



PARKS, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

JULY 2019



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Town Staff and Consultants:

- Trish Stiles, Town Administrator
- Rachel Summers, Deputy Town Administrator
- Daymon Johnson, Public Works Director
- Robin Price, Public Works Parks Supervisor

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- Shannon McDowell, Open Space Program Manager
- Renee Peterson, Open Space Grant Coordinator

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- Sandy Bottoms, Grants Program Administrator

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CONTENTS

- 6 INTRODUCTION
- 11 PLANNING PROCESS &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- 19 ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK &
TRAIL FACILITIES
- 31 GROWTH AREA
- 36 RECOMMENDATIONS

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



175 KIDS

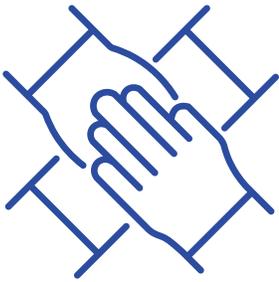
PLAY SOCCER THROUGH
EASTERN YOUTH
SOCCER ASSOCIATION



THE TOWN OF BENNETT HAS OVER

200 ACRES

OF PROTECTED OPEN SPACE



BENNETT
PARKS & REC HAS

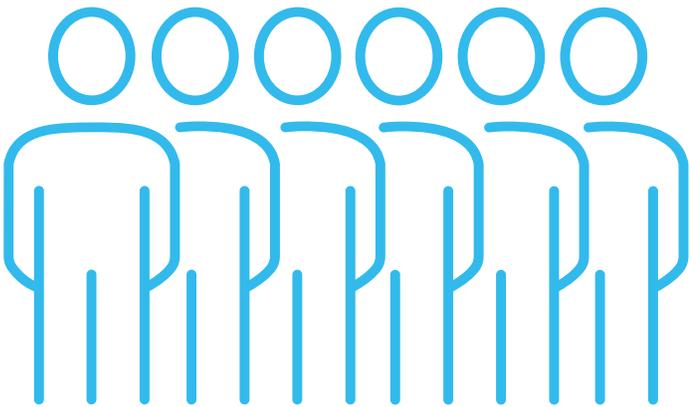
470

MEMBERS
OF ACTIVE CITIZENS



THE TOWN OF
BENNETT

HAS OVER SIX MILES
OF WALKING &
BIKING TRAILS



BENNETT PARKS & REC'S
SILVER SNEAKERS PROGRAM
HAS 120 MEMBERS
& THE THIRD HIGHEST RETENTION
RATE IN THE NATION



150 KIDS

PLAY BASEBALL THROUGH
BENNETT YOUTH
LEAGUE
BASEBALL

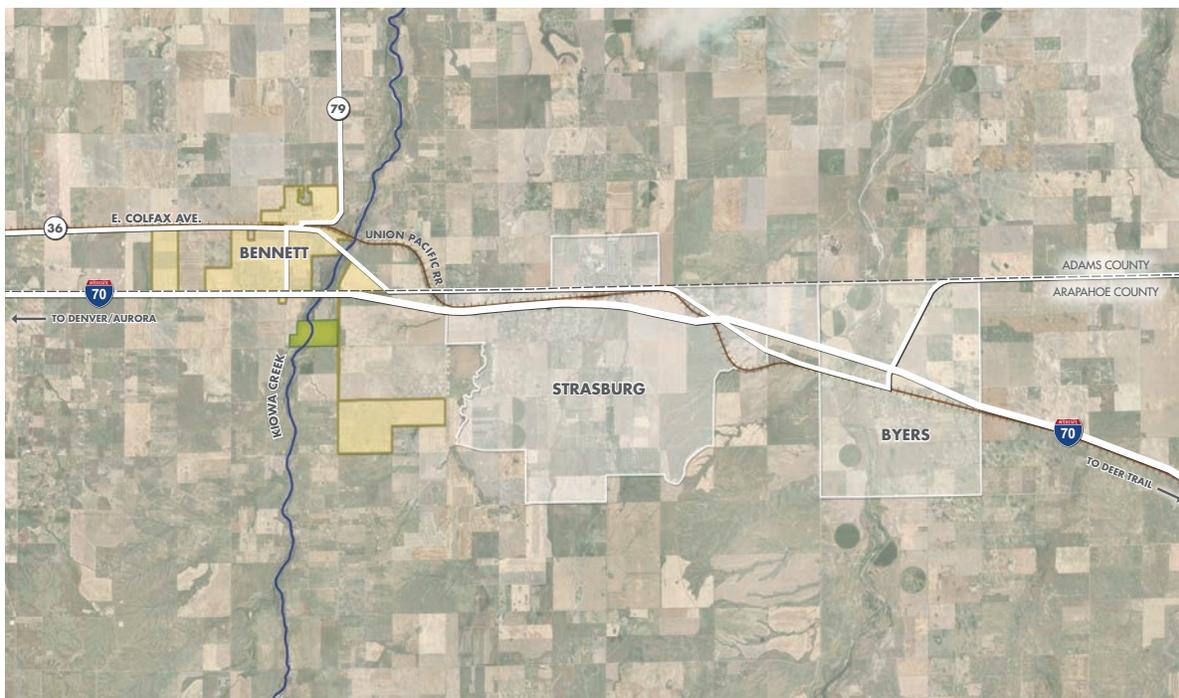
INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

In 2019, the Town of Bennett began an update of their Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan). This document will establish a vision for the Town over the next 10 years, giving them a plan with which to manage and enhance existing parks, as well as plan for future parks, open spaces, and trail connections throughout the community. This plan was informed by community input, an inventory of existing parks and trails, and future land use plans and policies.

Bennett, Colorado is located on the eastern plains of the state, approximately 30 miles to the east of Denver, Colorado, along Interstate 70. Most of the Town is located within Adams County, while the 940-acre subdivision of Antelope Hills to the south of the Town is located within Arapahoe County. The Town is located on the western end of a corridor of communities along Interstate 70. Bennett, Strasburg, Byers and Deer Trail are all separate municipalities, but these neighboring communities can be viewed collectively as a region. Bennett is currently home to approximately 2,500 residents and continues to experience a strong growth rate. Over the next ten years Bennett is anticipated to add approximately 1,600 acres of development area. To accommodate future growth the Town has undertaken several planning efforts based around their Capital Asset Inventory Master Plan (C.A.I.M.P). This visioning process was an opportunity to update existing Town plans including the previous Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan from 2009.

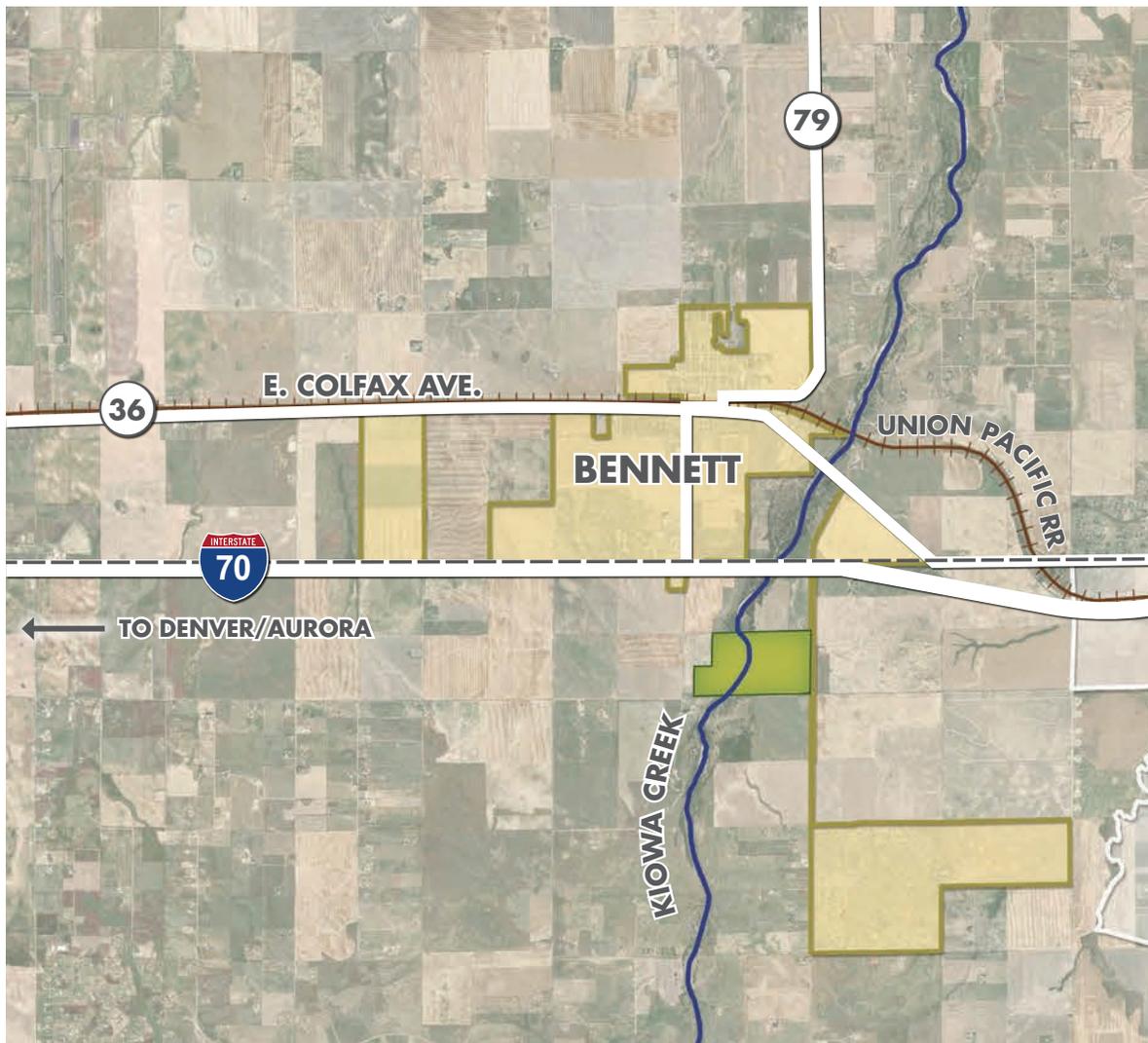




The Town of Bennett’s parks, trails, and open spaces reflect the high quality of life inherent in the community. Looking toward the future, this Master Plan will create the vision that builds upon these important community assets in an aesthetically pleasing, active, and sustainable system that further enhances the strong sense of community experienced by residents.

The Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan is a non-regulatory document to be used to inform Town staff, the Board of Trustees, local and regional stakeholders, and developers when considering future park and trail needs. As the Town continues to grow and change, it is likely that the plan will need to adjust to reflect community priorities as they evolve.

The Town of Bennett is 5.8 square miles in size. About 75% of the Town’s land area is located to the north of Interstate 70, within Adams County. The 940-acre subdivision of Antelope Hills, to the south of Interstate 70, is located within Arapahoe County.



PURPOSE

Parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation opportunities are a vital component of any community. In the Town of Bennett, the established parks and trails have a significant role. They provide memorable places for community gatherings such as Bennett Days, opportunities for families to come together, and they create connections for bicycle and pedestrian travel around town. These assets reinforce the open spaces and agricultural heritage that are an ingrained characteristic of the community.

This Master Plan will provide a framework for community leaders to prioritize resources for existing and future park and recreation programs and facilities. The Master Plan will serve as a tool to:

- Identify the goals and priorities of residents and community leaders to determine the future direction of parks, trails, and recreation facilities and programs;
- Provide land use policies for the development of park facilities
- Provide direction on capital improvements;
- Support the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and Trails Plan;
- Support economic development and public health.

APPROACH

The Town of Bennett Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan process consisted of a series of objective evaluation tools as well as community and stakeholder outreach processes. The combination of these approaches resulted in a plan that is built upon community ideas and informed by local agencies, population trends, land use policies, operations, capital, and budgetary priorities. The various components of the plan include:

- Relevant Plan Review: An assessment of local and regional plans adopted by the Town of Bennett, Adams and Arapahoe County, and other regional governing bodies.
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement: Outreach efforts to gain feedback from community members and local organizations affiliated with parks and recreation.
- Inventory and Analysis: Review of the existing parks, trails, and facilities throughout the Town and determination of potential improvements.
- GIS Inventory: Development of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) parcel level map of existing and future parks, trails, and open spaces to be utilized with the Town's GIS system for future planning.
- Recommendations: Identification of goals and recommendations for future park and recreation guidelines, facilities, services, partnerships, and programs.

PLANNING PROCESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



PLANNING PROCESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Public involvement was an important component of the Master Plan process. Engagement with key stakeholders, community members, and Town staff resulted in a plan that reflects the goals and priorities of the community and has identified a direction to move forward.

The planning process included various methods to gain feedback, understand the context of the community, and identify the needs and priorities for parks, trails, and open spaces. This process included:

- Participation in the *Engage. Shape. Build.* community engagement event.
- 12 meetings held with Town staff and stakeholders
- Six on-site inventory and analysis visits

ENGAGE. SHAPE. BUILD. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT.

On March 27, 2019 the Town of Bennett held a community open house titled Engage. Shape. Build. in which members of the community were invited to give feedback on numerous topics related to the future growth of the Town. The project team used this event as an opportunity to gain public insight into future parks, trails, and open space plans. The team shared maps and project information and spoke with Bennett residents about their vision for parks and trails within the Town. A questionnaire was distributed that asked participants questions about how they use the Town's parks and trails and what future investments they would like to see. Community members were asked to draw on a Town map where they traveled around the Town. People in attendance were more than eager to participate and discuss the role that the Town's parks, trails, and open spaces play in their daily life.



ENGAGE. SHAPE. BUILD. FEEDBACK

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Create a pedestrian route connecting the Cordella neighborhood to the Post Office.

Create a bike / trail connection crossing Palmer Avenue, railroad, & Colfax Avenue, connecting the north & south sections of 1st Street.

A trail connection / bridge / underpass crossing Palmer Avenue, railroad, & Colfax Avenue, connecting the north and south sections of 3rd Street.

Additional benches and shade for existing trails.

Make it safer to walk.

Add a sidewalk connection to Adams Street from the Bennett Crossing subdivision.

Add more trees to provide shade.

Add swings to Centennial Park.

The Agricultural Heritage Trail should be educational and feature sculptures and art.

SURVEY QUESTIONS RESULTS

WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR VISITING BENNETT'S PARKS?

- WALKING
- PLAYGROUNDS
- EVENTS
- EXERCISE
- CYCLING
- GAMES / RECREATION

WHAT FUTURE AMENITIES & PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- WALKING & BIKING TRAILS
- DISC GOLF
- RESTROOMS
- PUBLIC ART

WHAT TYPE OF INVESTMENT IN HEALTH & WELLNESS WOULD YOU LIKELY USE?

- WALKING & BIKING PATHS TO CONNECT PARKS, SCHOOLS, & NEIGHBORHOODS
- FITNESS CLASSES IN THE PARK
- GROUP WALKS / RUNS ON EXISTING TRAILS
- OUTDOOR EXERCISE STATIONS

HOW DO YOU USE EXISTING TRAILS?

- EXERCISE
- TRANSPORTATION

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder meetings were held with representatives from the various organizations listed below. These organizations currently provide services and programs that support the continued development of parks and recreation facilities and programs within the Town of Bennett. Throughout this process, these stakeholders provided important contributions to the Master Plan process.

- **Bennett Parks and Recreation District**
- **Adams County Open Space**
- **Arapahoe County Open Space**
- **Bennett Youth League Baseball**
- **Eastern Plains Youth Soccer Association**

STAKEHOLDER FINDINGS

NEED FOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES

A significant takeaway from the stakeholder outreach was the need for more athletic facilities within the Town. Baseball and soccer youth sports are growing in the region; however, the Town's existing facilities cannot meet the capacity for the demand. This need for more athletic facilities was made clear through meetings with local youth sports organizations.

Bennett Youth League Baseball (BYLB)

Operates three baseball leagues with a total of around 150 participants. The organization uses two fields at Bennett High School to hold games, but these facilities can prove challenging from an operational and scheduling perspective as BYLB must share the south field with the high school baseball team during overlapping seasons. The north field is a dirt-only field so inclement weather and maintenance concerns impact their ability to play games. BYLB also lacks sufficient practice space. Currently practices are held at the former football field to the west of the school, which does not provide enough space.

Eastern Youth Plains Soccer Association (EPYSA)

Is comprised of roughly 180 participants. The organization operates at Trupp Park holding soccer matches on Saturday mornings and practices throughout the week. Occasionally practices will be held at Community Park if field conditions at Trupp Park are not ideal. The EPYSA's biggest concern is the quality of the grass on their playing fields. Field orientation and the existing topography in Trupp Park results in water draining onto the field which impacts field conditions. The association has grown in recent years and is currently at capacity leaving them with a challenge to find enough space to play and practice.

Through this process it has become evident that the existing athletic facilities do not meet the demand, and this has led participants to join leagues in other communities in the Front Range.

Future park programming should explore options for expanding athletic facilities to meet the growing demand for popular sports like baseball and soccer.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Bennett is located at the western end of a corridor of communities along Interstate 70. Bennett, Strasburg, Byers and Deer Trail are all separate municipalities, but these neighboring communities can be viewed collectively as a region. Bennett Youth League Baseball and Eastern Plains Youth Soccer Association include participants from along the corridor and it's not uncommon for residents to travel between town's for use of park facilities. These types of interconnections are suitable to share resources and programming as a region. Future partnerships between municipalities and Parks and Recreation Districts in the area may lead to additional services for residents along the corridor.

Bennett Park and Recreation District (BPRD)

Is a Special District that provides local residents with recreational services, including youth and adult sports leagues, fitness classes, and aquatics programs. The BPRD operates a recreation center within the Town and has about 470 members. The District's Silver Sneaker program has 120 members and has the 3rd highest retention rate in the nation.

The Bennett Parks and Recreation District was established in 2002 as part of a bond approval and serves residents along the Interstate 70 corridor. With a long-established and successful presence, BPRD is the lead organization for recreation and fitness programming in the community. Through the Master Plan process the incorporation of additional athletic and fitness programs into future park facilities has been identified as a goal. Moving forward this offers an opportunity for the Town and BPRD to collaborate on future recreation and fitness needs as they have mutually beneficial roles that would serve the growing demand for athletic programs and park development in the community.

Both Adams County and Arapahoe County continue to play an important role in parks, open space, and trails development within and around the Town of Bennett. Plans by both counties focused on regional connectivity and open space preservation along Kiowa Creek will have a significant impact on Bennett by expanding trail and open space access for Town residents. Both counties continue to seek opportunities for collaboration with Bennett to properly meet the future needs of the growing community.



ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK AND TRAIL FACILITIES





TRUPP PARK

TRUPP PARK (7.1 ACRES)

Trupp Park is located at the corner of Palmer Avenue and 1st Street. At approximately 7.1 acres in size, Trupp Park is the Town's main park and the location of Bennett Days, an annual community parade and festival. Trupp Park is also the Town's most diverse park in terms of programmatic elements, featuring a large playground, a gathering space, two multi-use fields, a stage, and a skate and bike park. The playground area of the park is relatively new and the play structures are in great condition. Eastern Plains Youth Soccer Association hosts games every Saturday from the spring to the fall on the two multi-use fields of the park.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Re-grading of the large multi-use field will provide opportunities to reconfigure drainage, improve planting and soil conditions, and provide a larger area to expand and redesign the primary athletic field.
- Improve the aesthetic appeal and pedestrian experience along the sidewalk on the south side of the park by removing the railroad ties and planting additional trees to provide shade.
- Add trees throughout the park to provide shade.
- Consider repurposing the skate park pool as a gathering area with a shade structure.
- Installation of bike racks.



COMMUNITY PARK

COMMUNITY PARK (1.7 ACRES)

Community Park is located at the intersection of Highway 79 and Palmer Avenue. The park is adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and the land is owned by the railroad company. The park features a large open field, a basketball court, playground amenities, and a closed restroom structure. Though it has many amenities for different park users, the facilities are in disrepair. Access to the park is a particular challenge with no pedestrian infrastructure surrounding the park and the lack of a designated parking area. Occasionally Eastern Plains Youth Soccer Association holds soccer practice at this park when the field at Trupp Park is unusable.

The park's location adjacent to the intersection of a state highway and railroad crossing with no sidewalk connections has been identified as a barrier to pedestrian access. Future capital improvements that focus on park amenities need to also consider investment in pedestrian infrastructure improvements that will address safety provisions for pedestrian access to the park.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Pedestrian infrastructure improvements to address safe pedestrian access to the park.
- Consider recommendations for park improvements as outlined in the 2009 Master Plan.



BROTHERS FOUR PARK

BROTHERS FOUR PARK (2.9 ACRES)

Brothers Four Park is located southeast of the intersection of State Highway 79 and State Highway 36. The linear park runs along a key Town trail providing an expanded greenway. This greenway is heavily used by pedestrians and school children as it is not only a pleasant path buffered from State Highway 36 but it is also an important connection for those walking from the southern half of Town to the northern half. While the main function of the park is a community trail, there are two programmed nodes located along the walk. The first is a small playground and shade structure just north of the intersection of Kiowa Street and Ash Street. The second is a gathering area of two picnic tables beneath a grove of trees, next to the path, near the park's eastern entrance at Cherry Street.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Streetscape improvements to enhance pedestrian travel at the southern, western, and eastern entrances of the park.
- Landscaping enhancements along the path and around the playground.
- Public art enhancements along the trail.
- Addition of trees or shade structures along the path to provide shade.
- Improvements to benches and tables at gathering areas located along the trail.
- Addition of lighting fixtures along the trail.
- Installation of bike racks.



CENTENNIAL PARK

CENTENNIAL PARK (0.4 ACRES)

A small neighborhood park, Centennial Park is tucked into the Centennial neighborhood, at the intersection of Madison Way and Hancock Court. Though it is small in size, the park features ample amenities including playground structures as well as a shade structure with two picnic tables for seating. These park amenities were recently upgraded as part of a redesign.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Addition of lighting fixtures.
- Consider drainage improvements.
- Installation of bike racks.



BENNETT COMMUNITY CENTER

BENNETT COMMUNITY CENTER (0.4 ACRES)

Located on the western end of the Centennial neighborhood by the intersection of McKinley Drive and East Colfax Avenue, Bennett Community Center features an outdoor park space. The park includes a shelter, play structure, basketball court, and outdoor exercise equipment. The existing infrastructure is in good condition. Future trail improvements in the Town envision a trail connection extending to the Community Center.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Pedestrian infrastructure improvements to enhance pedestrian access at the southern and eastern entrance to the park.
- Replace missing shade cover on the existing play structure.
- Landscaping enhancements around the park particularly along the southern and western edge.
- Installation of bike racks.



GROWTH AREA

GROWTH AREA

This Master Plan strives to provide a vision that reflects the Town's commitment to parks and recreation, ensuring that future residents have access to safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing parks, trails, and open spaces.

Looking ahead, there are several growth areas planned throughout the Town. These potential developments total nearly 1,600 acres. While the proposed plans are at various stages of development, ranging from under construction to the conceptual phase, collectively they begin to paint a picture of how the Town could look in the future.

These future plans allocate nearly 140 acres of land to parks and open space. The development of new neighborhoods also offers opportunities for expanding trails and ensuring pedestrian connectivity with the existing parts of the Town. The map on the following page shows potential parks, trails, and open spaces within the future growth areas. All future planned parks on the map, with the exception of Civic Center Park, will be maintained by private entities such as a local Homeowner's Associations (HOA) or Metro District (MD).

TRAILS / CONNECTIONS

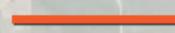
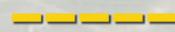
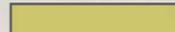
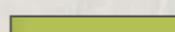
Improving bicycle and pedestrian connections throughout Town is a significant priority moving forward. The entire town core fits within a radius of one mile indicating that many of the community's destinations are within walking distance. As evidenced by those walking to King Soopers for groceries or children heading to and from school, people in Bennett walk to get around.

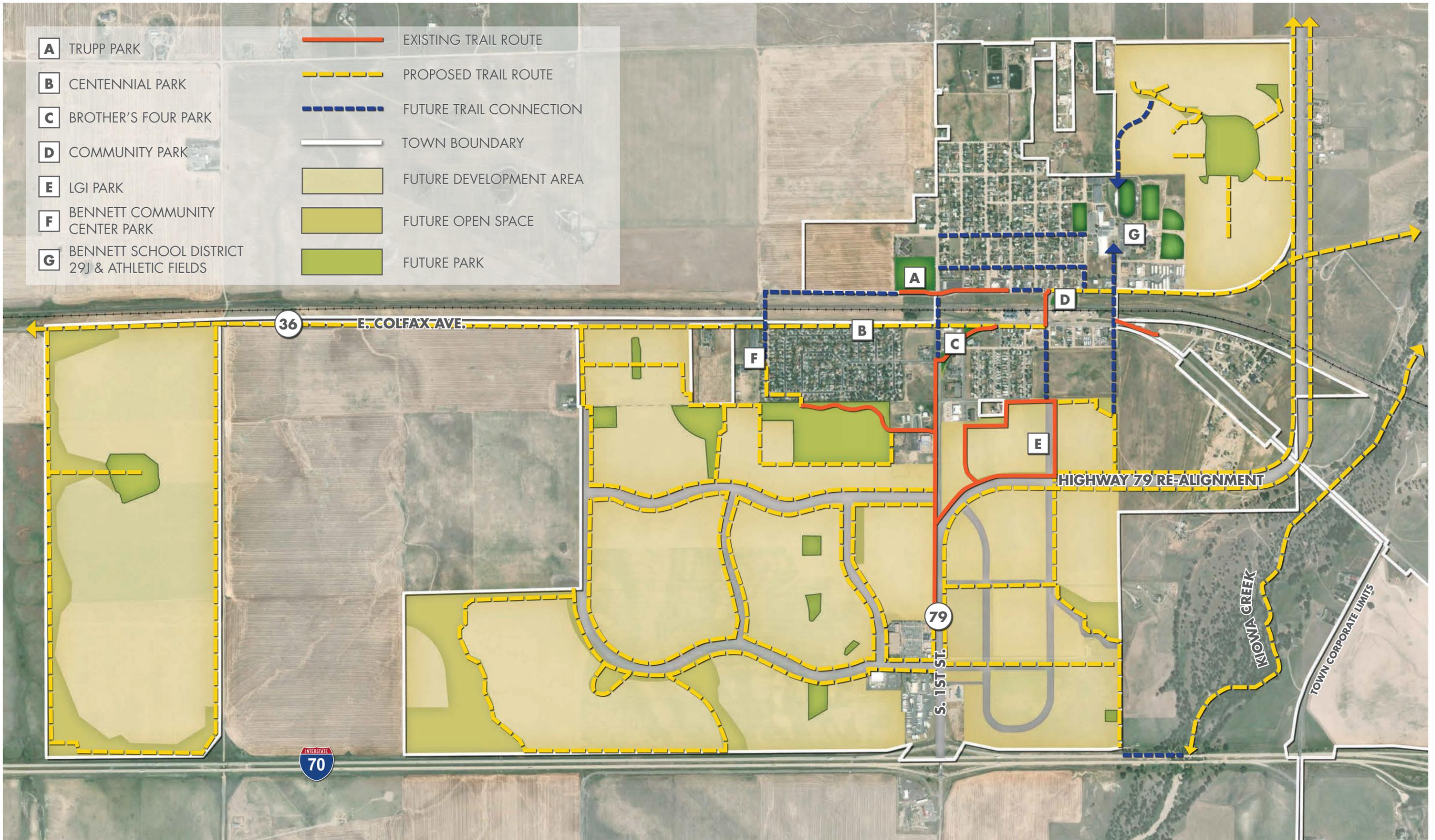
But while travel distance may not be a barrier, existing infrastructure poses significant challenges for those looking to walk or bike across town. With two state highways and a rail line passing through the middle of town, safe routes for pedestrian and bicycle travel are essential. Existing trail connections through Town such as the Brothers Four greenway or the path along 1st Street are key assets that should be built upon to strengthen connectivity throughout the Town.

Currently, there are many segments of trails and sidewalks that do not connect, and some existing trails need improvements that support use by people of all ages and abilities. To identify connectivity opportunities the project team analyzed pedestrian and bicycle travel routes between parks and open space and other local destinations.

While current travel distances within the town core are minor, as the community expands, the need for trail linkages will increase. This Master Plan process looked at future growth areas to determine opportunities for an integrated network of trails throughout the Town's boundaries.

- A** TRUPP PARK
- B** CENTENNIAL PARK
- C** BROTHER'S FOUR PARK
- D** COMMUNITY PARK
- E** LGI PARK
- F** BENNETT COMMUNITY CENTER PARK
- G** BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J & ATHLETIC FIELDS

-  EXISTING TRAIL ROUTE
-  PROPOSED TRAIL ROUTE
-  FUTURE TRAIL CONNECTION
-  TOWN BOUNDARY
-  FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREA
-  FUTURE OPEN SPACE
-  FUTURE PARK



TOWN OF BENNETT | PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

BENNETT, CO | JULY 2019



AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Bennett has always been an agricultural community. The Town was first settled by homesteaders and agriculture remains the primary industry of the Town today. Agriculture is an important part of Bennett's identity and the community continues to find ways to promote and celebrate this heritage. The planned improvements for the historic Charles Muegge House and the planned preservation of a historic farmstead on the east side of the Town provide an opportunity to create a trail connection between these two agriculturally focused community assets.

This potential trail corridor offers a unique design possibility to highlight the agricultural history, landscape, and culture of the community. Design elements, such as interpretive signage and interactive exhibits could tell the story of the Town's history as an agricultural community and highlight features and views of the natural prairie landscape. These storytelling features could serve as an outdoor educational opportunity for local school children. Building upon the agricultural heritage theme, community garden beds could be featured along the trail an idea that drew interest during the Engage Shape Build Public Outreach Event. This type of activation will be key to the trail's success and the Town should explore other opportunities for programming such as hosting events like a Farmer's Market or outdoor music at places along the trail such as the civic center area or the planned open space within Bennett Crossing.

As currently designed, the trail is planned to run along the eastern boundary of the Town, but the long-term goal is for it to connect with the planned trail that runs along Kiowa Creek. This will offer Town residents access to the Kiowa Creek and the Kiowa Creek Open Space preserved by Arapahoe County to the south of Interstate 70.





RECOMMENDATIONS



The Town of Bennett Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan provides the Town with a series of overall recommendations to enhance the physical features of parks, trails, and open spaces, suggested improvements to existing park facilities, and future policy guidelines to consider as the Town moves forward. The recommendations focus on these key areas:

- **General Recommendations**
- **Policy Guidelines**
- **Future Improvements for Parks, Recreation, and Trails**
- **Improvements to Existing Parks**

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish formal agreements defining the role of private entities, such as Homeowners Associations (HOAs) in park ownership and maintenance.
- Review irrigation systems to determine any improvements that will increase efficient water use such as a central control system that communicates with weather systems.
- Encourage the use of drought-tolerant plant materials and low-water use landscaping in future parks and open spaces.
- Develop a parks and trails wayfinding plan that promotes and brands the parks and trails system including park monumentation and wayfinding signage.
- Encourage the installation of bike racks at strategic destinations throughout the Town to promote bicycle travel.
- Explore opportunities for inclusion of public art and park amenities that reflect the character of the community.
- Use social media to promote and communicate with the community about park and trails related activities and events.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Park Typologies

With over 140 acres of potential park space allocated on future subdivision plans, these park classifications from the 2009 plan provide guidelines for what type of parks and amenities are appropriate for future developments regarding the area and population they would serve at the neighborhood or community level.

POCKET PARK

A pocket park or mini park is designed primarily to attract residents living within a quarter mile of the park. The park is generally a walk-to type park, meaning no parking facilities for automobiles are

normally found. Mini parks' service levels are .25 to .5 acres per thousand residents and the service area is typically ¼-mile radius.

Pocket Park Prototype

- Average Size: .25 to .5 acres (target size, 3 acres)
- General Concept: Playgrounds for children; benches, tables for adults
- General Purpose: Passive use, serves immediate neighborhood, no parking
- Programs: Unorganized activities

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood parks normally have between 5 to 20 acres and typically serve a population living within ½-mile of the park. Neighborhood parks conceptually concentrate intense recreation activities and facilities into a limited amount of space. Facilities typical to this park include:

- Playing fields
- Playgrounds
- Shelters
- Walking paths
- Restrooms/Concessions
- Swimming pool
- Parking facilities

Due to the size and scope of activities, accommodating parking is necessary for this type of park. The standard for parking is a minimum of seven spaces for the first ten acres and one additional space for each additional acre. This may vary based upon the activities and program appeal. If team sport facilities or a special feature such as a swimming pool is included, parking spaces in the range of 40 per field or greater will be needed. Although the park is classified as a neighborhood park, the scope of people served can vary based upon densities and the number of other parks available. Typically, one neighborhood park should serve between 10,000 to 20,000 residents, or one to two acres per thousand people, with a typical service area of ½-mile radius.

Neighborhood Park Prototype

- Average Size: 5 to 20 acres
- General Concept: Active and passive recreation amenities
- General Purpose: Intense active recreation for daytime use within ½-mile radius
- Programs: League practice and play; open space play; not recommended for festivals or large-scale events on a regular basis

COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks are needed within a system to ensure that all users' recreation needs, and interests are addressed and included. This type of park expands beyond a local neighborhood and its amenities may sometimes appeal to several neighborhoods. The concept behind community parks is to include essentially a one-stop shop for all recreation users. It should include a mix of active and passive activities and attract users of all ages. From sports fields to a community center, the park should provide as many recreation and support services as possible. A park of this size and scope commonly has from 20 to 75 acres; approximately 60 acres is considered a good size for such expansive activities.

Community Parks Prototype

- Average Size: 20 to 75 acres
- General Concept: Combine passive and active activities into one locale and retain passive areas for non-organized recreation
- General Purpose: Provide a full range of recreational activities for the entire population
- Programs: Active sports and multi-generational activities and passive areas with nature viewing, lake activities and walking

REGIONAL PARK

The largest park typically found within a system is the regional park. These parks are normally found in large park systems. The size of a regional park varies from 50 to 250 acres, depending on the type of activities and amount of use. The service radius for this type of facility is based upon drive time and is typically within an hour's drive of most users. Conceptually, the regional park is to provide large natural areas that can be accessed through a variety of means, from local roadways to hiking and biking. In addition, based upon the locale, it can have unique recreation areas, such as a water park, sports complex or equestrian facility coupled with natural areas. Regional parks are unique to the general area. Prototypical or preferred amenities vary.

General Design Considerations for Park Uses

When considering how future parks and open space can best serve its citizens, it is important for the Town to reclassify these areas in terms of both passive and active opportunities. A well-rounded park features both types of spaces and Town landscaping requirements and design guidelines should require a mix of both active and passive spaces.

Based on the standards from other regional municipalities, it is recommended that a site plan standard for landscape regulations allocate sixty percent (60%) of the landscaped area to be used for passive and/or active recreation. The remaining, up to forty percent (40%), of the landscaped area will be used to fulfill other landscaping requirements such as streetscape landscaping, roadway buffer

landscaping, parking lot landscaping and site perimeter landscaping.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

Athletic Facilities

A significant finding from the existing parks analysis is the lack of athletic fields within the Town. With local participation in baseball and soccer youth leagues growing, suitable facilities are not keeping up with demand. Youth baseball and softball leagues must share their field with Bennett High School. The youth soccer league holds games and practices at Trupp Park but the only field large enough for U10 age group matches is located in a drainage basin, making the field unusable after inclement weather. Participation rates in these leagues are increasing and as the Town seeks opportunities to accommodate demand with suitable facilities in future parks it can look to the park classifications outlined in the 2009 Parks, Trails and Open Space plan.

Neighborhood Park Proposed Play Facilities and Land Requirements

- Soccer Fields: 2 acres per field
- Sports Fields: 2 to 5 acres per field
- Football Fields: 2 acres per field
- Running Track: 5 acres
- Basketball Courts: 10,000 sq. ft.

Community Park Proposed Play Facilities and Land Requirements

- Lighted Adult Softball Complex: 15 acres (depending on the number of fields)
- Lighted Youth Baseball Complex: 8 to 10 acres (depending on the number of fields)
- Football Fields: 2 acres per field
- Outdoor Basketball Courts: 1 to 2 acres
- Volleyball: 2 to 4 acres
- Lighted Tennis Complex: 2 acres

Other considerations for future athletic facilities include:

- Clustering athletic fields for multiple age groups. Youth sports organizations operate leagues at multiple age groups and in many cases participants in different age groups may come from the same family.
- Storage for recreation equipment adjacent to facilities.

Trail Facilities

Bennett is an active community and expanding trail access throughout the Town will support this active population, but the key to increasing walking and biking is creating a comfortable experience for those who choose these modes of transportation. Currently those traveling across town on foot or bike must cross busy streets with little supportive infrastructure. To create a safe and enjoyable experience for those who prefer to travel by modes other than car measures should be taken to highlight pedestrian and cyclist visibility. Potential improvements include:

- Prioritization of safety measures along the main town trail leading from King Soopers, through Brothers Four Park to the Bennett School District.
- The addition of High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk beacons at locations where trails cross state highways.
- Painting crosswalks at park intersections.
- Improvements along paths and at intersections that meet ADA requirements
- Addition of bicycle lanes along Washington Avenue and Lincoln Avenue.
- Consider adopting a Complete Streets policy to ensure that streets in future growth areas accommodate multi-modal transportation.

In addition to infrastructure that improves safety and visibility for pedestrians and cyclists, trail planning efforts should be supported by a strategic initiative to provide shelter from the sun through shade structures and shade trees.

POSSIBLE AMENITIES FOR FUTURE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

The following images are a collection of design elements that could be utilized for future planning and design efforts.

TRAILS



SHADE STRUCTURE



GATHERING PLACES & COUNCIL RING



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



FARMER'S MARKETS



COMMUNITY GARDENS



PICKLE BALL



INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



SPLASH PADS



CLIMBING WALL



NATURE PLAY



NATURE PLAY



CONCEPT FOR PUBLIC ART WITHIN BROTHERS FOUR PARK

Public art was identified as an idea for future park developments. Brothers Four Park is an ideal location for incorporating public art to enhance the experience of park and trail users.



TRUPP PARK CONCEPT

To address several of the key issues noted in the analysis a conceptual rendering of future improvements to Trupp Park is included on the following page.



LEGEND

- A** U-10 SOCCER FIELD (120'x180')
- B** U-8 SOCCER FIELDS (75'x120')
- C** PAVED PARKING
- D** EXISTING SKATE PARK TO REMAIN
- E** EXISTING PUMP TRACK TO REMAIN
- F** BUTTERFLY GARDEN AND BENCHES
- G** TURF SEAT MOUND
- H** DENTENTION AREA
- I** ENHANCED LANDSCAPING
- J** FITNESS STATIONS WITH BENCHES
- K** SHADE STRUCTURE



TOWN OF BENNETT | TRUPP PARK CONCEPTUAL MASTERPLAN

BENNETT, CO | JUNE 2019



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS

BENNETT COMMUNITY CENTER			
#	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT	COST	PRIORITY
1	The park is currently isolated from the rest of Town. Sidewalk improvements and trail connections to the park from the adjacent Centennial neighborhood as well as along Colfax Ave, should be explored.	\$\$\$	Long Term
2	The shade cover on the existing play structure is missing. Consider replacing the shade cover.	\$	Short Term
3	Consider adding landscaping enhancements and tree planting along the southern and western buffer area.	\$\$	Short Term
4	Install bike racks to encourage bicycle travel to the park.	\$	Short Term
BROTHERS FOUR PARK			
#	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT	COST	PRIORITY
1	The park's western entrance on Highway 79 is an important pedestrian connection. Consider infrastructure improvements to enhance pedestrian visibility and safety such as repainting the existing faded crosswalk and widening the path's entrance into the park.	\$\$\$	Long Term
2	Realign the sidewalk at the park's eastern entrance so that it connects with the sidewalk across Cherry Street via a crosswalk.	\$\$\$	Long Term
3	Create a gateway at the park's southern entrance including a crosswalk crossing Kiowa Street or Ash Street that will serve the growing neighborhood to the south.	\$\$\$	Long Term
4	The park's linear nature makes it an ideal place for including public art such as banners or other installations.	\$\$	Short Term

Cost:

\$ = \$5,000 or less
 \$\$ = \$5,000 to \$15,000
 \$\$\$ = \$15,000 or more

Priority:

Short Term = Within 5 years or less
 Long Term = After 5 years or more

BROTHERS FOUR PARK			
#	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT	COST	PRIORITY
5	Existing benches and tables at gathering areas along the trail are in poor condition. Some are missing sections and are significantly rusted or the paint has faded Consider repairing or replacing.	\$\$	Short Term
6	Consider adding lighting fixtures along the trail to improve visibility.	\$\$\$	Long Term
7	Existing trees are growing into the path . Consider trimming trees to keep path free of obstructions.	\$	Short Term
8	Landscaping improvements to revegetate existing garden beds and new beds along the path, around the pavement, and at the southern entrance will enhance the park user experience.	\$\$\$	Long Term
9	Decorative railing is in poor condition and missing sections in some cases. Consider replacing.	\$\$	Short Term
10	Consider additional tree plantings or shade structures along the path and coordinate with bench locations.	\$\$	Long Term
11	Install bike racks to encourage bicycle travel to the park.	\$	Short Term
CENTENNIAL PARK			
#	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT	COST	PRIORITY
1	Consider adding light fixtures to extend the hours of use within the currently allotted park hours.	\$\$	Short Term
2	Existing garden beds are in poor condition due to drainage issues. Consider drainage improvements throughout the park.	\$	Short Term
3	Consider the addition of a small swing set that would serve users of all ages in the open area on the southern end of the park.	\$\$	Long Term
4	Install bike racks to encourage bicycle travel to the park.	\$	Short Term

TRUPP PARK			
#	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT	COST	PRIORITY
1	The large multi-use field lies in a drainage basin, making it difficult for grass to function as a playing surface for weekly soccer matches. Consider re-grading of the large multi-use field to make suitable for soccer matches.	\$\$\$	Long Term
2	The sidewalk along the park's southern boundary could use significant landscape enhancements including a double row of trees and benches. The railroad ties along the path are in poor condition and should either be removed or replaced. The path currently leads to an informal parking area along Palmer Avenue. Consider extending the path into the park for more convenient access.	\$\$\$	Long Term
3	Pedestrian connections to the park can be improved with the addition of a crosswalk across 1st Street connecting the park to the sidewalk along Palmer Avenue.	\$	Short Term
4	Consider filling in skate park pool and installing a bench and shade structure.	\$\$\$	Short Term
5	Landscaping improvements by the park's sign at the corner of 1st Street and Palmer Avenue will add visibility to the corner.	\$	Short Term
6	Consider landscaping enhancements and tree plantings throughout the park to provide shade.	\$\$	Short Term
7	Install bike racks by the playground to encourage bicycle travel to the park.	\$	Short Term



