

4

PRIORITIES + RECOMMENDATIONS

Trails and Recreation Plan priorities and recommendations have been developed to provide guidance on capital projects, policy changes, partnership opportunities and staffing needs in order to achieve the future vision for Centennial's outdoor spaces.

GUIDING DECISION-MAKING

Based on the community's vision for the future of Centennial's parks, open spaces, trails and recreation facilities as described in Chapter 3, following are priorities and recommendations for the Centennial Trails and Recreation Plan (TRP). These recommendations are a result of public comment associated with TRP outreach activities, as well as a review of strategies, recommendations and public input from the following documents:

- Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017)
- Arapahoe County Open Space Master Plan (2010)
- Centennial Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Plan (2007)
- High Line Canal Community Vision Plan (2017)
- South Suburban Parks and Recreation District Master Plan (2017)

With an eye toward a future trails and recreation system to meet the expectations of the Centennial community, the priorities and recommendations on the following pages serve as the basis for decision making regarding the funding and support of the projects and policies. Priorities and recommendations are numbered according to the type of facility (P for parks, T for trails, R for Recreation and O for open space). Priorities are considered essential to attaining the vision for the system and are indicated with top-level numbering (P1, T3, etc.). Recommendations are desirable action items that support the priorities and are indicated by sub-numbers to the priorities (P1.1, T3.2, etc.).

The priorities and recommendations are further identified as one or more of the following:

CP

Capital Project: Capital projects are those that require financial or real estate resources. The implementation of these recommendations generally requires coordination with recreation districts' plans and priorities.

HR

Human Resources: Many of the recommendations are tied to a need for human resources to manage information, collect feedback, and collaborate with regional partners.

PR

Policy Recommendation: Policy recommendations involve the examination and potential change of City land use, development and transportation policies, and need to be coordinated with the appropriate City departments.

PT

Partnership: Regional partnerships are integral to Centennial's trails and recreation network and these recommendations require a collaborative approach with regional partners to implement.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

In order to support the implementation of priorities and recommendations, the following overarching actions should be taken to provide support for achieving plan recommendations within the 10-year planning horizon. Implementation actions align with the four recommendation types:

CP

Pursue Additional Funding

Pursue additional parks, trails, recreation and open space funding sources based on priorities. While one-time capital infusions (grants, donations, etc.) would be appropriate for distinct projects, dedicated funding should be sought to enhance maintenance- and operations-related funding.

HR

Provide Appropriate Staffing

Review staff workloads and consider the creation of a staff Parks and Trails Liaison position to manage the human resources efforts related to these recommendations and work with districts on Centennial priorities.

PR

Benchmark and Update Policies

Perform an assessment of current development review and land use policies and benchmark against peer cities to identify policy changes that may result in the provision of enhanced quality open space in new development and the preservation and maintenance of natural open spaces.

PT

Strengthen Partnerships

With regional partners, convene a committee with a regular schedule of meetings to review partner priorities, pursue funding opportunities, and review development plans.



ALIGN PARK DEVELOPMENT WITH POPULATION GROWTH

- PR P1** Aligned with annual City budgeting and District CIPs, create and maintain a prioritized list of capital improvement projects (CIP) to include acquisition, new construction, upgrades to existing parks and trails, and deferred maintenance needs, as well as estimated associated costs to inform the allocation of funding.
- HR**
- PR P1.1** Investigate the potential to increase the annual allocation of open space tax revenues to deferred maintenance and upgrades needs aligned with CIP priorities.
- CP P1.2** Aligned with Centennial NEXT, identify areas of growth or land use change and pursue opportunities to acquire land adjacent to or within those sites for new neighborhood parks.
- HR P1.3** Develop a master plan to guide the maintenance and future development of Centennial Center Park.
- PR P2** Review and update Land Development Code regulations to establish clear expectations for land dedication, construction standards and maintenance of accessible and usable park space in new development areas.
- PR P2.1** Formalize allocation of cash-in-lieu funds for priority trails and recreation projects aligned with CIP priorities.
- PR P2.2** Formalize park dedications requirements in new development areas to ensure that spaces are of sufficient size and are accessible and usable.

- PR P2.3** Consistent with Centennial NEXT, identify potential redevelopment or infill sites within the City and develop requirements and incentives for developers to create publicly-accessible parks and recreation facilities in redevelopment areas.

- CP P3** Update plans for the development of the Potomac Park open space to provide additional park space in District 3.

ACTIVATE WHAT WE HAVE

- PR P4** Working with park districts, maintain an inventory of amenities in Centennial parks — including year installed, expected life-cycle and estimated cost of replacement — to assist in deferred maintenance prioritization.
- HR**
- PT P5** Identify desired upgrades to existing parks in partnership with park districts and community members.
- HR P5.1** Establish a schedule of in-park events and associated community surveys to crowdsource priorities for parks upgrades, including:
 - restrooms
 - drinking fountains
 - seating
 - playground equipment
 - sports courts
- PT P5.2** Identify locations for off-leash dog parks, including City-owned property, and work with park districts and City agencies to provide necessary infrastructure and amenities.
- CP**



PT **P5.3** Identify locations for community gardens on City-owned land or in partnership with other land owners, and work with non-profit agencies or pursue grant funding to provide necessary infrastructure, amenities and maintenance.

CP

PT **P5.4** Working with school districts and non-profit organizations, pursue the creation of community gardens in school yards throughout Centennial.

CP **P5.5** Provide massed tree canopies with seating and understory planting in parks that have dedicated irrigation lines to provide shelter and places of rest and encourage lingering in parks.

HR **P6** Working with partner organizations, continue to program of scheduled events and activities in Centennial's parks to appeal to a diverse group of users at locations throughout the City and throughout the year.

PT

HR **P6.1** Develop an annual community grant program to support and fund temporary events and projects in neighborhood, community and regional parks to tap into the creative spirit of Centennial's residents through unique activation of open spaces.

CP

HR **P6.2** Working with parks and recreation districts, expand City- and/or district-sponsored events to parks throughout Centennial to engage more of the population.

PT

HR **P7** In coordination with park and recreation districts, provide consistent communication to inform Centennial residents about parks events, programs, activities and upgrades.

PT

HR **P7.1** Create a website, or enhance an existing website, that allows residents to report maintenance issues in parks.

PT



COMPLETE AND FORTIFY THE NETWORK

CP T1 Complete a Centennial-branded continuous east-west trail connection across the City.

HR T1.1 Develop a consistent brand image and identity for the east-west trail, including signage, pavement markings, crossing identification, etc.

CP T1.2 Off-Street Trail Connections

- Centennial Link Trail paving, E. Caley Ave. to Little Dry Creek Trail - Districts 1 & 2
- I-25 Overpass (Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (ACBPMP) Ref. # T-214) - District 3
- Cottonwood Creek Off-Street Trail (ACBPMP Ref. # T-208) - District 3
- Peoria to Lone Tree Creek Trail, south of Cherry Creek State Park - District 3
- Piney Creek Trail widening (ACBPMP Ref. # T-240) - District 4

CP T1.3 On-Street Trail Connections

- E. Caley Ave., S. Syracuse Way, Peakview Ave. Bike Lanes (ACBPMP Ref. #s 83, 85) - District 2
- Lima Street Bike Lane, Peakview Ave. to E. Caley Ave. - District 3

CP PT T2 Work with regional partners to connect existing trails to provide continuous east-west connections between the E-470 trail and the South Platte River Trail and north-south connections from the E-470 and C-470 trails through Centennial.

HR T2.1 Assist Arapahoe County in building community support for regional bike routes as identified in the Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

CP PT T2.2 Prioritize construction of on-street bike projects in Centennial in alignment with the Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Priority on-street bike projects include:

- Holly Street Separated Bike Lanes (ACBPMP Reference # 72) – Districts 2 & 3
- Smoky Hill Road Sidepath (ACBPMP Ref. # 171) – District 4
- Berry Drive Shared Roadway Path (ACBPMP Ref. #175) – District 4

T2.3 Prioritize construction of grade-separated trail projects in Centennial in alignment with the Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Priority grade-separated projects include:

- High Line Canal Trail at Broadway & Caley (ACBPMP Ref. # T-197) - District 1
- East of I-25 at Dry Creek (ACBPMP Ref. # T-239) - District 3
- West of I-25 at Dry Creek (ACBPMP Ref. # T-213) - District 3
- Willow Creek Trail at Arapahoe Road (ACBPMP Ref. # T-235) - District 2

T3 Aligned with the Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (ACBPMP), prioritize construction of off-street trails in Centennial.

T3.1 Priority trail connections aligned with Arapahoe County Bike and Pedestrian Plan include:

- Lone Tree Creek Trail - District 3
- Piney Creek Trail widening (ACBPMP Ref. # T-240) – District 4
- Piney Creek Connector (ACBPMP Ref. # T-177) – District 4
- Piney Creek Connector (ACBMPP Ref. # T-210) – District 4



- Antelope Creek Trail (ACBPMP Ref. # T-142) – District 3
- Dry Creek to Jackson (ACBPMP Ref. #T-225) – District 3
- Greenwood Gulch Trail, south of Orchard Rd. from Palos Verdes Park to Quebec St. (ACBPMP Ref. #S-73) - District 2

CP **T4** Provide dedicated bike connections to all Centennial schools, parks, civic buildings, neighborhood activity centers and business parks from the nearest trail or on-street bike lane.

PT

CP **T4.1 Parks**

PT

- Hunters Hill Park, connection to Little Dry Creek Trail - District 3
- Smoky Hill Metro District parks (ACBPMP Ref. #s 155, 171) - District 4
- Village Park (ACBPMP Ref. #154)
- Long Avenue Park (ACBPMP Ref. #134) - District 3
- Palos Verdes Park (ACBPMP Ref. # 73) - District 2

CP **T4.2 Schools**

PT

- Ben Franklin Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. #61) - District 1
- Carl Sandburg Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. #66) - District 2
- Dry Creek Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. # 82) - District 3
- Peabody Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. #63) - District 1
- Lewis Ames Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. #71) - District 2
- Arapahoe High School (ACBPMP Ref. #52) - District 1
- Indian Ridge Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. # 160) - District 4

- Peakview Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. #s 175, 177) - District 4
- Trails West Elementary School (ACBPMP Ref. #171) - District 4

CP

T4.3 Civic Buildings

PT

- Smoky Hill Library (ACBPMP Ref. #175) - District 4
- Castlewood Library (ACBPMP Ref. #80) - District 3
- Southglenn Library (ACBPMP Ref. #61) - District 1

CP

T5 Complete missing sidewalk connections throughout the City aligned with priorities established in the Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

PT



ELEVATE THE TRAILS EXPERIENCE

- CP** **T6** Working with partners, complete trail improvements to create a consistent and comfortable network for all trail users.
 - PT**
- CP** **T6.1** Provide continuous hard-surface trail connections (minimum 10' wide) along off-street portions of regional bike routes to support commuter and recreational cyclists.
 - PT**
- CP** **T6.2** Provide soft-surface shoulders or separated paths adjacent to hard-surface trails to accommodate walkers and runners.
 - PT**
- CP** **T6.3** Provide soft-surface trail offshoots, as well as seating and shade, to points of interest along or adjacent to Centennial's trails and open spaces.
 - PT**
- CP** **T6.4** Provide amenities at all trailheads within Centennial, including parking, restrooms or portolets, drinking fountains, bicycle repair stations and seating.
 - PT**
- CP** **T6.5** Provide seating and tree canopy nodes at ½-mile increments (minimum) along trail corridors to provide places for rest and cover from the sun.
 - PT**
- HR** **T6.6** Identify and create digital and paper maps of trail loops of varied distances (1 mile, 5 kilometer, 10 kilometer, etc.) throughout the region to encourage and support activity, completing missing links within the City aligned with the Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.
 - PT**
- CP** **T7** Provide clear, frequent and consistent signage and roadway markings along on-street bike lanes and sharrows to alert vehicle drivers that they are required to share the road with cyclists.
 - PT**
- CP** **T8** Working with recreation districts and the High Line Canal Conservancy, develop a consistent identity for Centennial's trails and incorporate into standardized signage and wayfinding, trail gateways, pavement markings and informational graphics.
 - PT**
- HR** **T9** Participate in an educational campaign, including maps and information, to illustrate trail corridors and create awareness regarding trail safety and etiquette.
 - PT**



DIVERSIFY RECREATION FACILITIES

- CP** **R1** Working with recreation districts and other partners, participate in the funding of athletic fields to support growing demand in the region.
- PT**

- CP** **R1.1** In lieu of building new regional-serving athletic parks on City land, participate in funding the expansion and improvement of recreation infrastructure at athletic field complexes near City boundaries.
- PT**

- CP** **R1.2** Pursue development of the Potomac Park open space that complements Dove Valley Regional Park.

- CP** **R1.3** Support partner districts in the transition of multi-field facilities from natural to artificial turf to reduce water demands and provide additional access.
- PT**

- CP** **R1.4** Support partner districts in the lighting of multi-field facilities that are not adjacent to residential development to provide extended hours of use.
- PT**

- CP** **R2** Provide additional court and field facilities to close the equity gap in recreation facilities across the City.
- PT**

- CP** **R2.1** Identify locations east and west of I-25 for the development of multi-functional courts facilities to include pickleball courts, handball courts, lacrosse and tennis bounce-back walls, etc., with a priority focus in District 4.
- PT**

- CP** **R2.2** Identify location(s) for a multi-court (basketball) complex to encourage organized competitions and pickup
- PT**

games, potentially in conjunction with a regional athletic field complex.

- CP** **R2.3** Pursue opportunities for additional athletic fields in existing and future parks east of S. Jordan Rd.
- PT**

ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES AND INFORM CITIZENS

- HR** **R3** Pursue partnerships and funding opportunities to develop expanded indoor and outdoor community programs offering educational, social and cultural programs and activities for all generations.
- PT**

- HR** **R4** Work with school and recreation districts to provide resources to Centennial residents and organized youth sports organizations for the reservation of athletic fields.
- PT**

- HR** **R4.1** Working with school and recreation districts, create and maintain an online schedule to track availability of athletic fields for organized practices and competition.
- PT**



PROVIDE AND PRESERVE HABITAT

- PR 01** Review and update land development regulations to establish clear expectations for the dedication and preservation of open space along drainage corridors and wildlife habitat areas.
- CP 01.1** Aligned with this Plan's Natural Resource Assessment, identify at-risk properties along drainageways for acquisition and dedication as protected open space and natural habitat.
- PT 01.2** Work with SEMSWA, UDFCD and other MS4 permit holders to provide enhancements and public access to drainageways and develop maintenance agreements to limit disruption of native landscapes.
- CP 01.3** Incorporate native planting and wildlife habitat areas into underutilized park areas.
- PT**
- PT 02** Working with regional partners, create and publish materials that identify preserved open space — including drainageways and floodways — and provide information about preserved habitats within the region.

CONSERVE HISTORIC CHARACTER AND LANDSCAPES

- PR 03** Protect and enhance iconic views along trails and open space corridors to landmarks including but not limited to the Rocky Mountains, Cherry Creek State Park, native and agricultural open spaces, parks, civic buildings, etc.



Centennial Center Park