAIL.** Mountain bikes are currently not allowed on the Angler Mountain Trail partly because of steep sections and narrow trail. The trail design (widened or trail separation) should allow for multiple uses. This would expand the mountain biking opportunities in Silverthorne and create a loop with the Ptarmigan Trail.
- 7. PTARMIGAN TRAIL.** At the Ptarmigan Trail, the Town should coordinate with USFS to maintain and improve the trail, including grade reductions and better signage from Town. A possible mountain bike loop can be developed from an old road; however, this road is significantly degraded and is in need of repair.



8. **VENDETTA CREEK.** This trailhead off SH 9 was developed as the community of Summit Sky Ranch has developed to provide access to the existing trail to the west of the development.
9. **ARCTIC PLACER TRAILHEAD.** Arctic Placer currently has a social trail leading up to the Mesa Cortina area. The trail and trailhead at Arctic Placer should be redeveloped and formalized and developed as an access point to the Silverthorne Loop Trail.
10. **MESA CORTINA AND SALT LICK AREA.** Explore partnership with the USFS to regulate existing social trails in the Salt Lick and Mesa Cortina area. The Town should find strategies to decommission and reclaim trails where appropriate.
11. **SILVERTHORNE TO FRISCO CONNECTOR TRAIL.** Continue to explore opportunities to connect the communities of Silverthorne and Frisco through a series of USFS trails and open space trails.
12. **PROMOTE CONNECTIONS TO EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS AND PTARMIGAN PEAK WILDERNESS.** Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness provides a variety of recreational and educational opportunities. The first step is to improve signage to trailheads from SH9 or central locations in Town. Interpretive or educational programs could be sponsored through the Town when possible.
13. **BECOME AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO USFS GATEWAY TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS.** The Town should pursue a partnership with the USFS. There is a readily available opportunity to become more of a liaison between volunteers, user groups, and the USFS to promote “Silverthorne trails” regardless of owner or manager. Focus should be on trail management, signage and education, particularly for the existing social trail network around Silverthorne.



Action Items:

1. Engage the USFS to improve trails and trailheads throughout the Town. Foster consistent communication with the Dillon Ranger District. for long term planning for future trails, connector trails, trailhead parking and transportation to trailhead alternatives, collaborative trail building and maintenance of USFS and Silverthorne trails, trail user information via multiple outlets.
2. Conduct a study of trailheads, popularity, parking, access via bike and bus and a collaborative plan with USFS, and county with the goal of short and long term solutions should be implemented.
3. Build relationships with volunteers and local user groups to advocate for improved USFS trails and trailheads in and around Silverthorne.
4. Contribute to an annual maintenance fund through the USFS to ensure stewardship is encouraged and environmental quality of public lands trails is maintained.



Appendix:

Operations and Maintenance

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards provides estimates for ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) costs of parkland in small communities in Colorado. In general, parkland in Colorado is expected to require between 17 and 21 hours of weekly O&M labor per acre in season. The annual O&M cost per acre of parkland is estimated to be between \$23,000 and \$28,000. Each acre of parkland is estimated to require between 0.2 and 0.3 full time equivalent (FTE) O&M employment positions.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES IN REVENUE GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Planned activities that have the potential to generate revenue are expected to cover their O&M costs through revenue generated by the amenity and are not included in the analysis. Based on experience with other similar projects and observations of actual operations, overall O&M expenses for the proposed revenue generating activities are estimated to be approximately 45 percent of total revenues. In general, operations and maintenance expenses would include the following: direct labor (and labor burden: payroll taxes and benefits), costs-of-goods-sold, routine facility maintenance/janitorial, utilities, fuel and power, insurance, bank processing fees, and general supplies. While specific operations and maintenance costs do vary by amenity, they are typically found to range from as low as 20-30 percent or high throughput activities with low labor requirements, to as high as 70-80 percent for low throughput amenities with high labor requirements. Additionally, facilities such as food and beverage and retail typically carry a 45-50 percent burden for the costs-of-goods-sold.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

USER FEES

Community survey respondents most commonly supported user fees for non-residents or visitors as a potential funding source for future POST activities. While some of the planned projects include the potential for user fees and revenue generation, not all expenses, particularly site improvement costs, can be provided for through user fees.

SALES/PROPERTY TAXES

In addition to user fees, some support was seen in the community survey for a temporary sales tax increase, the creation of a special recreation district, a new dedicated sales tax, and a general sales tax increase. The Town could consider an increase in either sales or property tax for POST projects and programs. Tax increases of this nature are most often passed as bond issues, which allows for the Town to go into debt to finance construction and repay the bonds as revenues are collected.

LODGING TAX

Silverthorne currently has a lodging tax of 2%. If so desired, the Town could consider increasing this tax to help fund POST projects.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES

An impact fee is an assessment on development used to pay for its proportionate share of the impacts to public facilities. Some communities assign a standard dollar figure to the public sites, some use a park, trails and open space development impact fee, some give the developer an opportunity to arrive at a fee value based on projected impact, while others allow for the dedication of parkland, or fee-in-lieu, in place of the impact fee. A full spectrum of leisure services which contain costs for recreation centers, trails and open space, in addition to parks, has been included

in some communities' development impact fees. Existing POST impact fee structures could be altered to create additional funding sources for POST projects.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

This is a revenue source derived from the Colorado lottery. Funds are distributed annually by the State, based on population. Many Colorado communities dedicate their annual Colorado Lottery funds to park and trail acquisition and construction projects. Funding can be used for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites or for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site.

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) GRANT PROGRAM

This is a competitive grant program for park and open space land acquisition and development, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and capacity building that is also derived from the Colorado Lottery. Grants are generally awarded in two funding cycles, with deadlines in the spring and fall.

STATE TRAILS PROGRAM

This is a competitive grant program for trails. A 25 to 50% match is required. The state funding pool is relatively small, so this resource is proposed for a small component of the trails system. Grant deadline is typically in the November.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program administered by Colorado Department of Transportation that provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

FISHING IS FUN PROGRAM

The Fishing Is Fun grant is a competitive program that provides matching grants to local and county governments, park and recreation departments, water districts, angling organizations and others for projects to improve angling opportunities in Colorado. Grant deadline is typically in March.

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