TOWN OF winter park

PARKS, TRAILS, CAMPGROUNDS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Adopted: August 2025

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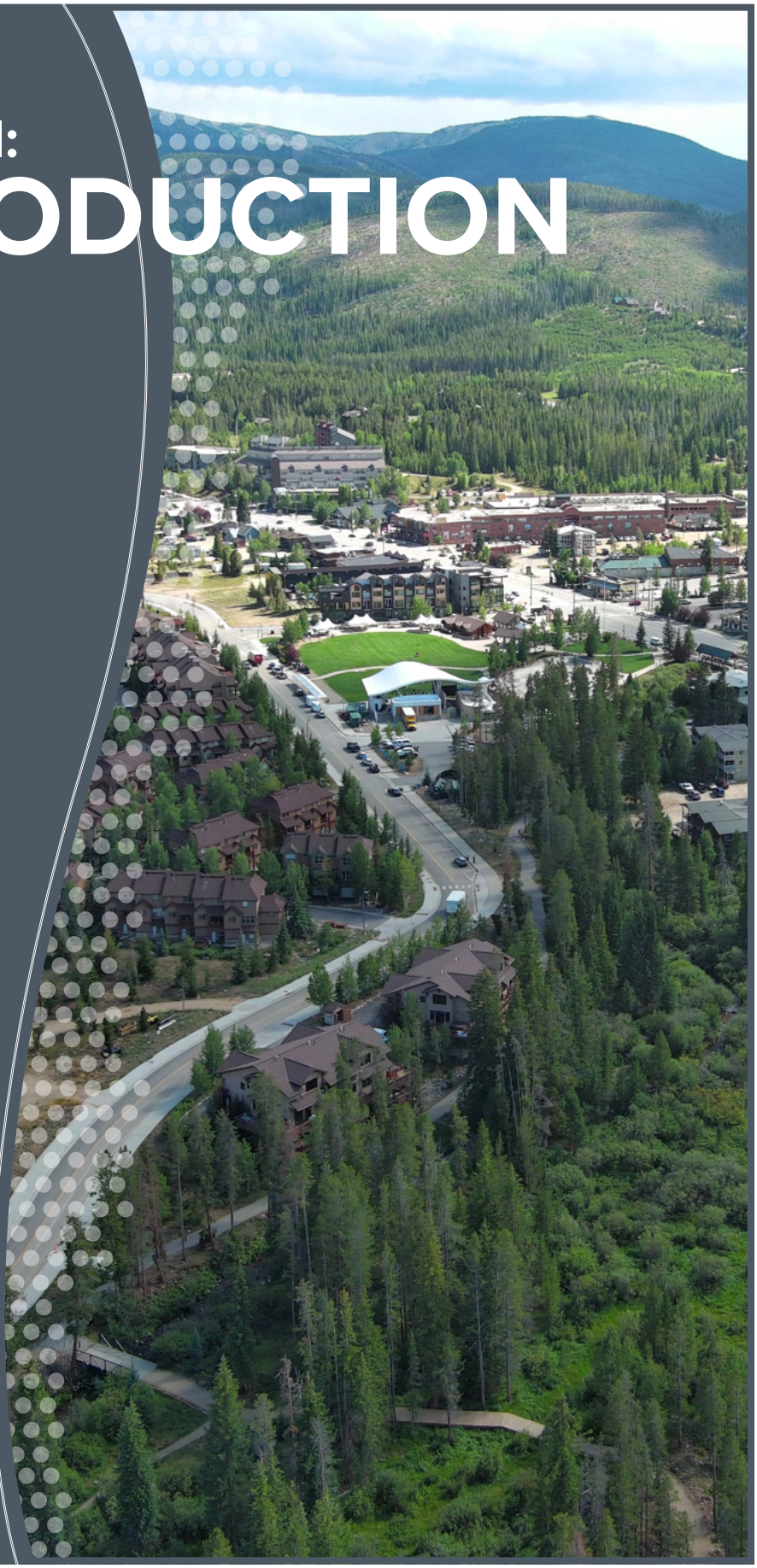
INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the *Town of Winter Park Parks, Trails Campgrounds, and Open Space Master Plan* (master plan) is to evaluate and develop recommendations for the Town of Winter Park's (the Town) existing and future resources. The Town has grown steadily in the last five-plus decades – emerging from the small village of Hideaway Park in 1978 to the immensely popular ski town/recreation hub today.

As the Town continues to grow, so must its recreational offerings in its parks, trails, campgrounds, and open space. At the same time, the Town will need to retain and preserve its scenic character and protect its natural resources that bring people to live and recreate in this area. This master plan provides a vision for the Town's owned and managed recreational resources, as well as resources on surrounding public lands that directly impact them. As the Town continues to develop, this master plan will allow for planning for the future and aim to provide highly desired and needed outdoor resources for the community.

This plan will be reviewed annually and periodically by the Town Planning Commission, Town Council, staff, and other partners to ensure new development and capital improvements align with the Town's recreation vision, needs, and goals.

Plan Framework and Contents

This master plan is divided into six chapters. Chapters II through V follow a similar visual framework, with color guides on each page to indicate the plans Guiding Principles, Community/ Stakeholder Input, Assessments, or Recommendations. Chapter VI is a supplemental resource for recreation standards that were informed by the recommendations made in previous chapters.

Chapter contents are as follows:

CHAPTER I - Introduction

- Outlines the master plan's vision and purpose, provides insight from previous documentation, provides a summary of resources and the study area, and develops an implementation framework for recommendations.

CHAPTER II - Parks

- Provides an overview, assessments, and recommendations for existing and future parks within the Town of Winter Park.

CHAPTER III - Trails

- Provides an overview, assessments, and recommendations for system-wide improvements, as well as individual existing and future trails along the west and east side of Town, including trails of interest on adjacent public lands owned by Denver Water and the US Forest Service.

CHAPTER IV - Campgrounds

- Provides an overview, assessments, and recommendations for dispersed and established camping in adjacent lands within a 15-minute driving radius of the Town.

CHAPTER V - Open Space

- Provides an overview, assessments, and recommendations for existing public open space as well as parcels of interest identified in the Town's *Three Mile Area Plan*.

CHAPTER VI - Town Outdoor Recreation Standards

- Provides design standards and guidelines for all parks, trails, campgrounds, and open space. These standards are intended to guide maintenance and development of recreation facilities at existing and future resources.

Connecting to *Imagine Winter Park*

This master plan primarily builds upon the priorities and strategies identified in the *Imagine Winter Park* comprehensive town plan completed in 2019. The strategies identified in this plan acted as a starting point to understand the Town's vision for its existing and future recreation resources. The strategies organized under the Town's vision themes align with goals identified in the various chapters of this master plan. While goals and recommendations align with these strategies, additional planning efforts, policies, and projects may be needed to fully address some of these strategies.

	Strategy	Vision Statement	Alignment
Character and Culture	CC 1.2	Continue to provide and support the cultural arts through music festivals, concert series, and gathering spaces fostering a creative and fun environment to live in and visit.	Parks
	CC 1.3	Ensure that the built environment continues to be seamlessly integrated with mountain and recreational amenities (e.g. connections to trails, integration with the Fraser River, bikeable paths, etc.).	Standards
	CC 1.5	Strengthen the sense of connection between Downtown and The Resort.	Trails
	CC 2.1	Incorporate public places into future development.	Parks
	CC 2.4	Work with developers to provide recreational and cultural amenities that benefit both residents and guests alike.	Outdoor Rec Standards
	CC 2.9	Build on Winter Park's designations as "Mountain Bike Capital USA" and Colorado's "Top Adventure Town" as a way to attract growth that supports our recreational heritage.	Trails/ Campgrounds
	CC 5.1	Allow for publicly accessible parks, plazas, and open spaces in both design and policy, meeting the goal of being an inviting community.	Parks/ Open Space
	CC 5.2	Include neighborhood-scale parks and open spaces within developments that are fully accessible to the public.	Parks/ Open Space
	CC 5.3	Enhance existing parks with recreational opportunities that promote gathering and conversation (e.g. bocce, horseshoes, dog parks, or adventure play areas).	Parks
	CC 5.6	Continue to support community gatherings and events that bring people together.	Parks
Global and Local Community	CO 1.2	Provide enhanced connections between the Resort and Downtown such as a ski back trail, a direct gondola, and circulator bus routes.	Trails
	CO 1.5	Initiate a comprehensive signage program to provide intuitive wayfinding throughout Town.	Trails/ Outdoor Rec Standards
	CO 3.11	Provide a bicycle system that offers both recreational and in-town connectivity and accommodates all levels of riders.	Trails
	CO 3.13	Complete the Fraser River Trail to ensure it functions as the primary north-south bicycle corridor.	Trails
World-Class Outdoor Recreation	OR 1.1	Integrate dedicated recreation paths throughout the Town into a comprehensive regional network.	Trails
	OR 1.3	Design roadways with hikers and cyclists in mind, with particular attention to posted speeds, width, and other pedestrian/cyclist awareness measures.	Trails
	OR 1.4	Maintain trailhead and forest access points and easements within and through residential and commercial developments. This access can be as simple as signage and a hiker/ biker/horse width easement.	Trails
	OR 1.5	Manage trailhead parking to mitigate impacts to the environment and to residents.	Trails
	OR 2.1	Develop recreational opportunities suited to short, daily activities (e.g. shorter, close-to-town trails, opportunities for water play, fishing ponds, etc.).	Parks/ Trails / Open Space
	OR 2.2	Maintain winter connectivity and access to all recreational trails including the Fraser River Trail.	Trails
	OR 2.4	Provide wayfinding signage throughout the Town to key trailheads, destinations, and access points to increase awareness of all the Town has to offer.	Outdoor Rec Standards
	OR 2.6	Collaborate with public, private, and non-profit entities to increase recreation opportunities for everyone.	Parks/ Trails / Campgrounds
	OR 3.1	Actively market our cross seasonal opportunities and the range of opportunities available to all skill levels.	Parks

FIGURE 1–1. The strategies above from the Imagine Winter Park plan relate directly to the principles that guide the different sections of the master plan.

	Strategy	Vision Statement	Alignment
World-Class Outdoor Recreation	OR 3.2	Actively track and evaluate outdoor recreational trends to ensure the town stays relevant & competitive.	Parks
	OR 3.5	Work to establish and reestablish clear trail and backcountry connections between Winter Park and other communities.	Trails
	OR 3.7	Examine regional solutions when responding to evolving recreational preferences and opportunities (e.g. determining where a facility would fit best).	Parks/ Trails/ Campgrounds/ Open Space
	OR 3.8	Capitalize on and enhance existing recreational facilities.	Parks/ Campgrounds
Healthy and Thriving Environment	EN 1.1	Protect and increase physical and visual access to waterways within and around the Town.	Parks/ Trails/ Campgrounds/ Open Space
	EN 1.4	Strengthen the Fraser River and its associated floodplain as a recreational and economic amenity while preserving the riparian habitat.	Parks/ Trails/ Campgrounds/ Open Space
	EN 1.5	Protect the viability of natural wetlands and watercourses as a key component of our natural and built environments.	Parks/ Trails/ Campgrounds/ Open Space
	EN 1.7	Restore or enhance degraded or disturbed waterways to improve ecological conditions, aesthetics, and recreation.	Parks/ Campgrounds/ Open Space
	EN 1.8	Extend trails and create additional linkages, as appropriate, to link to waterways such as the Fraser River.	Trails
	EN 2.1	Support forest biodiversity and control the invasion and spread of undesirable non-native plants, animals, and insects.	Parks/ Open Space
	EN 2.2	Design trail routes to minimize ecological impacts while enhancing access and recreation.	Trails /Outdoor Rec Standards
	EN 2.3	Protect the integrity of significant wildlife habitat and movement corridors.	Parks/ Trails/ Open Space
	EN 2.4	Foster alliances and partnerships with organizations that are working toward a healthy and thriving environment.	Parks/ Trails/ Campgrounds/ Open Space
	EN 2.5	Promote education and understanding of public lands through appropriate recreational activities, formal and non-formal education, and interpretive programs.	Parks/ Trails/ Campgrounds/ Open Space
	EN 2.7	Protect significant viewsheds to maintain our connection with the natural environment.	Parks/ Open Space
	EN 3.1	Encourage density in appropriate locations and clustering of development to maximize open space.	Open Space
	EN 3.2	Work with the US Forest Service to formalize camping along Vasquez Road to protect Winter Park's water quality, outdoor experience, and the health and safety of wildlife, residents, and visitors.	Campgrounds
	EN 3.4	Proactively plan for disasters and implement mitigation and resilience measures to reduce community vulnerability (e.g. requiring firebreaks).	Campgrounds/ Open Space
	EN 3.5	Bears like trash, we make trash, don't be trashy (e.g. require animal-proof trash receptacles throughout Town).	Outdoor Rec Standards
	EN 3.8	Update landscape design guidelines to clearly address conflicts with the natural environment and wildlife.	Outdoor Rec Standards
	EN 4.8	Promote green building practices in new construction and existing buildings.	Parks/ Outdoor Rec Standards

FIGURE 1–2. The strategies above from the *Imagine Winter Park* plan relate directly to the principles that guide the different sections of the master plan.

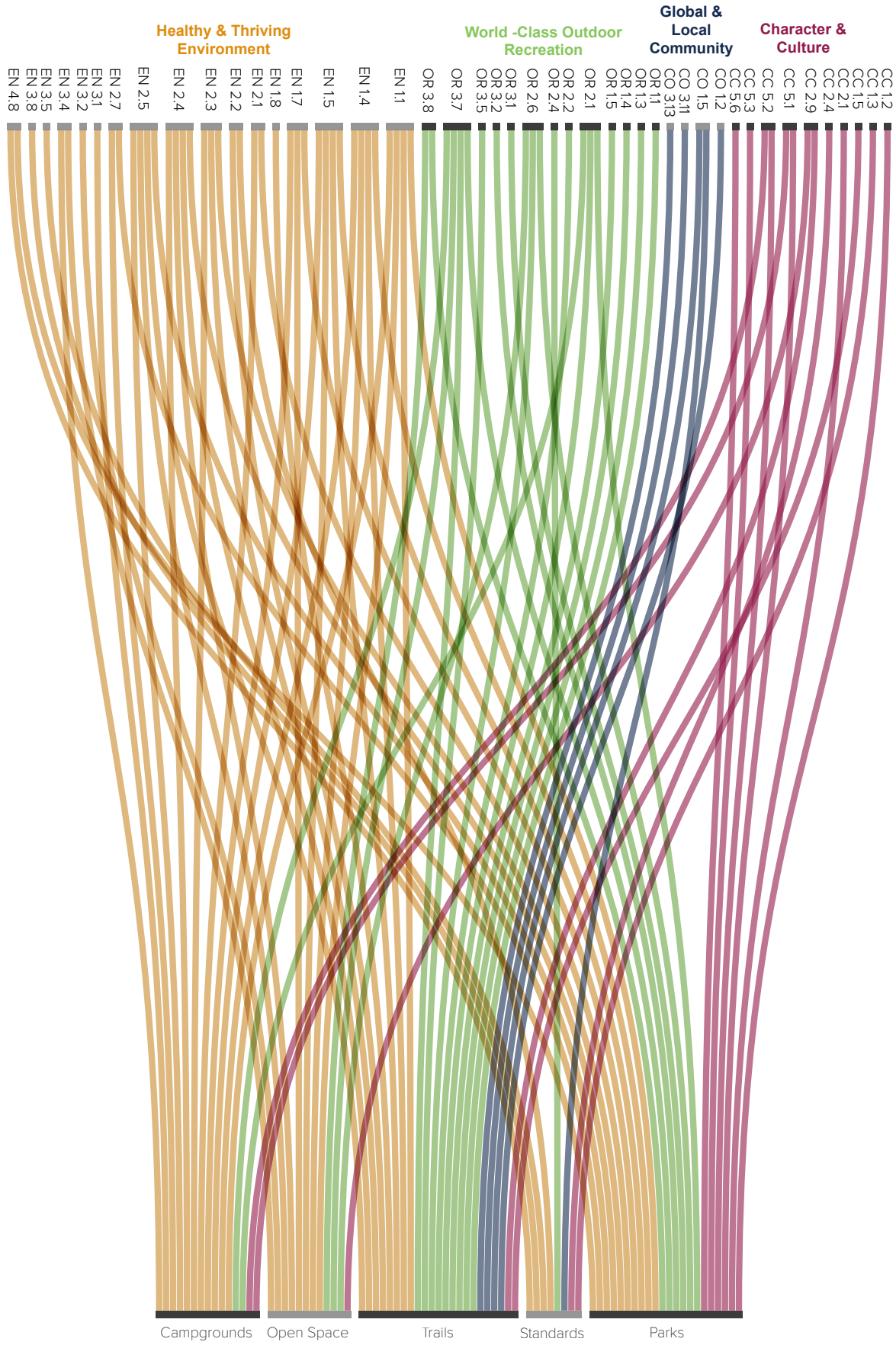


FIGURE 1–3. The infographic above illustrates how these strategies feed into different sections of the plan.

Study Area

The primary study area for this master plan focuses on land within the Town of Winter Park's boundary and Town-owned resources. Additional land areas and resources were evaluated within the US Forest Service lands and lands identified in the Town's *Three Mile Area Plan*. The map below provides a high-level over overview of the study area and resource locations.

The table on the following page lists the resources identified in this master plan. Existing resources are current parcels and trails that the Town owns or has a stake in. Future resources include parks and trails that will be dedicated to the Town if they are acquired. Several open space areas are listed here but are not located within the Town boundary. These were identified in the *Three Mile Area Plan* as potential annexation areas. If these are annexed and developed, open space areas will be eventually dedicated to the Town within these parcels.

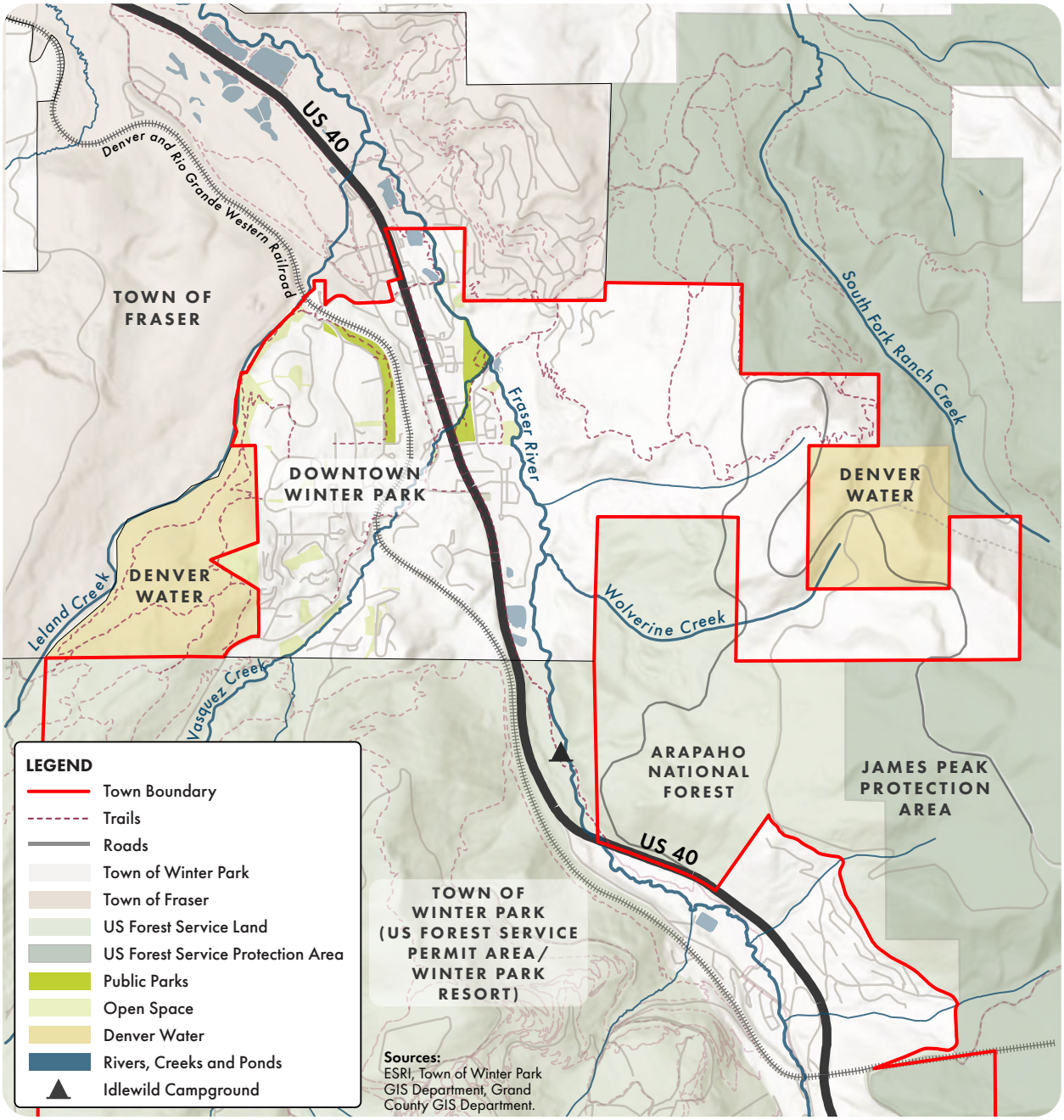


FIGURE 1–4. Map of study area for this master plan.

	Resource Name	Existing Resource	Future Resource	Town-Owned	Co-Management (if applicable)
Parks	Hideaway Park	x		x	
	Confluence Park	x		x	
	Wolf Park	x		x	
	Porphyry Park		x	x	Rendezvous
	Pocket Parks 1 & 2		x	x	Roam
	Neighborhood Park		x	x	Roam
	Forest Spur Park		x	x	Rendezvous
	Ranch Creek Park		x	x	Rendezvous
	Idlewild Park		x	x	Rendezvous
Trails	Alpine Trail	x		x	
	Leland Creek Trail	x		x	
	Sundog Trail	x			Denver Water
	Razzmatazz	x			Denver Water
	Sunset Pink	x			Denver Water
	Neighborhood Trails	x	x	x	
	Ski Back Trail		x	x	Cooper Creek & Winter Park Resort (Permit Area) & US Forest Service
	Vasquez / Arapahoe Connector		x	x	Winter Park Resort (Permit Area) & US Forest Service
	New MTB Trails (West Side of US 40)		x		Denver Water
	Fraser River Trail	x	x	x	Town of Fraser & Roam & US Forest Service & Winter Park Resort (Permit Area)
	Vasquez Creek Trail	x		x	
	Trailhead Lodge Trail	x		x	
	Meadow Trail	x		x	Town of Fraser & Rendezvous & US Forest Service
	Whoops Trail	x		x	Rendezvous & US Forest Service
	Crosstrails	x		x	Town of Fraser & Rendezvous & US Forest Service
	Yankee Doodle Trail	x		x	Rendezvous
	Serendipity	x		x	Rendezvous & US Forest Service
	Arrow Trail	x		x	Rendezvous & US Forest Service
	Depot Trail	x		x	Rendezvous & Denver Water & US Forest Service
	Porphyry Trail		x	x	Rendezvous & Roam
	Future Dedicated Trails in Rendezvous		x	x	Rendezvous
Campgrounds	Dispersed Camping	x			US Forest Service
	Idlewild Campground	x			US Forest Service
	Midland Campground	x			US Forest Service
	Robbers Roost	x			US Forest Service
	St. Louis Creek Campground	x			US Forest Service
Open Space	Existing Town-Owned Open Space Parcels	x		x	US Forest Service
	US Forest Service LOAP Parcel	x	TBD		
	Snowshoe Parcel	x	TBD		Private
	Denver Water East	x	TBD		Denver Water
	Denver Water West	x	TBD		Denver Water

Planning Process

Development of this master plan took place over the course of a two year period. The project kicked off in early 2023 with initial site walks and kick-off meetings. The project was broken up into two phases with Phase 1 focusing on the development of the Parks chapter in the first year of the project and Phase 2 focusing on the remaining land uses including Trails, Campgrounds, and Open Space.

Each chapter was developed using the same framework and consisted of three primary development periods structured around Inventory and Analysis, Development of Concepts and Recommendations, and Draft Plan Review and Acceptance.

Development periods are as follows:

Inventory and Analysis

- This period consisted of organizing GIS data, reviewing background documents, field inventory and assessment of resources, and community outreach.

Development of Concepts and Recommendations

- This period consisted of developing concepts and recommendations for the identified resources and organizing/developing the chapter contents. Stakeholder meetings occurred during this time.

Draft Plan Review and Acceptance

- During this period, Town staff reviewed the draft chapters and provided comments to the planning team. These comments were incorporated into a final draft which was followed by a presentation to Town Council.

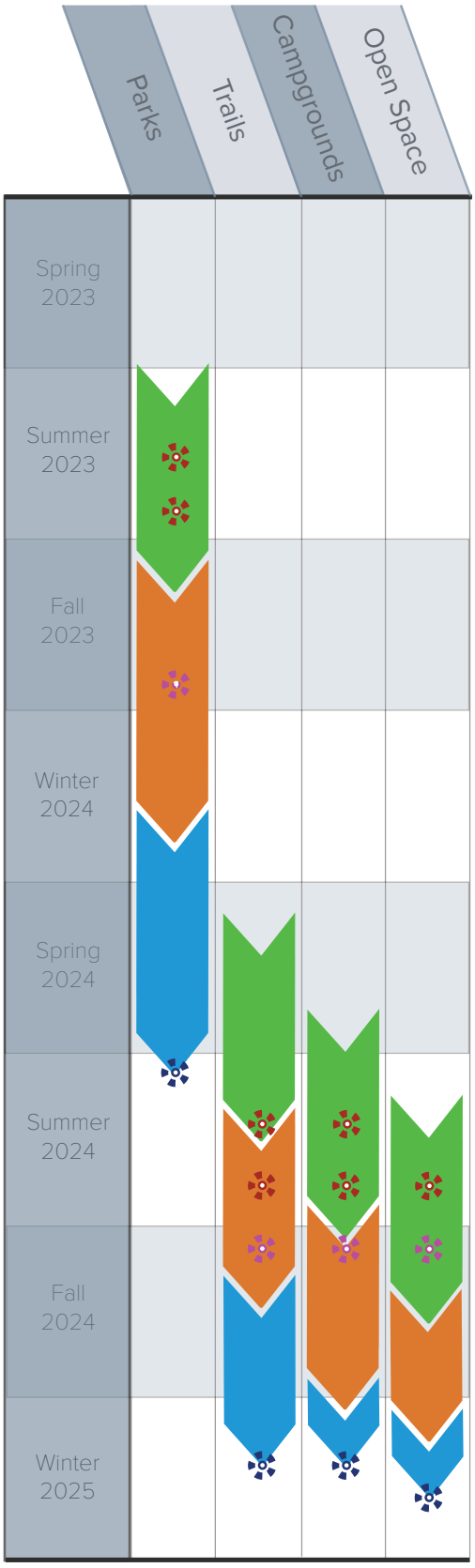


FIGURE 1–5. The graphics above illustrate the periods of developments and at what point they occurred for each chapter. Stakeholder and community meetings were often held at the same time for multiple sections to streamline the collection of public input.

Implementation Strategies

This section identifies the actions and associated projects the Town will need to undertake to implement the recommendations identified in this master plan. An approximate time frame and estimated price range are provided to help the Town outline priorities for the next five to ten years.

More information on the benefits and purpose of these strategies can be found within the recommendations sections in Chapters II through V of this report.

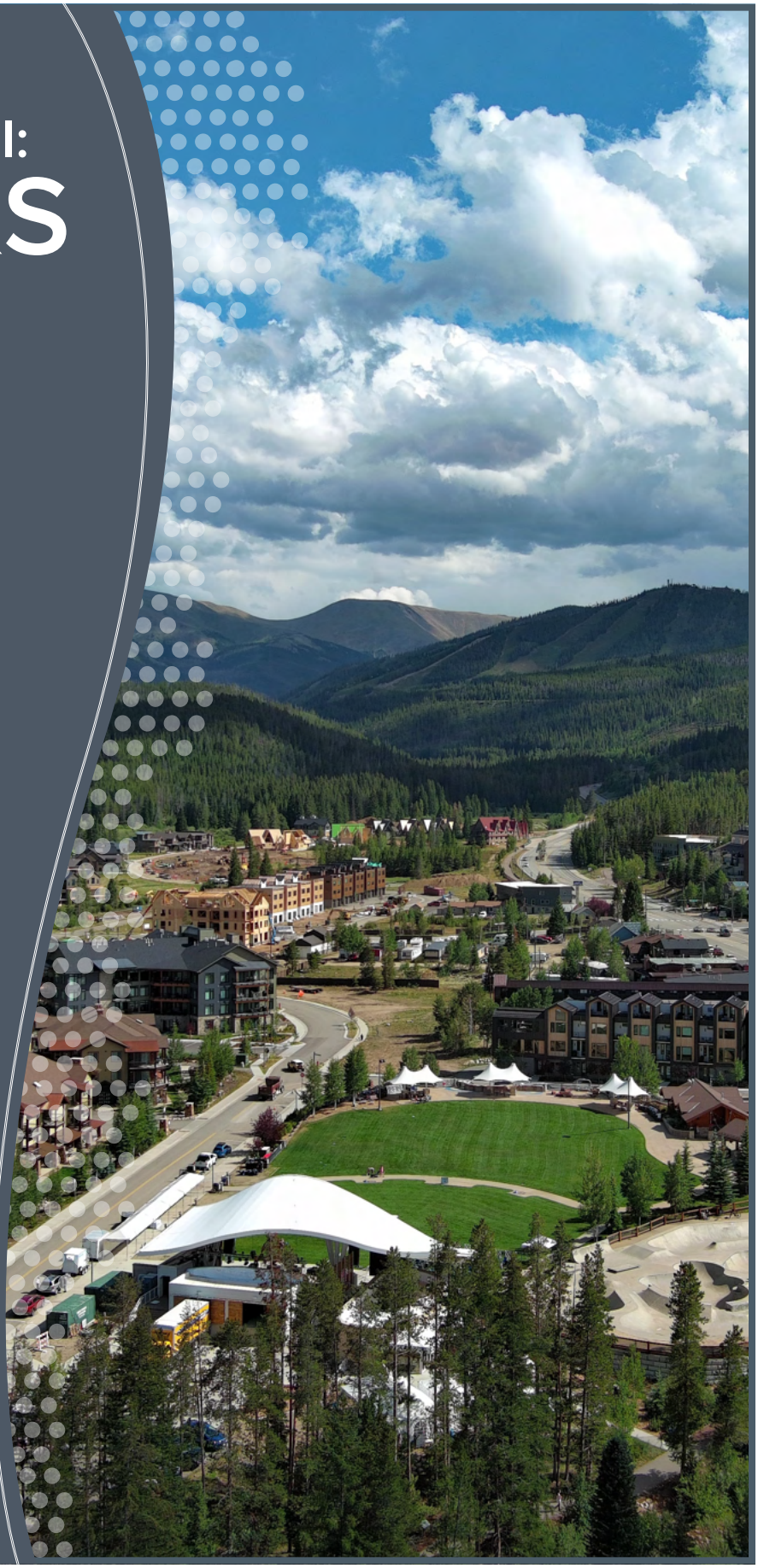
	Recommended Actions / Projects	Priority	Relative Cost	Related Chapter Page #	
GROUP A: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND AGREEMENTS THAT SUPPORT THE TOWN'S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM					
A.1	Regional Signage and Wayfinding Plan Addresses locations and style for trail and park signage identified in this master plan including: park signage, trailhead kiosk, directional signage, mile markers, MTB/designated use signage, and hazard/etiquette signage.	Ongoing	$$$	Trails	31
A.2	Winter Park Natural Resource Management Plan Provides a study and assessment of key natural resources (Fraser River, Vasquez Creek, Forests, Wetlands, Viewsheds etc.) within Town boundary and outlines goals for preserving and managing these resources. This plan will address regional needs identified in the Imagine Winter Park that cannot be achieved through this master plan including: Protect the integrity of significant wildlife habitat and movement corridors (EN 2.2) and identify ways to reduce conflicts between wildlife, humans, and domestic animals (EN 3.6) Provide recommendations for fire mitigation to reduce community vulnerability (EN 2.6 and 3.4) Provide viewshed analysis to identify significant viewsheds within Town and provide recommendations for managing viewsheds (EN 2.7) Provide recommendations to become a Dark Sky Community (EN 3.2)	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$	-	-
A.3	Stewardship Agreement with the US Forest Service Plan outlining Town's mutual interest in surrounding resources and the responsibilities the Town (or a contracted partner) will take on to assist with surrounding land management.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$	Campgrounds	-
A.4	Sustainability Master Plan Develop a plan that outlines sustainable initiatives of the Town identified in the Imagine Winter Park plan.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$	-	-
GROUP B: IMPROVE HIDEAWAY PARK PER MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS.					
B.1	Replace playground at Hideaway Park with unique, play features that meet community needs and provides a range of opportunities for all ages and abilities. Replace post and rail fence along US 40 with improved barrier to aid in safety and security.	Ongoing	$$$	Parks	25-29
B.3	Implement improvements along Vasquez Creek Trail and Helen's Spot in Hideaway Park	Ongoing	$$	Parks	25-29
B.5	Provide a information kiosk on the south end of the park to orient visitors to the larger park/trail system. Provide equipment to repair and park bikes near the entrance to the park. Improve ADA parking and replace ramp near entrance to park.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$	Parks	25-29
B.6	Provide an Operations and Maintenance Building at the north end of Hideaway Park to accommodate maintenance staff and storage needs.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$$	Parks	25-29

	Recommended Actions / Projects	Priority	Relative Cost	Related Chapter Page #	
GROUP C: IMPROVE CONFLUENCE PARK PER MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS.					
C.1	Replace existing fly-fishing deck to be code and ADA compliant	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$	Parks	35-37
C.2	Improve Vasquez Creek Trail through park by replacing trail structures and incorporating defined seating/picnic areas and interpretive signage along the route.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$	Parks Trails	35-37 43
C.3	Improve bike near parking and entrance of Confluence Park	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$	Parks	35-37
GROUP D: IMPROVE WOLF PARK PER MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS.					
D.1	Provide new accessible ramp from ADA parking space to restroom building.	Ongoing	$	Parks	47-49
D.2	Redesign Wolf Park to provide improved amenities including playground, pickleball courts, and parking. Improve accessibility from parking to restroom, Alpine Trail, and other amenities within the park. Address drainage issues during redesign.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$$	Parks	47-49
GROUP E: IMPLEMENT PARKS DEDICATED BY ROAM COMMUNITY PER MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS. (PORPHYRY PARK, POCKET PARKS 1 & 2, and NEIGHBORHOOD PARK)					
E.1	Implement Pocket Parks 1 & 2 as part of Phase 1 Fraser River Trail Improvements.	Ongoing	$$$	Parks	
E.2	Design and develop Neighborhood Park with amenities identified in the master plan including a unique playground (primarily serving ages 5-12 with some ADA features, a multi-use field practice field with space for 3v3 soccer, and a pavilion / Fraser River overlook.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	Developer to Cover Cost	Parks	
E.3	Design and develop Porphyry Park parcel in Roam alongside Rendezvous parcel. Town to aid in cost of development on the Roam portion of parcel including parking, restroom, picnic area, trail, and trailhead kiosk. The Town is responsible for cost of project in Roam community. Roam will cover the cost of the access road to the park. Work with the Roam during road alignment to determine appropriate parking area location.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$$	Parks	52-55
GROUP F: IMPLEMENT PARKS DEDICATED BY RENDEZVOUS COMMUNITY PER MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS. (PORPHYRY PARK, FOREST SPUR PARK, RANCH CREEK PARK, IDLEWILD PARK)					
F.1	Implement Idlewild Park as part of current development program along Ski Idlewild Road. Park programming will include an ADA accessible nature play playground, restroom building, multi-use play field, and picnic pavilion.	Ongoing	Developer to Cover Cost	Parks	
F.2	Design and develop Porphyry Park parcel in Rendezvous alongside Roam parcel. Developer to cover cost of development in Rendezvous portion of parcel including parking, restroom, trailhead kiosk, nuptial knoll/overlook, fenced dog park, and trails/trail connections. Rendezvous developer is responsible for cost of project in their parcel. Town will work with developer to coordinate development of the adjacent Roam parcel.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Developer to Cover Cost	Parks	
F.3	Design and develop Forest Spur Park with amenities identified in the master plan including a parking area, trailhead, and picnic area.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Developer to Cover Cost	Parks	
F.4	Design and develop Ranch Creek Park with passive recreational amenities identified in the master plan including a small parking area, vault toilet, and picnic site.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Developer to Cover Cost	Parks	
GROUP G: IMPROVE WEST SIDE TRAILS					
G.1	Implement improvements at Alpine Trail identified in master plan. Improve trail for accessibility to meet ORAR (Outdoor Recreation Access Routes standards. *Associated Action: D.2 - Wolf Park Improvements*	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$	Trails	
G.2	Implement improvements at Leland Creek Trail identified in master plan. Improve trail for accessibility to meet ORAR (Outdoor Recreation Access Routes standards. Develop trailhead and parking area at intersection of Leland Creek Circle and Kings Crossing Road. Leland Creek Trail for access to Leland Creek and Alpine Trail.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$	Trails	

	Recommended Actions / Projects	Priority	Relative Cost	Related Chapter Page #	
GROUP G: IMPROVE WEST SIDE TRAILS (CONTINUED)					
G.3	Improve existing trails in the Denver Water West parcel (Sundog, Razzmatazz, Sunset Pink and Akima's Way) to provide a more cohesive MTB experience. Develop new trail alignments in the Denver Water West parcel to improve connectivity and offer more MTB opportunities to beginners and more experienced riders. Design sustainable trails in a sustainable manner, limiting disturbance to sensitive natural resources and areas. *Associated Action: L.4 - Acquire Denver Water West Parcel*	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$$	Trails	
G.4	Incorporate signage and wayfinding along Neighborhood Trails and Shared Use Roads in locations identified in the master plan. Incorporate select improvements along Neighborhood Trails to improve screening from adjacent residences (fences, tree buffers, etc.) and deter public vehicular parking outside of trailheads. Work with private landowners to acquire trail easements along properties. *Associated Action: A.1 - Regional Signage and Wayfinding Plan*	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$	Trails	
G.5	Coordinate with Cooper Creek developer, the Resort, and the US Forest Service to provide a ski back trail from Winter Park Resort (US Forest Service Permit Area) through the proposed Cooper Creek development south of the Town Parking Garage.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Developer to Cover Cost	Trails	
G.6	Extend sidewalk along Vasquez Road to Twin Bridges trailhead/parking area. Coordinate with the US Forest Service to evaluate, improve, and expand parking areas at Vasquez Road and Arapahoe Road.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$$	Trails	
GROUP H: IMPROVE EAST SIDE TRAILS					
H.1	Develop Phase 1 Fraser River Trail realignment along the east side of the Roam Community. Incorporate two Pocket Parks align the alignment.. *Associated Action: E.1 - Pocket Parks*	Ongoing	$$$	Trails	
H.2	Develop Phase 2 Fraser River Trail realignment further north to connect to existing Fraser River trail at Telemark Drive. Aim to provide accessible width, passing, and surface along the entire alignment. In the future, consider a Phase 3 that will realign the trail further east of US 40 and connect the Roam community to Idlewild Campground.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$$	Trails	
H.3	Implement improvements at Vasquez Creek Trail identified in master plan. Improve trail for accessibility to meet ORAR (Outdoor Recreation Access Routes standards. *Associated Action: C.2 - Confluence Park Improvements*	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$	Trails	
H.4	Install trail signage along Ski Idlewild Road to denote location of Meadow Trail. Designate Ski Idlewild Road as a Shared Use Road.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$	Trails	
H.5	Coordinate with Rendezvous Community to develop a program to monitor, maintain, and sign trails. *Associated Action: A.1 - Regional Signage and Wayfinding Plan*	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$	Trails	
H.6	Advocate for the protection of existing trail alignments in Rendezvous Community and aim to provide a wide buffer along both sides of the trail to maintain scenic integrity and limit the number of road crossings to protect pedestrians. (Whoops Trail, Yankee Doodle Trail, Crosstrails, Serendipity, Arrow, Depot, and all future scenic trails to be developed by Rendezvous Community).	Ongoing	Developer to Cover Cost (Town to Provide Input)	Trails	
H.7	Implement trail signage and formalize parking where Yankee Doodle Trail intersects with roads (Ski Idlewild Road, Corona Pass Road, etc.)	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$	Trails	
H.8	Acquire and develop an easement for Depot Trail through Denver Water East parcel to connect trail to the historic Arrow Town Site. Provide clear signage and wayfinding to and from the site.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$	Trails	
H.9	Advocate for the development of trails alignments identified by Rendezvous developer in the 2008 Final Development Plan (FDP). Implement trailhead parking where feasible where these alignments cross through roads and through planned parks such as Porphyry and Forest Spur. *Associated Actions: F.2 / F.3 - Development of Forest Spur and Porphyry Park*	Ongoing	Developer to Cover Cost (Town to Provide Input)	Trails	

	Recommended Actions / Projects	Priority	Relative Cost	Related Chapter Page #	
GROUP I: IMPLEMENT DISPERSED CAMPING PROGRAMMING					
I.1	Implement *Dispersed Camping Program 1 : Education and Outreach* which calls for the Town to work with the US Forest Service and groups like Winter Park and Fraser Chamber to improve and standardize public outreach and education for dispersed camping in the region.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	Program Cost TBD	Campgrounds	
I.2	Implement *Dispersed Camping Program 2: Monitoring and Stewardship* which calls for the Town to work with the US Forest Service and a third-party to maintain a series of existing sites that meet the criteria for legal dispersed camping and monitor/repair areas that do not meet the requirements.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	Program Cost TBD	Campgrounds	
I.3	Implement *Dispersed Camping Program 3: Enforcement and Regulation* which calls for the Town to work with the US Forest Service and the Resort to improve law enforcement in the region.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	Program Cost TBD	Campgrounds	
I.4	Work with the US Forest Service to establish a Designated Dispersed Camping Area/Zone. Town or third-party to fund the development of an Environmental Assessment to determine location and scale of the dispersed camping area. Town to consider a "Crested Butte model" where dispersed camping is regulated to one area outside of Town where sites are marked and maintained.	Short Term (0-5 Years)	Program Cost TBD	Campgrounds	
GROUP J: IMPROVE ESTABLISHED CAMPGROUNDS					
J.1	Improve and expand camping opportunities/quality at campgrounds along the Fraser River. Implement campsite improvements per best practices, aiming to develop clearly delineated sites with ample buffering and safe, stabilized access to the Fraser River.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Grant Assistance	Campgrounds	
J.2	Coordinate with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and US Forest Service to improve access to Idlewild, Midland, and Robbers Roost Campgrounds along US 40. Clearly sign access along highway and provide turning lanes where feasible to aid in safe access to campgrounds. Investigate the feasibility of connecting the three campgrounds via an extended trail system.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$$	Campgrounds	
I.3	Initiate an Environmental Assessment/Feasibility Study to expand established camping opportunities at St. Louis Creek Campground. The site may be able to accommodate an additional camping loop that would more than double the camping capacity of the site.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Grant Assistance	Campgrounds	
GROUP K: IMPROVE EXISTING OPEN SPACE PARCELS					
K.1	Implement recommendations at existing public open space parcels identified in master plan. Implement programming to remove non-native plant species, manage native plans and forests, preserve/enhance wetland and water resources, and enhance wildlife habitat.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	$$	Open Space	
K.2	Work with private landowners to preserve and manage existing privately-owned open space parcels. Work with private landowners to develop trail easements within these parcels.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Grant Assistance/ Private Land Owners	Open Space	
GROUP L: ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PROTECTIONS ON FUTURE PARCEL ANNEXATIONS					
L.1	If the US Forest Service LOAP Parcel is acquired for development, and annexed into the Town boundary, work with the developer to preserve and protect the Wolverine Creek drainage as a high-priority conservation area. Advocate for the preservation of public open space, trail connections, viewsheds, riparian/wetland habitat, and resources identified in this master plan.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Program Cost TBD	Open Space	
L.2	If the Snowshoe Parcel is acquired for development, and annexed into the Town boundary, work with the developer to preserve and protect the wetland and riparian resources along the Fraser River. Advocate for a trail easement for the Fraser River Trail.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Program Cost TBD	Open Space	
L.3	If the Denver Water East Parcel is acquired for development, and annexed into the Town boundary, work with the developer to preserve and protect public open space, trail connections, viewsheds, riparian/wetland habitat, and resources identified in this master plan. Preserve and develop the Arrow Town Site as pubic open space and interpret the history of the site.	Long Term (0-10 Years)	Program Cost TBD	Open Space	
L.4	Acquire the Denver Water West parcel as a Town-owned public open space for the purposes of expanding MTB recreation along the west side of Town. Preserve and protect public open space, trail connections, viewsheds, riparian/wetland habitat along Leland Creek and resources identified in this master plan. *Associated Action: G.3 - Develop the Denver Water West parcel*	Short Term (0-5 Years)	$$$	Open Space	

CHAPTER II:
PARKS



PARKS

Introduction

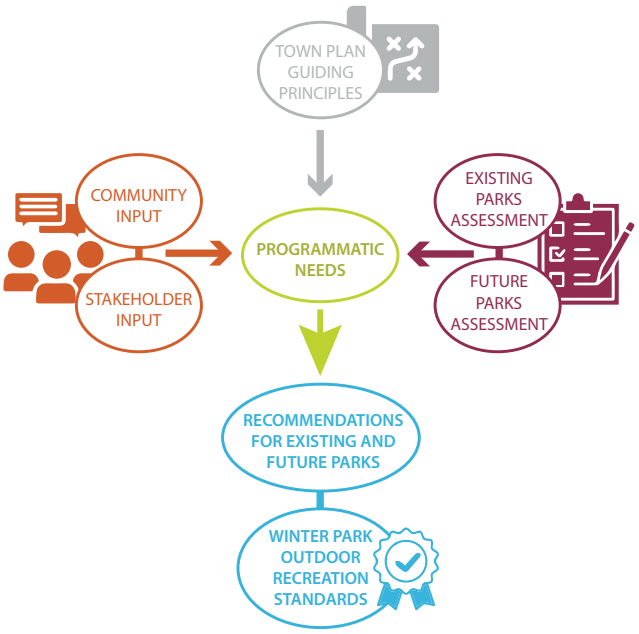
For a town with the word “park” in its name, this master plan takes on an added layer of responsibility. The Town of Winter Park (the Town) has identified as a park since its early establishment when it was known as the Village of Hideaway Park. Today, the Town serves as a premiere destination for outdoor recreation for all seasons. This "park" identity is reflected throughout the entire valley, the ski resort, and the surrounding peaks and mountain passes. All these features are thought of as one large park, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The purpose of the Parks section of this report is to take a broad look at the Town’s existing and future parks, provide inventory and analysis of current conditions, assess needs and opportunities of the Town staff and larger community, and provide recommendations guiding improvements and future development. These recommendations inform the *Outdoor Recreation Standards* chapter of this report and aid Town staff in decision-making.

Existing Park Standards

The Town of Winter Park does not have a set of written standards for its parks. The Town staff identified this as a need to maintain and care for its existing and future parks. Previously developed standards reviewed by the consultant team include the *Town of Winter Park Landscape Design Regulations and Guidelines* (1997), the *Town of Winter Park Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction* (2012), and the *Town of Winter Park Unified Development Code* (Town UDC) (2021).

These documents provide general guidance on new construction, but are not currently utilized for the purpose of park planning or upkeep. The consultant team has evaluated these documents and incorporated the appropriate and relevant material into this chapter as well as ***Chapter VI: Outdoor Recreation Standards***.



PART II PARKS FRAMEWORK

Town Plan Guiding Principles
Community Input
Stakeholder Input
Programmatic Needs
Existing Parks Assessment
Recommendations for Existing Parks
Future Parks Assessment
Recommendations for Future Parks

See Part VI Winter Park Outdoor Standards

FIGURE 2–1. This chapter is organized using the following visual structure. Color guides on each page indicate if that page corresponds to either Guiding Principles, Input, Assessment or Recommendations. Park Assessments & Recommendations are grouped together for user ease.

Parks Overview

As of 2025, the Town features three parks within the town boundary: Hideaway, Confluence, and Wolf Park.

Located on the east side of US 40 are Hideaway Park and Confluence Park - a set of parks connected by the Vasquez Creek Trail corridor. Hideaway Park acts as the premiere destination within the Town, offering a variety of high-quality amenities including a performance venue, rock climbing wall, and skate park. Confluence Park is a short walk downstream from Hideaway Park along the Vasquez Creek. This natural park offers a respite from town and provides opportunities to connect with the Fraser River.

On the west side of US 40 sits Wolf Park - a neighborhood park with a variety of court sports and play amenities centered along the forested Alpine Trail.

Seven additional parks are set to be incorporated into the town boundary after their completion of the Roam and Rendezvous Communities. The character of these future parks varies, from neighborhood-scale parks with playgrounds and active recreation amenities, to natural parks providing public access to mountainside and riparian environments for trails and passive recreation.

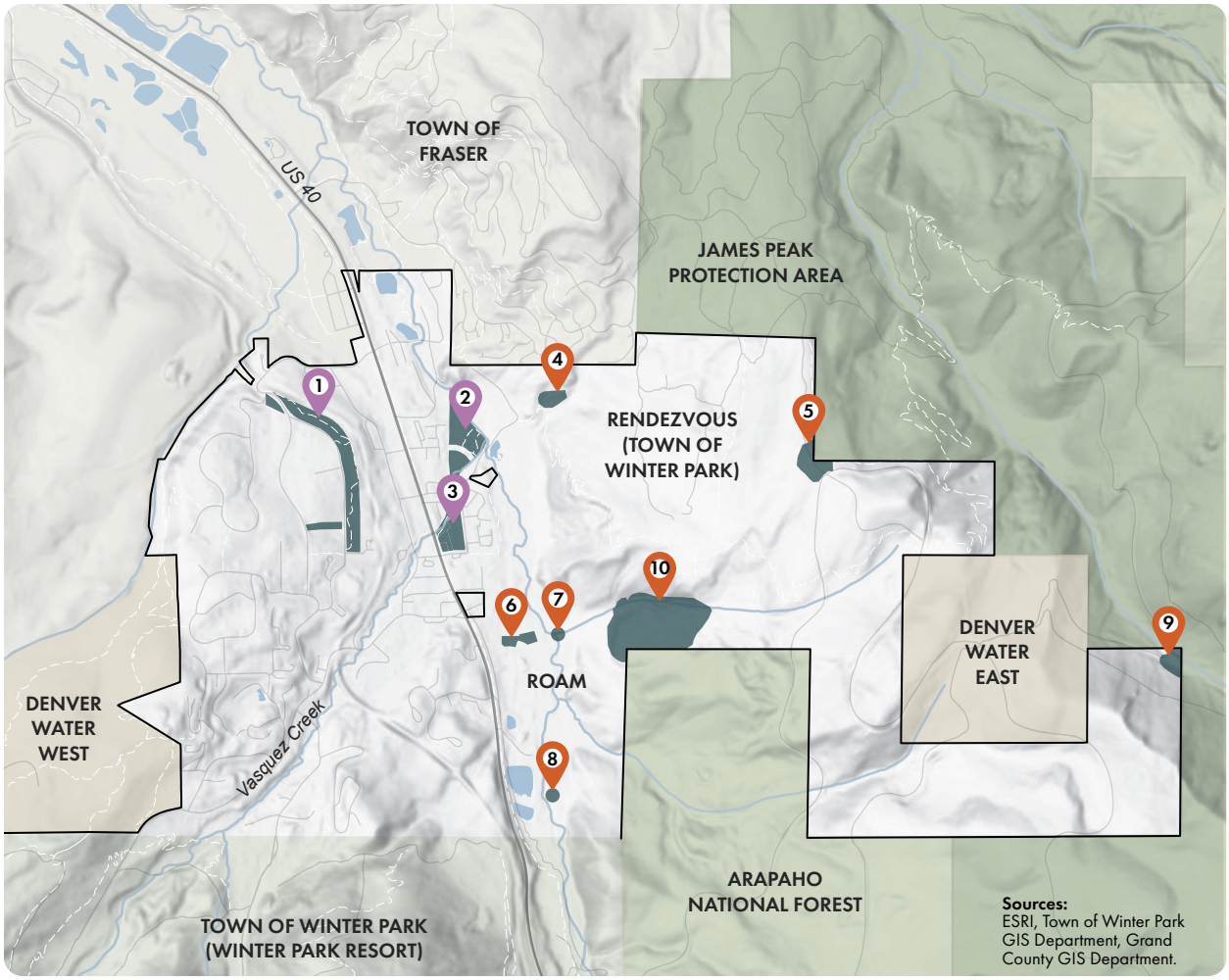


FIGURE 2–2. Town of Winter Park context map with the locations of existing and proposed parks.

Town Plan Guiding Principles

This Parks section builds upon the strategies outlined in the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* and uses them as the foundation for its guiding principles for existing and future parks.

Culture

- Provide high-quality amenities that promote community gathering and foster a sense of community pride.
- Integrate a public outreach process into the early stage of all future park designs to gain community insight into highly desired amenities and garner community support.
- Incorporate universal access into new park developments and provide amenities that accommodate a range of abilities.

Connectivity

- Develop an interconnected system of parks, trails and open space.
- Incorporate a set of standard design elements across the parks system that convey a consistent design language and aesthetic across the parks system.

Recreation

- Maintain and provide world-class recreational opportunities within the parks system.
- Coordinate with the community stakeholders and neighboring towns to identify and prioritize new amenities within the Town and Grand County.

Environment

- Develop best management practices for protecting scenic, cultural and natural features across the parks system.
- Prioritize restoring degraded natural features to promote quality habitat throughout the parks system.
- Implement sustainable design solutions into new park designs.

	Strategy	Vision Statement
Character and Culture	CC 1.2	Continue to provide & support the cultural arts through music festivals, concert series, and gathering spaces fostering a creative & fun environment to live in & visit.
	CC 2.1	Incorporate public places into future development.
	CC 5.1	Allow for publicly accessible parks, plazas, and open spaces in both design and policy, meeting the goal of being an inviting community.
	CC 5.2	Include neighborhood-scale parks and open spaces within developments that are fully accessible to the public.
	CC 5.3	Enhance existing parks with recreational opportunities that promote gathering and conversation.
	CC 5.6	Continue to support community gatherings and events that bring people together.
World-Class Outdoor Recreation	OR 2.1	Develop recreational opportunities suited to short, daily activities.
	OR 2.6	Collaborate with public, private, & non-profit entities to increase recreation opportunities for everyone.
	OR 3.1	Actively market our cross seasonal opportunities and the range of opportunities available to all skill levels.
	OR 3.2	Actively track and evaluate outdoor recreational trends to ensure the town stays relevant & competitive.
	OR 3.7	Examine regional solutions when responding to evolving recreational preferences and opportunities (e.g. determining where a facility would fit best).
	OR 3.8	Capitalize on & enhance existing recreational facilities.
Healthy and Thriving Environment	EN 1.1	Protect & increase physical and visual access to waterways within and around the Town.
	EN 1.4	Strengthen the Fraser River & its associated floodplain as a recreational & economic amenity while preserving the riparian habitat.
	EN 1.5	Protect the viability of natural wetlands & watercourses as a key component of our natural & built environments.
	EN 1.7	Restore or enhance degraded or disturbed waterways to improve ecological conditions, aesthetics, & recreation.
	EN 2.1	Support forest biodiversity and control the invasion & spread of undesirable non-native plants, animals, & insects.
	EN 2.3	Protect the integrity of significant wildlife habitat & movement corridors.
	EN 2.4	Foster alliances and partnerships with organizations that are working toward a healthy & thriving environment.
	EN 2.5	Promote education & understanding of public lands through appropriate recreational activities, formal and non-formal education, and interpretive programs.
	EN 2.7	Protect significant viewsheds to maintain our connection with the natural environment.
	EN 4.5	Continue participation in the Compact of Colorado Communities & establish climate action initiatives and goals.
	EN 4.8	Promote green building practices in new construction & existing buildings.

FIGURE 2–3. The strategies above from the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* relate directly to the principles that guide the Parks section of this report.

Community Input

Community input was gathered through in-person and online engagement. In the Summer and Fall of 2023, the Town and the consultant team held two community pop-up events during High-Note Thursdays at Hideaway Park to engage the public on the Parks Master Plan. A series of graphic boards were set up to share information on existing and proposed parks and to allow the public to learn about the surrounding amenities and provide comment. Town staff and the consultant team attended to answer questions, discuss issues, and guide the public to the online survey. This survey was available from August to October 2023. Over 100 participants engaged with the consultant team during the two High-Note Thursday events and 215 individuals shared comments via the online survey.

Key takeaways from community input are located on the following pages.

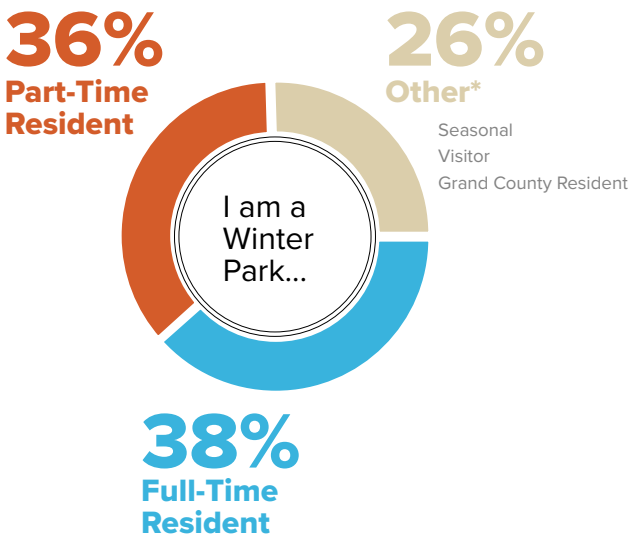


FIGURE 2–4. Community members engaged with the consultant team and town staff during a High-Note pop-up event. They were encouraged to participate in an online survey on their preferences and opinions on existing and proposed parks.

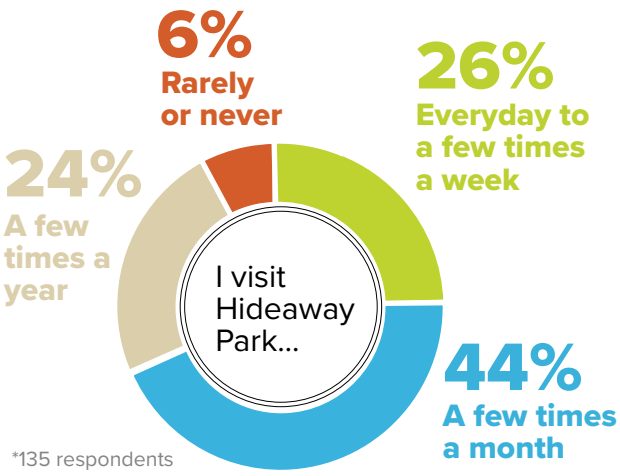
Key Takeaways on the Overall Park System:

- Participants would prefer to be able to walk or bike to parks. Finding parking during public events is difficult due to limited vehicle parking. Bike parking is readily available;
- A little over half of participants expressed that they felt the parks served all age groups; however, most of the existing amenities are catered towards an audience under 18-years of age and fewer amenities are catered to individuals over 65. Individuals expressed a need for amenities for smaller children ages 2 to 5;
- 74% of respondents were satisfied with existing park amenities;
- Outside of the Town, participants are using the Fraser Valley Sports Complex, Grand Park Community Recreation Center, and pickleball courts in Granby to meet their recreational needs in the region;
- Indoor and outdoor pickleball and tennis courts were consistently mentioned as high-demand amenity needed in the Fraser Valley to support year-round recreation;
- Participants believe the Town is unique for its scenic views, proximity to recreational access, vibrant community, and small-town feel;
- Participants expressed a need for standard furnishings throughout the parks such as dog waste dispensers, water-filling stations, accessible site furnishings, and bike repair stalls.

Key Takeaways on Hideaway Park:

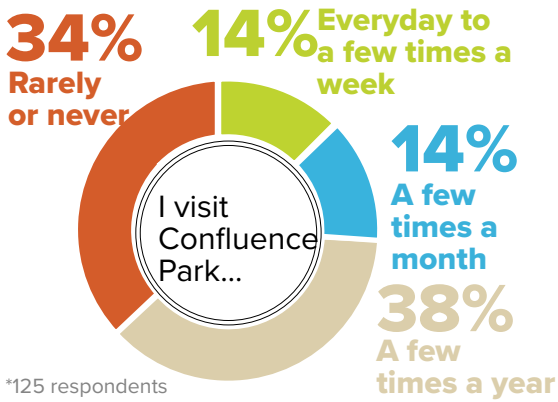
- Participants appreciate the variety of amenities at Hideaway Park, scenic views, its central location, and its close proximity to Vasquez Creek;
- Public events (concerts and festivals) are one of the primary attractions that bring people into Hideaway Park;
- The skatepark and sledding hill are heavily used amenities;
- Participants felt the playground needed upgrades and that the space could benefit from a swing set or other play features;
- Participants expressed a need for more vehicle and bike parking for larger events and more shade trees.

Most requested park amenities from survey participants



Key Takeaways on Confluence Park:

- Participants appreciate Confluence Park for its scenic beauty, natural noise, loop trail, secluded feel, and fishing access;
- The fishing deck is a popular amenity for fishing, river viewing, and Sunday Yoga;
- Participants expressed interest in more trails and connections to the surrounding trail system, parking, and more amenities along the loop trail.



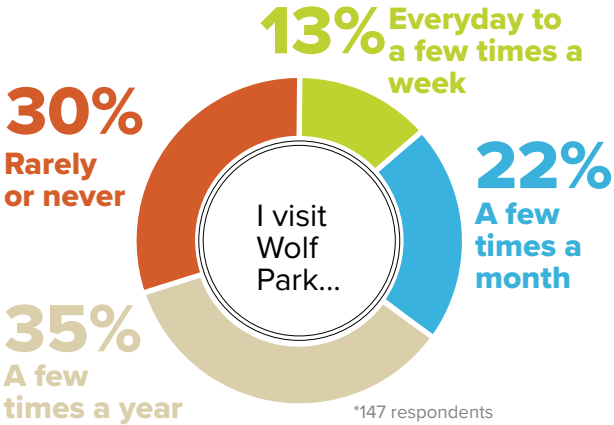
Key Takeaways on Wolf Park:

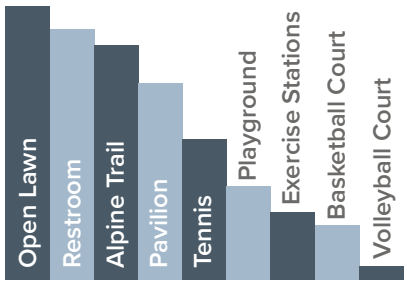
- Most participants access Wolf Park via car;
- Participants appreciate the secluded feeling of Wolf Park and its isolation from the traffic and noise of US 40, its cleanliness, its accessibility during the winter months (groomed trails and parking), and its scenic views to the mountains;
- The tennis court is a very popular amenity and multiple participants noted needing to wait to use it;
- The lawn and pavilion are popular spaces for yoga and gathering;
- The basketball court is not ideal due to its uphill, forested location. It gets slippery and covered with leaves.

Most popular amenities among participants

Key Takeaways on Future Parks:

- In general, participants were satisfied by the addition of new parks; however, they expressed that some proposed parks felt undersized. They expressed a need for more parks and open space to offset the increased housing development/density and retain the natural character of the Fraser Valley;
- Participants expressed that future parks should be of high-quality design and offer diverse amenities for passive and active recreation;
- Participants expressed that several of the proposed amenities do not feel adequate for the amount of surrounding land proposed for housing development;
- Participants expressed the need for both indoor and outdoor pickleball and tennis courts for year-round use;
- It was unclear to participants if future parks would be available to public use since they were often located within larger housing developments associated with the Roam and Rendezvous Communities.





Most popular amenities among participants

Stakeholder Input

The Town and consultant team identified stakeholders who have an overlapping interest in the existing and future parks within the Town's boundary. Stakeholders include the Town of Fraser, the Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District, Winter Park Resort, and the Winter Park and Fraser Chamber. Stakeholders were interviewed to determine potential partnerships to meet community needs. The parks and recreational facilities administered by these stakeholders, as well as notable partnerships, are examined and presented on the following pages.

The Town of Fraser

<u>Parks and Recreational Facilities:</u>

Mountain Man Park

Mountain Man Park is along the Fraser River Trail at the Rendezvous Bridge over the Fraser River. Cozens Ranch Homestead is a historic log cabin within the park. The park provides the following amenities:

- Interpretive historic elements;
- Playground with log climbing feature;
- Shade structure with fireplace;
- Picnic tables, grills, and benches

Old School House Park

The Old Schoolhouse Park is located next to Fraser Town Hall and adjacent to Fraser Valley Elementary School. This civic area is located in a residential neighborhood and acts as the venue for weekly evening concerts in the summer. The park provides the following amenities:

- Shade structure;
- Playground;
- Fenced tennis courts (2);
- Picnic tables, grills, bike racks, and benches

Cozens Ranch Open Space

Cozens Ranch Open Space is a 120-acre located north of Downtown Winter Park along the boundaries of Fraser, Winter Park, and County Road 804. The open space underwent a master planning process in 2018 which identified recreational needs that overlapped with the Town of Winter Park. In addition to trail connections and parking recommendations, their master plan identified the area near Lions Pond as an opportunity to be converted into an active park. The following amenities were proposed:

- A central plaza for gatherings and event with restrooms and shade structures for picnicking;
- Formalized water access to the Lions Club ponds and Fraser River;
- Formalized memorial area;
- Nature playground;
- Dispersed picnic area;
- Sloped amphitheater;
- ADA accessible dock and fishing point;
- Natural exploration course;
- Bike skills course;
- Pond-side fire pit;
- Constructed wetlands

<u>On-going Projects:</u>

- The Town of Fraser is planning to incorporate amenities identified in their master plan at Cozens Ranch Open Space
- Developing a bike park at Cozens Ranch

<u>Partnership Opportunities and Goals:</u>

- Provide new amenities within the Fraser Valley that compliment the existing and future parks within the Town of Winter Park
- Avoid duplicating amenity spaces with their playgrounds and recreational opportunities

Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District (FVMRD)

Parks and Recreational Facilities:

Grand County Community Recreation Center and Fraser Valley Sports Complex

The Grand County Community Recreation Center and Fraser Valley Sports Complex is a recreation activity hub, north of the Town of Fraser. The facility offers family and sports amenities for an admission fee.

- Grand County Community Recreation Center Amenities: a 33-foot climbing wall, swimming pool/aquatics center, gymnastics studio, and an indoor gym for volleyball, soccer, and basketball;
- Fraser Valley Sports Complex Amenities: a covered icebox for skating and hockey that converts to pickleball and tennis courts in the summer, three softball fields, a Little League field, volleyball courts, a bike skills park, a picnic shelter, playground, and a ropes course and climbing adventure park

On-going Projects:

- FRVMD is developing an expanded fitness facility at Grand County Community Recreation Center

Partnership Opportunities and Goals:

- FRVMD needs practice fields for 5v5 and 3v3 soccer. They would like the Town to incorporate practice space in a new park;
- Unique playgrounds with different play opportunities than those currently offered within the Fraser Valley;
- Multi-modal access to parks via bike trails;
- An enclosed dog park within the Town boundary to reduce the impact of dogs and dog waste on their athletic fields

Winter Park Resort

Parks and Recreational Facilities:

Winter Park Resort Ski Area

Winter Park Resort is a premiere ski area in the region, offering a variety of winter sports amenities. The Resort provides summer amenities for an additional fee including:

- An alpine slide
- A 22-hole disc golf course
- Trestles Bike Park

Stakeholder Partnership and Projects:

- The Resort is working with the Town to provide a gondola and recreational access between the two destinations

Winter Park and Fraser Chamber

Parks and Recreational Facilities:

Rendezvous Events Center (Winter Park)

The Chamber manages seasonal events at the venue located in Hideaway Park.

Winter Park/ Fraser Visitor Center

The Chamber manages the visitor center near Hideaway Park. The visitor center acts as their office headquarters and it is open daily for visitor contact and services.

Partnership Opportunities and Goals:

- Better playgrounds that provide universal access and year-round play
- A self-guided interpretive walk from the Visitor Center to Confluence Park
- A trail kiosk at Hideaway Park to orient people to hiking opportunities

Programmatic Needs

The Town recognizes the community's needs for a variety of quality amenities within its parks system. The Town seeks to meet these needs at its existing and future parks, while maintaining the scenic qualities that make the Town a special place to live within and experience. The matrix on the following page identifies constraints at each park existing and future park and recommends appropriate amenities informed by the parks assessments located in the following section. While there are limitations to developing each park, the Town will be able to meet many of the desired amenities expressed by community and stakeholder input through planning and design.

For amenities that do not fit within the current parks system, stakeholders have been identified to provide access to these amenities. The Town should actively work with and support these endeavors to provide recreational access throughout the Fraser Valley.

The following summaries outline how desired amenities can be incorporated into the Town's park system or by stakeholder facility. Further information about these amenities can be found within the Parks Assessment and Recommendations:

New Playgrounds and **Climbing**

Hideaway Park and Wolf Park are in need of new playgrounds. The Neighborhood Park and Idlewild Park are ideal locations for new playgrounds due to their level terrains and limited tree cover. Each playground should provide unique play amenities. Since recreational climbing requires poured-in-place surfacing, its recommended that climbing opportunities for children ages 5 to 12 be expanded at Hideaway Park's new playground rather than create a new climbing location. The existing climbing wall should remain in place and should not be modified.

Disc Golf

Disc gold requires a sizeable area to accommodate multiple holes. Rather than develop a new course, the Town should work with **Winter Park Resort** to provide access to their facilities.

Pickleball and **Tennis**

Pickleball and Tennis courts require flat land for development. Additionally, the courts should be located further from residential development to limit noise pollution. The **Fraser Valley Metropolitan Recreation District** believe tennis and pickleball courts should be offered at their facilities.

Flex Space

Flex Spaces are essential for passive use such as yard games, picnicking, and free play. Hideaway Park and Wolf Park offer flat open fields that act as Flex Spaces. These spaces are best accommodated near playgrounds and its recommended they be incorporated into the Neighborhood Park and Hideaway Park.

Bike Amenities / Pump Track

The Town of Fraser is aiming to develop a pump track at Cozens Ranch Open Space, if funding becomes available. Additionally, **Winter Park Resort** provides an bike skills course at Trestles Bike Park. Its recommended that the Town work with its stakeholders to provide access to these bike parks and not replicate existing amenities. Within its existing and future parks, the Town should accommodate bike parking and repair stations. Within Porphyry Park, it should accommodate these amenities as well as an improved biking trail.

Dog Park

Dog parks are essential in and near municipalities for off-leash play. Dog parks provide a safe space away from traffic for dogs to run and allow owners to regulate interactions between their dogs and others. Porphyry Park offers a potential space for a sizable dog park with dynamic terrain for dogs and people to play together.

Trail Access

With the exception of the Neighborhood Park and Ranch Creek Park, which are further away from existing trails, all existing and proposed parks have opportunities to improve trail access. Porphyry Park and Ranch Creek Park should act as trailheads with restrooms, parking, and trail kiosks.

Refer to the Trails chapter for more recommendations on trail locations and amenities.

	Hideaway Park	Confluence Park	Wolf Park	Porphyry Park	Pocket Parks 1 & 2	Neighborhood Park	Forest Spur Park	Ranch Creek Park	Idlewild Park
	Existing Parks Constraints			**Future Parks Constraints**					
Acreage	5.1 ac	8.4 ac	11.3 ac	22.3 ac	0.1 ac	1.5 ac	3.6 ac	1.9 ac	1.7 ac
% Forest Cover	30%	95%	80%	95%	N/A	0%	35%	90%	0%
% Developable Terrain*	85%	60%	40%	75%	N/A	100%	90%	45%	85%
Limitations due to Water Features	x	x			x			x	
	Existing Amenities			**Future Amenities Identified in Final Development Plans**					
Sports Courts			Basketball Tennis						
Playgrounds	x		x			x			x
Climbing	x								
Green Flex Space	x		x						
Restroom	x		x	x		x			x
Parking	x		x	x					x
Trail Access	x	x	x	x	x		x		
River Access		x			x			x	
Additional Amenities	Skatepark Climbing Flex Space		Flex Space	Trailhead Nuptial Knoll	Interpretive Walk	Flex Space Shelter			Shelter
	New Opportunities								
Improved Trail Access	x	x	x	x	x		x		x
Proposed New Amenities	Bike Amenities New Playground Additional Climbing	Bike Amenities Improved Dock	New Playground Pickleball	Dog Park Picnic Area Bike Amenities	Improved Habitat & River Access	River Viewing Area 3v3 Soccer Field	Bike Amenities Improved Parking Restroom	Improved Parking	Flex Space

**Developable terrain* refers to land areas that have 30% slope or less to be feasibly developable for amenities. Percentage also factors in riparian features and forest cover that should be preserved.

FIGURE 2–5. Programmatic Needs matrix for existing and proposed parks within the Town's parks system.

Existing Parks Assessment

This section summarizes the condition of the Town's three existing parks: Hideaway Park, Confluence Park, and Wolf Park. A combination of narrative text, photographs, matrices and diagrams convey the existing condition of each park. The Town's parks were inventoried through field assessment and a drone survey completed in the Summer of 2023. These field assessments were followed up with community engagement (***see Community Input section***) and meetings with the Town's staff to identify additional issues and concerns. Staff provided management feedback on select features which is included alongside the field assessments.

During this process, amenities and park elements were identified within each park. **Amenities** are programmed spaces within each park (lawns, shelters, play features, etc.) whereas **elements** are the features that connect and support the function of the space (walks, planting areas, site furnishings, etc).

Amenities and elements were evaluated using the following criteria:

Good: Amenity or element is in good, operable condition. No clear evidence of major negative disturbances. Feature does not require immediate intervention. Routine maintenance is needed such as refinishing or cleaning to maintain feature.

Fair: Amenity or element is in sound, condition with minor superficial deterioration or damage. If feature is further neglected, the condition will deteriorate to poor in a few years.

Poor: Amenity or element shows evidence of significant deterioration, decline or damage. The feature may present a hazardous condition which may include substantial or full replacement of the feature. Repair is required to ensure safe use.

Existing Parks Recommendations

The Programmatic Needs of the parks were informed by the Town Plan's Guiding Principles, site assessments, community and stakeholder input. These were used to form a basis for recommendations for new amenities and areas for improvement within existing parks. Discussions with the Town's staff and site walks identified additional areas of improvement.

Recommendations are listed after each park assessment. Recommendations are specific to each park, condition, or need, and are intended to guide site-specific improvements. Each recommendation list is paired with a graphic concept plan. For existing parks, recommendations include a matrix with approximate timing for addressing improvements. Time frames are as follows:

- **Routine:** Continue to maintain amenity or element as-is through routine upkeep and inspection
- **Short-Term:** Complete improvement within 0 to 5 years
- **Long-Term:** Complete recommendation within 5 to 10+ years

FIGURE 2–6. Amenities and elements within the Town's park system were evaluated as good, fair, or poor depending on condition.

FIGURE 2–7. Hideaway Park offers a variety of amenities within the heart of Downtown Winter Park.

Hideaway Park

Hideaway Park is a community park located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Rendezvous Way. The park is a central gathering space for town events and features the Rendezvous Events Center – an amphitheater with a spacious open lawn for concerts and performances. Vasquez Creek extends along the northwest side of the park and the Vasquez Creek Trail connects the park property to Confluence Park.

Park circulation includes multiple ADA accessible concrete paths with connections to the Vasquez Creek Trail. Parallel parking is available along Main Street, Rendezvous Way and Ski Idlewild Road. Additional parking is located on the north side of the Rendezvous Events Center however, this area is used primarily for staging and loading during performances.

The park features well-defined community spaces that support visitors including:

- An events center with an expansive sloped open lawn utilized as an amphitheater in the summer and a sledding hill in the winter;
- A plaza with a heated restroom, picnic pavilions, and shaded seating areas;
- Play features including a river-theme playground, a rock-climbing wall with a slide, and a skatepark;
- A forested trail along the Vasquez River.

Overall Condition

Hideaway Park is in good condition after more than 15 years of continual community use. It remains the most popular park within the Town and is routinely utilized by all age groups. Most amenities have held up through steady use and seasonal-wear.

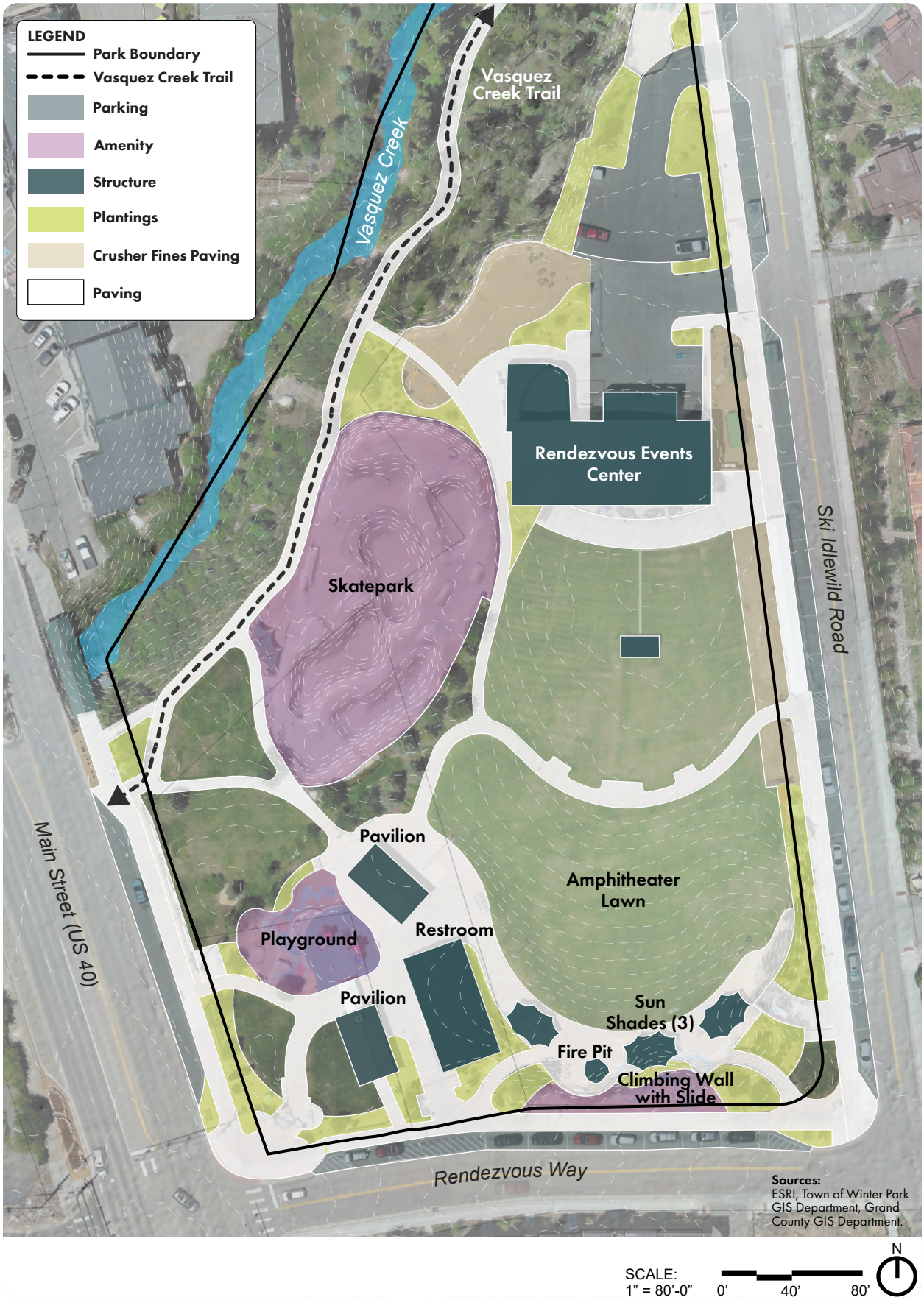


FIGURE 2–8. Existing amenities and features at Hideaway Park.

Hideaway Park History

Hideaway Park was originally developed in the 1994 as a modest public park with basic amenities including the south pavilion, a restroom building, and trail access along Vasquez Creek. The park that exists today was developed in phases with initial construction occurring between 2007 and 2008 to include the sloped amphitheater lawn, north pavilion, skatepark, contemporary playground, rock-climbing wall and a contemporary restroom building. The skatepark was further expanded between 2009 and 2011. The Rendezvous Events Center stage and parking area was built in 2017 to provide a permanent outdoor venue for the town and park. The park was named as a tribute to the original village that the Town of Winter Park was built upon. A plaque commemorating the Graves Family – the first family to settle within the area - is located in the park at "Helen's Spot."

1999

2007

2011

The following section provides a brief description of each **amenity** in Hideaway Park along with any issues identified during the site visit or by Town staff.

<u>Amphitheater Lawn</u>

Key Components:

- Irrigated bluegrass sod
- Lawn space defined by concrete pavement
- A curved concrete sidewalk divides the space into two lawn areas
- North lawn: Slopes gently to a trench drain in front of the stage
- South lawn: Extends from south plaza at a 12% slope to dividing sidewalk. Functions as a sloped amphitheater for concert events in the summer and a sledding hill in the winter
- The town provides lawn chairs in the summer and sleds in the winter for public use

Evaluation: Good

Issues and Concerns: Heavy use of the area has resulted in loss of sod in select locations. Sod is spreading into the adjacent crusher fines paving areas and between joints in concrete paving

Management Feedback: Hideaway Park utilizes the most up-to-date WiFi irrigation system. Lawn is easy to maintain, but the bluegrass sod requires a fair amount of water-usage

Restroom

Key Components:

- Rustic-style heated restroom building with wood siding and a stone-veneer base
- A hipped-roof covered entrance with a built-in bench seat and a water fountain
- Restroom options: multi-stall Men's and Women's and a "Family" room
- Maintenance and storage room
- Curved concrete/stone planter along the west side of the building
- Security-cameras and a WiFi router are mounted to the exterior

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: N/A
Management Feedback: Restroom building has automatic locks for after hours and motion detectors for security. Stone veneer falls off the sides of the building and needs to be replaced.

Pavilions

Key Components:

- Two rustic-style hipped-roof pavilions
- South Pavilion: tongue and groove ceiling and a large stone fireplace/chimney at the north end
- Fireplace: spacious firebox, two prep tables with storage underneath, and a 1994 dedication plaque from the "Old" Winter Park Association
- North Pavilion: tongue and groove ceiling, wood crossbeams, and wood/stone-veneer columns

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: The fireplace is missing a few large stones at the south pavilion
Management Feedback: Fireplace at the south pavilion rarely utilized.

Sun Shades

Key Components:

- Three sun shades with octagonal canopies, metal supports and stone-veneer column bases
- Custom large stone slab fire pit with steel logs surrounded by custom stone slab/ weathered-wood benches

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: N/A
Management Feedback: The sun shades are unique and a heavily utilized amenity within the park, but lack a design-aesthetic consistent with the rest of Hideaway Park's architectural character.

Fire Pit

Key Components:

- Custom large stone slab fire pit with steel logs
- Custom stone slab/ wood benches

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: N/A
Management Feedback: The Town modified the stone slab by boring a new vent hole to disperse heat after the initial installation. Prior to the additional venting, the stone slab melted the original control wires. The wood benches were refurbished in the summer of 2023. The features are entirely custom and are expensive to replace. The park had an additional fire pit but it was removed after the slab cracked and could not be replaced

Skatepark

Key Components:

- Sizable skatepark composed primarily of concrete paving
- Large bowls with a variety of ramps, rails, and ledges
- Rest area defined by stone pavers at north/ south ends
- Rest plaza with pavers includes a picnic table and wood posts that support a removable sun shade at the west end

Evaluation: Good to Fair
Issues and Concerns: Concrete shows considerable wear and cracking in multiple locations throughout the skatepark. Vegetation is growing between the pavers.
Management Feedback: The skatepark is very popular and only needs minor patching and repairs throughout the year. It lacks a space for new/beginner skaters to practice. The wood posts are not ideal for a shade structure.

Climbing Wall With Slide

Key Components:

- Custom curved climbing wall extends along the south end of the park
- A slide extends from the south plaza to the base of the climbing wall
- Poured-in-place rubber surfacing with leaf and swirl motifs and defined fall zones at the base/top of climbing wall.

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: Vegetation growing between concrete and poured-in-place rubber surfacing.
Management Feedback: The custom climbing wall is a great amenity, but requires a specialist to repair it. The wall underwent a refurbishment in its structure and exterior with the last five years.

Playground

Key Components:

- Play features include a large central play structure featuring slides, ladders, crossing bars, and play panels; spring rider; euroflex balls - green and blue; sculptural play boulders
- Play features are set in poured-in-place rubber surfacing or within the sand pit
- Poured-in-place rubber surfacing includes fish and river motifs
- Raised concrete walls with stone capstones are set at varied heights around the playground

Evaluation: Fair

Issues and Concerns: Nearly half of the play area appears to be under utilized with a large area for drainage and an abandoned sand table. A section of the raised concrete wall is broken. Poured-in-place rubber surfacing is petrified, decreasing its flexibility. The sculptural play boulders within the sand pit do not meet safety requirements for play surfacing and fall zones.

Management Feedback: The playground and poured-in-place rubber surfacing have reached the end of their material life cycle. The tube slide was removed in the Summer of 2023 after it cracked. The large drainage area was intended to be a water play amenity, however it was never fully installed. The maintenance team does not remove snow from the playground area during the winter, as raised concrete walls are easily damaged by snow removal equipment

Rendezvous Events Center

Key Components:

- Stone-veneer building with a covered stage and curved roof
- Stepped entry at the front and rear
- Accessible ramp
- Doors on track-lining provide stage access to storage and a loading area for vehicular access during concerts
- Enclosed greenroom
- A tent for audio/video equipment sits directly south of the stage in the amphitheater lawn
- Security cameras in-use

Evaluation: Good

Issues and Concerns: Surface-level cracking on concrete stage and ramp

Management Feedback: N/A

The following table provides a brief description of park **elements** in Hideaway Park along with any issues identified during site visits or by Town maintenance and operations staff.

Element	Key Components	Eval.	Notes

Crusher Fines Paving	• Two areas with crusher fines paving:
	  • One is an elevated terrace partially delineated by a rubble stone retaining wall located north of the Rendezvous Events Center adjacent to the parking
	  • The other is a 20'-0" wide strip along Ski Idlewild Road
	• Both areas include a concrete edger to separate from the adjacent planted areas and lawn
	• These areas are utilized as flex spaces during events
		Good to Fair 	**Issues and Concerns:** Sparse patches of vegetation are growing within and along the edges of crusher fines paving. The concrete edger between the amphitheater lawn and crusher fines paving is approximately 4" and does not appear to be adequate in separating the paving from the adjacent sod, leading to increased sparse vegetation within the paved area.
			
			Management Feedback: The crusher fines areas are utilized to designate vendor and staging space. During events, grills and cooking equipment for food trucks are setup in these spaces and crusher-fines is preferred as it does not hold oil stains and will not catch fire. The management team needs to maintain it for weeds.

Concrete Paving	• Paths are typically an integral color with a smooth finish and 6'-0" to 8'-0" wide • Entrance walk and plaza spaces feature etched/ sand-blasted concrete with an integral color • Plaza in front of the stage is a standard gray with a broom finish • Most of the concrete paving was installed in between 2007 and 2008 apart from the concrete plaza in front of the stage, which was installed when the Rendezvous Events Center was built in 2019 • Park boundary paving on west, south and east sides is a standard gray finish	Good 	**Issues and Concerns:** Surface-level cracking on concrete stage and ramp. **Management Feedback:** Sandblasted etched patterns were incorporated in the original colored concrete installation. Although the concrete slabs and integral color have held up, the sandblasted etched patterns are no longer legible. Sandblast etching has not held up through multiple seasons of snow removal and is not recommended for future decorative concrete installations. The concrete slab at the north pavilion has a smooth surface that appears to be a troweled finish. This finish is slippery and is not recommended for any exterior concrete. A standard broom finish is recommended for new applications.
Site Furniture	• Custom site furnishings include bear resistant trash receptacles, café tables, and benches embellished with the Town of Winter Park's old logo, Hideaway Park-branding, and/or an animal native to the Rocky Mountains • Standard park features include bike racks, recycling receptacles, picnic tables, and dog waste bag dispensers • Bike rack storage space is limited to two areas • Hand-painted ski lift benches are located in select locations within the plaza • Most of the site furnishings are not surface-mounted	Good 	**Issues and Concerns:** While custom-branded furniture aids in giving the space its own unique identity, it can be expensive to replace and repair furnishings over time. The Town of Winter Park has rebranded since these furnishings were commissioned, which will make these furnishings feel dated over time. **Management Feedback:** Bear resistant trash receptacles are essential in all park locations. The blue-colored trash cans can be mistaken for recycling receptacles, which are also blue. Wood material for benches and tables shows more wear over time. Bike storage space is limited especially during bigger events where temporary racks need to be brought in to meet demand.
Trench Drains	• Narrow trench drains with steel decorative covers are located at the plazas south of the Amphitheater Lawn (above the sloped hill) and directly in front of the Rendezvous Events Center stage	Fair 	**Issues and Concerns:** The joint sealant where the trench drain meets the surrounding concrete paving is degraded. **Management Feedback:** N/A

Element	Key Components	Eval.	Notes
Stone Features	• Boulder edges: Typically a uniform height, smooth top finish, and are set at 1'-0" to 3'-0" allowing them to retain planting beds and double as curbing or seating • Boulders within playground: child-sized play features for low-risk climbing and seating • Boulders within planting beds • Stone pillars at main entrance: a gateway with three large columnar boulders supporting a metal sculpture • Stone pillars at secondary entrances: stone-veneer pillars on both sides of the sidewalk that are either independent of other features or attached to fences or stair railings • The stone-veneer used on these pillars matches the base of the restroom building, columns at the pavilions and sun shades	**Good to Fair**	**Issues and Concerns:** Boulders lack sealed joints where they meet concrete which has increased the likelihood of cracking and led to sparse vegetation growing in between these features. **Management Feedback:** Stone-veneer on pillars gets knocked off by snow equipment. Raised stone edges in narrow locations present a hazard for snow removal equipment in the winter.

Signage	• One large monument identifying sign along Main Street/US 40
	  • Features a digital display for advertising events
	  • Identifies the space as both Hideaway Park and the Rendezvous Events Center
	• A variety of regulatory signage and wayfinding signage
	• Plastic-engraved signs at play features denote appropriate uses and age groups
	• A wood routed sign that says Hideaway Park and matches the character of a wood-routed sign along Vasquez Creek Trail and the Restroom building
	• Interpretive signage along Vasquez Creek Trail
	• Local art displayed on wood frames
		Good	**Issues and Concerns:** N/A
			
			Management Feedback: Plastic engraved signs are preferred for regulatory signage. The origin of the wood-routed signs is unknown. Interpretive signage is outdated and needs to be replaced.

Planting Beds	• Plantings include a variety of hardy, alpine-tolerant perennial shrubs and trees • Flowering annuals are installed within the beds during the summer months for seasonal appeal and infill • Most of the planting beds are layered with wood mulch • One planter near the stage at the Rendezvous Events Center is rubble stone	**Fair**	**Issues and Concerns:** During the winter months, the planting beds appear sparse and become buried in snow. Lawn chairs and sleds are staged within the planting bed along the south end of the park seasonally, this may lead to increased trampling and compaction within this location over time. **Management Feedback:** The planting beds are managed by the Parks/Gardens crew. The parks system could benefit from standardized seed mixes and a mulch supplier.
Parking	• North Parking Area: formalized parking area was developed alongside the Rendezvous Events Center c. 2019. During events, this parking area is used by performers and equipment trucks/trailers • Street Parking available along west, south and east sides of the park. Striped to accommodate different sizes of vehicles. Road shifted along east side to accommodate space for additional street parking c. 2019	**Fair**	**Issues and Concerns:** Parking is limited during large performances and concerts. None of the parking is striped for ADA, but removable ADA signs are placed along the south side of park during events. **Management Feedback:** N/A

Element	Key Components	Eval.	Notes

Fencing and Railings	• Primary fence type along the boundary of the park is a wood fence with two-rails secured by steel clamps. Runs of fence terminate at stone-veneer columns
	• Skatepark has two styles of wood fence:
	  • North end: Wood fence along stone retaining wall with two to three rails. Posts are surface-mounted with steel bases
	  • South end: Wood fence with two rails secured by carriage bolts; in-ground posts
	• Painted steel fence panels are located along the retaining wall at the south end of the park. Most of the fence panels are spaced pickets. Select panels include decorative pickets arranged in a "sun" pattern
	• The panels match the railings long the sets of stairs and at the access to the maintenance storage room
		Good	**Issues and Concerns:** N/A
			Management Feedback: N/A

Monuments	• Hideaway Park plaque on a boulder at "Helen's Spot" along Vasquez Creek commemorates the Doc and Helen Graves Family
	• A cobble/stone lined path along the west entrance of the park has several armed forces monuments/ plaques. This location features:
	  • A boulder engraved with the Prisoner of War (POW) insignia and is accompanied by a flagpole with the POW flag
	  • A boulder engraved with "Land of the Free Because of Brave"
	  • A "Blue Star Memorial Highway" marker
	• Plaque on post near playground denoting that a nearby tree was donated by the Fairways at Pole Creek in July 2000
	• Dedication plaque from "Old" Winter Park Association on the fireplace at the south pavilion to commemorate its construction in 1994
	• A large flagpole with an American flag is located on the west side of park
		Good	**Issues and Concerns:** The dedication boulder at Helen's Spot feels neglected.
			Management Feedback: N/A

Mainte-nance Storage	• A maintenance storage bunker is located underneath the south plaza • The storage room mainly stores seasonal and event items • The access route to the storage room is demarcated by two concrete embankment railings and is wide enough to accommodate vehicles	Good	**Issues and Concerns:** Storage space is limited. **Management Feedback:** N/A

Lighting	• Park features a variety of lighting elements:
	  • Edison lights are strung along the rooflines of the pavilions and restroom
	  • Embedded lights along the cheekwalls and columns at the south stairs
	  • Hooded lights on poles at the Amphitheater Lawn
	  • Christmas lights strung along the sun shades
	  • Ground lights at entrance monument
		Good	**Issues and Concerns:** N/A
			Management Feedback: N/A

FIGURE 2–9. Etched concrete paving at park entrance.

FIGURE 2–10. Decorative trench drain.

FIGURE 2–11. Custom bench and cafe table with old Town logo.

FIGURE 2–12. Monuments near Main Street/US 40 entrance.

Vegetation Character

Hideaway Park is mostly developed parkland with large swaths of lawn planted with Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Canopy trees within the developed area are fairly young trees predominantly made up of Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Trees are used to screen sections of the park from adjacent streets. Planting beds act vegetation buffers along the perimeter of the site and amenities. Trees and shrubs are introduced species and do not reflect the native vegetation surrounding Hideaway Park. The open character of the developed area offers minimal natural shade opportunities.

In contrast to the developed area, the northernmost edge of the park remains as an intact riparian ecosystem. Similar to Confluence Park, the riparian edge is characterized by two main ecotypes: riparian wetland and lodgepole pine forest.

For an ecological assessment of the northernmost edge of Hideaway Park, ***see the Ecological Site Analysis and Condition Assessment in the Confluence Park section of this chapter.***

Existing Plant Species

Trees

- Colorado Blue Spruce *(Picea pungens)*
- Quaking Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*
- Native Chokecherry *(Prunus virginiana melanocarpa)*

Perennial Shrubs

- Alpine Currant *(Ribes alpinum)*
- Buffalo Juniper *(Juniperus sabina 'Buffalo')*
- Creeping Three-Leaf Sumac *(Rhus trilobata 'Autumn Amber')*
- Creeping Western Sand Cherry *(Prunus besseyi 'Pawnee Buttes')*
- Dwarf Ninebark *(Physocarpus opulifolius nanus)*
- Mugo Pine *(Pinus mugo)*
- Redtwig Dogwood *(Cornus sericea)*
- Potentilla *(Potentilla fruticosa)*

Ornamental Grasses

- Feather Reed Grass *(Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster')*

FIGURE 2–13. Mixed aspen and conifer forest along the Vasquez Creek Trail.

FIGURE 2–14. Canopy coverage is limited to groupings of evergreens used to screen site elements from adjacent streets.

Recommendations

Hideaway Park should maintain its existing use as the primary outdoor events center within the Town's parks system. The Rendezvous Events Center, Restroom, Pavilions, Climbing Wall, Amphitheater Lawn, and Skatepark should remain as-is with minor upgrades and upkeep to maintain their current appearance and use.

Key locations along the park boundary and within the park have been selected for improvements. These improvements are outlined below:

- Entrance Area: Due to its location near the Winter Park Visitor Center and its proximity to the mountains, the entrance should be outfitted with a wayfinding kiosk and bike repair/parking area. At a minimum, this area should include a trail map, bike racks, and a bike repair station. ***Refer to sections 7.0 Furnishings and 8.0 Signage of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter***.
- Playground: Hideaway Park's playground is currently slated for improvements. The playground should be designed to be one on one groundplane with unique play pieces and opportunities for year-round play. ***Refer to section 6.0 Program Spaces of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Vasquez Creek Trail: A project is underway to improve conditions along the trail and expand access to the creek within Hideaway Park. Select areas along the creek should be improved with seating and shade, including Helen's Spot. Eroded access points should be revegetated and reestablished. ***Refer to sections 3.0 Natural Areas, 7.0 Furnishings, and 8.0 Signage of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Park Operations and Maintenance Building: With the expansion of the parks system and new facilities coming online, Town staff will need an expanded Shop/Maintenance Building centrally located to all parks for equipment and material storage. The existing break room within the mechanical room of the Hideaway Restroom should be phased out and relocated to a new building north of the Rendezvous Events Center. ***Refer to section 5.2 Buildings of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***

FIGURE 2–15. The entrance area could include trail orientation maps similar to those at the Escalante Visitor Center which provide photos and summaries for hikes outside of the operating hours for the visitor center.

FIGURE 2–16. New seating areas would help eliminate the numerous trails to the Creek by providing desirable access points that compliment the natural setting.

FIGURE 2–17. The new play area could include accessible play elements that can be utilized year-round such as the Yalp Sona.

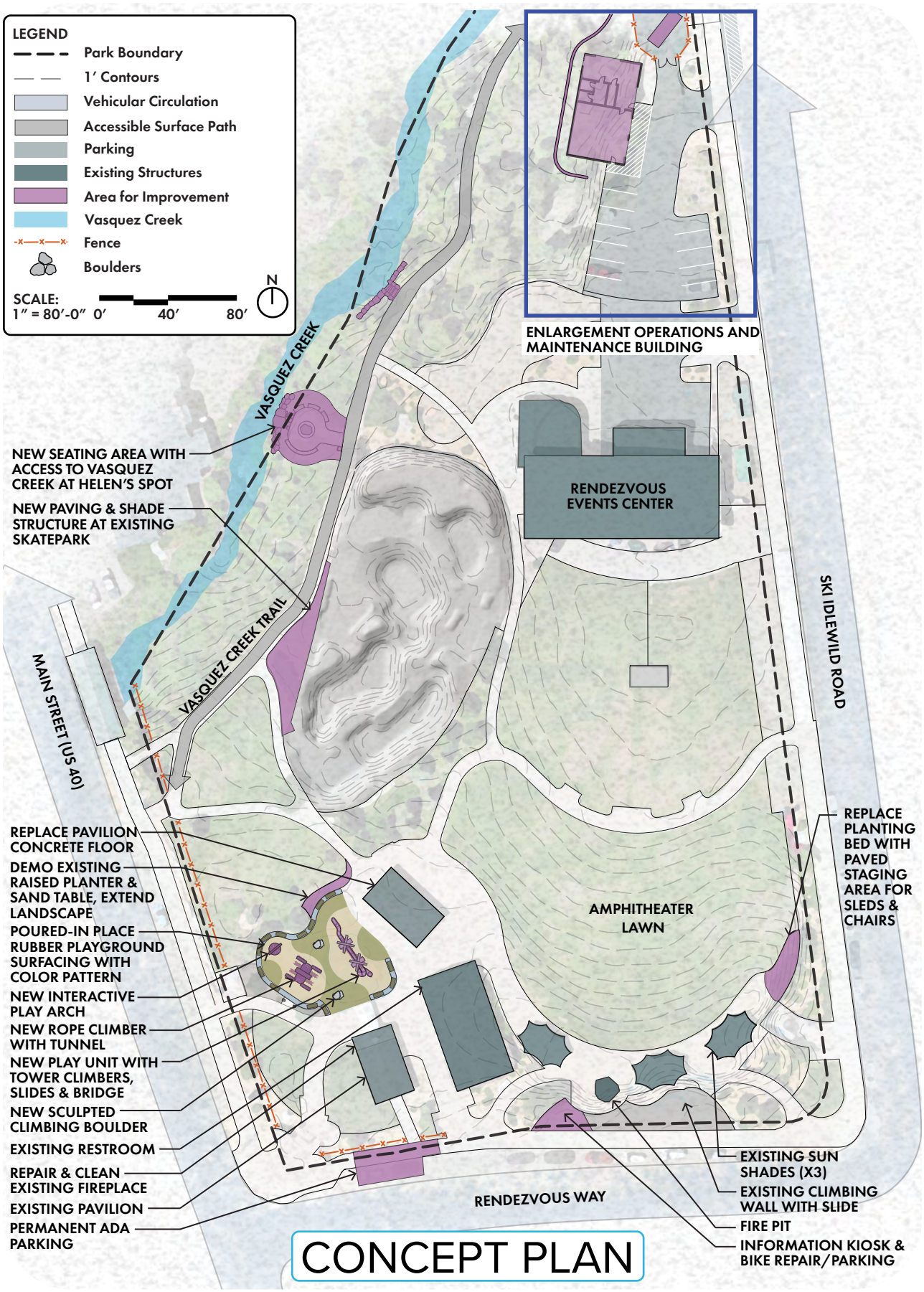


FIGURE 2–18. Proposed recommendations and programming at Hideaway Park.

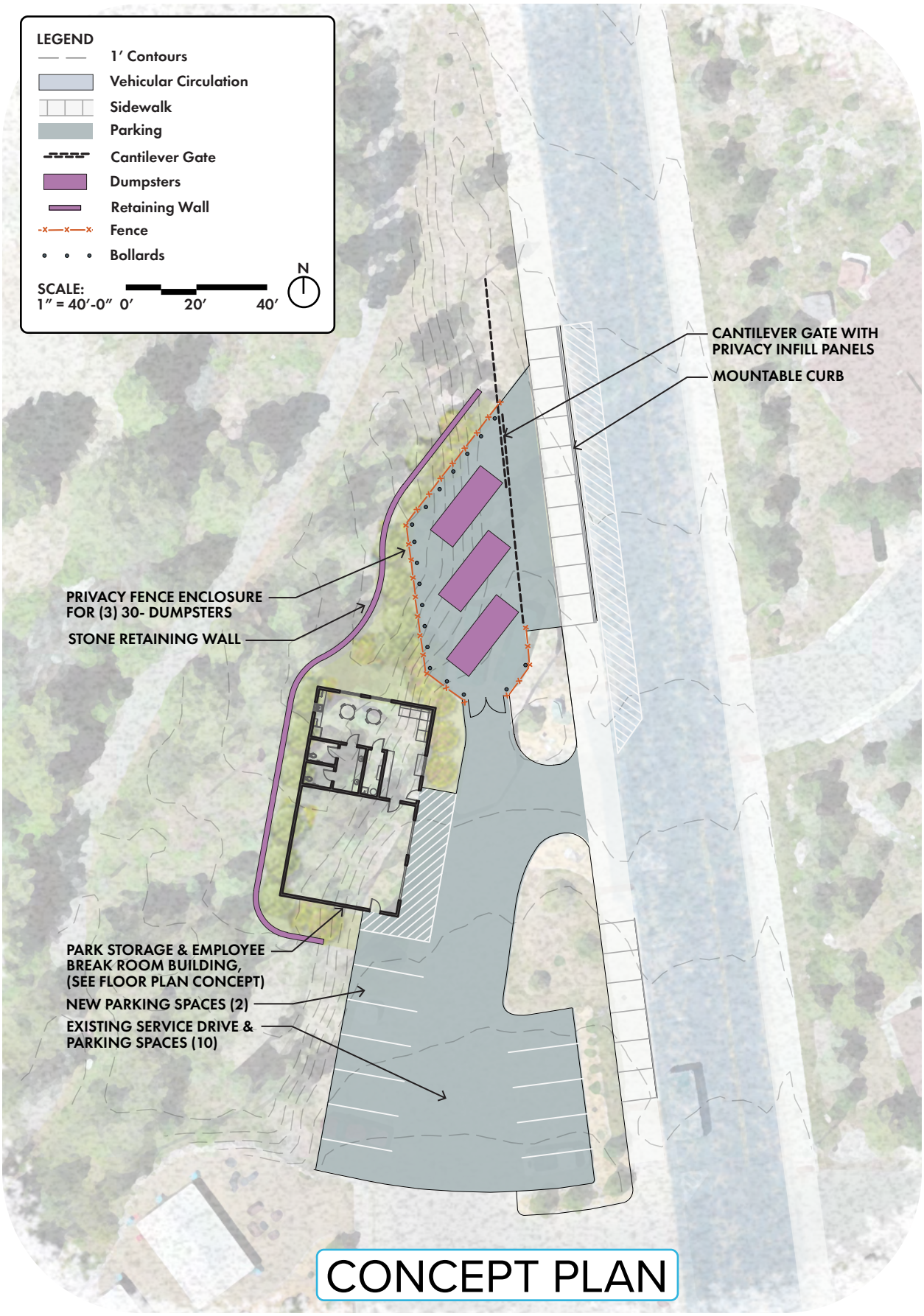


FIGURE 2–19. Concept site plan for Operations and Maintenance Building north of the Rendezvous Events Center in Hideaway Park.

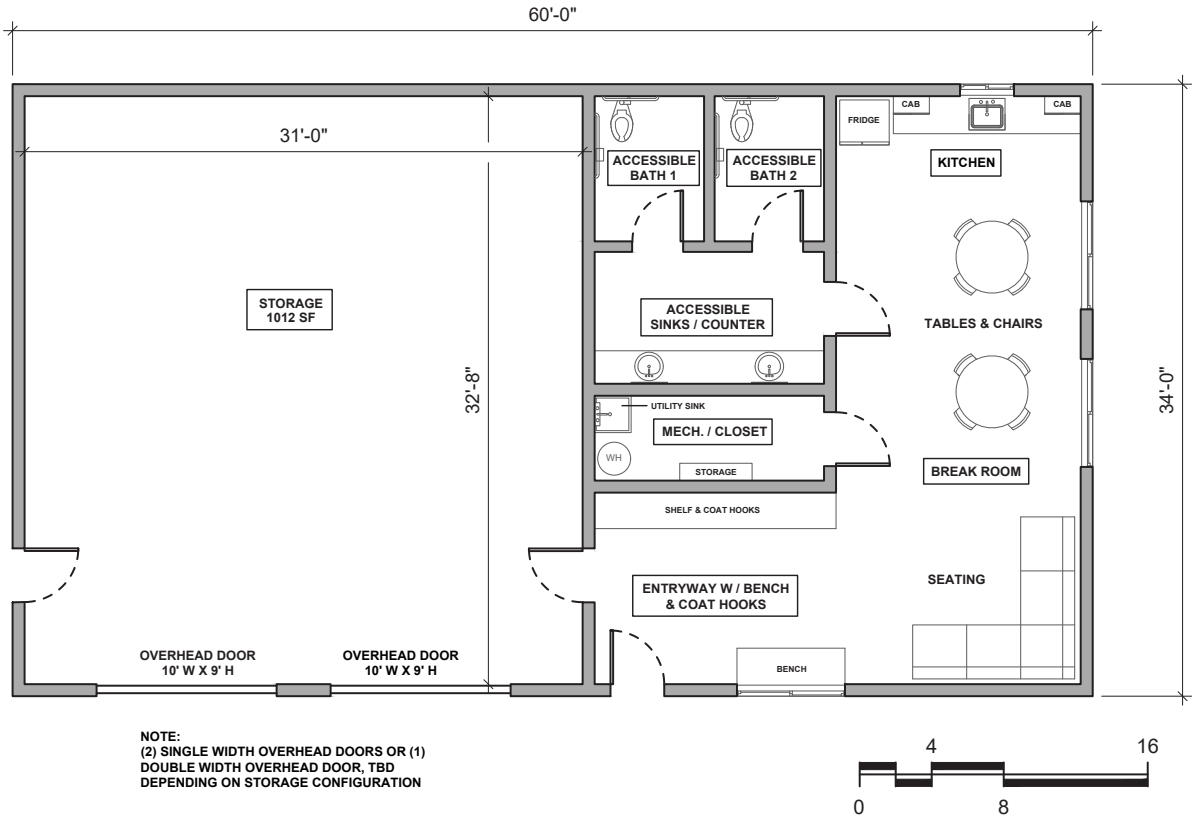


FIGURE 2–20. Concept for Operations and Maintenance Building to be installed in Hideaway Park. Approximately half of the building accommodates storage for events, snow removal equipment, and storage for the Winter Park and Fraser Chamber. The other half of the building accommodates a staff area with kitchenette and accessible restrooms.

FIGURE 2–21. In addition to the year-round, accessible Yalp Sona play feature, Hideaway Park should be redesigned to accommodate unique, play structures geared towards 5 to 12-year-olds and dynamic play. The Galileo and Speed Tunnel are stately play structures that provide a sense of challenge and reward for young kids. The Sandstone Boulders expand climbing opportunities within the park.

Hideaway Park Improvements		
Amenity	**Timing**	**Recommendation**
Amphitheater Lawn	Routine	Repair and repatch sod across all lawn areas
Restroom	Long-Term	Evaluate structural needs of the building and determine a long-term plan for maintaining a safe/ clean environment.
South Pavilion	Routine	Use a biodegradable solvent to clean soot from the fireplace. Replace missing and/or damaged stones at fireplace as needed.
North Pavilion	Routine	Replace missing and/or damaged stones at columns as needed.
	Short-term	Replace smooth/trowel-finish concrete paving with a broom-finish to remediate shiny finish and limit winter hazards
Sun Shades	Routine	Inspect and replace stone veneer at columns; Inspect fabric and metal support columns
Fire Pit	Routine	Inspect fire pit for functionality and damages
Skatepark	Routine	Inspect skatepark for damages and debris; Repair and reseal cracks in the concrete; Remove vegetation from between pavers
	Long-Term	Replace paved area with an alternate material and a more permanent snow-rated sun shade
Climbing Wall with Slide	Routine	Inspect climbing wall for damages and structural integrity; Repair and patch poured-in-place rubber surfacing as needed
Playground	Routine	Inspect for damages to structure including fastening hardware, railings, components, moving parts, play features, etc.
	Short-Term	Replace existing playground with unique, play features that meet community needs and provide a range of opportunities for all ages and abilities; Provide a new play area that removes boundaries such as walls and tiered play spaces; Allow for the expansion of existing playground footprint while maintaining a buffer between designated play area and US 40.
Rendezvous Events Center	Routine	Inspect for damage to the exterior (stage, roof, etc.)
Expansion Joints	Routine	Remove weeds from expansion joints and reseal with appropriate sealant at concrete paving (plaza, trench drains, skatepark, poured-in-place rubber, bases of stone features, etc.)
Planting Beds	Short-Term	Consider replacing a section of planting beds along the south edge of the park with a crusher fines paving for storing sleds and lawn chairs for seasonal use
Helen's Spot	Long-Term	Provide a new seating area at Helen's Spot and provide access to Vasquez Creek; Protect existing dedication monument in its original location.
Parking	Short-Term	Provide a minimum of one permanent ADA parking space with signage, appropriate striping, and an access aisle at the location of the existing ramp; Repair and replace existing ramps to meet accessibility code compliance and add a color-appropriate truncated dome
Information Kiosk/ Bike Repair Station	Long-Term	Provide a information kiosk on the south end of the park to orient visitors to the larger park/trail system. Provide equipment to repair and park bikes near the entrance to the park
Operations/ Maintenance Building	Long-Term	Provide a Operations and Maintenance Building at the north end of Hideaway Park to accommodate maintenance staff and storage needs.
Vasquez Creek	Routine/ Short-Term	Fisheries habitat restoration
Forested Riparian Area	Routine/ Short-Term	Forest health assessment and management
Riparian Wetlands	Routine/ Short-Term	Manage for nuisance and noxious vegetation

FIGURE 2–22. The Fraser River and Vasquez Creek converge at Confluence Park.

Confluence Park

Confluence Park is a forested park at the confluence of the Vasquez Creek and Fraser River. The Park is north of Hideaway Park and Ski Idlewild road. The park is accessed by a bridge over Vasquez Creek. The park features a segment of the Vasquez Creek Trail a 3/8th mile ADA accessible loop trail with boardwalks, interpretive signage, and a fly-fishing deck. Ecological opportunities include an improved stream water habitat, wetland mitigation, and a boreal toad pond. The park was developed on forested property in 2005 and is part of the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Fraser River Enhancement Project.

Overall Condition

Confluence Park has retained its forested character throughout the years. Most of the acreage remains undeveloped, presenting a stark contrast from the heavily-used Hideaway Park down the road. The park offers a place of respite from the surrounding Downtown context, with trails providing creek and wetland views and fishing access. The trail is groomed in the winter, allowing for seasonal use. According to town maintenance staff, the grooming equipment has difficulty navigating tight spots at trail structures and the fishing deck. The park's amenities are in good to fair condition.

Confluence Park History

Confluence Park was established in 2005 and is dedicated to Don and Betty Drake, long-time residents of Winter Park. The trail for the park was delineated at this time. The park has changed very little since its establishment.

2005

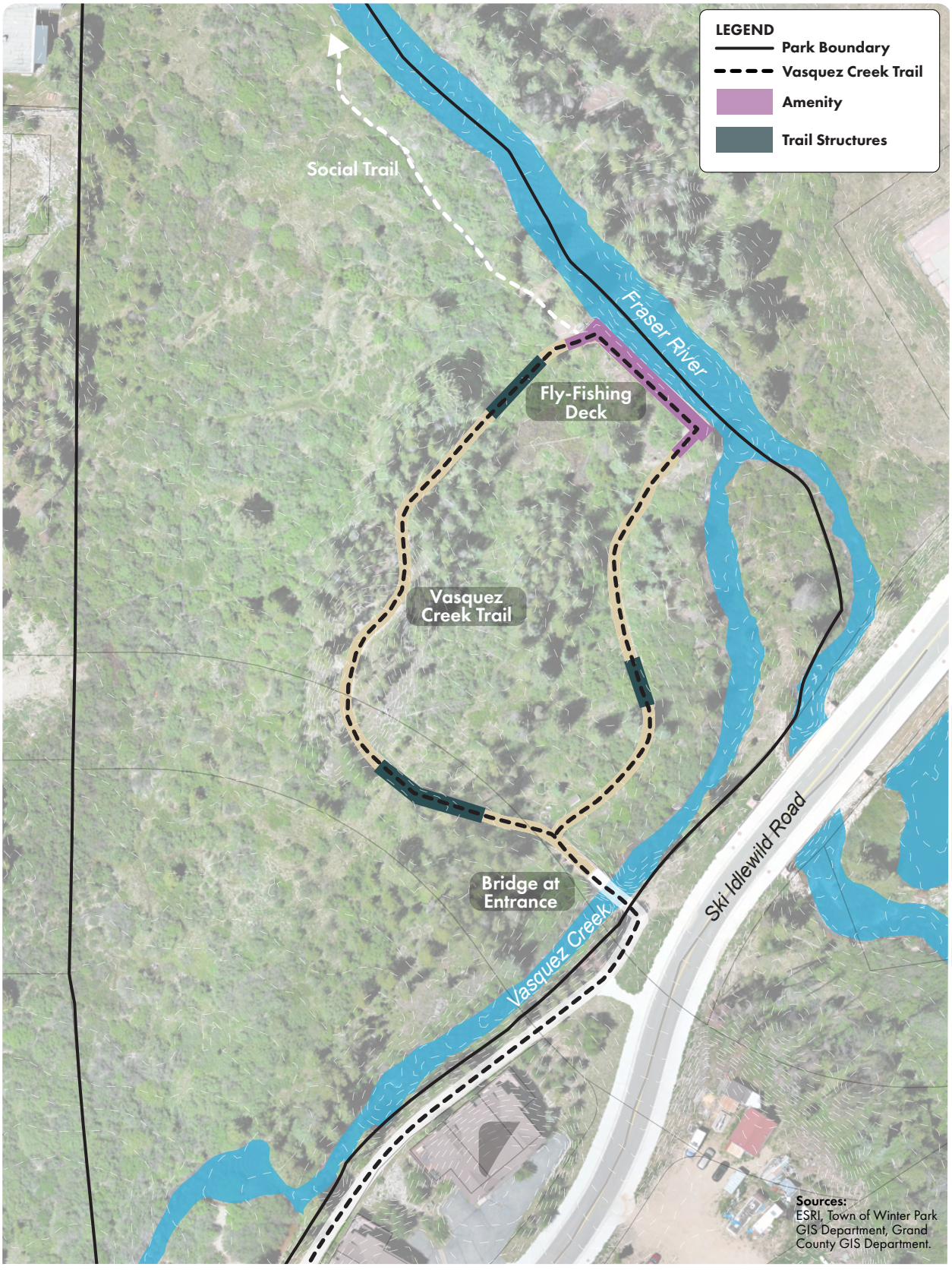
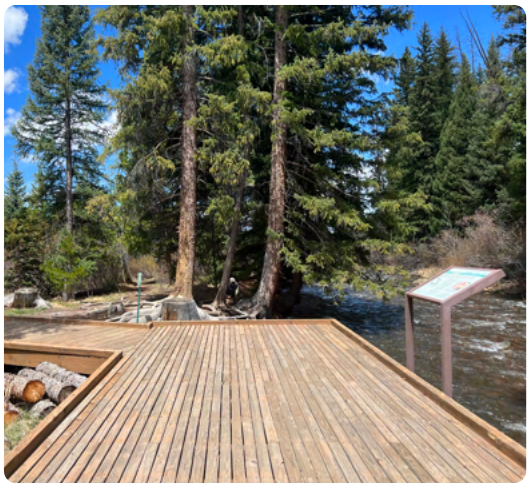


FIGURE 2–23. Existing amenities and features at Confluence Park.

The following section provides a brief description of each **amenity** in Confluence Park along with any issues identified during the site visit or by Town staff.



Fly-Fishing Deck

Key Components:

- Large wood deck with narrow slats and kick edge, approximately 12’ wide, can be accessed from either end of the loop trail
- Located at the confluence of the Fraser River and Vasquez Creek

Evaluation: Fair

Issues and Concerns: The fly-fishing deck does not meet the Town's building code requirements exceeding maximum fall distance between the deck and river. It requires a safety railing.

Management Feedback: The entrances at the deck are too narrow for the winter trail grooming equipment, causing the equipment to clip the raised kick-edge along the deck. The entrances need to be approximately 2’-0” wider to accommodate this equipment. Wood material is not ideal for the fly-fishing deck since it shows evidence of wear and gets damaged by the trail grooming equipment.

Vasquez Creek Trail (Loop)

Key Components:

- 3/8-mile crusher fines loop trail with a road base course, approximately 5’-6” wide
- Trail structures include stepped wood retaining walls and sections of elevated boardwalk
- Two rest areas along the trail apart from fly-fishing deck: one at entrance/trailhead and an informal area with picnic table on north side
- The loop section and the connection to Hideaway Park are year-round trails groomed for winter use
- Numerous social trails along the main forested loop
- A well-worn social trail extends along north of the fly-fishing dock along the Fraser River; Two benches have been installed along this trail

Evaluation: Good to Fair

Issues and Concerns: Lack of defined rest areas along the trail can lead to compaction at the base of trees. Informal social trails branch into wetland areas along the west side of the trail.

Management Feedback: The management team began grooming the trail for winter use within the last decade; however, the trail structures were not designed to accommodate the specialized grooming equipment and the wood edges often get clipped by the blades. Wood material is not ideal for use in trail structures or at the fly-fishing deck for this reason.

An informal boardwalk made from narrow Trex material was placed within the wettest sections of the social trail. This is intended to be a temporary fix for accessing the benches until a formal plan/solution can be developed for managing access. The trail is largely utilized by local community members in the housing area northeast of the park.

The following table provides a brief description of park **elements** in Confluence Park along with any issues identified during site visits or by Town maintenance and operations staff.

Element	Key Components	Eval.	Notes
Bridge	• Wide bridge with concrete surface and metal railing over Vasquez Creek. • Removable wooden bollard with concrete footer before the bridge.	Good	**Issues and Concerns:** N/A **Management Feedback:** The bollard in front of the bridge is needed to prevent motorized vehicles from accessing the park, but it is often vandalized. The bollard needs to remain removable with its sleeve flush with the concrete in order to allow trail grooming equipment to pass through during the winter.
Site Furniture	• Located at entrance/trailhead: bear resistant trash receptacle, wood bench, picnic table • Located along trail: bear resistance trash receptacle, wood picnic table	Good	**Issues and Concerns:** Wood site furniture is showing signs of wear (minor damage, faded paint, aged wood); board on wood table have been replaced. The park lacks bike parking. **Management Feedback:** N/A

Signage	• Park identifier sign at the entrance to the park with name of park, date of establishment (2005), and Town of Winter Park logo
	  • Rules and regulations signs are mounted to the wood posts
	• Local art displayed on wood frame on west side of fly-fishing dock
	• Angle mount interpretive sign mounted on east edge of fly-fishing dock
	  • Features information on cutthroat trout
	• Two regulatory signs for anglers from Colorado Parks and Wildlife – one at the entrance and the other at the far end of the fly-fishing dock.
		Good	**Issues and Concerns:** The rules and regulations signage should not be placed on the park identifier sign as these types of signs need to be removed and replaced when policies change.
			Management Feedback: N/A

Monuments	• Sculptural boulder with a ring of boulders at the entrance/trailhead. • Engraved granite boulder denoting that the park and rock are dedicated to Don and Betty Drake, long-time residents of Winter Park.	Fair	**Issues and Concerns:** Area appears to need general care to maintain appearance and importance of the dedication marker. **Management Feedback:** N/A

FIGURE 2–24. Boardwalk with retaining walls along the wetland area of Confluence Park.

FIGURE 2–25. Dedication monument and sculptural boulder at the entrance of Confluence Park.

Ecological Site Analysis

An ecological site analysis was completed for Confluence and Hideaway Parks as they are very similar in their ecological nature and location. The current ecological conditions at Confluence and Hideaway Parks are characterized by two main ecotypes, riparian scrub shrub wetland and lodgepole pine forest. The riparian wetlands exist along the Vazquez Creek and Fraser River corridors. Of the total 21.6 acres, approximately 8.25 acres of Confluence and Hideaway Parks consists of emergent or scrub shrub riparian wetlands. The current ecological condition of the wetland complexes is considered good. The biggest threats to these systems are encroachment from development, noxious vegetation, and prolonged drought.

The second ecological community type found primarily at Confluence Park are the lodgepole pine forests. These exist where topography allows, typically in upland settings with elevated slopes above the wetland complexes. These forest types are characterized by dense stands of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) in the overstory with a minor component of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and a number of forbs and grasses in the understory. This ecotype comprises approximately 3.16 acres at Confluence and Hideaway Parks.

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: Encroachment to riparian areas from development, prolonged drought, noxious vegetation, and pests such as the pine beetle.

Existing Plant Species

Trees
- Lodgepole Pine *(Pinus contorta)*
- Quaking Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*

Shrubs
- Rocky Mountain Willow (Salix monitocla)
- Coyote Willow *(Salix exigua)*
- Thinleaf Alder *(Alnus tenuifolia)*

Wetland Vegetation
- Arctic Rush *(Juncus articus)*
- Baltic Rush *(Juncus balticus)*
- Beaked Sedge *(Carex utriculata)*

Upland Understory Vegetation
- Golden Banner *(Thermopsis rhombifolia)*
- Western Yarrow *(Achillea millefolium)*
- Indian Paintbrush *(Castilleja coccinea)*

FIGURE 2–26. Wetland vegetation along the spur trail.

FIGURE 2–27. Lodgepole pines along the Vasquez Creek Trail loop.

Recommendations

Confluence Park should maintain its existing use as a secluded, forested trail and fishing location within close proximity to Downtown.

Key locations along the park boundary and within the park have been selected for improvements. These improvements are outlined below:

- Entrance Area: The entrance to the park should be improved to provide a more inviting trailhead and orientation point. Bike parking and a trail kiosk should be provided along Ski Idlewild Road. A rest area with seating and picnic tables should be provided near the entrance. ***Refer to sections 7.0 Furnishings and 8.0 Signage of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Trail: The existing trail should maintain its alignment and be improved as needed. Interpretive trail signage should be placed along the trail and fly-fishing deck to orient users to the local ecology and encourage stewardship. ***Refer to sections 6.1 Trails and 8.0 Signage of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Trail Structures: Wooden trail bridges and structures within the park should be phased out after they exceed their material life-cycle. Consider replacing structures with a hardy composite Trex material or appropriate equivalent. The width and clearance of the trail and its structures should accommodate winter grooming equipment. ***Refer to section 5.0 Structures of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Fly-Fishing Deck: The existing fly-fishing deck needs to be replaced with a structure that meets city code and access needs. The structure should have the same footprint as the existing deck and provide accessible railings and interpretive signage. ***Refer to sections 5.0 Structures and 8.0 Signage of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Ecological Improvements: The ecological benefits of Confluence Park should be improved through fisheries habitat restoration along the Fraser River, management of invasive species, and development of a forest management plan.

FIGURE 2–28. The entrance to the park could be improved with trailhead seating and wayfinding signage similar to this approach at Cannon Valley Trail in Minnesota.

FIGURE 2–29. Trex material can be cut and shaped similar to wood, but is more durable and longer-lasting. Similar to wood, it blends nicely with the surrounding natural environment.

FIGURE 2–30. Canopy coverage is primarily limited to groupings of evergreens.

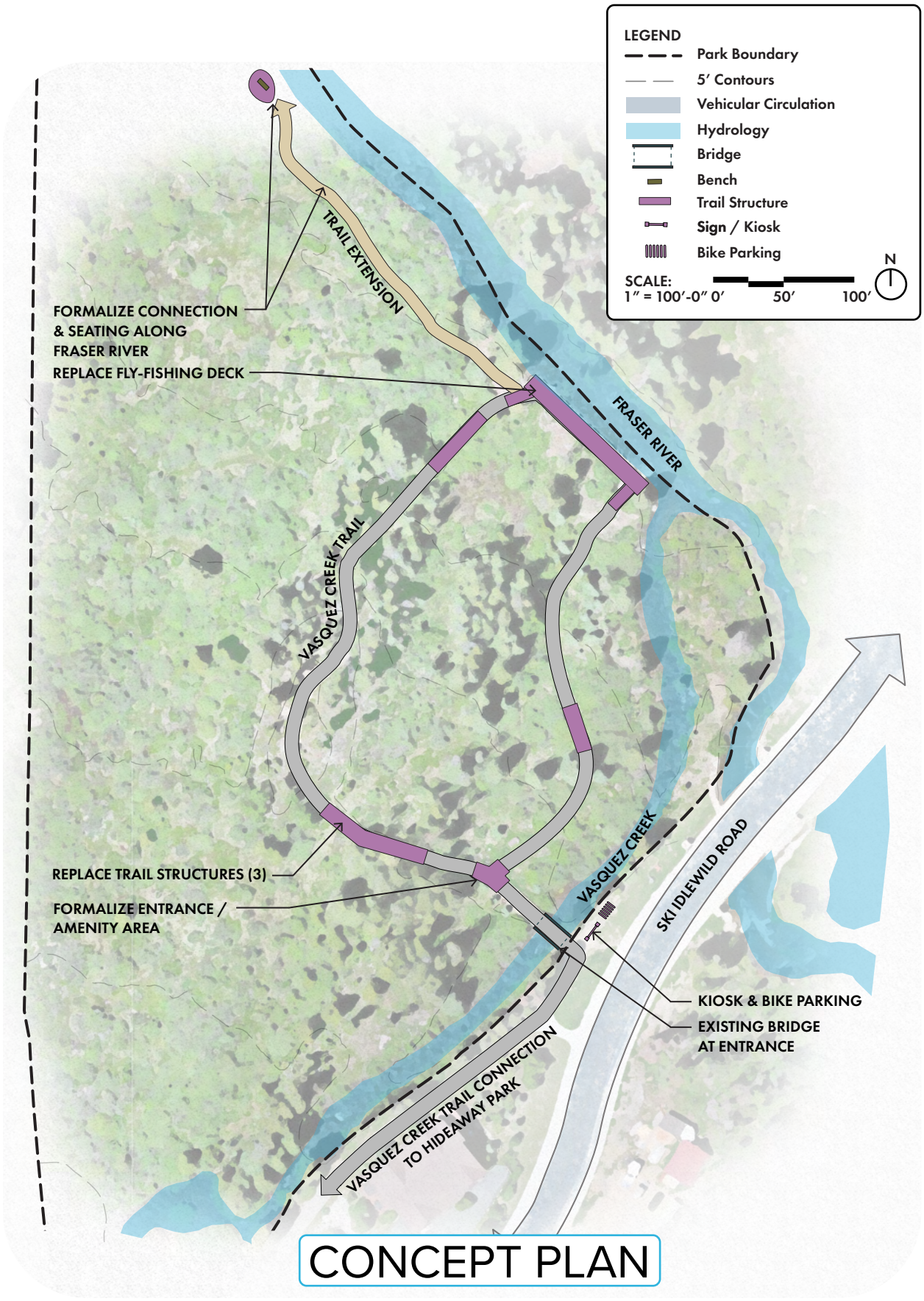


FIGURE 2–31. Proposed recommendations and programming at Confluence Park.

Confluence Park Improvements		
Amenity	**Timing**	**Recommendation**
Fly-Fishing Deck	**Short-Term**	Replace existing fly-fishing deck. New deck must be code compliant, ADA accessible, appropriately sized for snow grooming equipment and have guardrails to minimize fall risk. Trex material should be used to minimize wear and damage from use and snow grooming equipment
Vasquez Creek Trail *(these are identical in the recommendations Trails Chapter)*	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Maintain furnishings along the trail. Monitor and replace signage as needed. Groom trail during winter season.
	Short-Term	Define boundary for seating areas to prevent further compaction of tree roots Revegetate social trails with a native seed mix. Add signage along areas being revegetated to encourage users to stay on the trail and protect natural resources Incorporate interpretive signage throughout loop to engage public with natural setting within the Confluence Park section. Implement improvements along Hideaway Park stretch including seating areas and river access points. Stabilize and revegetate riverbanks and social trails. Provide Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR) accessibility improvements at Vasquez Creek Trail including passing zones, width, and surface treatments.
Entrance	**Short-Term**	Develop a bike parking area and information kiosk at the entrance to Confluence Park.
Confluence of Vasquez Creek and Fraser River	**Routine/ Short-Term**	Manage for nuisance and noxious vegetation
	Short-Term	Provide dedicated wildlife/ecosystem viewing area with seating and interpretive/ educational signage
Forested Riparian Area	**Routine/ Short-Term**	Forest health assessment and management
Fraser River	**Long-Term**	Fisheries habitat restoration

FIGURE 2–32. Wolf Park is separated from the urban context of Downtown Winter Park, offering a more secluded neighborhood park experience.

Wolf Park

Wolf Park is an 22.32-acre linear, neighborhood park located between the Union Pacific Railroad and East Kings Crossing Road. The Alpine Trail is an eight-foot gravel path that meanders the entire length of the park and connects the forested north and south edges of the park to the 2.5-acre central developed area. The central developed area features a picnic pavilion, gazebo, a contemporary playground with swings and a sand box, a linear open lawn, potable restrooms, and sports courts for sand volleyball, tennis, and basketball.

Two multi-family developments are located at the southeast boundary of the park. Timber Ridge Condos is accessed by two parallel unpaved roads whereas Wolf Park Townhomes are accessed via Wolf Park Lane at the southern border of the park.

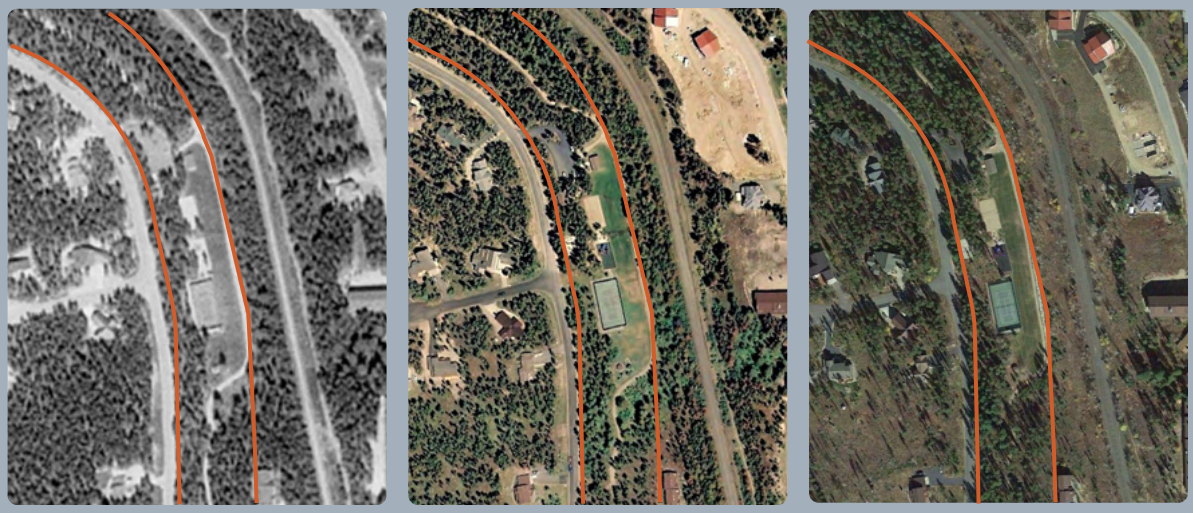
Overall Condition

Wolf Park is the only park within the Town of Winter Park to offer ample space for sport courts and a sizable level lawn for field games. The central developed area was built and redesigned over several decades and lacks a cohesive plan to tie its multiple site elements together. Many of the amenities and features are outdated and showing signs of wear and damage. Site amenities and elements are not accessible. Wolf Park lacks light features. Wolf Park is in fair condition and would benefit from a comprehensive master plan and redesign to better meet community needs and uses of the space.

FIGURE 2–33. Existing amenities and features at Wolf Park.

Wolf Park History

Wolf Park was donated to the Town of Winter Park in 1973. George Robert Wolf purchased 60-acres of forested land to develop the Alpine Timbers Subdivision and agreed to donate 12-acres of the land as a public park. When George Wolf donated the land, his only requirement was for the park to have a tennis court, since this was one of his favorite pastimes. The central developed area was built between the mid-1980s and early 1990s to accommodate a tennis court, shelter, gazebo, play area, and access to the Alpine Trail. The contemporary playground area with poured-in-place rubber was installed in 2008. In 2012 the park was improved with remodeled restrooms, swings, fitness equipment along the Alpine Trail, a sun shade, trail resurfacing, lawn improvements and a new irrigation system.



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The following section provides a brief description of each **amenity** in Wolf Park along with any issues identified during the site visit or by Town staff.

<u>Terraced Open Lawn</u>

Key Components:

- Expansive irrigated sod lawn built on a terrace retained by a boulder edge
- A culvert extends under the lawn and diverts water to the east side of the boulder edge; an inlet is located approximately 10'-0" east of the sand box
- Terrace overlooks adjacent forest and provides screened views of the railroad tracks and surrounding mountain peaks

Evaluation: Fair

Issues and Concerns: During the Spring, sod was patchy and the drainage inlet was water-logged and eroded.

Management Feedback: The irrigation system was not installed properly and does not disperse water evenly across the lawn. The irrigation system oversprays onto adjacent amenities and site features. Lawn space is often used for lawn games.

Restroom

Key Components:

- Painted CMU block heated restroom building with a wood framed roof and security lights
- Built on a terrace with a paved concrete apron at the entrances to the men's and women's restrooms
- The building is accessed via stairs located on the east side of the building or by a wood-lined crusher fines ramp on the north side
- A wood railing extends along the east side of the building and stairs
- Includes a drinking fountain

Evaluation: Good to Fair

Issues and Concerns: The ramp to the restroom does not meet ADA accessibility standards for slope and edge condition.

Management Feedback: The restroom is closed to the public during the winter. The management team is aware the ramp is out of compliance and plans to redesign the access to the restroom from the parking lot. The restroom building interior is ADA compliant.

Basketball/Pickleball Court

Key Components:

- Post-tension concrete slab located under forested canopy with basketball hoops on the north and south sides
- A stepped retaining wall on the north, west, and south sides separates the court from the surrounding grade
- A striped pickleball court with removable net is setup in the middle of the court

Evaluation: Fair

Issues and Concerns: The basketball hoops are in good condition; however, the court lacks striping which prevents it from being used for regular play. Evergreen needles and water collect on the surface due to its location under the canopy.

Management Feedback: The limited sun exposure causes this area to retain snow/moisture/ice throughout the spring. The court has poor drainage, causing it to seep. The court lacks a barrier and balls often escape the court. The court is setback approximately 30'-0" from Kings Crossing Road.

Gazebo

Key Components:

- Octagonal wood gazebo with a tongue and groove ceiling, shingle roof, and built-in benches with backs that function as railing
- Located at the far end of the developed area

Evaluation: Good

Issues and Concerns: Gazebo feels disconnected from surrounding park features and is encroached by surrounding trees.

Management Feedback: N/A

Tennis Court

Key Components:

- Regulation-sized striped post-tensioned concrete tennis court painted with tennis court striping
- A pickleball/tennis drill wall is installed along the south side of the fence within the court
- Tennis court is enclosed by a fence
- Access gates are located on the north and south sides. Box steps lined with wood and filled with gravel provide access to the court on both ends.
- A stepped retaining wall on the north, west, and south sides separates the court from the surrounding grade. Gravel surfacing extends along the inside of the retaining wall

Evaluation: Good

Issues and Concerns: N/A

Management Feedback: The court is heavily utilized and cared for by the surrounding community.

Volleyball Court

Key Components:

- Sand volleyball court with metal posts, removable net, and wood mow edge
- Level with open lawn; wood retaining wall along west side separates grades

Evaluation: Poor

Issues and Concerns: Sod is growing within the sand at the court. Some sections of wood appear to be warping. Sand has hardened with time and is not ideal as a play surface.

Management Feedback: The volleyball court is rarely used. The sand is not of play quality and is hard to keep clean and maintain. The two new volleyball courts recently installed at the Fraser Sports Complex receive more use and are in better condition.

Sand Pit

Key Components:

- Rectangular sand pit set with boulder
- Level with the adjacent sand volleyball court and concrete pad at the sun shade
- Sand box is surrounded by a wood mow edge on all sides

Evaluation: Poor

Issues and Concerns: This feature is not distinguishable and usable as a sand pit. The sand has hardened over time. Due to its material choice and location, it functions a transition space between the sand volleyball court and playground.

Management Feedback: This area used to have digging play equipment, but it was removed after it was damaged. There are no plans to replace the digging play equipment.

Sun Shade

Key Components:

- Removable vinyl sunshade with painted metal posts
- Sun shade covers a concrete pad and wood-lined sand area with site furnishings

Evaluation: Fair to Poor

Issues and Concerns: Concrete pad is cracked at the footer location and the concrete pad is being undercut with the underside exposed.

Management Feedback: N/A

Playground

Key Components:

- Contemporary play structure with climbing walls, slide, spinners, poles, and play panels.
- An accessible ramp extends from the north side to the sun shade
- Poured-in-place rubber surfacing is colored black and enclosed by a wood edge
- A hopscotch board is located on the southwest corner
- A swing set with four swings – two regular and two infant – is located south of the play structure

Evaluation: Fair to Poor

Issues and Concerns: Poured-in-place rubber surfacing is peeling, petrified and warping. At the northeast corner, the rubber surfacing is failing and was heavily water-logged. Vegetation is growing between the wood mow edge and the rubber surfacing.

Management Feedback: The playground and poured-in-place rubber surfacing have reached the end of their material life cycle.

Pavilion

Key Components:

- Rectangular wood shade structure on a concrete pad with a shingled hipped roof, wood joists and beams, and metal braces where it meets the ground.

Evaluation: Good

Issues and Concerns: Concrete pad is cracked at ground connection of the posts.

Management Feedback: The pavilion is a popular amenity used for community and private gathering events. It can be reserved for public use online.

Exercise Stations
Key Components:
- Six exercise stations are along the Alpine Trail: parallel bars, an S-Beam, a pull up station, a vertical ladder, a sit up bench, and a back extension.
- Stations are outlined with a wood edge
- Some stations feature instructional signage for how to use the equipment

Evaluation: Fair
Issues and Concerns: The parallel bars are dented. Some stations are missing instructional signage.
Management Feedback: N/A

Alpine Trail
Key Components:
- Crusher fines trail on road base approximately 6' wide extends through forested sections of the park and along the easternmost edge of the terrace near the boulder edge retaining wall.
- Clearings/waysides along the trail provide access to exercise stations and numbered interpretive signs featuring facts on native plants and animals
- Alpine Trail is a year-round trail groomed for winter

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: The boundaries of waysides are not clearly defined. A network of social trails leads from the trail to the Kings Crossing Road, which is likely compacting soil at tree roots.
Management Feedback: N/A

The following table provides a brief description of park **elements** in Wolf Park along with any issues identified during site visits or by Town maintenance and operations staff.

Element	Key Components	Eval.	Notes
Site Furniture	• Free-standing grid bike rack near parking lots • Charcoal park grills set in gravel areas delineated by a wood edge • Double-wide bear resistant trash receptacles • Movable picnic tables with wood tops and metal bases at the pavilion • Removable wood bollards with reflectors are mounted to all sides in select locations near vehicle access routes • Multiple styles of park benches • Dog waste bag dispensers mounted to wood posts	Fair	**Issues and Concerns:** Grills are heavily rusted. Logo on custom Town benches is outdated. **Management Feedback:** N/A

Element	Key Components	Eval.	Notes
Monument	• A granite boulder near the tennis court dedicates the park to George Robert Wolf and denotes the park's history, his legacy, and the importance of tennis to the Wolf family	**Good**	**Issues and Concerns:** N/A **Management Feedback:** N/A
Signage	• Park identifier sign at the entrance to the park with name of park and Town of Winter Park logo • Wood wayfinding signage for Alpine Trail • A large map of the park in a kiosk near the parking lot • Regulatory signage for dog waste and park/playground safety • Angle mount interpretive sign • Numbered wood interpretive signs along Alpine Trail featuring native plants and animals	**Fair**	**Issues and Concerns:** Many of the interpretive features, maps and signs are outdated. The wood interpretive signs are damaged with missing pieces including markers, handles, and signage. **Management Feedback:** The map within the kiosk at the parking lot is oriented in the wrong direction.
Parking	• Large paved parking lot with striped parking spaces along the edges including two ADA parking spaces and signs • Recessed vegetated oval with pines functions as a median at the entrance to the park • Parking lot is built on a terrace with a wood retaining walls along the east and west side for grade separation • Concrete stairs with cheek walls are set along east side of the parking lot to provide access to concrete path that leads to the pavilion • Crusher fines trails on the south end extend to the restroom and park features • A yellow-painted post and chain fence is mounted to the retaining wall at the southeast corner near the concrete stairs	**Fair**	**Issues and Concerns:** Surface level cracks. Vegetation is growing between the retaining wall and asphalt edge. The post-and-chain fence feels like an interim fix to addressing the drop-off safety concern along the edge of the parking lot. **Management Feedback:** The post-and-chain fence was installed along the edge of the parking terrace to prevent vehicles from driving off the edge. It needs to be partially removed during the winter season to plow and store snow within the parking lot. Since most of Wolf Park becomes inaccessible during the winter, the parking lot acts as a trailhead for directing visitors to the Alpine Trail.

FIGURE 2–34. Interpretive sign along Alpine Trail.

FIGURE 2–35. Terraced parking area near entrance.

Ecological Site Analysis

The current ecological conditions at Wolf Park are characterized by a mixed aspen conifer forest within the non-developed portion of the park. In the north and south portions of the park, there is predominantly lodgepole pine *(Pinus contorta)* mixed with Douglas-fir *(Pseudotsuga menziesii)* and quaking aspen *(Populus tremuloides)* overstory with typical understory upland vegetation. The mixed aspen-conifer forest comprise approximately 16-acres of the 22.32-acre Wolf Park. These dense forest canopies constrict sunlight to the forest floor, prohibiting vigorous and diverse understory plant communities. Plants that have adapted to live in these low-light areas include Wild Strawberry *(Fragaria vesca)*, Heartleaf Arnica *(Arnica cordifolia)*, and Golden Banner *(Thermompsis rhombifolia)*.

The forest at Wolf Park are in good condition overall. As the morphology of these forest types does not allow for much understory vegetation to grow, the threat of noxious vegetation is low. As the forest matures and individual trees grow taller, it will be important to monitor for hazard trees within the park. Monitoring the forested area for pests, such as the mountain pine beetle, is also critical for maintaining forest health.

Evaluation: Good
Issues and Concerns: None

Existing Plant Species

Trees

- Lodgepole Pine *(Pinus contorta)*
- Douglas-fir *(Psuedostuga menziesii)*
- Quaking Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*

Upland Understory Vegetation

- Wild Strawberry *(Fragaria vesca)*
- Heartleaf Arnica *(Arnica cordifolia)*
- Golden Banner *(Thermompsis rhombifolia)*
- Rocky Mountain Juniper *(Juniperus communis)*

FIGURE 2–36. Mixed aspen-conifer forest.

FIGURE 2–37. Forest character along the Alpine Trail.

Recommendations

Wolf Park should maintain its existing use as a neighborhood park but should be upgraded with new amenities to meet community and accessibility needs. Many of Wolf Park's existing amenities are in fair to poor condition.

Key locations within the park shall be improved with new amenities. These improvements are outlined below:

- Accessible Trails and Parking: The parking area at Wolf Park currently functions as a trailhead to the Alpine Trail. The parking area is elevated and lacks ADA-compliant trail and restroom access. The parking area and site circulation should be redesigned to better accommodate universal access to new and existing amenities. ***Refer to sections 1.0 Hardscape, 1.5 Parking Areas and 6.1 Trails of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Playground: A new playground shall replace Wolf Park's current outdated play equipment. Aesthetics of the playground should reflect the forest environment surrounding the park and provide play opportunities different from those currently offered at other parks. ***Refer to section 6.3 Playgrounds of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***
- Pickleball Courts: The community has expressed the need for outdoor pickleball courts for seasonal use. These would be best accommodated next to the existing tennis courts. ***Refer to sections 6.4 Athletic Fields/Courts of the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.***

Heads up: All existing amenities shall be maintained as-is through routine inspection and maintenance until funding becomes available to redesign Wolf Park.

FIGURE 2–38. Trails and amenities should be redesigned for universal access and to increase access to natural setting.

FIGURE 2–39. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation and is in high-demand within the Fraser River Valley.

FIGURE 2–40. Wood play structures such as the Robina Play Equipment by Kompan would be ideal for Wolf Park's forested setting.

FIGURE 2–41. Proposed recommendations and programming at Wolf Park.

Wolf Park Improvements		
Amenity	**Timing**	**Recommendation**
Terraced Open Lawn	Routine	Maintain existing lawn and irrigation system
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Remove existing irrigation system and replace with new irrigation system Allow for a minimum width of 15'-0" of lawn space to allow space for lawn games (bocce, cornhole, ladder toss, etc.)
Restroom	Routine	Inspect existing building hardware and maintain for cleanliness/security.
	Short-Term	Provide new accessible ramp from ADA parking space to restroom building.
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Keep existing restroom building as-is; provide new accessible route to building when parking lot is redesigned
Basketball	Routine	Inspect for damages to court, basketball poles and pickleball net
	Short-Term	Improve drainage around the site to assist in moving water off the court. Thin and limb surrounding trees to limit leaf litter and open tree canopy to aid in solar exposure and drying.
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Retain basketball court location during redesign.
Gazebo	Long-Term (Redesign)	Provide an accessible route and ramp at the gazebo
Tennis Court	Routine	Inspect the court for damage and maintain as-is
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Tennis court to remain as-is; Provide accessible entrance to tennis court on north side
Volleyball Court, Sun Shade, and Sand Pit	Routine	Inspect for damages and maintain as-is
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Remove existing sand volleyball court, sun shade and sand pit; Area shall be reworked to provide new features; New sun shades to be provided at playground
Playground	Routine	Inspect the structure for damage including fastening hardware, railings, components, moving parts, play features, etc
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Replace existing playground with inclusive play features that meet community needs and provides a range of opportunities for all ages and abilities. Provide accessible route from parking area to playground and sports courts
Pickleball	Long-Term (Redesign)	Provide two fenced pickleball courts south of the tennis courts.
Pavilion	Routine	Inspect the court for damage and maintain as-is
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Relocate existing pavilion when the parking lot is redesigned and provide accessible route between the two amenities
Exercise Stations	Routine	Inspect the court for damage and maintain as-is
	Short-Term	Replace missing instructional signage and damaged equipment
Alpine Trail	Routine	Maintain existing trail for winter grooming and repair social trails
Parking	Routine	Maintain for seasonal use to trail and developed park area
	Long-Term (Redesign)	Redesign parking area to remove terraced wood retaining walls, increase parking/trailhead capacity, and provide accessible routes to park amenities and Alpine Trail.
Monument	Long-Term (Redesign)	Relocate existing dedication monument to new location along accessible route
Drainage	Long-Term (Redesign)	Evaluate existing drainage and repair when regrading the site for new amenities
Forested Area	Routine/ Short-Term	Forest health assessment and management
Natural Areas	Routine/ Short-Term	Manage for nuisance and noxious vegetation
Interpretation Opportunities	Long-Term	Incorporate interpretive/educational information on forest health management

Future Parks Assessment

This section summarizes the condition of the seven future park sites dedicated to the Town. The future parks are located in the planned developments in the Roam and Rendezvous Communities. The Town will own, operate, and maintain the parks after their establishment. The Final Development Plans (FDP) for each community specified the sizes and locations of the parks and provided an approved list of amenities.

The consultant team flew a drone over each future park and collected aerial imagery and topographic data. Using the field collected data and GIS, they created basemaps for slope and site analysis. A visual ecological assessment was conducted at each parcel to determine character, vegetation types, and natural features in need of protection. Due to the lack of existing amenities and elements, these parks were not evaluated on the Good, Fair, and Poor system used for the existing parks. A combination of narrative text, photographs, and analysis maps convey the ecological condition and feasibility of each future park.

Porphyry Park

Porphyry Park will be a large park jointly dedicated by the Roam and Rendezvous Communities along their shared border. Each development stipulated a required amount of acreage and amenities for the space in its FDP.

Roam Community

In addition to dedicating land for Porphyry Park, the Roam Community will dedicate active public park spaces, passive trails, and protected open space. The future parks include three park spaces; a neighborhood park and two pocket parks along the Fraser River.

Rendezvous Community

The Rendezvous Community will dedicate active public park spaces, passive trails, and protected open space. The future parks include three new mountain parks spaces; Forest Spur Park, Ranch Creek Park, and Idlewild Park (which is currently under development as of 2024).

Future Parks Recommendations

The Programmatic Needs of the parks were informed by the Town Plan's Guiding Principles, site assessments, community and stakeholder input. These were used to form a basis for recommendations for potential amenities. Recommendations for future parks are informed by the site assessments and analysis maps, which determined the feasibility of developing each park.

A concept plan and a recommendation narrative were developed for each future park. Some future parks will be able to accommodate the range of desired amenities, whereas others will undergo minimal development due to ecological and topographic constraints. The recommendations aimed to incorporate the amenities approved by the FDPs, as these were deemed appropriate for the character of each site; however, additional amenities were incorporated based on the desired amenities list where feasible. Additional recommendations were included to maintain the ecological character of the natural areas at each site.

The sites will need to be surveyed prior to development for parcel boundaries, utilities, location of site structures, easements, wetlands, ecological features, etc. All boundary information is approximate based on the information shared in the FDPs, which was digitized into GIS. As these parks enter into the design and planning phases, each future park will need to go through Town Council review and a public input process to inform the overall development of the site. Designers and town staff developing these future parks should refer to the ***Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter of this report.***

Recommendations are listed after each park assessment. Recommendations are specific to each park, condition, or need, and are intended to guide site-specific improvements. Each recommendation list is paired with a graphic concept plan.

FIGURE 2–42. Many of the future parks will be built on undeveloped land with varying ecological conditions and terrain. Development at each future park needs to consider site-specific ecological constraints in order to sensitively develop parkland.

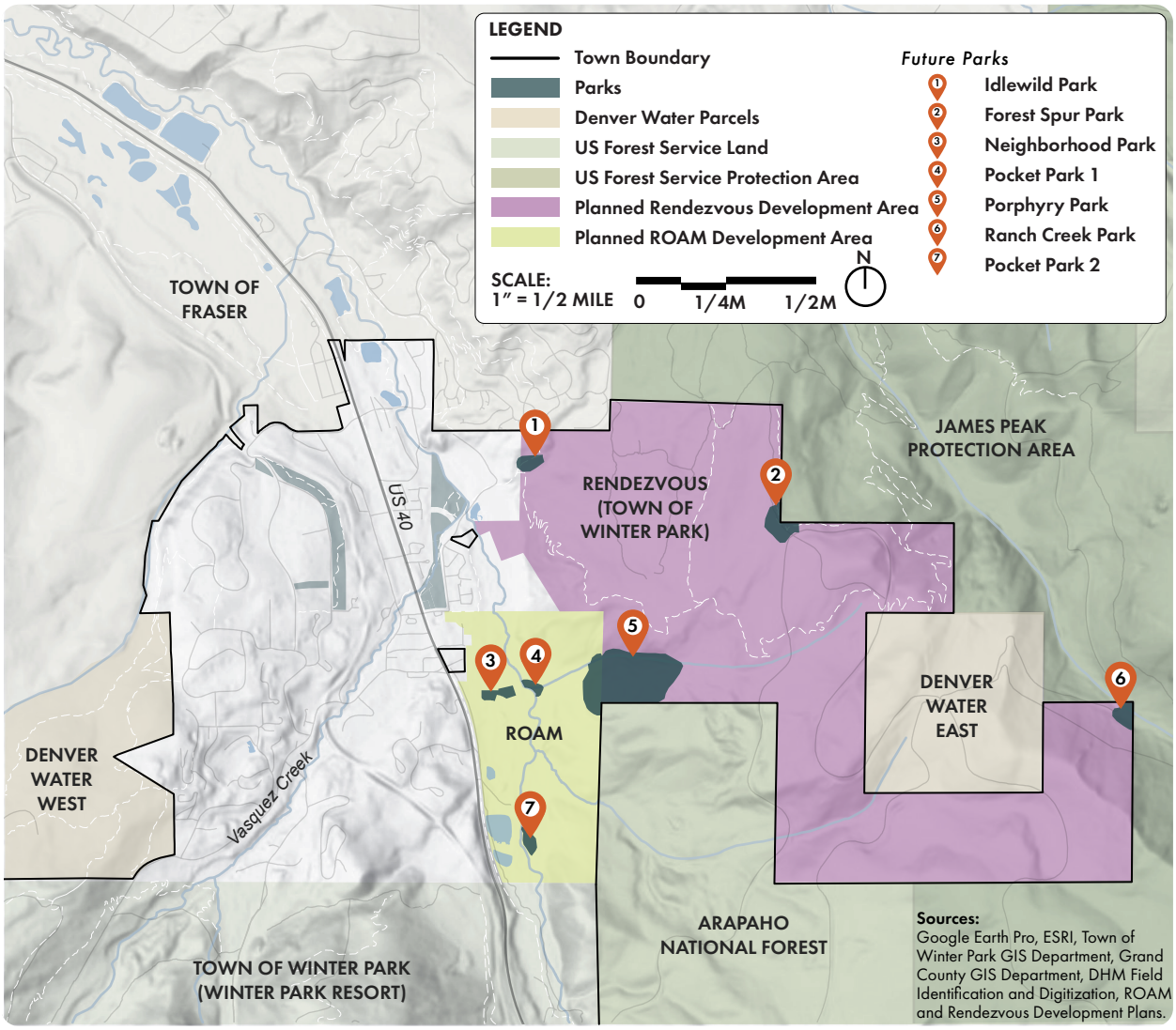


FIGURE 2–43. A context map of the Town highlighting the locations of future parks in the Roam and Rendezvous Communities.

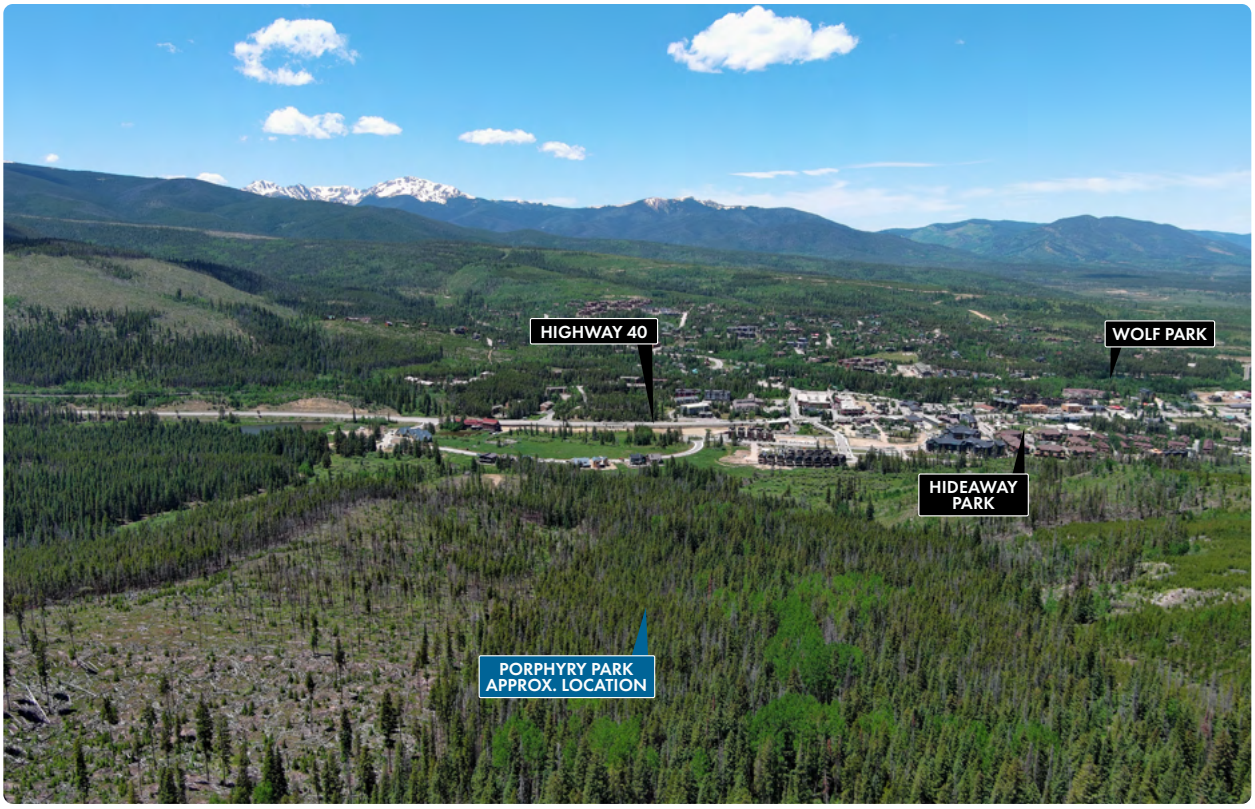


FIGURE 2–44. The image above shows the approximate boundary location for the future Porphyry Park.

Porphyry Park

Description:

Porphyry Park will be a large park jointly dedicated by the Roam and Rendezvous Communities along their shared border.

Per the approved FDPs, the Roam Community will dedicate 5.5-acres along a future access road to provide parking and a restroom. The Rendezvous Community will dedicate 15.9-acres to provide a minimum of fifteen vehicle parking spaces, a trailhead, a picnic shelter, crusher fines trail, and a nuptial knoll with a private restroom. The private restroom will include an individual sewage disposal system.

Existing Plant Species

Trees

- Lodgepole Pine *(Pinus contorta)*
- Quaking Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*

Site Condition:

Porphyry Park is located on sloped terrain along a shared border with the Arapaho National Forest. The Porphyry Creek drainage extends along the north side of the park. The north edge is very steep, with limited buildable terrain. The Porphyry Creek Drainage extends along this edge and acts as an essential wildlife corridor. The central area and southern edge of the park are also steep but it is feasible to grade for trails and passive recreation. The west edge of the park drops off steeply towards the Fraser River, providing panoramic views of the Valley and Downtown Winter Park and Fraser.

The park is composed primarily of a stand of lodgepole pine trees. The mature pine stand is densely packed, limiting understory growth and species diversity.

The parcel is currently not accessible by vehicle. Two roads have been proposed on the west and east sides. The Yankee Doodle Trail extends approximately 300-feet north of the park. The Rendezvous Community FDP recommends a trail connection to the existing trail.

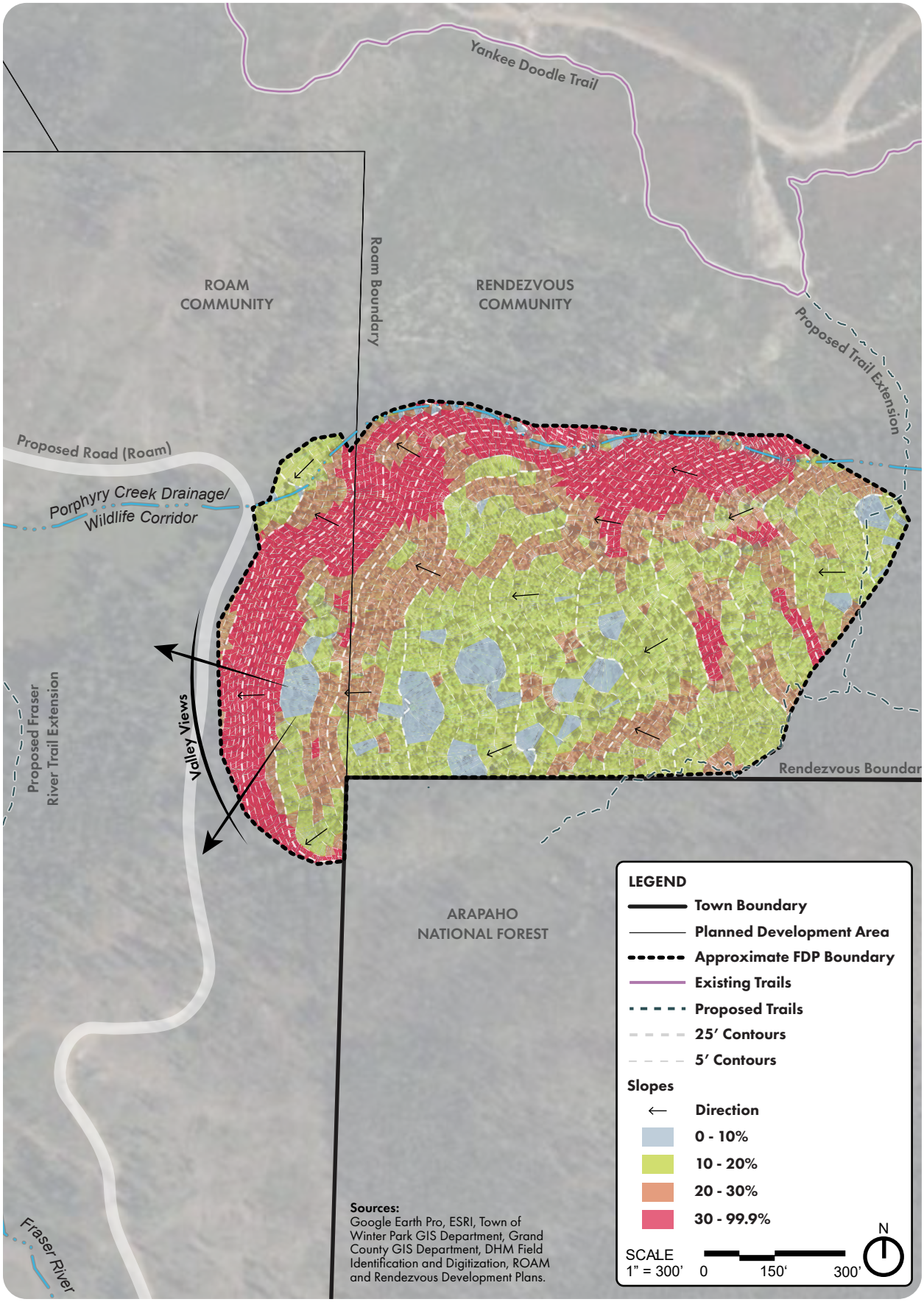


FIGURE 2–45. Analysis map, including percentage of slope throughout the terrain, for Porphyry Park.

Recommendations

The design of Porphyry Park should account for the drastic terrain variation with heavily forested steep slopes and drop-offs towards the Fraser River. The appearance and use of amenities should be compatible with both US Forest Service and residential land use.

The concept for this future park incorporates highly desired amenities identified by Grand County residents and the approved FDPs. Key amenities and improvements are outlined below:

- Dog Park: Porphyry Park would be an appropriate location for a dog park. The terrain could be modified in select areas to provide a unique park experience for residents and dogs alike. This dog park would offer ample shade under the canopy of lodgepole pines and a variety of serpentine paths for exploration. The siting of the dog park offers a buffer from adjacent residential land use and nearby roads.
- Trailhead Parking: Two parking areas/trailheads could be incorporated on the east and west sides of the park. The trailheads would be accessible from the Roam and Rendezvous Communities and include access for the general public. The parking areas would be connected by a series of multi-use trails for mountain biking and/or hiking. Each parking area should include a restroom and information kiosks. The east parking area should provide trail access to the Yankee Doodle Trail. Additional parking could be incorporated parallel to the park's access roads.
- Nuptial Knoll/Overlook: The Rendezvous Community FDP recommends a nuptial knoll within the park. The proposed area should be located along the western slope of the park, offering expansive views of the Fraser River Valley. The site would be limited to small gatherings, with seating provided along the east slope of the knoll. Outside of small events, this location could serve as a passive use overlook viewing platform and seating area.
- Ecological Improvements: A forest management plan is recommended for this site to promote forest health, manage age class diversity, and protect trees against pests. Trees should be planted along the edge of the site to provide erosion control and visual buffering from select adjacent land uses. The Porphyry Creek Drainage will remain preserved as an essential drainage and wildlife corridor.

FIGURE 2–46. Forested dog parks like the one above in Evergreen, CO offer unique opportunities for exploration and exercise with our canine companions.

FIGURE 2–47. Switchback trails offer a sense of adventure and challenge for hikers and mountain bikers.

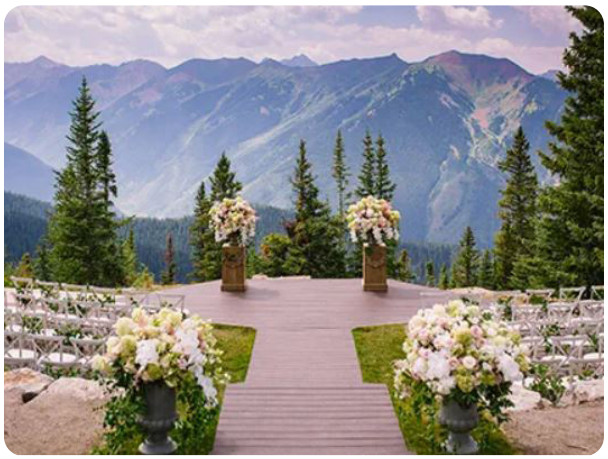
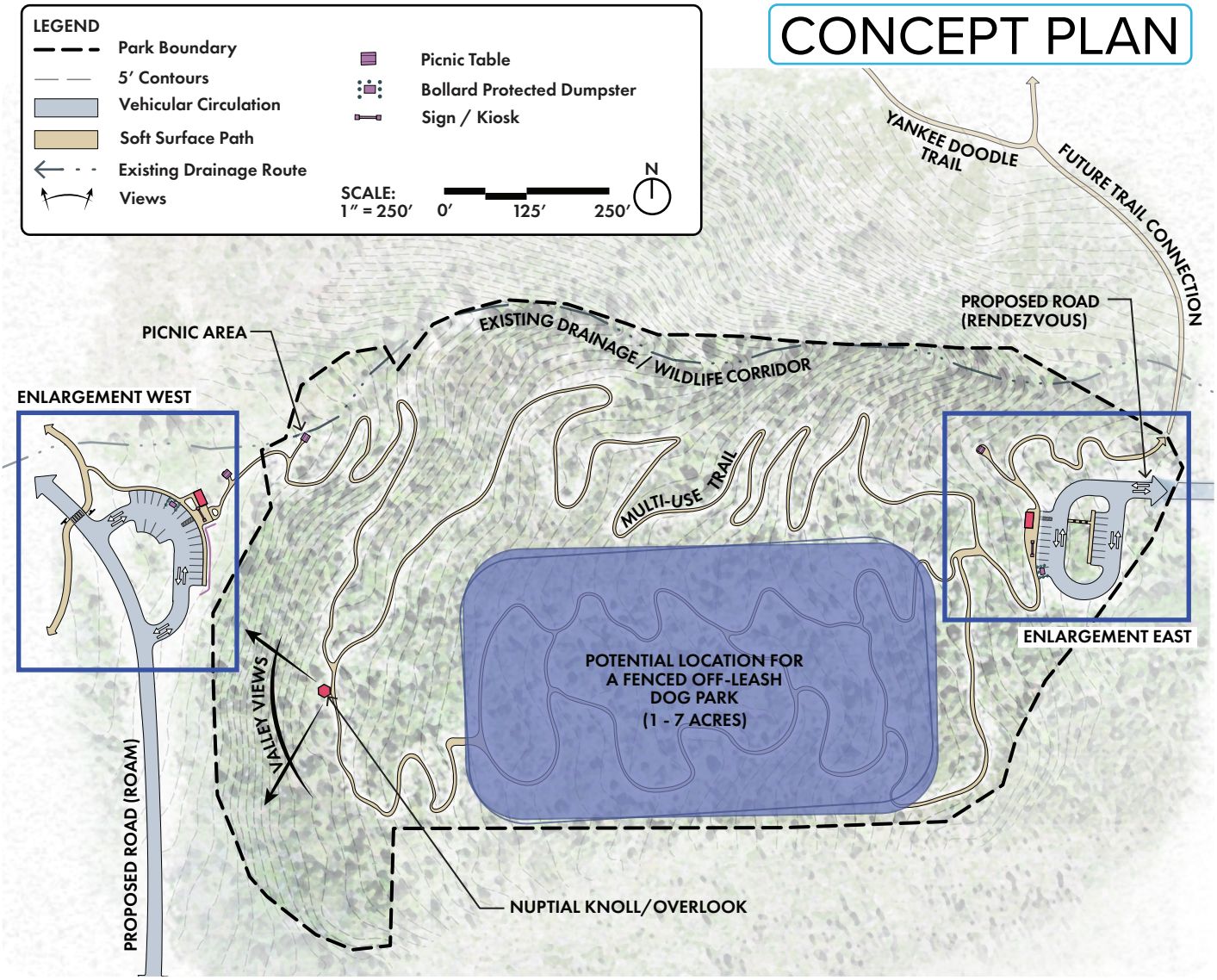
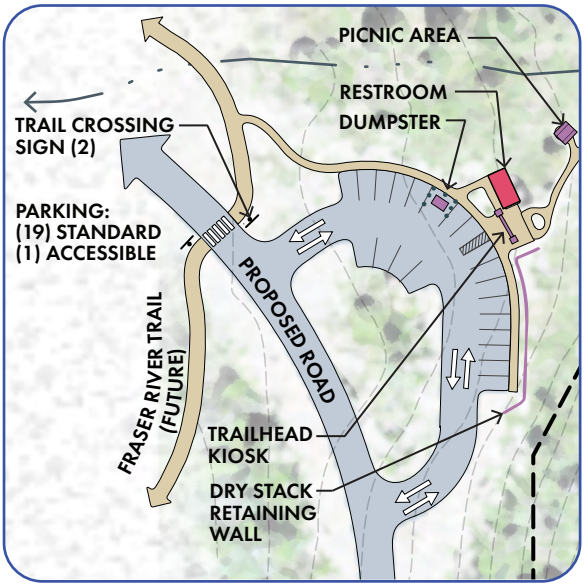


FIGURE 2–48. Nuptial platforms built into the hillside like this one in aspen double as viewing platforms and seating areas outside of event use.



ENLARGEMENT WEST



ENLARGEMENT EAST

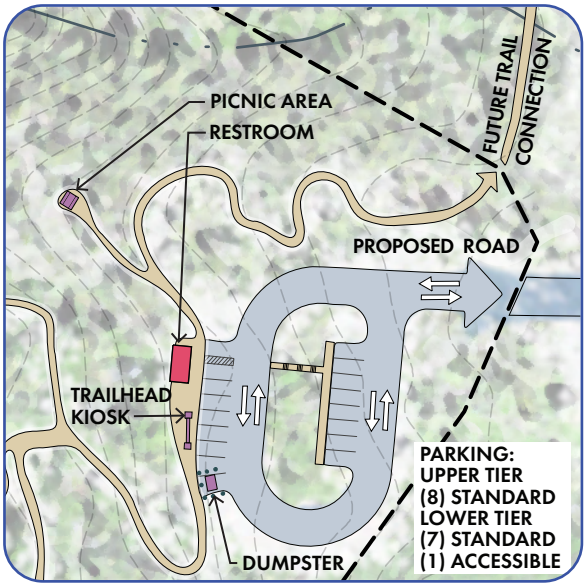


FIGURE 2–49. Concept plans for Porphyry Park: Overall site (top), West Parking/Trailhead (left), and East Parking/Trailhead (right).

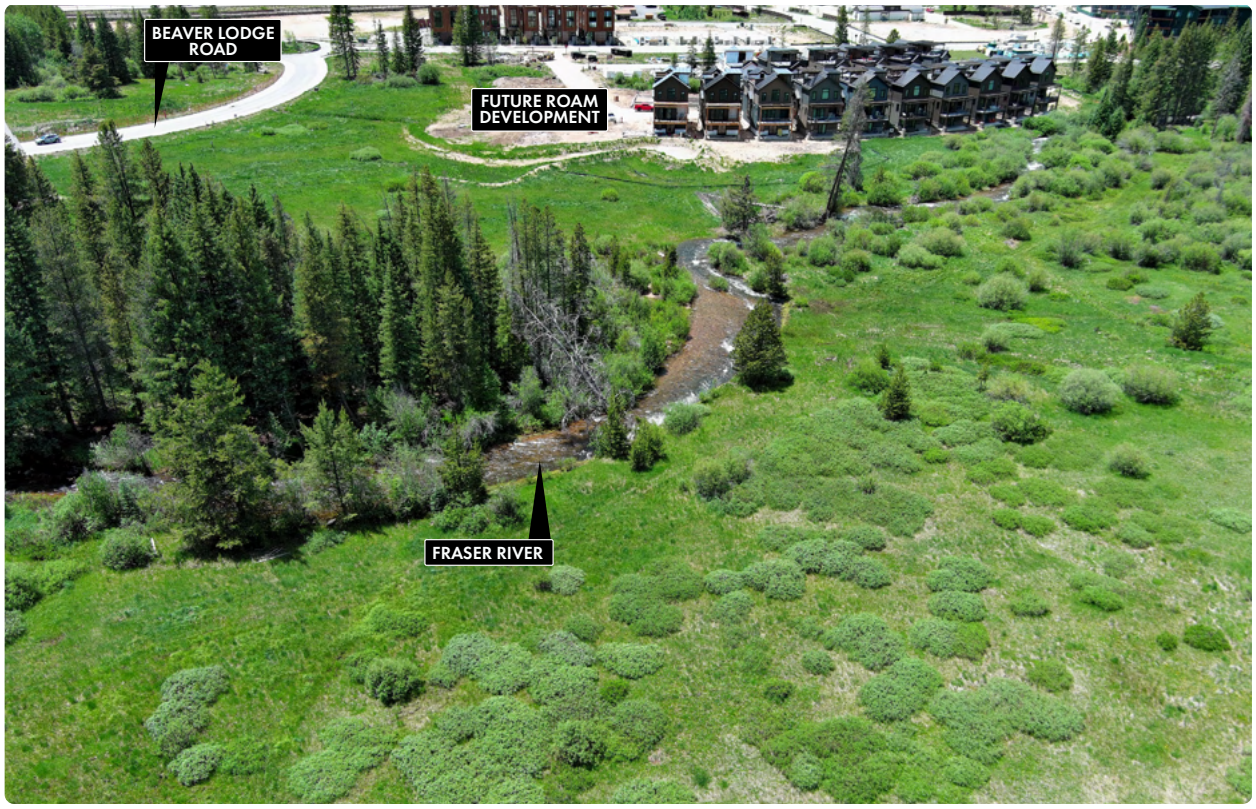


FIGURE 2–50. The pocket parks dedicated by the Roam Community will be located near the Fraser River, outside of wetland areas.

Pocket Parks

Description:

The Fraser River corridor is designated a riparian preservation corridor under the Roam Community FDP and will be largely undisturbed by adjacent development.

Two small pocket parks will be developed in non-wetland areas along the east side of the Fraser River. These parks will be connected to the planned Fraser River Trail extension through this area. The locations for these pocket parks will be determined after a final trail alignment is determined. The FDP notes these pocket parks will be a maximum of 6,000 square feet and feature limited amenities in order to preserve the natural setting of the corridor. The proposed amenities include benches and trash receptacles; interactive trails; instructional, historical, and informational signage; nature viewing platforms; and ancillary non-active uses commonly found along the existing Fraser River Trail.

Site Condition:

The natural character of the Fraser River Corridor through the Roam Community is diverse. Upstream, towards the south end of the community, features a forested riparian habitat composed of a spruce overstory with a wide variety of groundcover forbs. This plant community relies on peak flows in spring runoff. Surface water exists in depressions and low areas, which attract a wide variety of insect species and amphibians. Downstream areas include highly intact wet montane meadow with seep wetlands and an expansive riparian area.

This location contains high quality ungulate habitat for animals such as moose, deer, and smaller mammals. Various wetland plants, such as sedges and rushes, grow in saturated soils located here. The flat bottom valley land directly east of the Fraser River has largely been mapped as wetland habitat so the proposed location of the pocket parks will likely have to extend uphill to avoid building infrastructure within the wetlands.

Recommendations

The concept for these pocket parks is hypothetical since final locations will need to be approved during development of the Fraser River Trail extension. The proposed locations should provide similar amenities to those existing along the Fraser River Trail corridor, including site furniture and signage. The future parks should offer different amenities within different site contexts. For example, one park could be along the hillside and orient the user to the valley and its hydrology whereas a site closer to the Fraser River (like one below) could provide opportunities to experience the river up close. Both sites should provide interpretive signage focused on the Fraser River and its value to the Fraser Valley.

To the extent feasible, riparian habitat and wetlands should be preserved and restored. Development of the pocket parks should incorporate habitat restoration for the northern leopard frog *(Lithobates pipiens)*.

FIGURE 2–51. Northern Leopard Frog is identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by Colorado Parks & Wildlife (Photo by Boulder County Parks & Open Space).

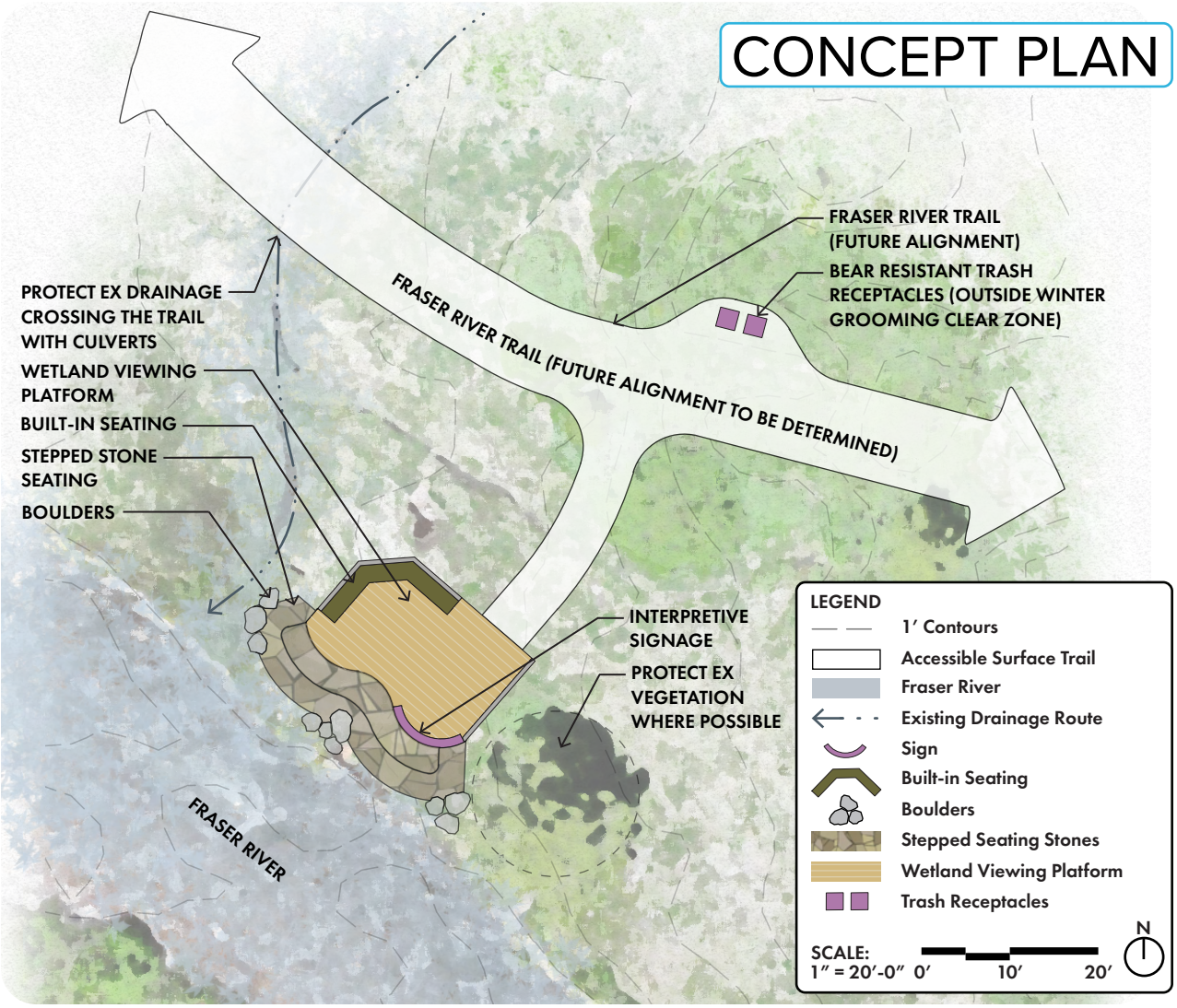


FIGURE 2–52. Concept for a small pocket park along the Fraser River. The location of the park is hypothetical and will need to be approved based on the alignment of the proposed trail and remain outside sensitive wetland areas.

FIGURE 2–53. The neighborhood park is defined by development and roadways on the north, south, and west.

Neighborhood Park

Description:

A 1.5-acre neighborhood park will be developed in the Roam Community, northeast of the roundabout at Ski Idlewild Road and Beaver Lodge Road. The park is adjacent to single-family homes and duplexes also under construction.

The Roam Community FDP proposed program notes the park will feature restroom facilities, a picnic shelter, a playground amenity, and a small sports field with an irrigation system.

Existing Plant Species

Trees

- Lodgepole Pine *(Pinus contorta)*

Site Condition:

The proposed neighborhood park features level terrain with very few trees. The southwest edge of the park slopes sharply from the road to the park. The parcel is defined by roads within the Roam Community.

The proposed site boundary is a little over 100'-0" from the Fraser River, located directly east of the site. The east edge of the park offers great views to the Fraser River and wetland area. Within the proposed park boundary, the site offers very little habitat or tree cover.

After this development section of the Roam Community is complete, the park will be closely bordered by condominiums on the north side and single family homes on the south side. Visual and physical buffers will be needed to separate mixed uses on adjacent properties.

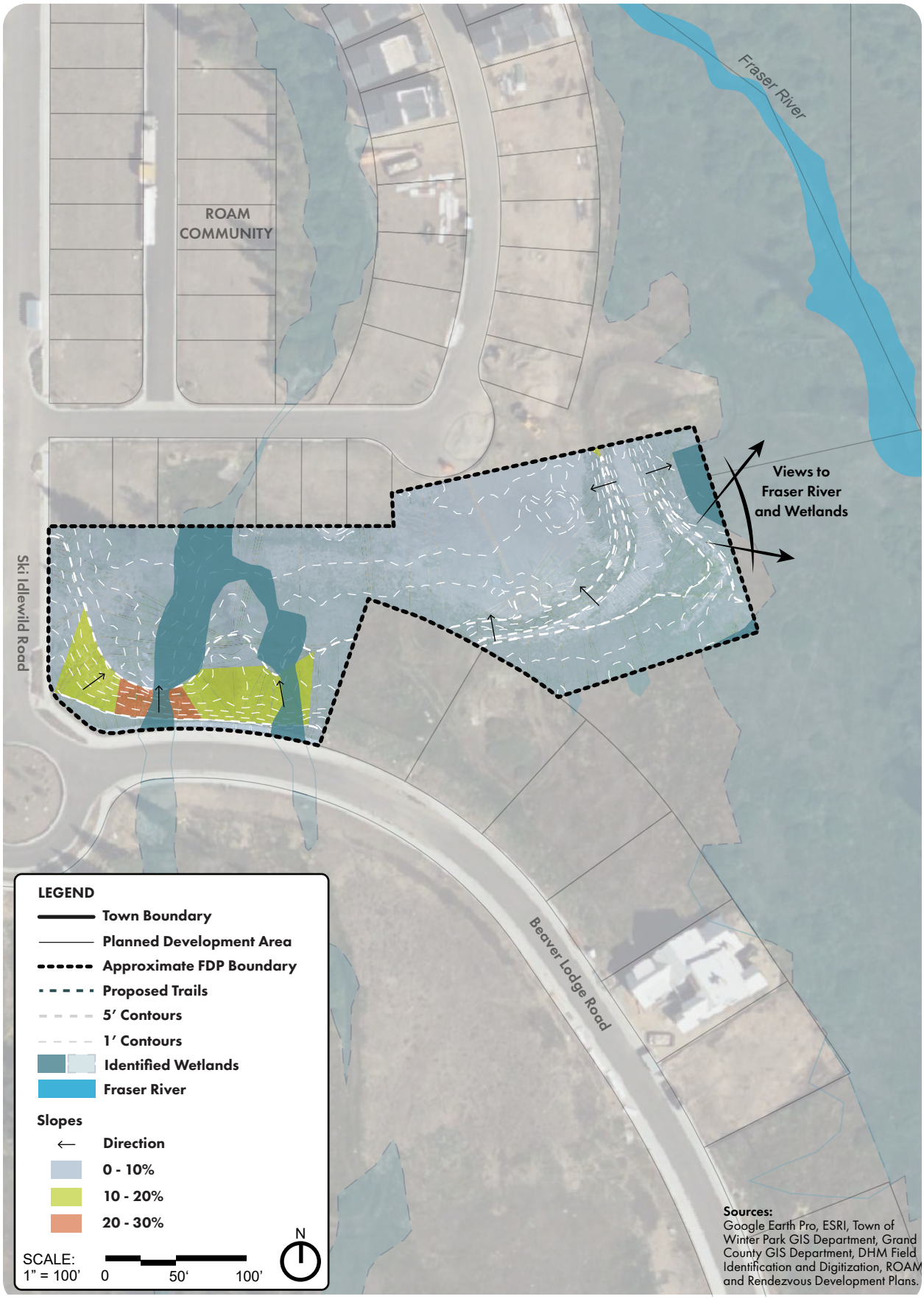


FIGURE 2–54. Analysis map for the location of the proposed Neighborhood Park.

Recommendations

The siting and level terrain of the of neighborhood park offers ample space for play amenities alongside the scenic Fraser River. The appearance of the park and proposed amenities should be compatible with adjacent residential land uses. A series of buffers should be incorporated along the edge of the park to provide privacy to the adjacent residential community. Court sports and night use are discouraged as these would negatively impact adjacent residences. Although the park is located within the Roam Community, park amenities should be available for public use.

The concept for this future park incorporates highly desired amenities identified by Grand County residents and those approved in the FDP. Key amenities and improvements are identified below:

- Playground: The Roam Community FDP identified this future park for a playground. This play space could provide a series of nature play features such as a sizable dynamic play structure, wood swings, or climbable wood posts. Play features would be designed for ages 5 to 12 years-old and would accommodate ADA access.
- Multi-Use Field: In addition to a play structure, this future park can offer space for an open athletic or play field. The field should be a defined, level area which can accommodate a 3v3 soccer practice field, an amenity identified as a regional need by the Fraser Valley Metro Recreation District. Outside of soccer practice, the field could be used for passive use.
- Pavilion/Fraser River Overlook: The east end of the site should be considered for a picnic pavilion, fire pit, and scenic viewing area for the Fraser River. This space would be ideal for small gatherings and celebrations alongside the river.

FIGURE 2–55. Earthscape Play offers custom and pre-designed timber structures that promote challenge/problem solving, imagination and exploration.

FIGURE 2–56. This park concept offers space for multiple styles of swings that can accommodate more than one individual, encouraging social play.

FIGURE 2–57. Open play areas are ideal for passive uses such as solo and group exercise, picnics, and community gatherings. They offer flexibility in an otherwise highly programmed space.

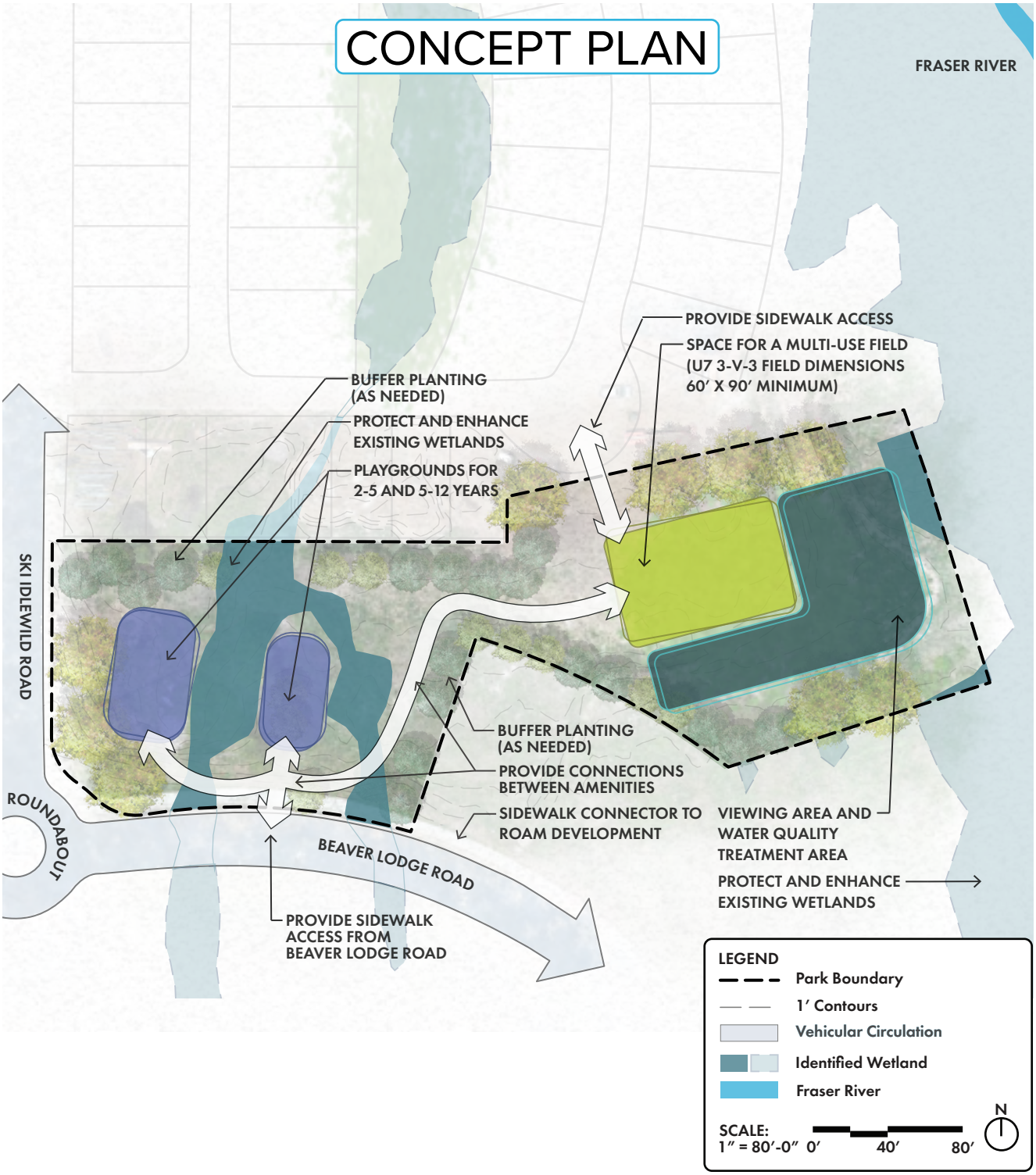


FIGURE 2–58. Concept for the Neighborhood Park within the Roam Community.

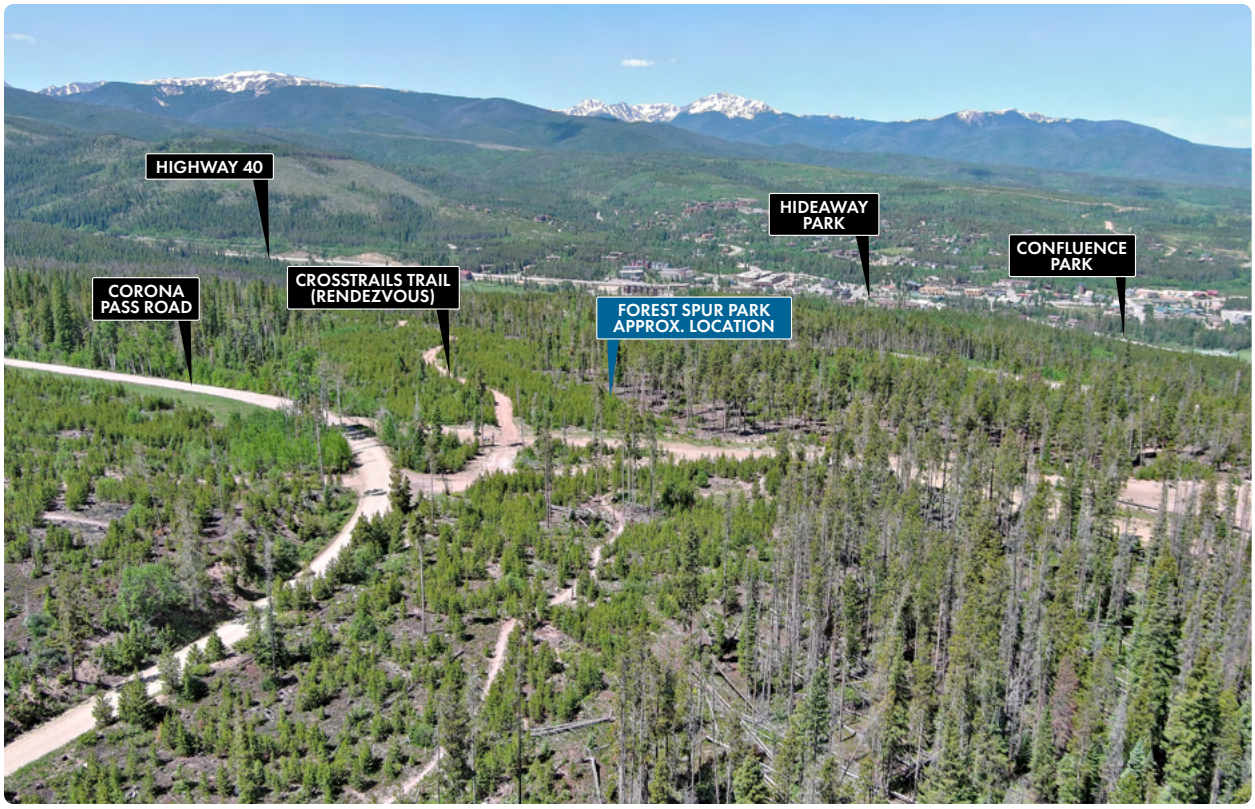


FIGURE 2–59. The future Forest Spur Park will share a border with Arapaho National Forest.

Forest Spur Park

Description:

A 1.7-acre future park will be developed at the Rendezvous Community and Arapaho National Forest border along Corona Pass Road. The Crosstrails Trail and US Forest Service Road 149 extend through the site.

The FDP proposed program notes the park will feature amenities for passive recreation including picnic tables, trail signage and trash receptacles.

Existing Plant Species

Trees

- Lodgepole Pine *(Pinus contorta)*
- Douglas-fir *(Pseudostuga menziesii)*
- Quaking Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*

Site Condition:

Forest Spur Park features a gradually sloped terrain. Two access gates are located at the entrance roads to the site along Corona Pass Road. The gates provide access to an existing gas easement on the north edge of the parcel. The west hillside of the site features screened views towards the Fraser River.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the life cycle of lodgepole pine forest at this site. Young lodgepole pines are clustered in thick stands, surrounded by mature mixed lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir forest. The density of the lodgepole pines can be difficult to navigate by foot. The character of this forest will be largely undisturbed by the development of the proposed amenities.

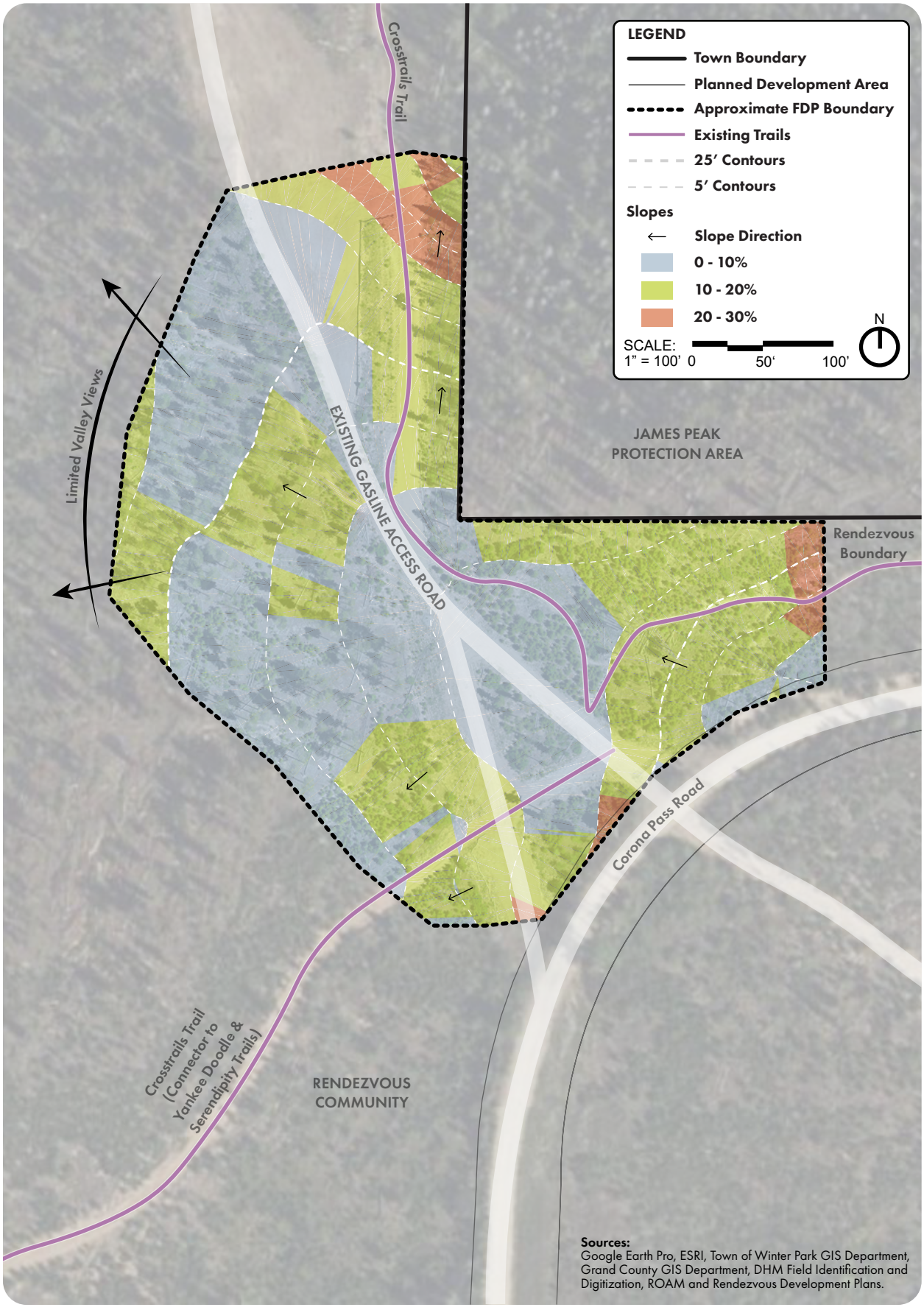


FIGURE 2–60. Analysis map for the location of Forest Spur Park in the Rendezvous Community.

Recommendations

Due to its proximity to US Forest Service land and existing trails and unique ecological character and sloped terrain, development of Forest Spur Park is recommended to be limited to amenities that complement existing land uses.

The concept for the future park envisions a trailhead and gateway into the larger system of US Forest Service trails. Key amenities and improvements are identified below:

- Trailhead: This future park is located along the Crosstrails Trail, which is integrally linked to multiple trails in the US Forest Service and Winter Park trails system. The park should be used primarily as a trailhead for hiking and/or biking. Amenities at the trailhead could include parking, a restroom, trash receptacles, and an information kiosks.
- Picnic Area: In addition to trailhead parking, the future park could offer defined day-use picnic sites for small gatherings. Defined spaces for picnicking and the implementation of controlled fire use could help alleviate degradation of the surrounding forest. The proposed location should be sited within a forested area that could provide open views to the Fraser Valley through selective thinning and vegetation management.
- Ecological Improvements: The forested character of this park offers opportunities for interpretive and educational programming. Educational signage could include descriptions of tree species life cycles, forest health management, and/or information on pests. To preserve the existing ecological character of this future park, a forest management plan should be created to promote forest health, manage age class diversity, and protect trees against pests such as the mountain pine beetle.

FIGURE 2–61. Trailheads should accommodate basic amenities including ample parking, wayfinding, trail information, and restroom access.

FIGURE 2–62. Established picnic sites are great for a lunch/meet-up spot at a trailhead outside of the parking area.

FIGURE 2–63. The Crosstrails Trail offers great access to the Fraser Valley's larger trail system.

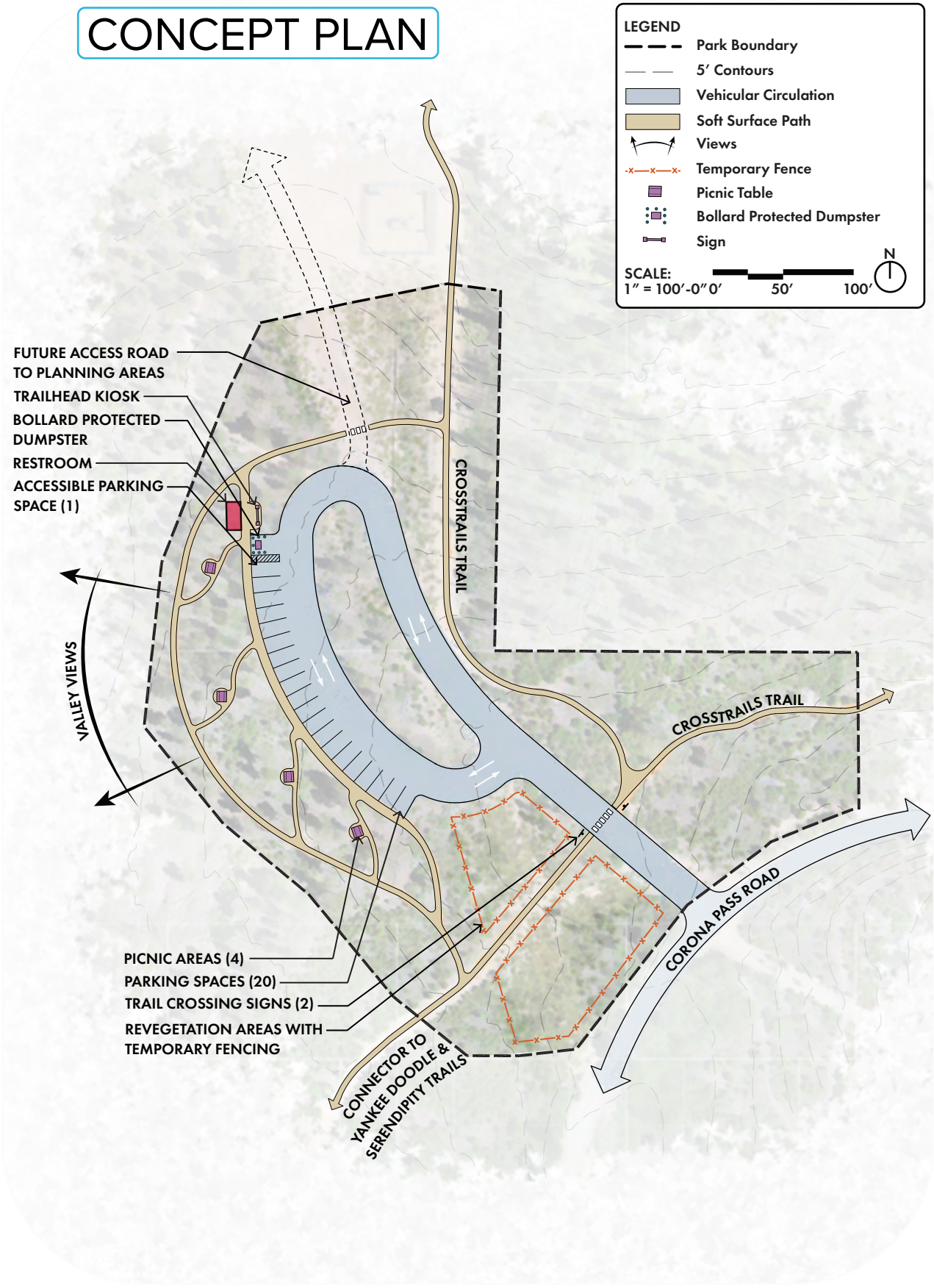


FIGURE 2–64. Concept Plan for Forest Spur Park.

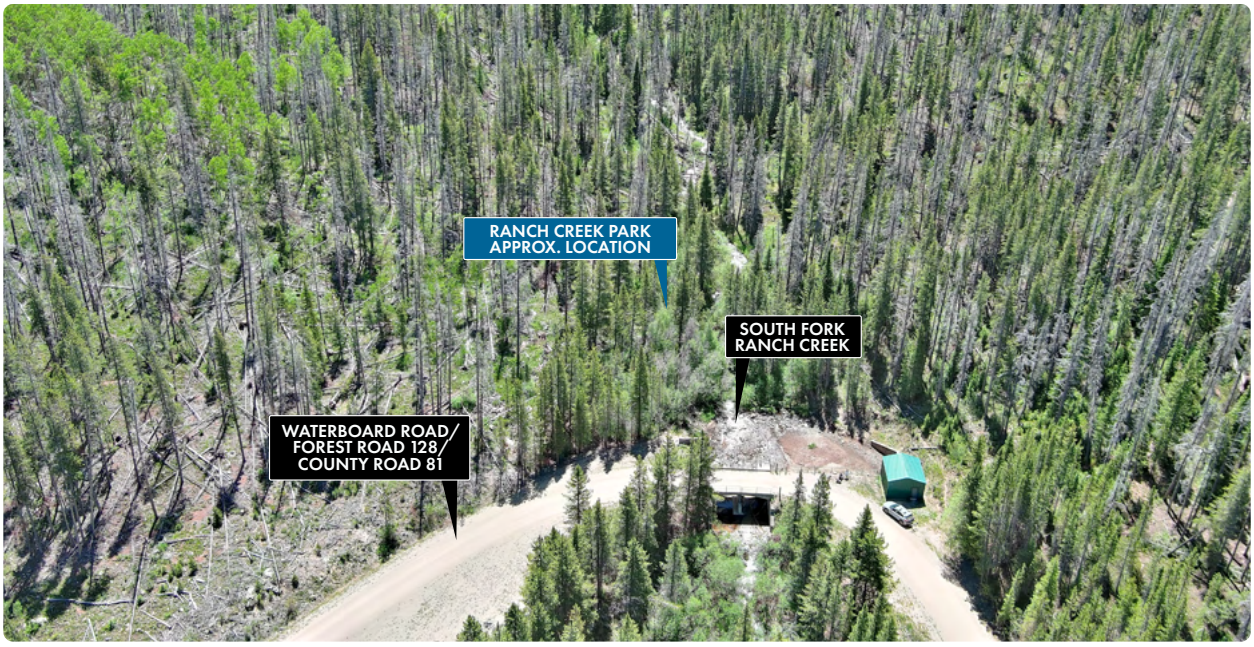


FIGURE 2–65. The future Ranch Creek Park recommended program includes amenities for passive recreation.

Ranch Creek Park

Description:

A 2.3-acre future park will be developed along the border of the Rendezvous Community and Arapaho National Forest at the bend of Waterboard Road/ Forest Road 128/County Road 81. The South Fork of Ranch Creek extends through the center of the future park.

The approved FDP proposed program notes the park will feature amenities for passive recreation including picnic tables, trail signage, and trash receptacles.

Site Condition:

The proposed park is located along the Ranch Creek drainage. The terrain rises steeply on both sides of the creek, with the south side exhibiting slopes too steep for development. Several structures owned by Denver Water are located on the a small shed, headgate, spilllway, etc.

The site features a lush riparian plant community that transitions from a birch overstory into an upland lodgepole pine forest. Wetlands are present in multiple locations along Ranch Creek.

Existing Plant Species

Trees/Shrubs

- Lodgepole Pine *(Pinus contorta)*
- Water Birch *(Betula occidentalis)*
- Drummond's Willow *(Salix drummondiana)*
- Rocky Mountain Juniper *(Juniperus communis)*

Understory Grasses/Forbs

- Elk Sedge *(Carex geyeri)*
- False Salomon's Seal *(Maianthemum racemosum)*
- Alpine Timothy Grass *(Phleum alpinum)*
- Wild Raspberry *(Rubus moluccanus)*

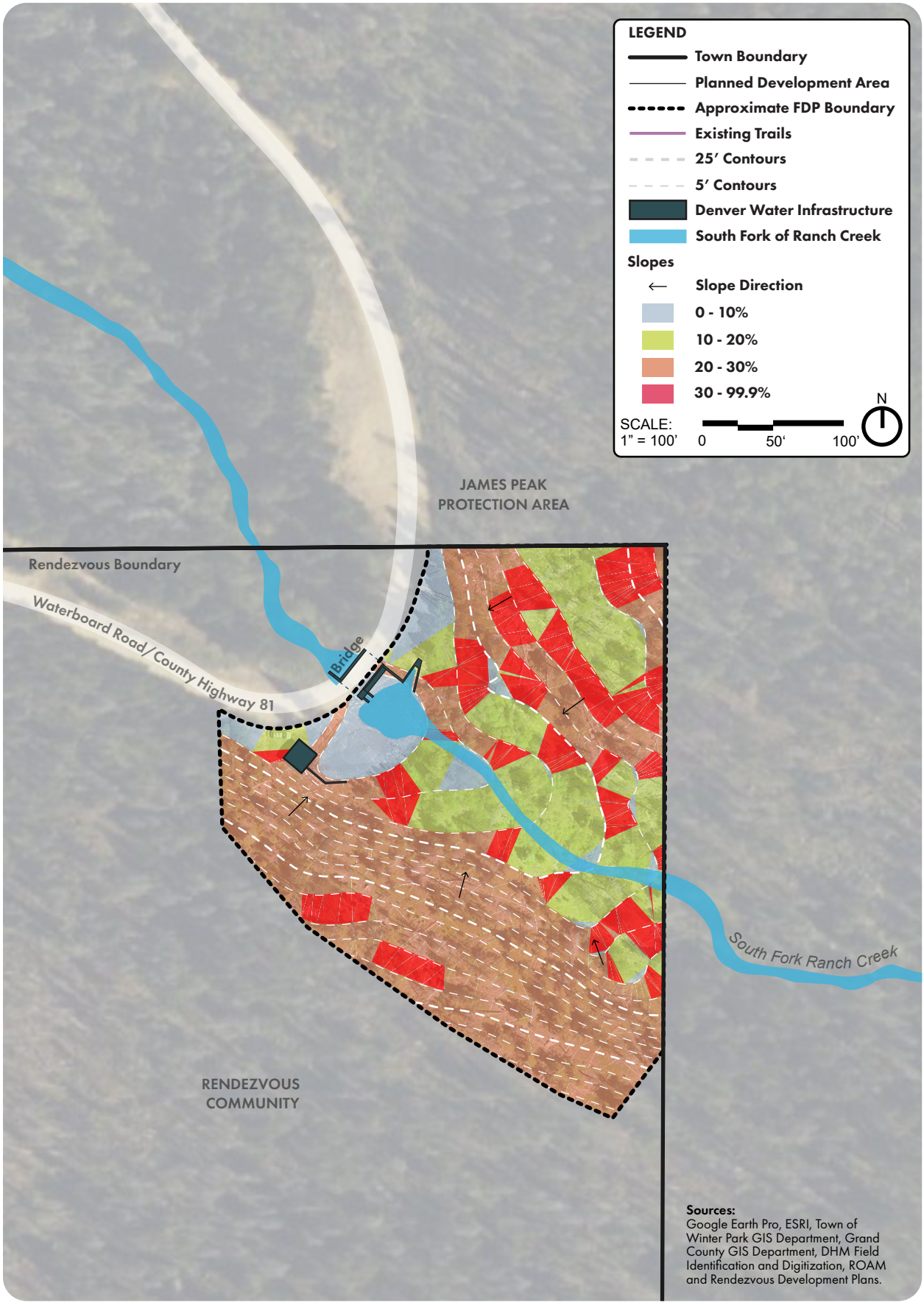


FIGURE 2–66. Analysis map for the location of Ranch Creek Park in the Rendezvous Community.

Recommendations

Development of Ranch Creek Park is recommended to be limited due to its close proximity to the South Fork of Ranch Creek and nearby Denver Water infrastructure. The future park's ecological character and sloped terrain further limit proposed amenities to those which support existing use as a fishing access point.

Any future amenities should be sensitively designed to preserve the scenic beauty and riparian corridor of the area. An environmental feasibility study should be conducted prior to incorporating any parking or infrastructure to determine environmental impacts, potential wetland locations, floodplain concerns, and if purposed amenities will have negative impacts to Denver Water infrastructure.

The concept plan preserves much of the scenic and riparian setting of the area and envisions a park with limited development. Proposed amenities may include a small parking area and vault toilet to accommodate fishing access. This park serves as an ideal location for passive recreation opportunities which explore the rich biodiversity in the high desert mountains of Grand County. The area is heavily shaded, making it ideal for recreational fishing.

The shaded character of Ranch Creek makes this site a great fish habitat. Similar to other forested parks, a forest management plan should be created at this park and the larger Parks system to promote forest health, manage age class diversity, and protect trees against pests including the mountain pine beetle. To promote ecological stewardship, interpretive and educational signage should be incorporated to share information on ecosystem biodiversity and wetlands values.

FIGURE 2–67. View of existing infrastructure at the site of Ranch Creek Park.

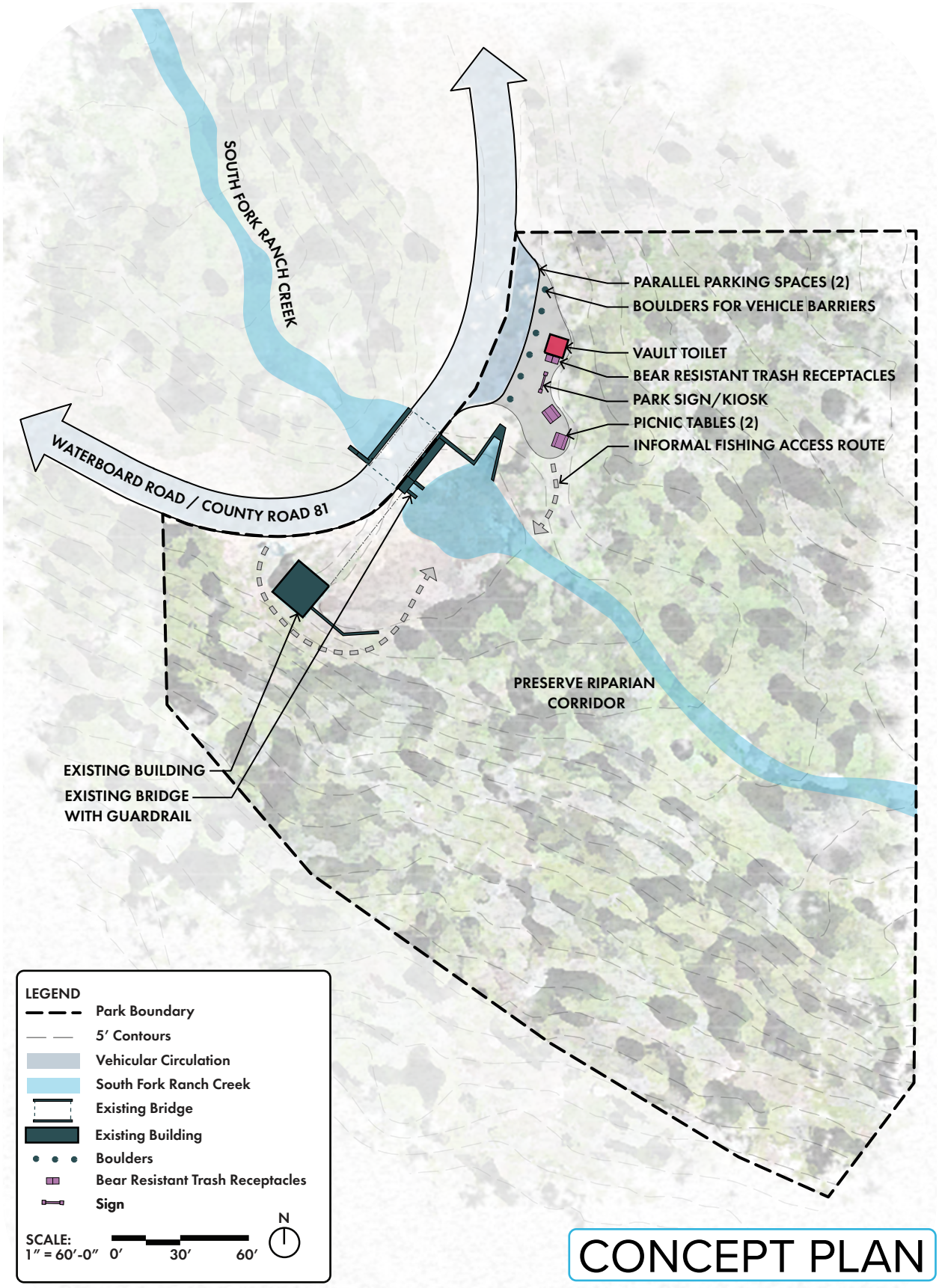


FIGURE 2–68. Concept Plan for Ranch Creek Park Note: floodplain and wetland data were not incorporated into this concept design and will need to be studied further before development is approved.

FIGURE 2–69. The future Idlewild Park will be in close proximity to Hideaway Park and the downtown corridor.

Idlewild Park *(Under Development)*

Description:

A 1.4-acre neighborhood park is under development northeast of Hideaway Park and Confluence Park along Ski Idlewild Road. The park is near the entrance to the Rendezvous Community on the east side of Town. The land surrounding the park is planned for residential use. The Meadow and Yankee Doodle Trails extend through the south edge of the site.

The FDP proposed program notes this park will provide a restroom, a picnic shelter, a playground, irrigated areas, and a minimum of six vehicle spaces along Ski Idlewild Road.

Existing Plant Species

Non-Native Pasture Grasses/Forbs

- Smooth Brome *(Bromus inermis)*
- American Vetch *(Vicia americana)*
- Red Sweet Clover *(Melilotus officinalis)*
- Timothy Grass *(Phleum pretense)*
- Dandelion *(Taraxacum offinale)*

Site Condition:

The future park is located in a depression several feet below Ski Idlewild Road. The site is currently being used to store fill material from surrounding development which has contributed to its uneven terrain. The park has been designed and will undergo construction in 2024/2025. Soils on the site have been disturbed due to excavation, which has negatively impacted the ecological condition of the site and introduced non-native species.

Two strips of parallel parking were built along Ski Idlewild Road to accommodate parking. A constructed wetland was built on the south edge of the site to filter drainage entering into the Fraser River.

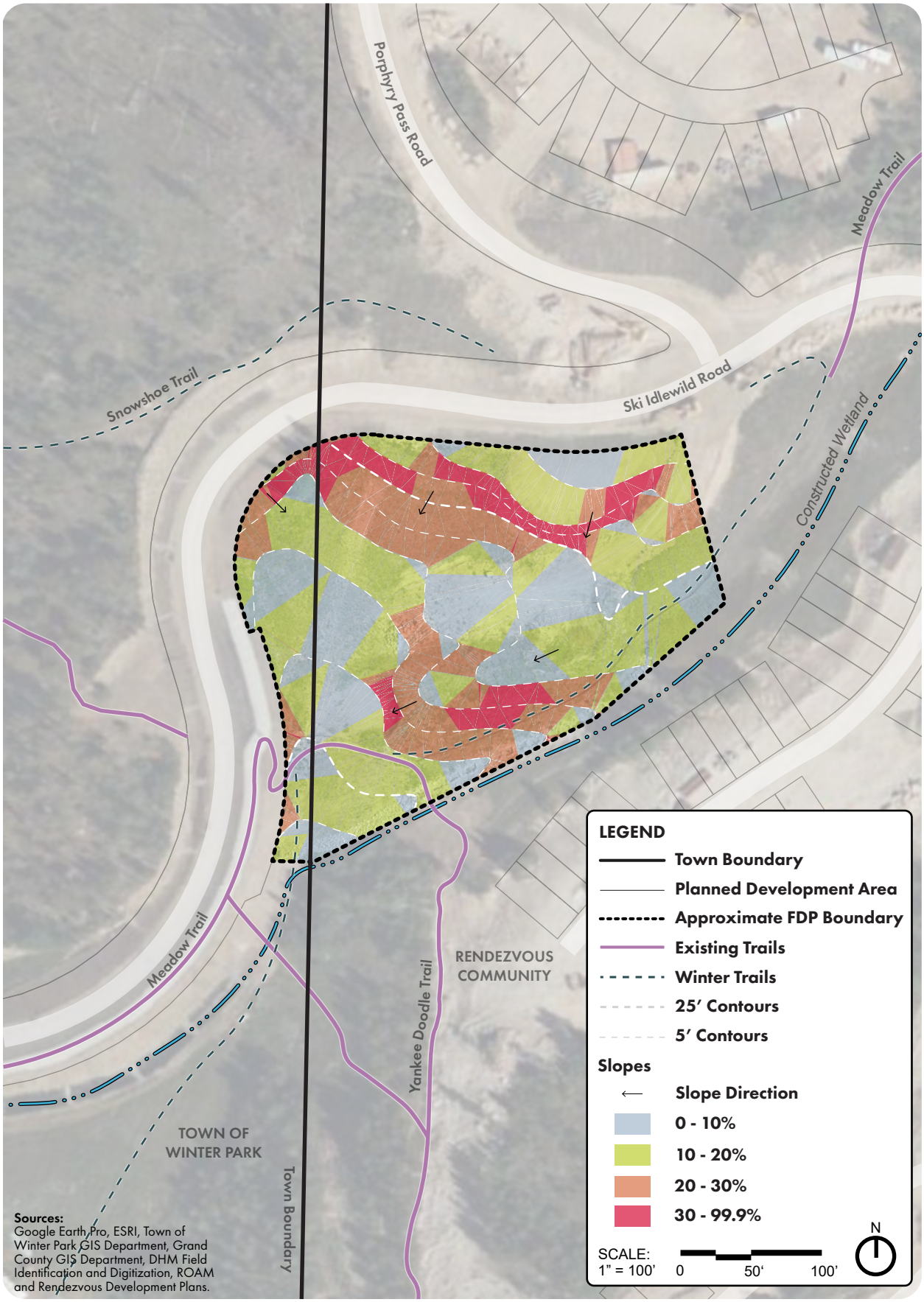


FIGURE 2–70. Analysis map for Idlewild Park currently in development in the Rendezvous Community.

Recommendations

Idlewild Park is under development and moving forward from design to construction beginning in 2024/2025. The proposed program includes a nature play playground, with unique features not currently offered anywhere in Town. These features include a large slide tower and an ADA accessible play structure. Additional proposed features include a restroom building, a large multi-use play field, and a picnic pavilion with a fire pit. The proposed design will provide a paved crusher fines trail connection to the Yankee Doodle and Meadow Trails. The proposed amenities and elements are appropriate for the scale of the site, topography, and adjacent residential land use.

This master plan does not offer recommendations for amenities or elements counter to what has already been proposed for this site. The proposed playground has informed recommendations for other playground amenities at existing and proposed parks to avoid duplication of amenities. The new park should incorporate standard furnishings and landscape plantings, ***refer to the Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter of this report.***

Idlewild Park's proximity to Hideaway Park and Confluence Park allows for opportunities to connect to these existing parks.

FIGURE 2–71. Rendering for Idlewild Park currently in development within the Rendezvous Community.

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CHAPTER III:
TRAILS

TRAILS

Introduction

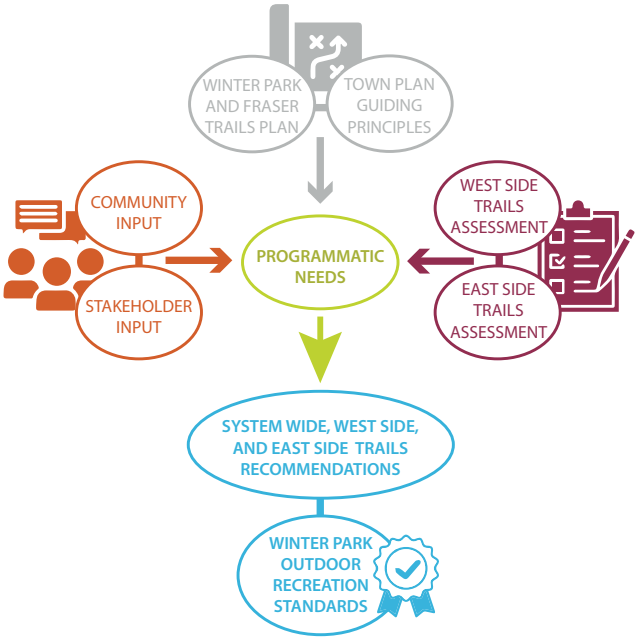
Trails for traveling mountain passes have been part of the framework of Fraser Valley since its early inhabitation by the Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne native nations in the 16th and 17th century. Following the establishment of the railroad in Grand County, trails and trail roads became essential for connecting these mountain communities to one another. While many of the established trails and trail roads have since grown into the paved road network that makes up the Town of Winter Park (the Town), trails have remained essential for connecting the community and accessing regional mountain peaks, passes, and waterways.

The purpose of the Trails section of this report is to take a broad look at the Town's existing trail network, provide inventory and analysis of the network, assess needs and opportunities identified by Town staff and larger community, and provide recommendations guiding improvements and future development. These recommendations aid Town staff in decision-making.

Existing Trail Standards

In 2014, the Towns of Winter Park and Fraser joined the Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA) in developing the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan* — a regional non-motorized community trail plan and set of standards for the Towns' interconnected trail system. Many of the trails continue to follow these standards and are maintained by HTA.

The consultant team has evaluated the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)* and incorporated the relevant framework into this chapter as well as ***Chapter VI: Outdoor Recreation Standards***.



PART III TRAILS FRAMEWORK

Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan
Town Plan Guiding Principles
Community Input
Stakeholder Input
Programmatic Needs
West Side Trails Assessment
East Side Trails Assessment
System Wide Recommendations
West Side Recommendations
East Side Recommendations

See Part VI Winter Park Outdoor Standards

FIGURE 3–1. This chapter is organized using the following visual structure. Color guides on each page indicate if that page corresponds to either Guiding Principles, Community/ Stakeholder Input, Assessments, or Recommendations.

Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan

The *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)* outlined the planning areas for trails between the west and east side of Highway 40. This regional plan intentionally assessed trails beyond the Towns of Winter Park and Fraser, anticipating future growth and development for each town's boundaries.

This planning approach works for regional connectivity; however, the plan is based on assessments conducted over a decade ago. The conditions of the trails have changed since 2014. Some of the changes have been implemented whereas other recommendations no longer are feasible or appropriate. A few trail connections are in the planning stages and are noted in the assessment sections. The Town would like to build upon the framework of this plan to better understand the sections of trails they are responsible for maintaining and help prioritize improvements.

The consultant team has reviewed the conditions and recommendations for existing and planned trails outlined in the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)* and incorporated these recommendations where feasible.

Trails Overview

This report uses the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)* as a foundation for its assessment and recommendations. For continuity, it retains the same planning areas for Winter Park trails West and East of Highway 40 (US 40). The highway acts as a clear separation and barrier between both sides of Town. These trails are outlined below.

In addition to reviewing existing trails, this report reviews the feasibility of the planned trails outlined in the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)* and uses the same names indicated in this plan. These trails are assessed in the recommendations section of each planning area. Trails sections entirely outside the town's existing or proposed boundary were not evaluated.

Additionally, this report evaluates the trail system holistically in relation to the Town's parks and open space. Select locations within the trail system have been identified for trail improvements, sidewalk connections, trailheads, and parking that were not previously evaluated in the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014).*

Existing West Side Trails

- Alpine Trail
- Akima's Way
- Leland Creek Trail
- Razzmatazz
- Sundog Trail
- Sunset Pink

Existing East Side Trails

- Fraser River Trail
- Crosstrails
- Vasquez Creek Trail
- Serendipity Trail
- Trailhead Lodge Trail
- Arrow Trail
- Yankee Doodle Trail
- Whoops
- Meadow Trail
- Depot Trail

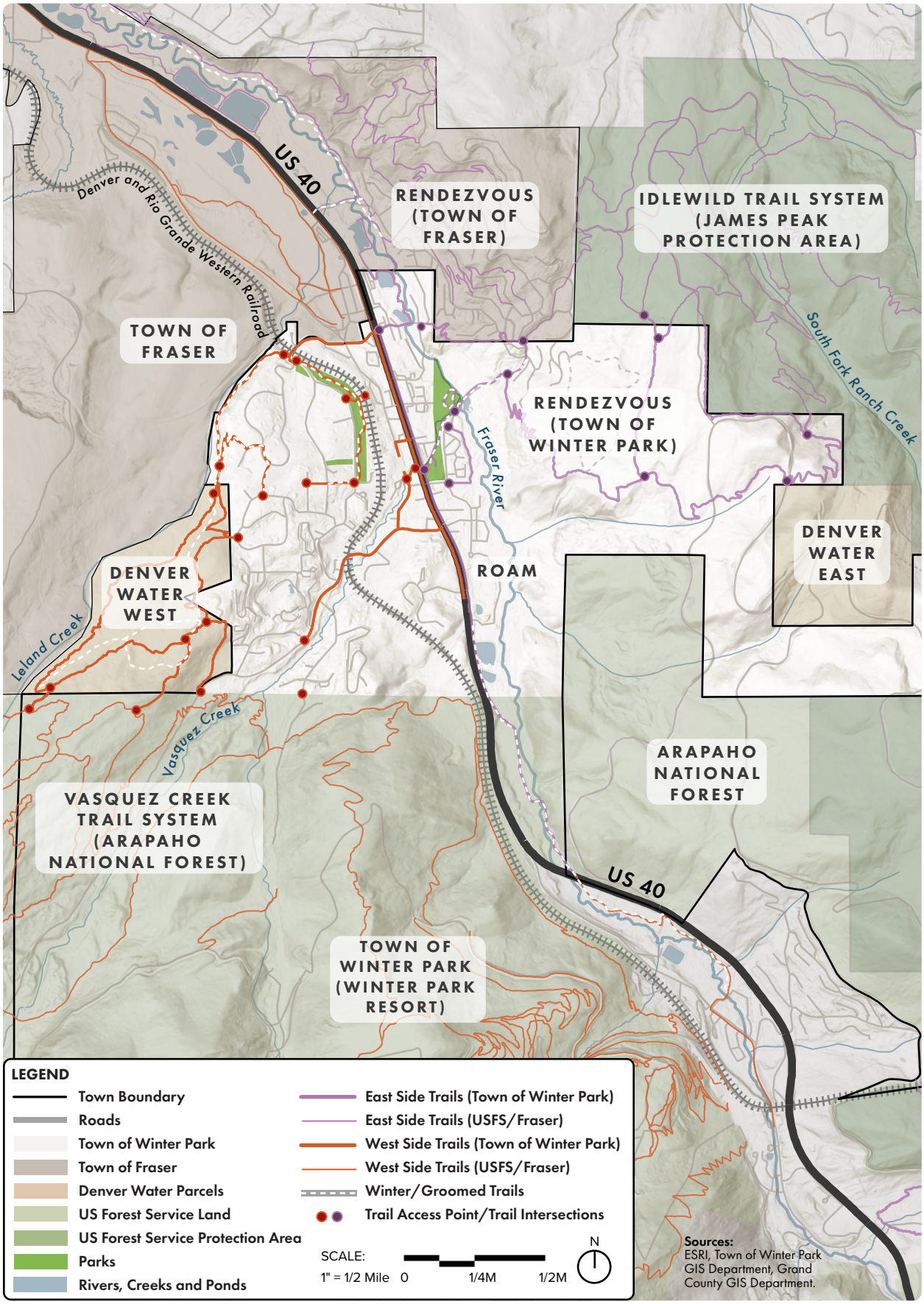


FIGURE 3–2. Town of Winter Park Existing Trails Vicinity Map

	Strategy	Vision Statement
Character and Culture	CC 1.5	Strengthen the sense of connection between Downtown and The Resort.
	CC 2.9	Build on Winter Park's designations as "Mountain Bike Capital USA" and Colorado's "Top Adventure Town" as a way to attract growth that supports our recreational heritage.
Global and Local Community	CO 1.2	Provide enhanced connections between the Resort and Downtown such as a ski back trail, a direct gondola, and circulator bus routes.
	CO 1.5	Initiate a comprehensive signage program to provide intuitive wayfinding throughout Town.
	CO 3.11	Provide a bicycle system that offers both recreational and in-town connectivity and accommodates all levels of riders.
	CO 3.13	Complete the Fraser River Trail to ensure it functions as the primary north-south bicycle corridor.
World-Class Outdoor Recreation	OR 1.1	Integrate dedicated recreation paths throughout the Town into a comprehensive regional network.
	OR 1.3	Design roadways with hikers and cyclists in mind, with particular attention to posted speeds, width, and other pedestrian/cyclist awareness measures.
	OR 1.4	Maintain trailhead and forest access points and easements within and through residential and commercial developments. This access can be as simple as signage and a hiker/biker/horse width easement.
	OR 1.5	Manage trailhead parking to mitigate impacts to the environment and to residents.
	OR 2.1	Develop recreational opportunities suited to short, daily activities.
	OR 2.2	Maintain winter connectivity and access to all recreational trails including the Fraser River Trail.
	OR 2.6	Collaborate with public, private, and non-profit entities to increase recreation opportunities for everyone.
	OR 3.5	Work to establish and reestablish clear trail and backcountry connections between Winter Park and other communities.
	OR 3.7	Examine regional solutions when responding to evolving recreational preferences and opportunities (e.g. determining where a facility would fit best
Healthy and Thriving Environment	EN 1.1	Protect and increase physical and visual access to waterways within and around the Town.
	EN 1.4	Strengthen the Fraser River and its associated floodplain as a recreational and economic amenity while preserving the riparian habitat.
	EN 1.5	Protect the viability of natural wetlands and watercourses as a key component of our natural and built environments.
	EN 1.8	Extend trails and create additional linkages, as appropriate, to link to waterways such as the Fraser River.
	EN 2.2	Design trail routes to minimize ecological impacts while enhancing access and recreation.
	EN 2.3	Protect the integrity of significant wildlife habitat and movement corridors.
	EN 2.4	Foster alliances and partnerships with organizations that are working toward a healthy & thriving environment.
	EN 2.5	Promote education & understanding of public lands through appropriate recreational activities, formal and non-formal education, and interpretive programs.

FIGURE 3–3. The strategies above from the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* relate directly to the principles that guide the Trails section of this report.

Town Plan Guiding Principles

This Trails section builds upon the strategies outlined in the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* and uses these as guiding principles for the trails system.

Culture

- Provide high-quality trails that the Town is proud to share with its residents and larger community.
- Foster a sense of trail etiquette where all users partake in stewardship of the trails and assist in encouraging others to do the same so all users can enjoy recreating.

Connectivity

- Develop an interconnected system of parks, trails and open space.
- Incorporate trails that connect users to Fraser, Winter Park Resort, US Forest Service, and the Denver Water parcels.
- Incorporate a set of trail standards and wayfinding that make the Town system feel comprehensive and accessible to all users.

Recreation

- Maintain and provide access to world-class trails. Provide quality trailheads complete with wayfinding signage, parking, and restrooms, where feasible.
- Coordinate with the community, stakeholders, and neighboring towns to identify and prioritize new trail connections and foster stewardship of the existing and future trails system.

Environment

- Preserve existing trail corridors and avoid aligning trails through developed residential areas.
- Avoid aligning trails through prime wildlife habitat and sensitive natural areas.
- Utilize sustainable trail design methods when building new trails. Partner with a professional trail design consultant when developing new alignments.

Community Input

Community input on this section of the master plan was gathered through in-person and online engagement. In the Summer of 2024, the Town and the consultant team held two community pop-up events during High-Note Thursdays at Hideaway Park to engage the public on the trails. A series of boards presented information on existing trails system. Members of the public participated in activities that allowed them to provide comments on what they liked about the trails system and where they wanted to see improvements. Town staff and the consultant team answered questions, discussed issues, and guided the public to the online survey. This survey was available from June to September 2024. Over 100 participants engaged with the consultant team during the two High-Note Thursday events and 173 individuals shared comments via the online survey.

Key takeaways from community input are located on the following pages.

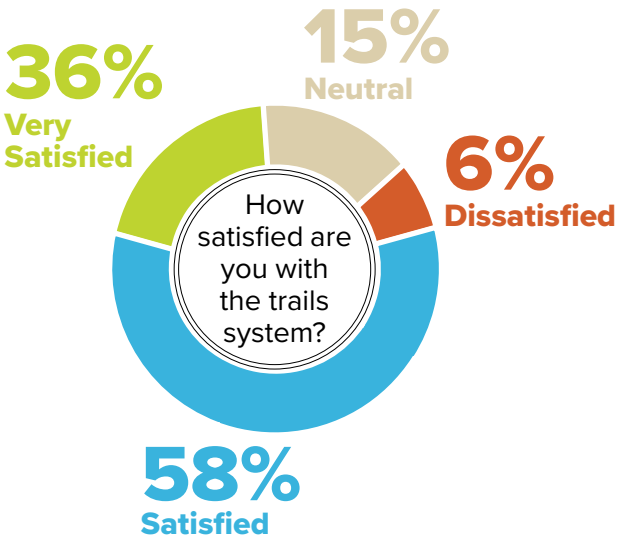


FIGURE 3–4. Participants pinned locations where they would like to see trail and trailhead improvements.

Key Takeaways on the Overall Trail System

- Keep the natural experience along trails and limit conflicts with vehicles and opposing uses;
- Respondents felt there was a lack of connectivity between trails. They felt trails with similar uses (MTB to MTB, hiking to hiking, etc.) should be signed appropriately and have clear connections;
- Opinions on motorized use on trails varied. Few responses indicated a desire for eBikes, snowmobiles, or dirt bikes use on public trails. If developed, motorized trails should be a designated use and signed appropriately to avoid potential conflicts with other users;
- Respondents noted conflicts with different user groups were common and that trail courtesy should be encouraged and trails should be signed for allowable uses;
- Respondents noted the trail system lacked clear, consistent signage at trailheads and intersections;
- Respondents would like to see more consistently groomed winter use trails and expressed a desire for a groomed ski back trail;
- Respondents bike, walk, or drive to trailheads, further supporting the need for clearly delineated trailheads with signage and parking for bikes and vehicles;
- Respondents desire better neighborhood connections on the east and west side to limit vehicle dependency.

Yankee Doodle Trail
"Loss of Connectivity due to Development"

Fraser River Trail
"Need a bypass trail to avoid traveling along US 40!"

Serendipity Trail
"Love to hike and bike Serendipity!"

Leland Creek
"Great Accessibility in Town!"

Razzmatazz
"Great Technical! SO FUN!"

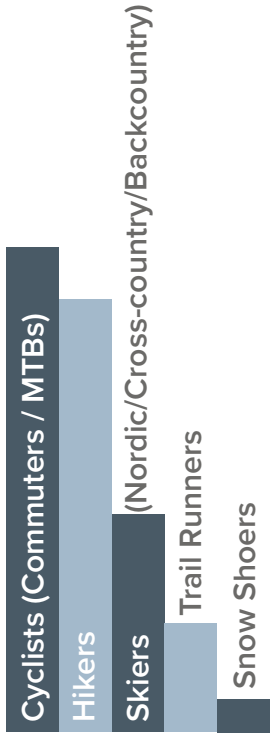
Akima's Way
"Great Connector!"

Key Takeaways on Existing West Side Trails:

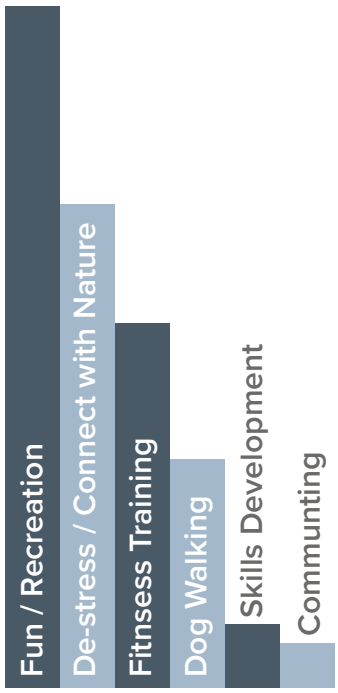
- Leland Creek can be hard to hike when there are numerous blind curves and high MTB bike activity;
- Respondents wish to see limited development of the Denver Water West parcel to provide a scenic biking experience;
- Consider repurposing old logging roads at the Denver Water West parcel for the addition of more technical trails like Razzmatazz;
- Consider implementing more MTB trails in Denver Water West parcel that cater to varying levels of experience including beginner and more technical trails.

Key Takeaways on Existing East Side Trails:

- A bypass is needed for the Fraser River Trail through the Roam Community and north through Fraser to avoid pedestrian, biker, and vehicular conflicts along US 40;
- Development has disrupted access and parking to trails on the east side and negatively impacted the trail experience in certain areas;
- The east side lacks parking opportunities to access trails;
- Trails are inconsistently marked and difficult to locate;
- Respondents wished to see improved parking and access for trail access to Confluence Park.



Common user groups



Common recreational uses for trails

Issues that negatively affect user experience:

1. Trail Capacity / Crowding
2. Wayfinding / Signage Issues
3. Mountain bike / Hiker conflicts
4. Mountain bike / E-bike conflicts
5. Poor trail conditions
6. Off-leash Dog conflicts
7. Highway and Road crossings
8. Challenging Terrain

Stakeholder Input

The Town and consultant team identified stakeholders who have an overlapping interest in trails within the Town's boundary. Stakeholders include Winter Park and Fraser Chamber, Winter Park Resort, Headwaters Trails Alliance, Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Coalition (FVMTB), and the US Forest Service. Stakeholders were interviewed to determine potential partnerships to meet community needs. Notable partnerships and goals for each stakeholder are examined and presented on the following pages.

Winter Park and Fraser Chamber

On-going Projects:

- The Chamber is developing a proposal for a Wayfinding Plan for the region (Winter Park, Fraser, and the Resort) to address connectivity and signage issues.

Partnership Opportunities and Goals:

- The Chamber would like to see improved connectivity and signage to help orient visitors to recreational opportunities and to avoid visitor parking within residential neighborhoods.

Winter Park Resort

On-going Projects:

- The Resort has developed master plans to improve summer and winter operations and recreational opportunities within the US Forest Service Permit Area.

Partnership Opportunities and Goals:

- The Resort would like to see improved connectivity of the Fraser River Trail to its base area;
- The Resort would like to expand Trestles Bike Park and trail opportunities to the north of the permit area;
- The Resort would like to see the proposed Town gondola and ski back trail incorporated into the trails master plan.

Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA)

On-going Projects:

- Continued stewardship of the trails in Winter Park and other municipalities in Grand County through trail construction and improvement projects;
- HTA has been coordinating the Trail Smart Sizing Project — a project that promotes sustainable trail design, connecting trail systems, and protecting sensitive wildlife/habitats.

Partnership Opportunities and Goals:

- HTA assisted with expanding the parking areas at Vasquez and Arapahoe Roads with the US Forest Service. They agree that these parking areas could be expanded to accommodate users; however, this would need to be coordinated with US Forest Service and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act);
- HTA would like moose and other wildlife habitat to be considered when developing or recommending any further trail development;
- HTA would like to see the trails master plan address connectivity, parking, and signage issues. They feel the master plan should address limiting "relocatable easements" as development increases in the Fraser Valley;
- HTA would like to see the master plan address winter trail use and grooming through its standards.

Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Coalition (FVMTB)

<u>On-going Projects:</u>

- FVMTB is focused on improving and developing more MTB trail opportunities within the Fraser Valley. They currently assist with trail maintenance within the Town and hold "Dig Days" to maintain the trails.

<u>Partnership Opportunities and Goals:</u>

- FVMTB has expressed interest in developing more modern-progressive trails. They would like to see more trails developed in the Denver Water West parcel and they hope the Town can acquire it for more trails development;
- FVMTB would like to see additional parking access near Town Hall, Vasquez Road, and on the east side of Town;
- FVMTB would like to see a bike park or pump track in the Fraser Valley as these are great spaces for community gathering and developing MTB skills.

US Forest Service (USFS)

<u>On-going Projects:</u>

- The USFS Sulphur Ranger District is working with the Rendezvous developers to plan and develop more trails into US Forest Service lands.

<u>Partnership Opportunities and Goals:</u>

- The USFS Sulphur Ranger District manages the lands that surrounds most of the Town. They are interested in a continued partnership with the Town and Rendezvous developers to create a safe and sustainable trail system that extends into US Forest Service lands;
- The US Forest Service would like to see a more formalized pit toilet restrooms at trailheads along the Town boundary to improve sanitation along the trail;
- The US Forest Service is interested in improving and expanding the trailheads at Vasquez and Arapahoe Roads; however, improvements require NEPA process and Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine their final design and location. At this time, the EA would need to be led by a third-party consultant since the US Forest Service does not have the capacity to undertake this process.

Programmatic Needs

The matrix on the following page identifies opportunities and constraints for existing and future trails. Guidance on how to improve each trail is included in the ***Recommendations section of this chapter***. While there are limitations to improving each trail, the Town will be able to meet many of the goals and needs expressed by the community and stakeholders.

For improvements that cannot be achieved by the Town, stakeholders have been identified to assist in improving trail experiences. The Town should actively collaborate and support these endeavors to enhance recreational access throughout the Fraser Valley.

Improved Parking and **Trailhead Restrooms**

Parking was identified as one of the main inhibitors to trail access. Where feasible, existing parking should be expanded to accommodate additional vehicles and bikes. All new trails should have access to parking. Trailhead parking should accommodate a restroom facility (i.e. pit toilet) where feasible as these facilities promote increased sustainable and sanitary practices along the trail.

Improved Signage

Signage across the trails system is inconsistent. Signage recommendations made in this master plan should be incorporated into the regional *Wayfinding Plan* being developed by the **Winter Park and Fraser Chamber.**

Scenic Protections

This master plan aims to address scenic protections at a system-wide level. The *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)* recommends the implementation of scenic buffers around existing and future trails.

Connector Trails

Although most trails managed by the Town connect to one another, these connections lack consistent signage and trailhead kiosks, making it difficult for users to navigate the system. Future trails should prioritize creating loop alignments that intersect with trailheads.

MTB Trails and **Designated Trails**

The steep topography and terrain across the Fraser Valley slopes offers great Mountain Bike (MTB) experiences for intermediate and advanced riders; however, these trails present a challenge to beginners.

Community members and **(FVMTB)** have expressed continued interest in a bike park or pump track as well as more progressive MTB trails. **FVMTB** has offered to maintain all existing and future MTB trails. ***As identified in the Parks Chapter***, The **Town of Fraser** is planning to develop a pump track at Cozens Ranch Open Space, if funding becomes available. Additionally, **Winter Park Resort** currently provides green-rated, beginner routes at Trestles Bike Park for a fee.

Hiker/dog and cyclist conflicts were identified as a persistent issues across the trail system. Some of these conflicts could be reduced through more signage and public education on trails etiquette. The Town should establish trails designated for MTB use only to limit these conflicts.

Accessible Trails

While steep terrain poses a challenge to accessing the outdoors, the Town should prioritize developing trails that provide access to people with disabilities. Accessible trails — including those which adhere to the US Access Board guidelines for Outdoor Recreation Access Routes (ORAR) — should be developed and identified with signage so users can make informed decisions. The Town should consider providing manual, all-terrain wheelchair rentals for visitor use. These wheelchairs operate similar to MTB bikes, allowing users to navigate rocks, snow, and dirt roads. The Town should also consider adapting more existing trails for handcycle use and follow ***Adaptive Trail Building Guidelines.***

Groomed Trails

The Town's existing network of winter groomed trails accommodates trails that can be feasibly maintained with available equipment. Future trail alignments and structures should consider the dimensions turning radius, and clearance of grooming equipment. The Town should provide winter groomed trails where feasible. Future groomed trail alignments, such as the ski back trail, should be coordinated with the **Winter Park Resort**.

West Side Trails Program Matrix

	Alpine Trail	Leland Creek Trail	Sundog Trail	Razzmatazz	Akima's Way	Sunset Pink	Neighborhood Trails	Ski Back Trail	Vasquez / Arapahoe Connector	New MTB Trails
	Existing Trails						**Future Trails**			
Mileage	0.67 mi	1.1 mi	1.0 mi	1.1 mi	1.0 mi	0.8 mi	TBD*	0.6	1.5 mi*	TBD*
Surface Type	Crusher Fines	Recycled Asphalt	Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface	Crusher Fines Paved	Native Surface	Paved Walk & Bike Lane	Crusher Fines
Slope	1% to 4%	4% to 6%	5% to 15%	5% to 12%	4% to 12%	5% to 10%	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Scenic Qualities	Forest	Forest Rivers	Forest	Forest	Forest	Forest	-	Forest	-	Forest
Co-Land Management	-	-	Denver Water	Denver Water	Denver Water USFS	Denver Water USFS	-	Cooper Creek USFS Resort Permit Area	USFS Resort Permit Area	Denver Water
Groomed	x	x	Partial	-	Partial	-	-	-	-	-
MTB Classification	Green	Green	Blue	Blue/Black	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue/Black	Green	TBD
Ex Parking	at Wolf Park	at Wolf Park	-	at Vasquez Road	at Vasquez Road	at Vasquez Road	-	-	at City Hall and Trailheads	at Vasquez Road
Ex Trailhead Signage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
Ex Connector Trail	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	Future	Future	Future
Ex Amenities	Restroom	-	-	Wooden/ Built Features	Wooden/ Built Features	-	-	-	Restroom	-
	New Opportunities									
Improved Parking	x	x	-	-	-	x	-	x	x	x
Improved Signage	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Scenic Protections	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
Improvements	Improved Connectivity **Accessible Trail**	Improved Connectivity **Accessible Trail**	Bike Parking	**Designated Use Trail**	-	-	Improved Privacy **Connector Trail**	**Groomed Trail** Resort Connectivity **Connector Trail**	Improved Restrooms MTB Access **Connector Trail**	**MTB Trails** **Connector Trail** **Designated Use Trail**

**Mileage dependent on final alignment*

FIGURE 3–5. Programmatic Needs matrix for existing and proposed trails West of US 40.

East Side Trails Program Matrix

	Fraser River Trail	Vasquez Creek Trail	Trailhead Lodge Trail	Meadow Trail	Whoops Trail	Crosstrails	Yankee Doodle Trail	Serendipity Trail	Arrow Trail	Depot Trail	Porphyry Trail
	Existing Trails										Future
Mileage	6.5 mi	0.45 mi	0.25 mi	0.44 mi	0.4 mi	0.54	2.14 mi	0.64 mi	1.21 mi	0.4 mi	TBD
Surface Type	Crusher Fines Paved	Crusher Fines Paved	Paved	Paved Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface	Native Surface Paved
Slope	2% to 11%	1% to 12%	1% to 8%	5% to 14%	4% to 10%	Lower: 7% to 13% Upper: 4% to 9%	Lower: 7% to 12% Upper: 5% to 9%	4% to 10%	6% to 13%	-	-
Scenic Qualities	Forest Rivers Wetlands	Forest Rivers	Forest Rivers Wetlands	Forest	Forest	Forest	Forest	Forest	Forest	Forest	Forest
Co-Land Management	Fraser Roam USFS Resort Permit Area	-	-	Fraser Rendez-vous USFS	Rendez-vous USFS	Fraser Rendez-vous USFS	Rendez-vous	Rendez-vous USFS	Rendez-vous USFS	Rendez-vous USFS Denver Water	Roam Rendez-vous
Groomed	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MTB Classification	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Black	Lower: Blue Upper: Green/ Blue	Lower: Black Upper: Blue	Blue	Blue / Black	Not Rated	TBD
Ex Parking	at Public Works Parking	In Town	In Town/ Hideaway	In Town/ Hideaway	-	-	Idlewild/ Corona Pass Pull-Out	Corona Pass Pull-Out	-	-	-
Ex Trailhead Signage	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ex Connector Trail	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Future
Ex Amenities	Restroom Access	Restroom (Hideaway Park)	-	-	-	-	Parking	-	Parking	Parking	-
	New Opportunities										
Improved Parking	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	x
Improved Signage	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Scenic Protections	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Improvements	New Phased Alignment Improved Water Access	Bike Parking **Accessible Trail (partial)**	**Connector Trail** Fraser River Trail Phase II	**Restroom at Idlewild Park**	-	**Restroom at Forest Spur Park**	-	-	**Restroom at Forest Spur Park**	-	**Restroom at Porphyry Park** **MTB Trail**

**Mileage dependent on final alignment*

FIGURE 3–6. Programmatic Needs matrix for existing and proposed trails East of US 40.

Existing Trails Assessment

A combination of narrative text, photographs, matrices and diagrams convey the existing condition of each trail. The Town's trails system was inventoried through field assessment and a drone survey completed in Summer 2023 and 2024. These field assessments were followed up with community engagement ***(see Community Input section)*** and meetings with the Town's staff to identify additional issues and needs.

Each trail was assessed for three criteria: connectivity, signage, and parking. Based on how each trail scored on these criteria, they were assigned an overall rating that was used to inform recommendations. The criteria are described below.

Criteria	Description	Good	Fair	Poor
Connectivity	Connectivity emphasizes a trails ability to connect to other trails within the system. An ideal trail system should be well connected and offer multiple routes for varied experiences.	Trail connects to other trails on both ends (or is clearly marked with a defined trailhead). Trail lacks any fragmented sections.	Trail is clearly connected on at least one end and nearly connected on the opposite end	Trail is fragmented or undefined at both ends. Trail is hard to find or indistinguishable from surrounding forest or sidewalks.
Signage	Signage is essential to navigating a trail. An ideal trail system should have clear and consistent signage at trailheads and intersections. Trail signage should establish a hierarchy of importance.	Trail is clearly signed at both ends. Line of sight to trail sign is not obstructed by vegetation or other features. Sign material matches the standard developed by the Town.	Trail is marked with signs only on one end. Signs are obscured by vegetation or hard to find.	Trail signage is nonexistent, marked by paper signage, or damaged.
Parking	Parking is essential to being able to access a trail. An ideal trailhead should have vehicular and bike parking. Parking areas should be clearly defined and not lead to congestion along roads or within neighborhoods.	Trail parking is clearly defined and can accommodate vehicles/ bikes. Parking at trailheads is available for at least 3-4 vehicles.	Trail parking is available for 3-4 vehicles but is not well-defined as a public parking area.	Trail parking is not available to access the trail. Current parking is creating congestion within neighborhoods and on roadways.
Overall	Trails that exhibit these three criteria are an essential part of each trail system. A good trail is well-loved by the community and well-utilized. It attracts both locals and visitors and leaves a lasting impression.	Trail is in good, operable condition. Trail is well-connected, possess wayfinding signage, and has desirable parking near trailhead. Trail does not require immediate intervention and only needs routine maintenance.	Trail faces connectivity issues. Wayfinding signage is unclear or inconsistent. If the trail is further neglected, the condition will deteriorate to poor in a few years.	Trail is not navigable in its current state. Wayfinding is non-existent. Repair is required to ensure safe use.

FIGURE 3–7. Criteria for existing trail assessment.

West Side Trails Assessment

Trails on the west side of US 40 include neighborhood access, trails in the Denver Water West parcel, and trails that extend into the Resort/ US Forest Service Permit Area for the Winter Park Resort. The trails in the Denver Water West parcel are of relatively recent construction and are actively used by the Mountain Bike (MTB) community.

Connectivity

- The west side is composed of moderately dense residential development with limited open space corridors. This limits opportunities for creating new direct connections between trails;
- The lack of clear signage and physical connections has led to several social trails along and through private property lines;
- New connections will be limited to developing shared-use paths/ bike lanes along existing roads or establishing easements with property owners. Most of the road right-of-ways lack sidewalk connections;
- Some existing trails and social trails pass within close proximity to residences without substantial buffers.

Signage

- Many of the trails are unmarked at key entrances and decision-making points;
- Existing signage lacks visual consistency (i.e. temporary paper signage);
- The residential neighborhood is difficult to navigate due to inconsistent signage and along streets.

Parking

- Outside of Arapahoe and Vasquez Roads, trail access points lack defined parking areas;
- Due to the lack of trailheads, parking is often located along neighborhood streets where there is no public street parking or along gravel shoulders in the right-of-way.

FIGURE 3–8. Trails along the west side of US 40.

FIGURE 3–9. This HOA trail within the neighborhood passes within 10-feet of a residence without any buffer.

FIGURE 3–10. This access point to the Sundog Trail from Moose Trail is unsigned and features no shoulder parking.

FIGURE 3–11. This section of the Leland Creek Trail passes in close proximity to houses and aligns with a residential driveway. There is no parking at the start of this trailhead.

FIGURE 3–12. Not all the intersections within the Denver Water West parcel are marked with signs making it easier to get lost between the interconnected network on trails and forest roads.

FIGURE 3–13. Across from the outlet of the Alpine Trail is a sign preventing further connection.

FIGURE 3–14. Some existing trails intersect directly with roads that have no shoulder or location for users to walk. They lack any signage or striping that would indicate an adjoining trail to a vehicle. This presents a hazard to both trail users and vehicle operators.

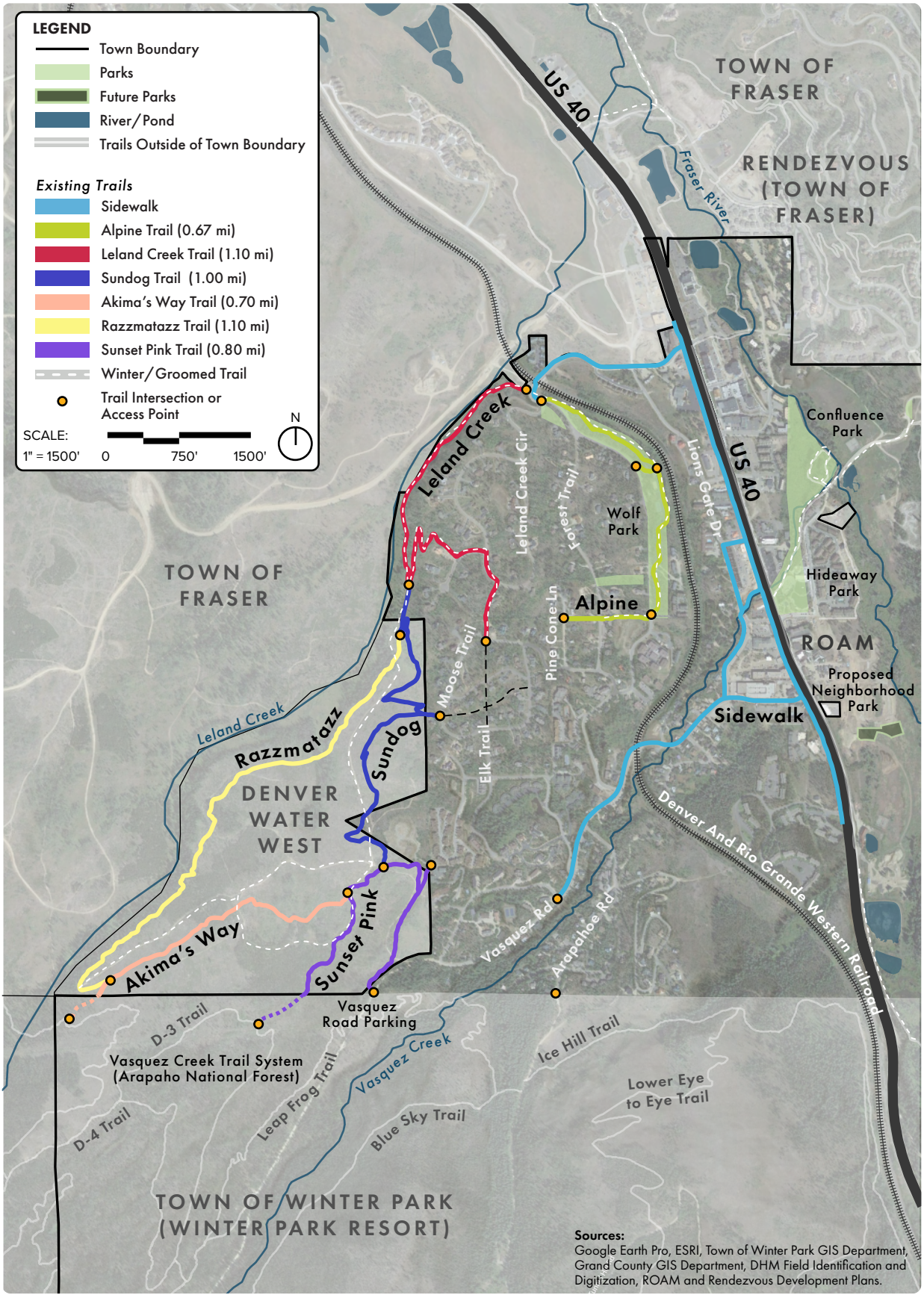


FIGURE 3–15. Existing trails on the west side of US 40.

The following table provides a brief description and identified issues of trails **West of Highway 40** within the Town boundary.

Trail	Description	Users	Issues	Evaluation
Alpine Trail (0.67 mi) 	• Trail extends through Wolf Park with three access points along Kings Crossing Road, including one at Wolf Park's parking lot; • North end: Trail connects to a sidewalk that extends down the road and across the street from Leland Creek; • South end: Trail continues across street to short connector trail that crosses Forest Trail and eventually dead ends at Pine Cone Lane. "No Trespassing" signage at the end of the trail deters further access west.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter Groomed XC ski Snowshoes	• Incomplete easements and connections to adjacent trails; • Inconsistent width; • Unmarked trail crossings at road; • Poor/inconsistent signage at Forest Trail and Pine Cone Lane; • Minimally buffered between driveways at Forest Trail; • Parking at Wolf Park is not ADA accessible.	Connectivity Poor Signage Fair Parking Fair
Leland Creek Trail (1.1 mi) 	• The trail extends along the west side of Town through public easements and along Leland Creek to connect to Sundog Trail; • North end: Access from Kings Crossing Road at unmarked gravel pull-offs; • Town Access: Trail officially begins at Moose Trail down a signed driveway and along a paved road at Leland Creek Circle. Trail transitions to a native surface trail at the Leland Creek Way cul-de-sac.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter Groomed XC ski trail Snowshoe	• No defined parking area at north end; Users are parking on unsigned shoulder; • Poorly signed along shared Leland Creek Circle with no designated lane for trail users along shared-use road; • No defined parking at mid-way access.	Connectivity Fair Signage Fair/Poor Parking Poor
Sundog Trail (1.0 mi) 	• Singletrack mountain bike trail located in the Denver Water West parcel with access from Moose Trail; • Connects Leland Creek Trail and Sunset Pink Trail.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski trail Snowshoe	• Access at Moose Trail is not signed and does not have designated parking.	Connectivity Fair Signage Fair Parking Poor
Razzmatazz (1.1 mi) 	• Designated-use, one-directional mountain bike trail located in the Denver Water West parcel. Extends parallel to Leland Creek; • Connects Sundog Trail and Akima's Way.	Summer One-way, Downhill MTBs	• Select locations in need of additional crusher fines.	Connectivity Good Signage Fair Parking N/A
Akima's Way (1.0 mi) 	• Singletrack mountain bike trail located in the Denver Water West parcel; • Connects USFS owned/managed MTB Trail and Sunset Pink.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Shaded portion of trail is muddy mid-July; • Signage is inconsistent. Can be confusing to orient around forest road network.	Connectivity Good Signage Fair Parking N/A
Sunset Pink (0.8 mi) 	• Singletrack mountain bike trail located in the Denver Water West parcel; • Access from Vasquez Road and D3 within USFS land. Trail continues through USFS land; • Acts as a main access point for many mountain bikers accessing USFS trails on the west side.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Varied width; not a true single-track. • Areas of erosion in fall lines • Signage is inconsistent. Can be confusing to orient around forest road network,	Connectivity Good Signage Fair Parking Fair

The following table summarizes the mountain biking conditions of each trail on the **West of Highway 40** within the Town boundary and their connectivity to other routes.

Trail	Type	Grade Change	Rating	Features
Alpine Trail	Gravel Path	1% to 4%	Green (Easy)	-
Leland Creek Trail	Recycled Asphalt	4% to 6% (4' Up, 147' Down)	Green (Easy)	-
Sundog Trail	Singletrack	5% to 15% (0' Up, 217' Down)	Blue (Intermediate)	Flow Boulders Berms Switchbacks
Razzmatazz	Singletrack	5% to 12% (0' Up, 328' Down)	Blue/Black (Intermediate/Difficult)	Downhill Drop/Jumps Flow Wooden/Built Features
Akima's Way	Singletrack	4% to 12% (0' Up, 328' Down)	Blue (Intermediate)	Wooden/Built Features
Sunset Pink	Singletrack	5% to 10% (230' Up, 20' Down)	Blue (Intermediate)	Boulders

Table based off data collected from International Mountain Bicycling Association and the Mountain Biking Project.

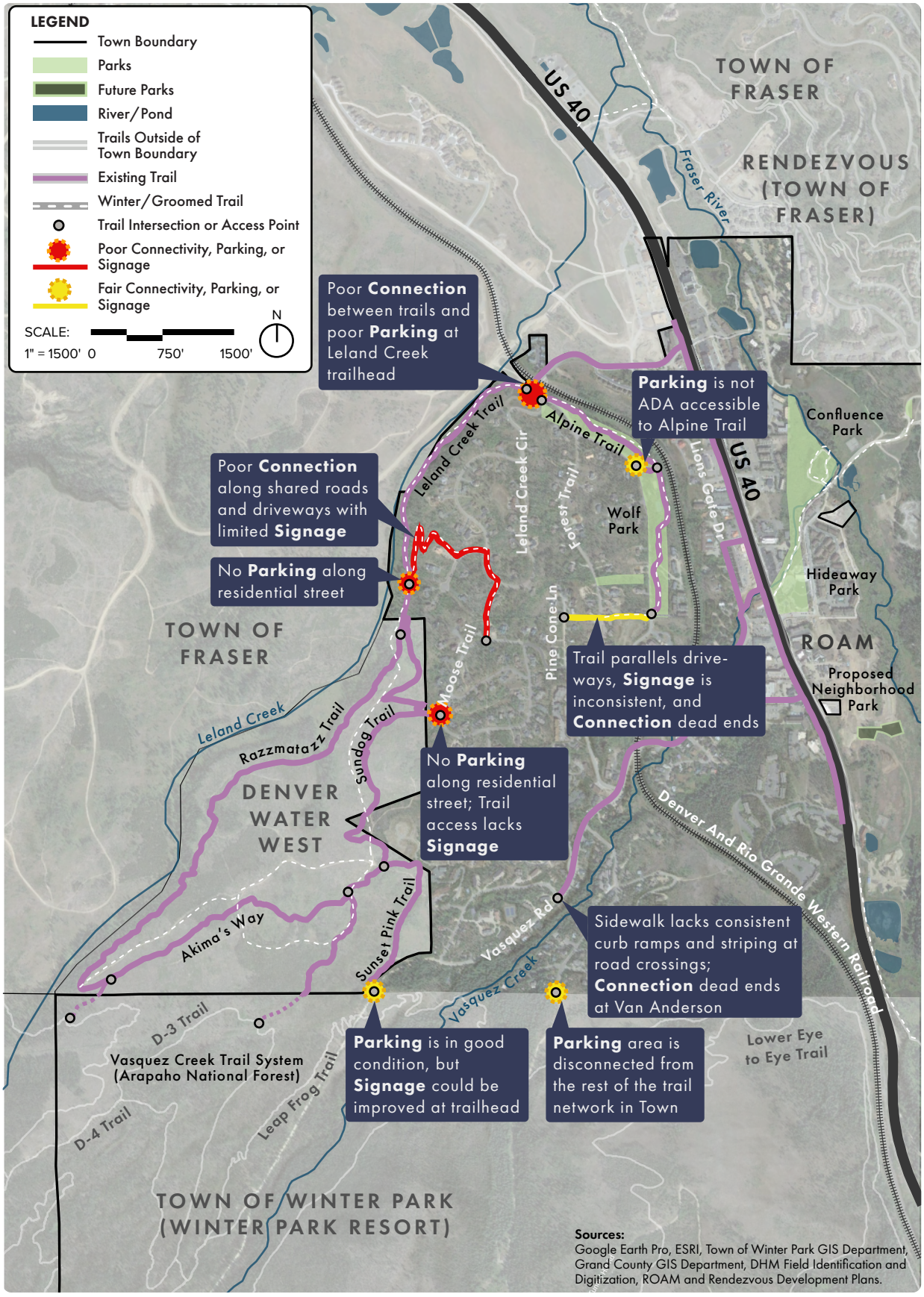


FIGURE 3–16. Analysis of existing trails on the west side of US 40.

East Side Trails Assessment

Trails on the east side of US 40 include neighborhood-use access trails from the Town of Winter Park and the Town of Fraser, trails through existing parks, trails along the Fraser River, and trails within the Rendezvous Trail System.

Connectivity

- Many of the trails on the east side were developed to coincide with future residential developments and to provide access to US Forest Service lands;
- Popular trails are in "movable easements" and are subject to future realignments. The forested character of these trails may disappear as these trails are rerouted through new residential developments;
- Terrain within the Rendezvous Trail System varies with steep descents and sharply rising hillsides. Switchbacks are commonplace to account for terrain variability.

Signage

- Signage varies from the standard Winter Park sign to paper signs on T-posts to "Rendezvous" signs that make it feel like the user is traveling through a private development;
- Trail entrances in residential areas are not clearly marked;
- Apart from trail access signs, Corona Pass Road is poorly signed and lacks a trailhead kiosk, making it easy to get lost among the network of multiple forest roads and trail access points.

Parking

- Parking for trail access is often improvised on the side of Corona Pass Road or within residential neighborhoods where there is no public street parking;
- Public parking within town on the east side is limited to Hideaway Park and Cozen's Ranch (Fraser).

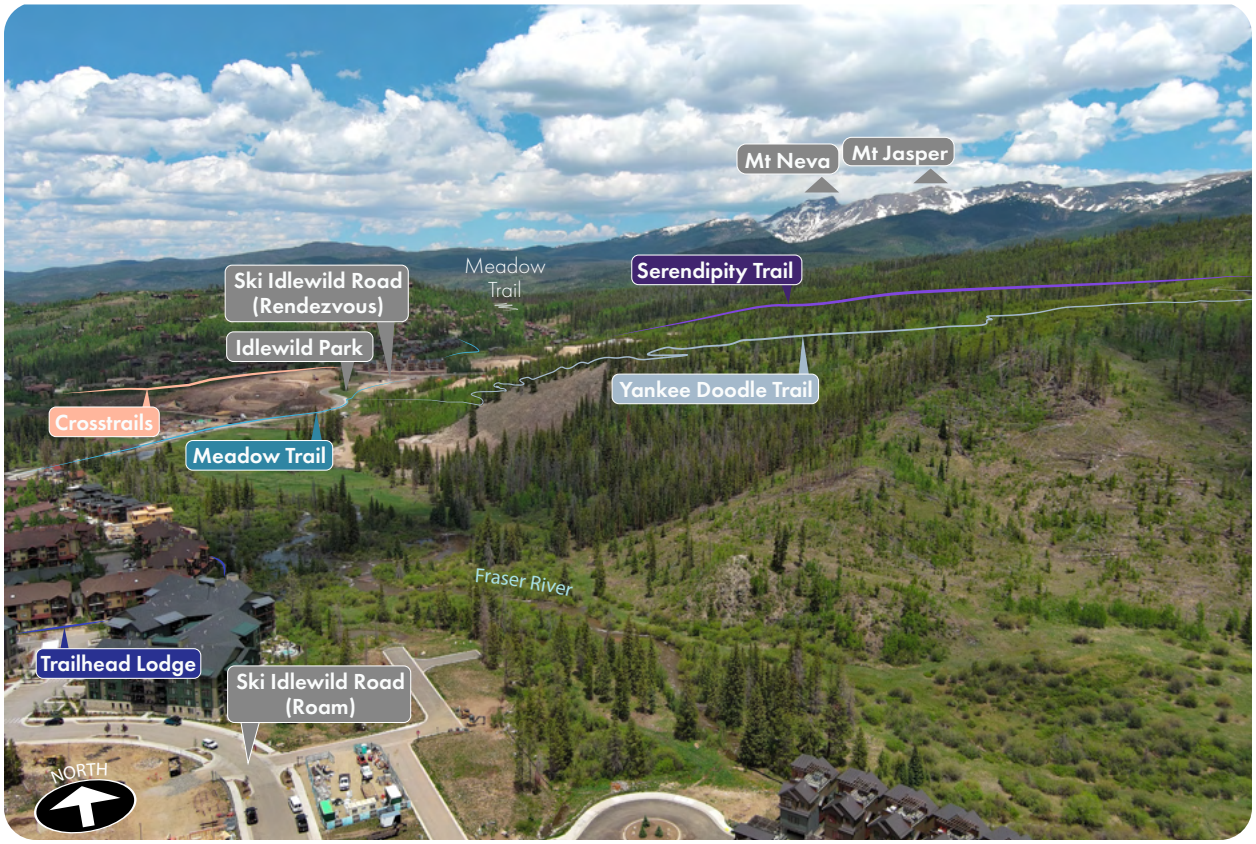


FIGURE 3–17. Trails along the east side of US 40.

FIGURE 3–18. Through Town, the Fraser River Trail persists as an attached sidewalk. This condition is not ideal in the hotter months as the trail has limited tree cover and the ambient heat from the asphalt creates discomfort for pedestrians.

FIGURE 3–19. Recent development is actively changing the character of well-established trails. There is a growing concern within the community that once forested trails will be realigned to abut residences and the trail character will change.

FIGURE 3–20. The most popular trails in the system are groomed in the winter to provide pedestrian access to winter activities including skiing and snowshoeing.

FIGURE 3–21. This access point to Crosstrails is poorly marked and within a private development with no public parking areas. This makes the trail feel private to the users that live here.

FIGURE 3–22. The appearance and information provided on wayfinding is inconsistent across trails in the Rendezvous Community, Winter Park, and Fraser.

FIGURE 3–23. The future Forest Spur Park parcel has both the Arrow Trail and Crosstrails passing through it; however, these routes are not signed and can be disorienting to navigate.

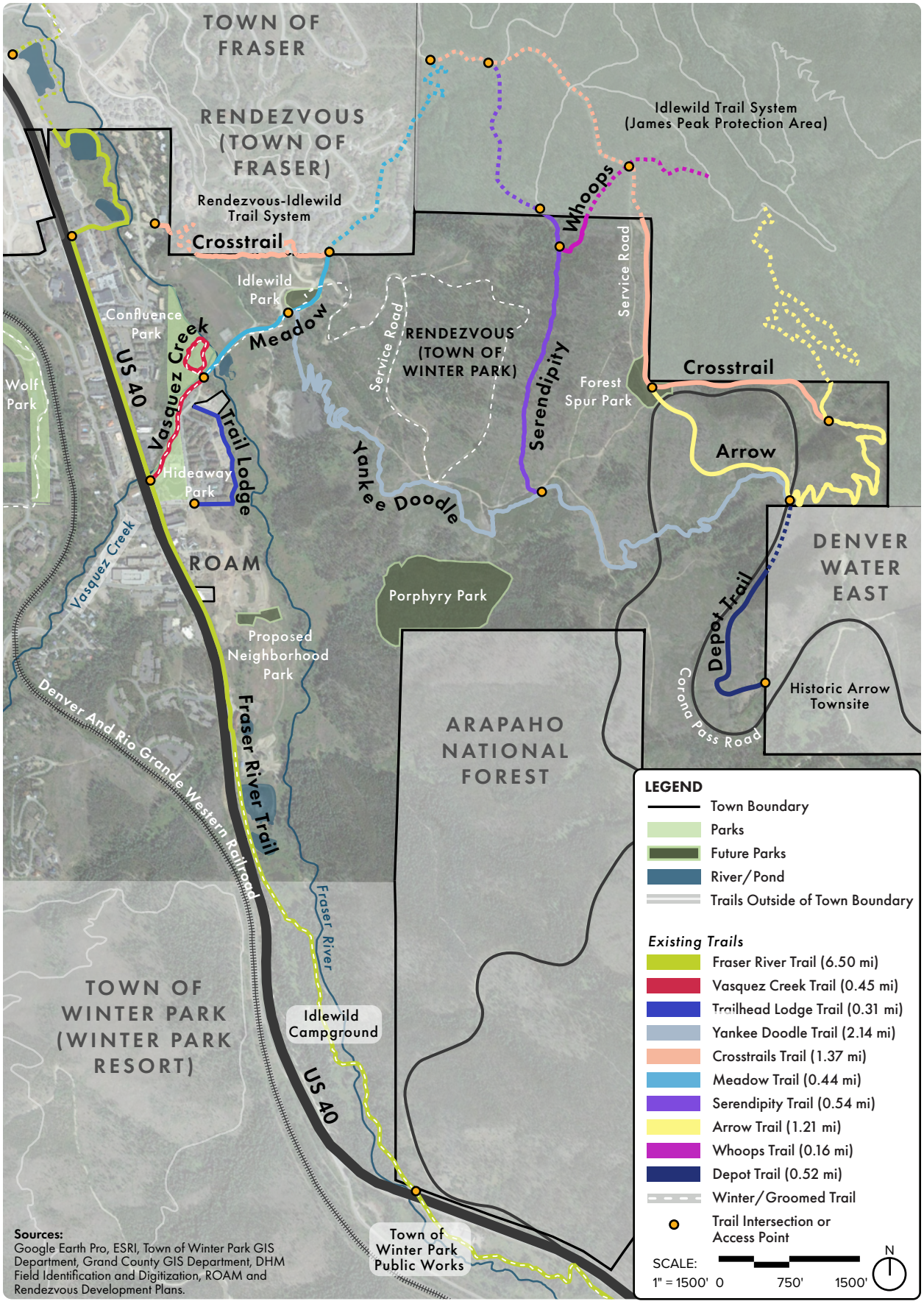


FIGURE 3–24. Trails along the east side of US 40.

The following table provides a brief description and identified issues of trails **East of Highway 40** within the Town boundary.

Trail	Description	Users	Issues	Evaluation
Fraser River Trail (6.5 mi) 	• Multi-surface trail connecting Winter Park Resort, Town of Winter Park and Town of Fraser; • Co-managed with the Town of Fraser; • It extends along roads in the Resort area to the Winter Park Public Works building. From here, it passes US 40 via an underpass bridge and extends through Idlewild Campground. Within the Town of Winter Park, it primarily extends along US 40, traveling north into the Town of Fraser.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter Groomed XC ski Snowshoes	• Trail departs from the Fraser River through Town and loses forested trail character along US 40. Minimal shade cover past Beaver Village Condos; • Inconsistent surface type and width.	Connectivity Fair Signage Fair Parking Fair
Vasquez Creek Trail (0.45 mi) 	• Trail extends through Hideaway and ends with a loop trail through Confluence Park; • Confluence section includes wood boardwalk and steps; • Slated for improvements within Hideaway Park to provide formal creek access and address erosion control; • Parking within Hideaway/No designated parking at Confluence.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter Groomed XC ski Snowshoes	• Inconsistent surface type and width; • Erosion within riparian areas along Hideaway Park; • Sections of trail within Confluence Park are too narrow for grooming equipment.	Connectivity Fair Signage Good Parking Fair
Trailhead Lodge Trail (0.25 mi) 	• Trail extends along north, east and west sides of Trailhead Lodge Condominiums; • Intersects with Ski Idlewild Road and Rendezvous Way, east of Hideaway Park; • Abuts wetlands of the Fraser River.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Although the trail is across from Hideaway, it feels disconnected from other trails and feels private to Trailhead Lodge; • No parking or signage indicating this as a trail; • Trail dead ends.	Connectivity Fair Signage Poor Parking Fair
Meadow Trail (0.44 mi) 	• Part of Rendezvous Trail System / Extends into USFS; • Trail begins at attached sidewalk entrance of Rendezvous Community near Confluence Park and transitions to a single-track near Idlewild Park into through Rendezvous; • Shared alignment with Crosstrails as the trail enters Fraser and the USFS land.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Not signed near Confluence Park; • Existing trail alignment not final due to surrounding area under construction; Trail is likely to shift around development; • Visitors park in Fraser neighborhoods to access trail.	Connectivity Fair Signage Fair Parking Poor
Whoops Trail (0.4 mi) 	• Part of Rendezvous Trail System / Extends into USFS; • Trail extends midway from Serendipity and is managed primarily by the USFS; • Primarily a connector trail between routes.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• No issues identified.	Connectivity Good Signage Good Parking N/A

Trail	Description	Users	Issues	Evaluation
Crosstrails (1.37 mi)	• Part of Rendezvous Trail System / Extends into USFS; • Lower Crosstrails - extends from River Drive along border between Fraser and Winter Park; • Transitions into a shared alignment with Meadow Trail up through USFS land and eventually connects south to Upper Crosstrails; • Upper Crosstrails - extends along boundary of USFS land/ Corona Pass Road and eventually connects to the Arrow Trail; • Lower Crosstrails is 0.53 mi; Upper Crosstrails is 0.84 m.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• No clear parking/access point; • Limited tree cover along Town boundaries due to recent construction/ clear-cutting along hillside; • Trail network in future Forest Spur Park area is poorly signed and demarcated.	Connectivity Fair Signage Fair/Poor Parking Poor
Yankee Doodle Trail (2.14 mi)	• Part of Rendezvous Trail System; • Trail starts at Idlewild Park/Ski Idlewild Road and extends up the hillside through a series of switchbacks to the Serendipity and Arrow Trails. Crosses Corona Pass Road in two locations; • Heavily forested except for clearings at road intersections.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Existing trail alignment not final due to surrounding area under construction; Unclear how it will connect to future Meadow trail realignment and if it will be impacted by future housing development; • No clear parking near Idlewild Park entrance; Sizable shoulder parking area for 3-4 vehicles at the top of the trail near Arrow Trail.	Connectivity Good/Fair Signage Good Parking N/A
Serendipity Trail (0.64 mi)	• Part of Rendezvous Trail System / Extends into USFS; • Intersects midway through Yankee Doodle and connects to Whoops near Town and USFS boundary; • Heavily forested character.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Closest parking is near Corona Pass Road where there is only limited shoulder parking available.	Connectivity Good Signage Good Parking Fair
Arrow Trail (1.21 mi)	• Part of Rendezvous Trail System / Extends into USFS; • Trail extends from Forest Spur where it crosses Corona Pass Road into two locations. At second crossing, it switchbacks north to meet Crosstrails before continuing into the USFS boundary.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Limited tree cover; • Cannot access parking from Forest Spur since it is gated. Decent shoulder parking available at intersection with Yankee Doodle.	Connectivity Good Signage Good Parking Fair
Depot Trail (0.4 mi)	• Part of Rendezvous Trail System / Extends into Denver Water East; • Extends from Corona Pass Road into disorganized road network at Arrow Townsite.	Summer Hikers MTBs Dogs Winter XC ski Snowshoes	• Access point is poorly signed and entrance is difficult to find; • Arrow Townsite is unsigned and difficult to navigate making it easy to lose trail; • Denver Water has not granted public access.	Connectivity Fair Signage Poor Parking Fair

The following table provides a brief description and identified issues of trails **East of Highway 40** within the Town boundary.

Trail	Type	Grade Change	Rating	Features
Fraser River Trail	Paved Path	2% to 11%	Green (Easy)	-
Vasquez Creek Trail	Paved Path	1% to 12%	Green (Easy)	-
Trailhead Lodge Trail	Paved Path	1 to 8%	Green (Easy)	-
Meadow Trail	Singletrack	5% to 14% (236' Up, 0% Down)	Blue (Intermediate)	-
Whoops Trail	Singletrack	4% to 10% (74' Up, 80' Down)	Black (Difficult)	Boulders
Crosstrails	Lower: Singletrack	7% to 13%	Blue (Intermediate)	-
	Upper: Singletrack	4% to 9%	Green/ Blue (Easy/ Intermediate)	-
Yankee Doodle Trail	Lower: Singletrack	7% to 12% (588' Up, 0' Down)	Black (Difficult)	Boulders Switchbacks
	Upper: Singletrack	5% to 9% (255' Up, 1' Down)	Blue (Intermediate)	Wooden/Built Features
Serendipity Trail	Wider Singletrack	4% to 10% (194' Up, 0' Down)	Blue (Intermediate)	-
Arrow Trail	Singletrack	6% to 13% (194' Up, 0' Down)	Blue/ Black (Intermediate/ Difficult)	Switchbacks
Depot Trail	Singletrack	-	-	-

Table based off data collected from International Mountain Bicycling Association and the Mountain Biking Project.

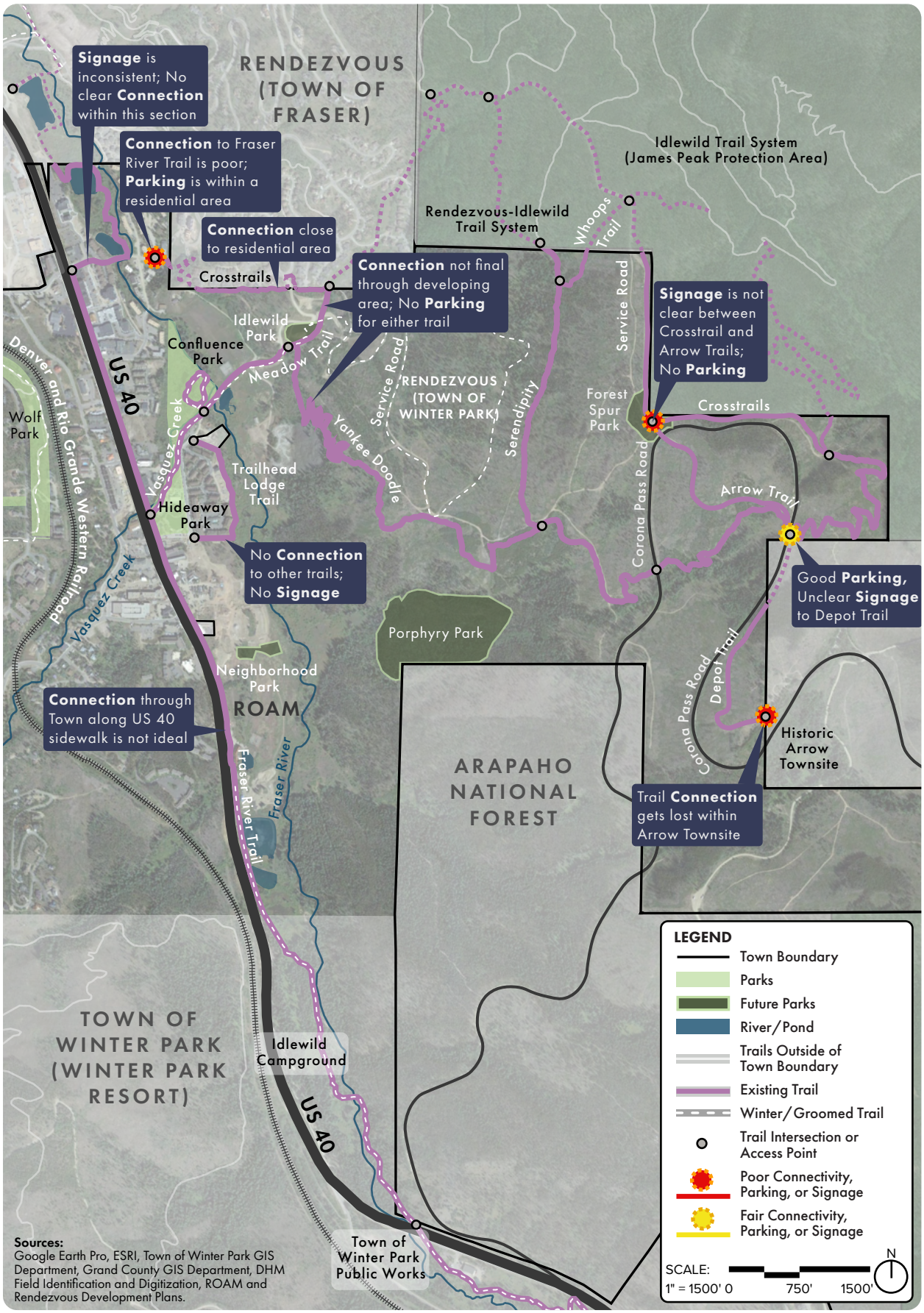


FIGURE 3–25. Analysis of Trail Conditions along the East Side of US 40.

System Wide Trails Recommendations

Trail recommendations are informed by the programmatic needs identified in this chapter, the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)*, the Town Plan's Guiding Principles, site assessments, and community and stakeholder input.

Recommendations include improvements to existing trails and proposed trail alignments to further connect the trails network. The proposed trails system features four types of connections; **Scenic Trails, Sidewalks, Neighborhood Trails, and Shared Use Roads**. Each typology varies in infrastructure and visual appearance and is illustrated with sections and plan locations on the following pages. These connections are listed in order by preference, with scenic trails being the most desired public amenity and shared use roads being the least desirable.

For existing and proposed trails, recommendations are included in a priorities matrix that assigns a time frame for when these improvements should occur.

Time frames are as follows:

- Routine: Continue to maintain trail as-is through routine upkeep and inspection;
- Short-Term: Complete improvement within 0 to 5 years;
- Long-Term: Complete recommendation within 5 to 10+ years.

Refer to the Town Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter for more guidance on trail standards including widths, acceptable trail surfaces, and maintenance/ grooming requirements.

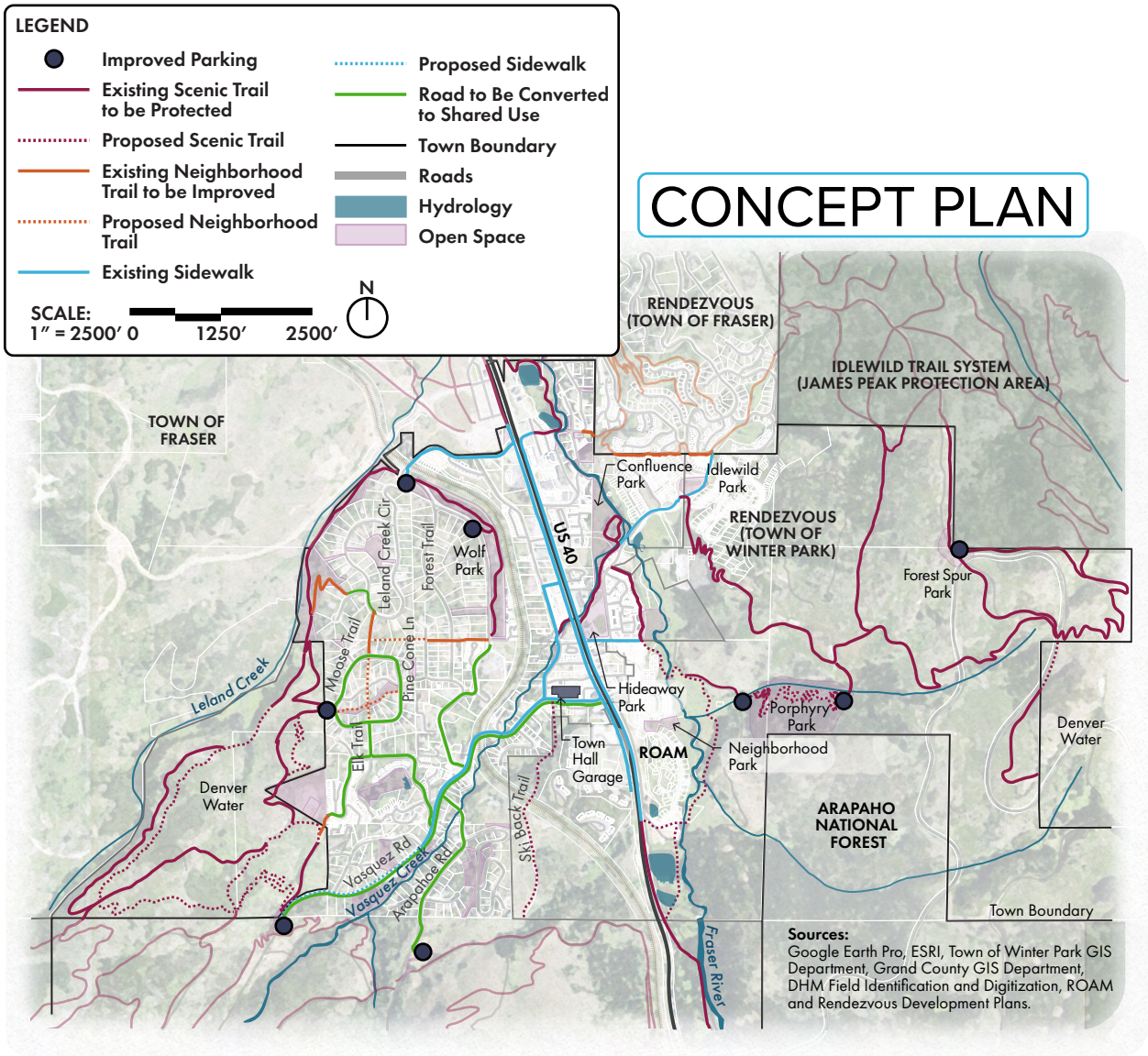


FIGURE 3–26. This map shows the proposed network of Scenic Trails, Neighborhood Trails, Sidewalks, and Shared Use Roads.

Scenic Trails and Neighborhood Trails

Scenic and Neighborhood Trails are the primary pedestrian corridors that connect the Town's trails system. These trails are used by residents and the general public alike for recreation, exploration, and for access into adjacent public lands.

Scenic Trails extend along forested areas and wetlands. They are often continuous and have very few visual or physical interruptions apart from an occasional road crossing at a low volume road. These trails are buffered by forested edges which visually screen nearby residential or commercial properties and provide a physical layer of safety from mixed-uses and vehicles. They also provide vital edge habitat and migratory corridors for animals.

Neighborhood Trails are the in-town connections that offer access to scenic trails for residents. Neighborhood trails are comprised of shorter connector trails that intersect with longer, more continuous scenic trails. They are often located along narrow easements near residential properties.

Neighborhood trails offer fewer amenities than scenic trails and do not connect to public parking areas. It is recommended to sign them with less high-profile signage to deter public users from attempting to park at them. They are not intended to be private use; rather they are intended to reduce frequent conflicts between visitors and residents. Conflicts include day-use parking congestion in residential areas and lack of visual buffers on hiking trails passing in close proximity of residential homes.

The graphics below illustrate the desired visual condition for each type of trail as well as select improvements that can be made to enhance user experience along the trails.

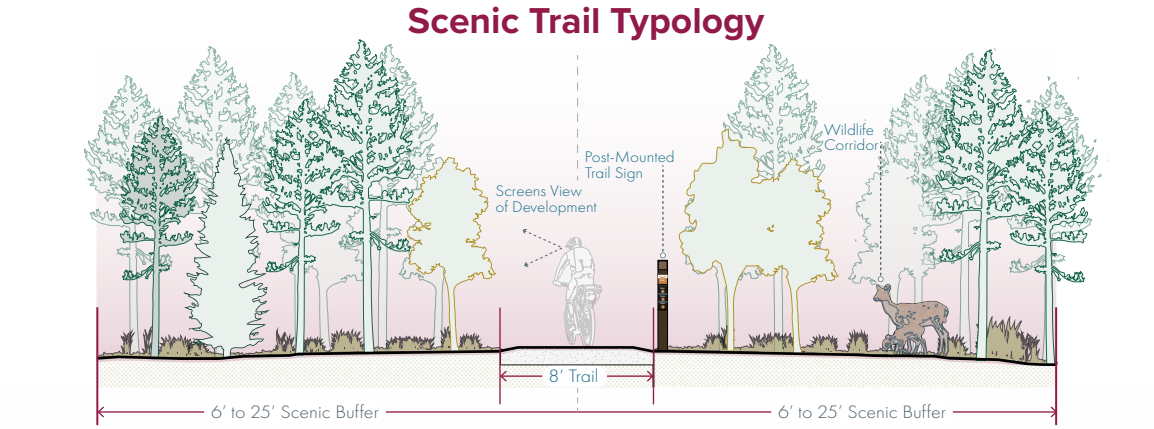


FIGURE 3–27. The graphic above showcases the desired condition for Scenic Trails. This condition is preferred at existing trails in forested areas as well as realigned trails through developed areas.

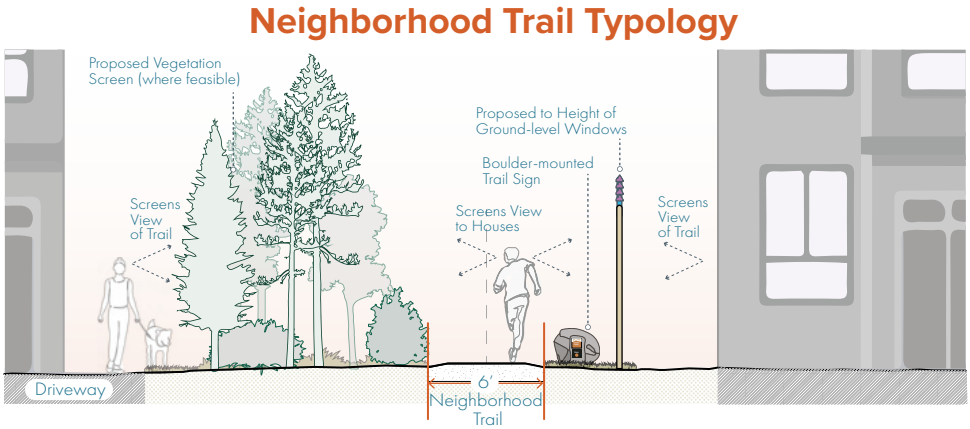


FIGURE 3–28. The graphic above shows an improved condition for the current Neighborhood Trails to buffer adjacencies. This condition is preferred for trails within developed areas close to residential and commercial areas.

Sidewalks and Shared Use Roads

In places where there is not an easement between properties, sidewalks and shared use roads will be needed to connect discontinuous sections of trail. These connections are less desirable than trails, but they are needed to provide safe access to trailheads and reduce users from walking within the road.

Sidewalks connect users from parking areas to other trails, parks, and commercial developments. Many of the neighborhoods within Town were not built with sidewalks and require pedestrians to walk or bike within the road and/or gravel shoulder. Sidewalks should be implemented where feasible along existing right-of-ways. If a road is wide enough, a bike lane or detached sidewalk is more desirable as it provides some distance between vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists.

In places where a road cannot be modified to accommodate a sidewalk or bike lane, a **Shared Use Road** is needed to facilitate safer access to trailheads. A shared use road would require minimal rework of the existing infrastructure and at a minimum require signage and striping to indicate the presence of shared use to vehicles. Shared use roads are only recommended on roads with a low volume of traffic.

The graphics below illustrate the desired visual condition for each type of trail as well as select improvements that can be made to enhance the user experience along the trail.

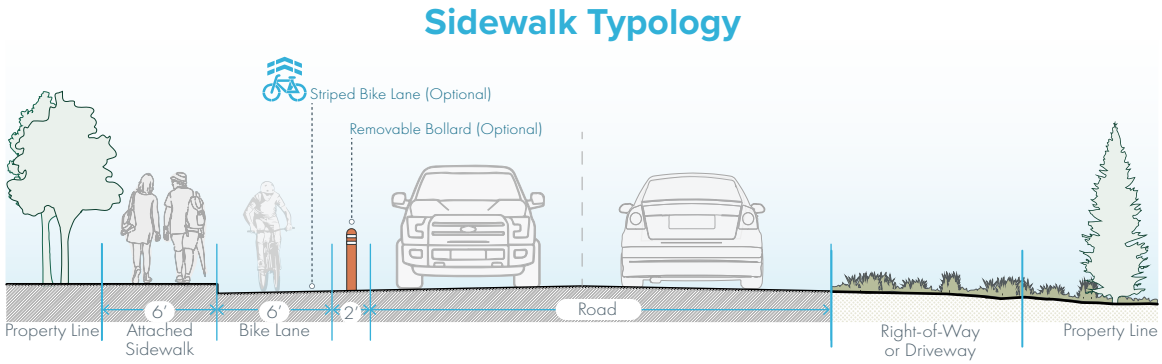


FIGURE 3–29. The above graphic showcases a desired condition for an attached Sidewalk or Bike Lane. This would be the ideal condition for new road construction. If feasible, a detached sidewalk should be considered to provide more distance between vehicles and pedestrians. Provide curb ramps, striped walks, and other appropriate safety/pedestrian infrastructure at crossings and driveways.

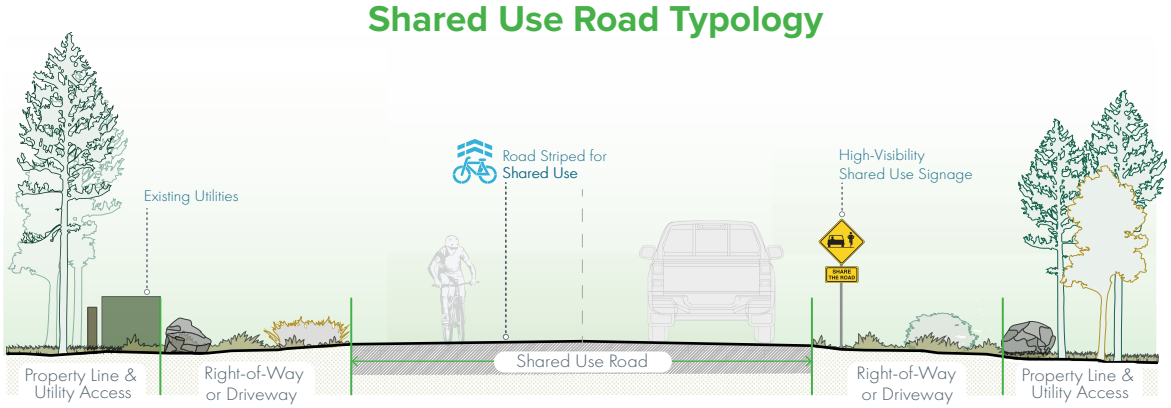


FIGURE 3–30. The above graphic showcases the desired condition for Shared Use Roads. These should be incorporated along existing roadways that are constrained to a narrow corridor and cannot be widened due to adjacent utilities, drainage, or narrow right-of-way.

Signage Improvements

A clear and consistent signage system is essential to maintaining an excellent trail network and addressing some of the issues that exist across the trails system.

The Town of Winter Park Downtown Master Plan (2020) recommended a series of conceptual wayfinding signs for the downtown corridor.

This master plan recommends developing a comprehensive Wayfinding Master Plan that incorporates visual standards for both signage Downtown and for the trails system.

Refer to section 8.0 Signage of the Town Outdoor Recreation Standards chapter.

Trailhead Kiosks

These should be incorporated at every trailhead where there is trailhead parking. Kiosks should include large/legible map showing the entirety of the trail and its connecting trails, trail hazards, information rules and regulations, Leave No Trace rules, as well as sponsorship information.

Standard Directional Sign

These should be located at the beginning and at the intersections of all Public trails. These shall replace all paper or temporary signage. A clear line of sight should be provided to all sides of the sign. Its recommended that these also incorporate mileage where possible to assist with decision-making.

Low-Profile Directional Sign

Many of the trails that are recommended for Neighborhood Trails already feature low-profile boulders at their entrances. These boulders, or another low-profile option, should be used to contrast the Public Trail signage and should be retrofitted with directional signage that guides and connects users to Public Trails.

Mile Markers with Mini Maps

These are essential for long stretches of trail. Where feasible, these should indicate distance from the trailhead and proximity to commercial properties to act as directories to resources along the trail.

MTB/Designated Use Sign

These demarcate trails for specific activities/uses/levels to help guide users who are less familiar with the area and notify them that they are about to enter a trail that is designated for a single use.

Hazard/ Etiquette Sign

These signs are movable and more official than a paper sign. They alert users to hazards (construction, wildlife danger, etc). They can also be used to recommend trail etiquette and stewardship (dog/visitor use, trail passing, waste removal, etc).

West Side Trails Recommendations

Trail system recommendations on the west side of US 40 focus on improving connections, signage, and parking issues identified in the assessment of this master plan.

Many of the trails in this plan are already established routes but they need proper signage and an established hierarchy to guide their management. Key improvements are outlined below:

Connectivity

- Maintain and improve Scenic Trails;
- Improve connectivity within Town by utilizing a combination of Neighborhood Trails, Sidewalks, and Shared Use Roads;
- Direct public users to trailheads for Scenic Trails to ease congestion issues on residential streets where parking and wayfinding are not available;
- Maintain year-round access to Leland Creek and Alpine Trails. In the future provide year-round access to planned connections along Arapahoe and Vasquez Roads;
- Improve connections to existing trails from the Town Parking Garage;

Signage

- Improve, install, and repair signage to emphasize the location of Scenic and Neighborhood Trails;
- Provide trailhead kiosks at all public parking locations.

Parking

- Improve parking at existing trailheads at Wolf Park, Vasquez Road, and Arapahoe Road;
- Incorporate a new public parking area near the entrance to Leland Creek Trail;
- Provide bike parking at all Scenic Trail entrances and in parks.

FIGURE 3–31. Accessible trails are essential to providing an equitable community for all. Emphasis should be placed on creating an accessible trail from Wolf Park to Leland Creek. (Photo by the National Park Service).

FIGURE 3–32. This existing section of trail signed as "Leland Creek" should become an improved Neighborhood Trail due to its close proximity to homes and lack of public parking.

FIGURE 3–33. Facilitating access to the west side for mountain bike access should be a priority for the Town.

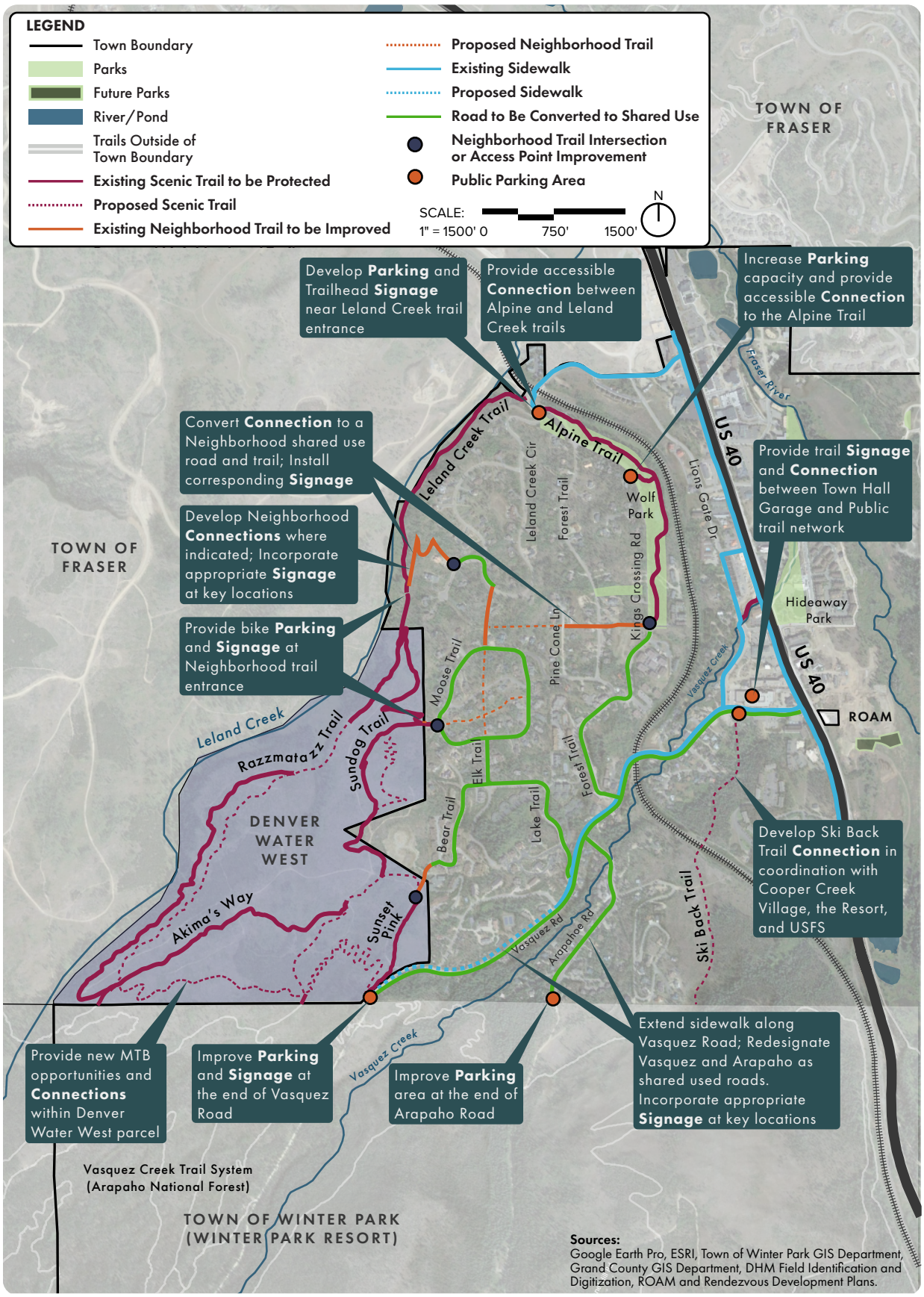


FIGURE 3–34. Proposed Trail System improvements to the West of US 40.

Winter Park Trails (West) Priorities		
Amenity	**Timing**	**Recommendation**
Alpine Trail	**Routine**	Maintain as an asphalt surface trail. Groom trail during winter season for public use.
	Short-Term	Convert Connection from Pine Cone Lane to Kings Crossing Road to a Neighborhood Trail by replacing signage. Improve trail surface condition to match Neighborhood Trail Standard and remove metal edging.
	Short-Term	Incorporate trail signage at the north end to emphasize connection to Leland Creek Trail.
	Long-Term (Redesign of Wolf Park)	Redesign parking area in Wolf Park to remove terraced wood retaining walls, increase parking/trailhead capacity, and provide accessible routes to park amenities and Alpine Trail. Improve Alpine Trail to meet Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR) standards for passing, width, and surface treatment.
Leland Creek Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Groom trail during winter season for public use.
	Short-Term	Develop trailhead parking area at the shoulder near the intersection of Leland Creek Circle and Kings Crossing Road). Incorporate trailhead kiosk for visitor orientation. Incorporate accessible ramps and crossings into design. Protect public trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by designating a natural forested buffer.
	Short-Term	Convert Connection from Moose Trail (road) to Leland Creek Way to a Neighborhood Trail by replacing signage at entrances, roads, and along shared driveway. Stripe road to indicate shared use road. Provide bike parking at the entrance at Leland Creek Way.
	Long-Term	Provide ADA parking and accessible aisle between Alpine and Leland Creek Trails. Provide Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR) accessibility improvements at Leland Creek trail including passing zones, width, and surface treatments.
Sundog Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Inspect and repair trail signage.
	Short-Term	Incorporate Neighborhood trail signage at entrance at Moose Trail (road). Provide bike parking at the entrance.
	Long-Term	Protect public trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by designating a natural forested buffer.
Razzmatazz	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Maintain trail as a one-way, downhill MTB trail. Inspect and repair trail signage.
	Short-Term	Improve designated use trail signage at the top and bottom of trail for safety and clarity.
	Long-Term	Protect public trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by designating a natural forested buffer.
Akima's Way	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Inspect and repair trail signage and features.
	Short-Term	Install trail signage at key intersections along roads to orient users and keep them on the trail.
	Long-Term	Protect public trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by designating a natural forested buffer.
Sunset Pink	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Inspect and repair trail signage and features.
	Short-Term	Install trail signage at the entrance to the trail and key intersections along roads to orient users and keep them on the trail.
	Long-Term	Protect public trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by designating a natural forested buffer.

Winter Park Trails (West) Priorities		
Amenity	**Timing**	**Recommendation**
Neighborhood Trails and Shared Use Roads	**Short-Term**	Improve Neighborhood trail network to incorporate connections indicated on Trails Plan including intersecting trails at Moose Trail (road), Foxtail Dr, Elk Trail (road), and Pine Cone Lane.
	Long-Term	Develop shared use roads at locations indicated in maps along Vasquez Road, Arapahoe Road, Lake Trail (road), Elk Trail (road), Bear Trail (road), Moose Trail (road), Leland Creek Way, Bear Trail (road), and Kings Crossing Road.
Ski Back Trail	**Long-Term**	Coordinate with Cooper Creek Development, the Resort, and the US Forest Service to provide a ski back trail from Winter Park Resort (US Forest Service Permit Area) through the proposed Cooper Creek development south of the Town Parking Garage. Protect trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by designating a natural forested buffer around the trail.
Vasquez Road and Arapahoe Road	**Routine**	Assist in the management and upkeep of these trailheads. Monitor and enforce dispersed camping policies in coordination with the US Forest Service.
	Short-Term	Coordinate with the US Forest Service to evaluate, improve, and expand parking capacity at these trailheads.
	Long-Term	Use the Town Parking Garage as trailhead parking when capacity is reached at Vasquez/ Arapahoe Road trailheads. Extend sidewalk along Vasquez Road and incorporate Shared Use Roads along Vasquez and Arapahoe Roads from the Town Parking Garage. Install trail signage and kiosk near the Town Parking Garage to help orient visitors.
New MTB Trails in Denver Water West	**Short-Term/ Long-Term**	Develop new trail connections and alignments within Denver Water West Parcel. Coordinate with appropriate parties throughout design and development of new trails including Denver Water, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and local trail advocacy agencies.

West Side: Ski Back Trail

This master plan supports the proposed Ski Back Trail to be developed jointly by the Resort and the Town through the US Forest Service Permit Area and the future Cooper Creek Village and Square.

The Ski Back Trail will extend from the top of the proposed Town Gondola and Cooper Creek South lifts and bring skiers back to Downtown Winter Park. The Winter Park Resort Master Plan (2022) estimated that the first 2000-feet would be a traditional ski trail and then it would transition to a 24-foot wide, 9-percent ski way down to Town.

It is assumed that a traditional trail connection to the Resort would fall within this alignment to accommodate hiking and mountain-biking during the summer season. During the winter season, this would be a designated one-way, winter groomed trail.

Approximately 1.5-miles of the trail would extend through the US Forest Service Permit Area and the remaining 0.6-mile would extend through Cooper Creek Village. The Cooper Creek Village section would fall within the Town's management. The Resort will be responsible for the permitting and development through the US Forest Service Permit Area.

The trail ends across from the Town Parking Garage which will act as the northern trailhead for this trail. Trailhead signage and designated-use signage should be located in this location.

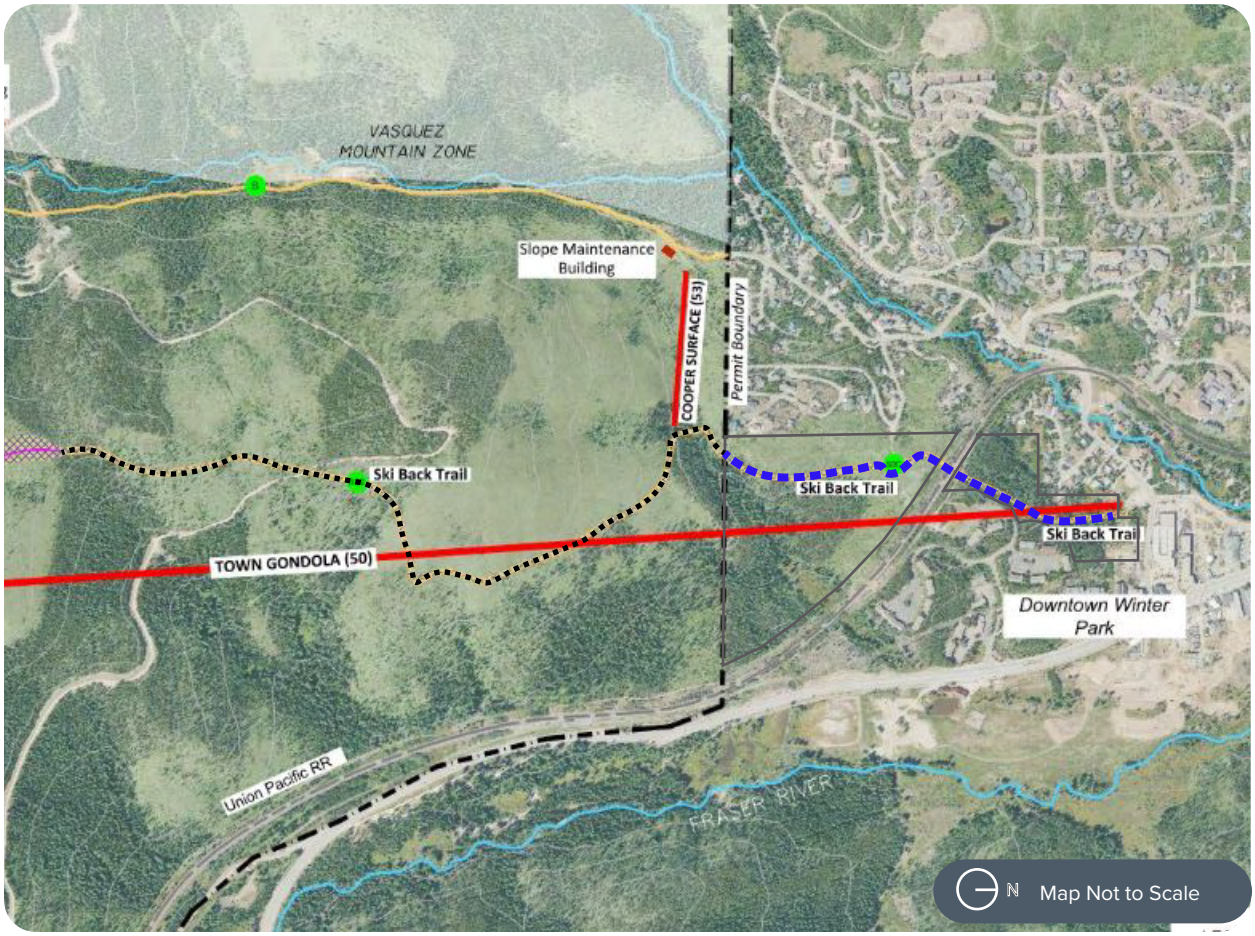


FIGURE 3–35. Map of the *Winter Park Resort Master Plan (2022)* shows the approximate location of the Ski Back Trail. Annotated to indicate the USFS alignment (black, dashed) and the Town alignment (blue, dashed). This alignment has also been incorporated into the *Final Development Plan for Cooper Creek Village and Square (2022)*. (Original Map by Winter Park Resort; annotated by DHM Design).

West Side: Parking/ Trailhead Improvements

This master plan recommends improvements to the three existing trailhead parking areas on the West Side of Town at Vasquez Road, Arapahoe Road, and Wolf Park. Additionally, this plan recommends formalizing trailhead parking at a parcel owned by the Town near Leland Creek Trail and the privately-owned parking area across from Town Hall.

Vasquez/Arapahoe Road Connections and Parking Improvements

This improvement expands on a recommendation originally identified in the *Winter Park and Fraser Trails Plan (2014)* for improved access to the US Forest Service Permit Area at the ends of Vasquez and Arapahoe Roads. Both these parking areas connect to popular trails, but they only accommodate a handful of vehicles and do not have permanent restrooms.

This master plan recommends the Town work with a thirty-party consultant to undergo a NEPA/ EA process with the US Forest Service to expand these trailhead parking areas. The new trailheads should be improved to provide more parking and pit toilets. The EA would recommend an appropriate size and layout for the parking areas based on constraints and visitor needs. Additionally, this master plan recommends improving public access along both Vasquez and Arapahoe Roads by extending the sidewalk along Arapahoe Road to the trailhead and converting both roads to Shared Use Roads to facilitate safer pedestrian/ bike access to these trailheads from Town Hall. ***See Page 38 for proposed concept for Arapahoe Road and Vasquez Road Improvements.***

Wolf Park Parking Improvements

Wolf Park improvements were identified in the Parks section of this master plan. Parking was identified as a vital improvement to expand capacity and accommodate ADA access to the Alpine Trail and Wolf Park restroom.

Leland Creek Parking Improvements

A town-owned gravel pull-off at the corner of Kings Crossing Road and Leland Creek Circle currently acts as a non-designated parking for the Leland Creek Trail. This pull-off should be outfitted with a trailhead kiosk and a parking boundary to delineate the edge of the parking area and protect adjacent drainage. ADA access ramps and striping should be incorporated across from the parking area and along Kings Crossing Road to facilitate ADA access to Leland Creek Trail.

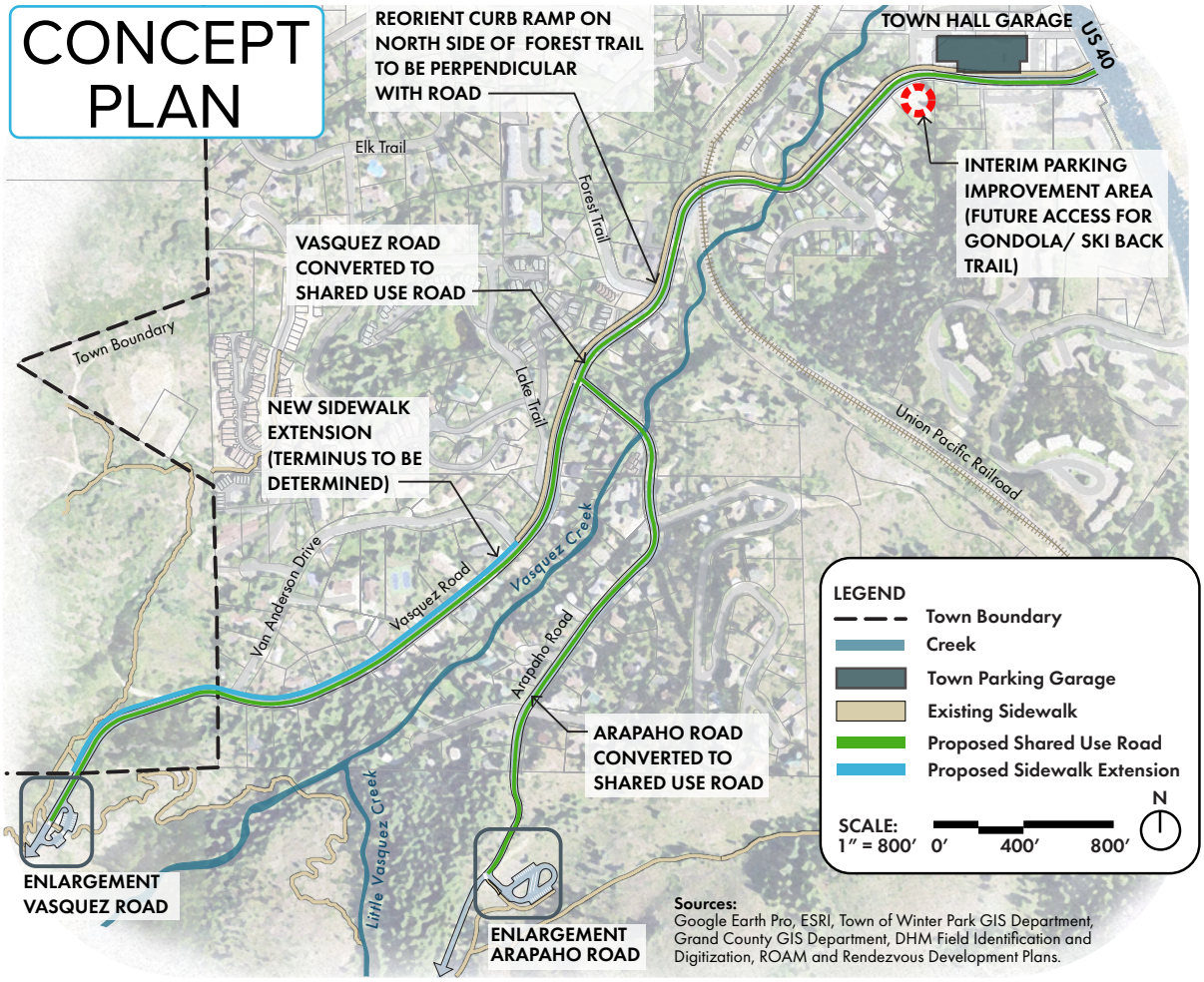
Parking Improvement Across from Town Hall

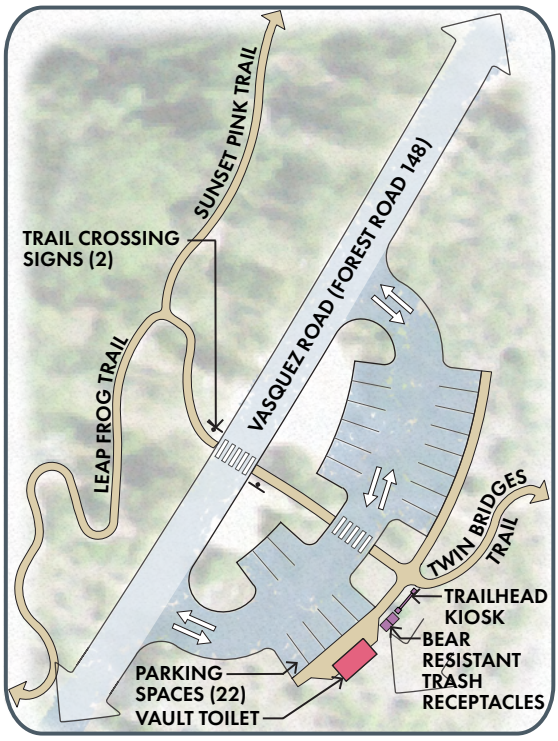
This private parcel is anticipated to be the location for the Town-Resort gondola and terminus for the Ski Back Trail. This improvement calls for the parcel to be improved with a trailhead kiosk and temporary restroom in the interim until improvements occur along Vasquez/ Arapahoe Road.

FIGURE 3–36. Existing trailhead parking at the end of Vasquez Road (Twin Bridges) in the Resort/US Forest Service Permit Area.

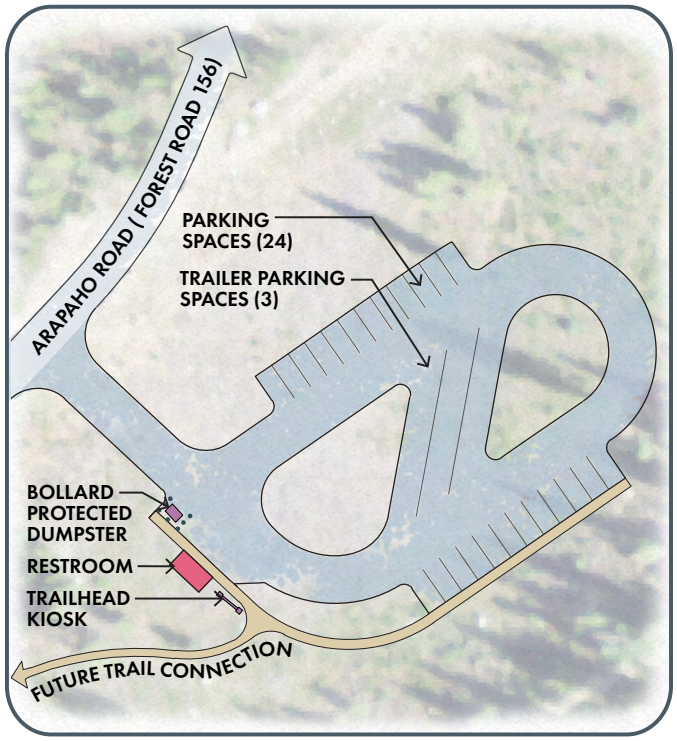
FIGURE 3–37. Existing trailhead parking at the end of Arapahoe Road in the Resort/US Forest Service Permit Area.

FIGURE 3–38. Existing non-designated parking near the entrance to Leland Creek Trail





ENLARGEMENT VASQUEZ ROAD



ENLARGEMENT ARAPAHO ROAD

FIGURE 3–39. Conceptual connection and trailhead parking at Vasquez and Arapahoe Road. Note: Trailhead within USFS land will need to undergo NEPA/ USFS coordination to develop final layout, location, and capacity.

West Side: New MTB Trails

Community members and members of the Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Coalition (FVMTB) have expressed interest in the Town developing more MTB trails within the Denver Water West parcel that could cater to all skill levels alike. Desired new trails include:

- Green climb and flow trails
- Blue flow/jump trails
- Black flow/jump trail and technical trails

Currently, the Denver Water West parcel accommodates four trails including Akima's Way, Sunset Pink, Sundog Trail, and Razzmatazz Trail, a very popular downhill trail. Due to its location and popularity among residents and the public alike, this parcel poses a great opportunity for additional trails; however, it also supports the local moose population.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has identified nearly all of the Denver Water West parcel, as well as the west side of town, as priority moose habitat. This area supports a high concentration of moose year-round due to its elevation and its proximity to Leland and Vasquez Creeks. These creeks provide essential habitat to support a healthy moose population. Moose habitat is progressively shrinking in the Fraser Valley as increased development condenses their movement corridors and access to natural resources.

The graphic on the following page illustrates a conceptual plan for how some of these MTB trails could be incorporated on the Denver Water West parcel. It is recommended that trails should be aligned to avoid sensitive habitat, such as priority moose habitat, and allow for ecological restoration and preservation. Trails should be designed with the assistance of a professional design team experienced in sustainable MTB trail design and with a consultant familiar with the moose habitat and migration needs. If the Denver Water West parcel is acquired by the Town, it should be further developed into a public park with amenities that support bike use. To cater to more users, the Town should also consider accommodating trails for handcycles and pedestrians.

Refer to Chapter V Open Space for further recommendations on the Denver Water West parcel.

FIGURE 3–40. Green flow trails are highly desired. These can be accommodated flatter areas and along the maintained through roads. Photo of Coler Preserve in Bentonville, Arkansas.

FIGURE 3–42. Consider moose habitat when implementing MTB trail structures. Selectively implement low structures like reinforced berms and avoid tall structures that could impede animal movement. Photo of Slaughter Pen in Bentonville, Arkansas.

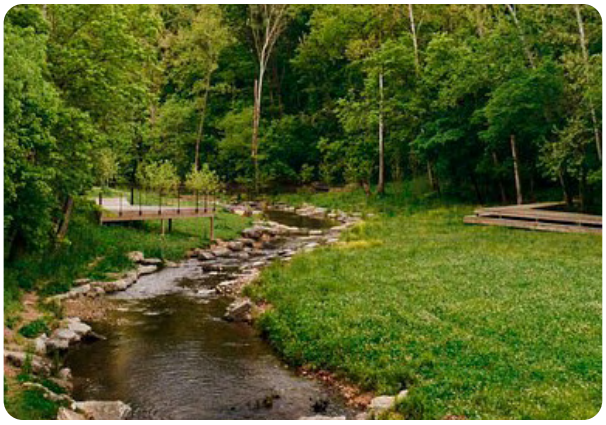


FIGURE 3–41. Habitat preservation should be accommodated along new MTB trails. The overlooks above are located along the bike routes to elevate the trail out of sensitive areas and highlight surrounding ecology. Photo of Coler Preserve in Bentonville, Arkansas.

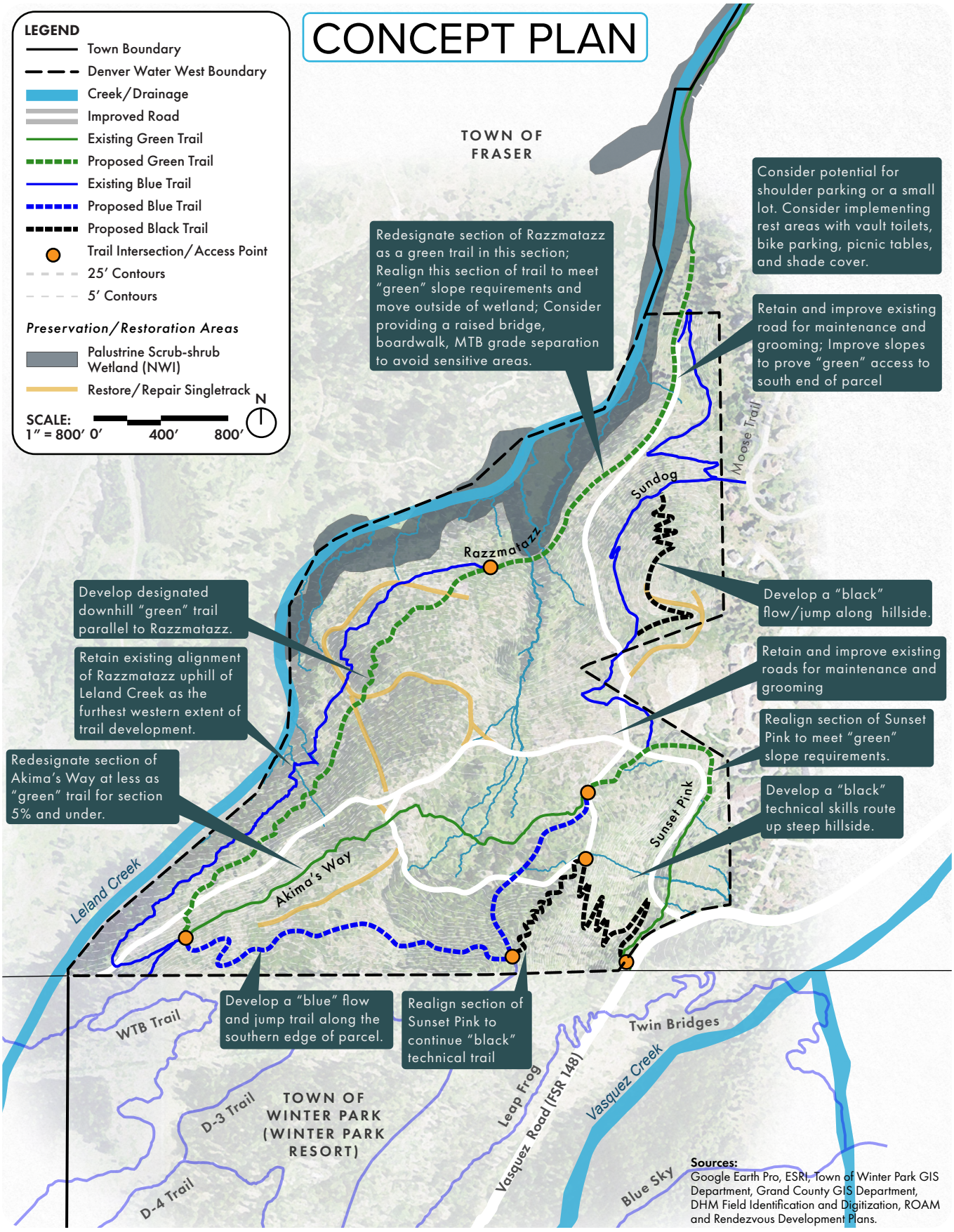


FIGURE 3–43. Conceptual plan of MTB trail improvements at the Denver Water West parcel. Final alignments and feasibility to be determined during design in coordination with respective agencies.

East Side Trails Recommendations

Trail system recommendations on the east side of US 40 focus on improving connections, signage, and parking issues identified in the assessment of this master plan.

Many of the trails in this plan are already established routes but they need better signage and an established hierarchy to guide their management. Key improvements are outlined below:

Connectivity

- Realign the Fraser River Trail off of US 40 and connect it through natural environs along the Fraser River through Town;
- Convert existing trails within established and developing communities to Neighborhood trails. Avoid heavily advertising these trails for public use to ease congestion issues on residential streets where parking and wayfinding are not feasible/available;
- Maintain and improve Scenic Trails;
- Maintain year-round access to the Fraser River Trail and Vasquez Creek Trail;
- Integrate new trail connections when new parks are established at Forest Spur and Porphyry Park.

Signage

- Improve, install, and repair signage to emphasize the location of trails. Use clear and consistent signage throughout the trail system;
- Provide trailhead kiosks at all parking locations.

Parking

- Develop new trailhead parking areas at Forest Spur Park and Porphyry Park;
- Provide bike parking at all Scenic Trail entrances and in parks.

FIGURE 3–44. Recent development is actively changing the character of well-established trails on the east side of Town. There is a growing concern within the community that all forested trails will be realigned to abut residences, permanently changing the character of trails on the east side.

FIGURE 3–45. A combination of forested buffers and clear wayfinding will help in preserving the character of the trail system on the east side of Town.

FIGURE 3–46. The future Forest Spur Park parcel has both the Arrow Trail and Crosstrails passing through it. This will someday be a great trailhead for the Town with parking and restroom amenities for public use.

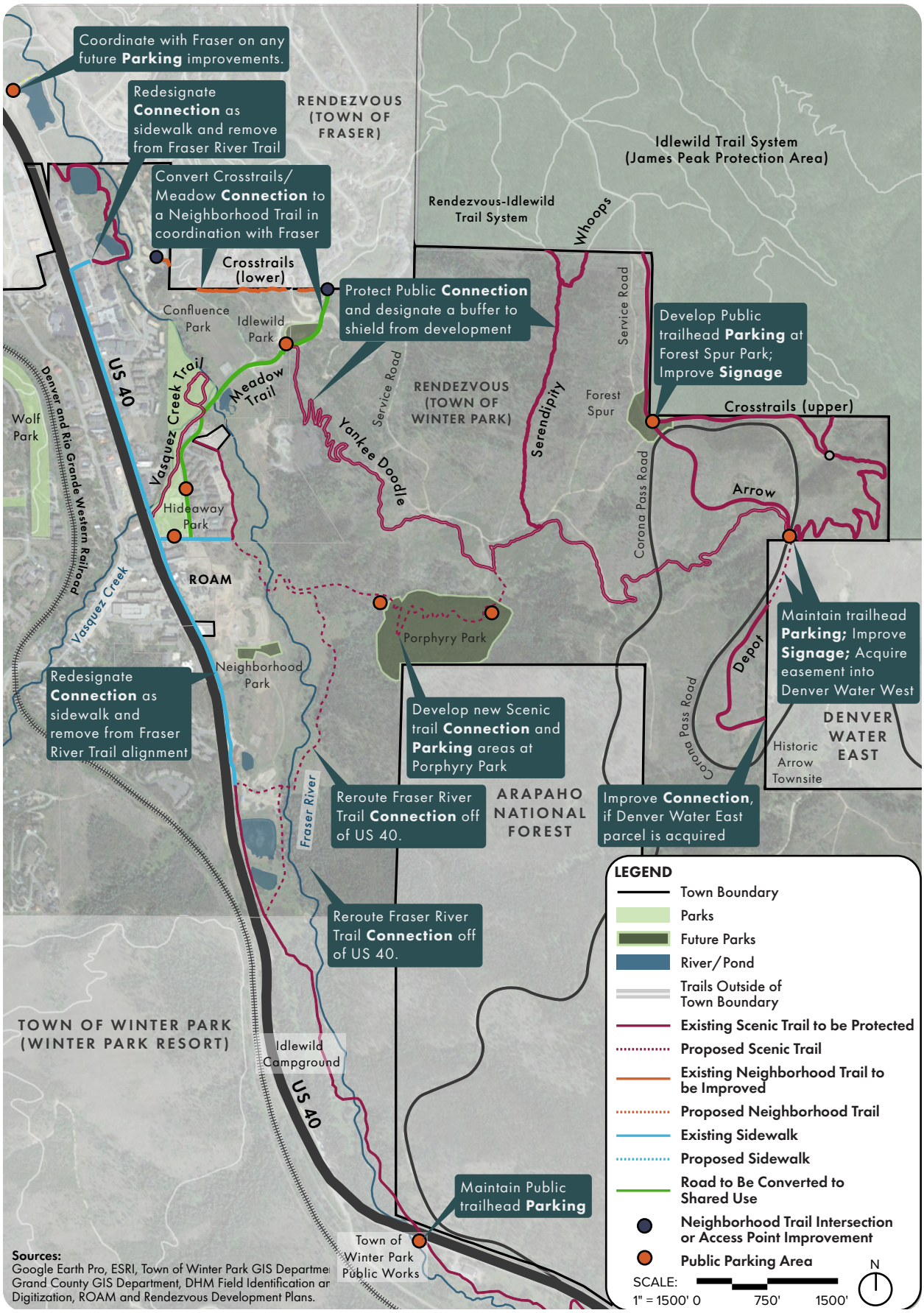


FIGURE 3–47. Proposed Trail System improvements to the East of US 40.

Winter Park Trails (East) Priorities		
Amenity	**Timing**	**Recommendation**
Fraser River Trail	**Routine**	Maintain as an asphalt surface trail. Patch asphalt as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed. Groom trail during winter season. Maintain Public parking at Town of Winter Park Public Works parking area. Coordinate with the Town of Fraser on any future trail improvements and parking near the Town boundary.
	Short-Term	Develop Phase 1 Fraser River Trail realignment along the east side of the Roam Community. Provide Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR) accessibility improvements at Fraser River Trail including passing zones, width, and surface treatments. Retain existing US 40 sidewalk connection and provide trail signage to the Fraser River Trail at Rendezvous Way.
	Long-Term	Develop Phase 2 Fraser River Trail realignment further north to connect to existing Fraser River trail at Telemark Drive. Aim to provide accessible width, passing, and surface along the entire alignment. After this phase is complete, redesignate previous Fraser River trail alignment along US 40 as a sidewalk. Update signage accordingly. In the future, consider a Phase 3 that will realign the trail further east of US 40 and connect the Roam Community to Idlewild Campground.
Vasquez Creek Trail *(these are identical to the recommendations in the Parks Chapter)*	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Maintain furnishings along the trail. Monitor and replace signage as needed. Groom trail during winter season.
	Short-Term	Define boundary for seating areas to prevent further compaction of tree roots Revegetate social trails with a native seed mix. Add signage along areas being revegetated to encourage users to stay on the trail and protect natural resources Incorporate interpretive signage throughout loop to engage public with natural setting within the Confluence Park section. Implement improvements along Hideaway Park stretch including seating areas and river access points. Stabilize and revegetate riverbanks and social trails. Provide Outdoor Recreation Access Route (ORAR) accessibility improvements at Vasquez Creek Trail including passing zones, width, and surface treatments.
Trailhead Lodge Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed. Groom trail during winter season.
	Short-Term	Install trail signage along Ski Idlewild Road.
	Long-Term	Most of the Trailhead Lodge Trail will be incorporated into Phase II of the Fraser River Trail realignment. After the realignment, redesignate trail and remove "Trailhead Lodge Trail" from Public maps.
Meadow Trail	**Short-Term**	Install trail signage along Ski Idlewild Road to denote location of Meadow Trail. Designate Ski Idlewild Road as a Shared Use Road.
Whoops Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed.
	Long-Term	Protect trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by maintaining a natural forested buffer.
Crosstrails	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed.
	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Protect trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by maintaining a natural forested buffer near Forest Spur Park alignment.
Yankee Doodle Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed.
	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Determine new realignment of the trail through the lower Rendezvous development that provides adequate buffering on both sides to avoid redesignating section as a Neighborhood trail. Protect trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by maintaining a natural forested buffer. Install trailhead signage and formalize shoulder parking area along Corona Pass Road where the trail intersects with the Arrow Trail.

Winter Park Trails (East) Priorities		
Amenity	**Timing**	**Recommendation**
Serendipity Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed.
	Long-Term	Protect trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by maintaining a natural forested buffer.
Arrow Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed.
	Long-Term	Protect trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by maintaining a natural forested buffer.
Depot Trail	**Routine**	Inspect/maintain trail condition and refinish surface, as needed. Monitor and replace signage as needed.
	Long-Term	Protect trail connection from surrounding residential and commercial development by designating a natural forested buffer. If the Denver Water East parcel is acquired by the Town, tie trail into Arrow Townsite and the trail network within that parcel.
Forest Spur Park	**Long-Term**	Develop a sizable trailhead parking area within the future park, complete with a restroom, trailhead kiosk, and picnic area.
Porphyry Park	**Long-Term**	Develop a switchback trail through Porphyry Park that connects the Fraser River Trail along the future Roam Road to the Yankee Doodle Trail. Provide parking at both the west and east sides of the park when road access is developed to the site.

East Side: Fraser River Trail

Realignment

The Fraser River Trail acts as the primary pedestrian connection between Fraser, the Town, Idlewild Campground/ US Forest Service land, and the Resort. The trail is beloved for its proximity to the Fraser River and its scenic/ natural qualities. At present, the trail is aligned through Town along a sidewalk that borders US 40, providing an undesirable and unsafe trail experience. This master plan recommends realigning the trail in phases.

Phase 1: Roam Community Realignment

Phase 1 calls for realigning the trail through the Roam Community. The new trail will utilize a series of boardwalks to navigate the wetlands along the Fraser River. Two pocket parks/access points to the Fraser River will need to be incorporated into this alignment, per the Roam Community's FDP. The trail will extend from Beaver Lodge Road to the south end of Trailhead Lodge Trail. From here, the trail will cut across the south sidewalk at Rendezvous Way/Hideaway Park to the US 40 sidewalk to continue the trail until Phase 2 is complete. Phase 1 is under development and is expected to be complete by 2025/2026. *See Page 46 for proposed Phase 1 Alignment plan.*

Phase 2: Trailhead Lodge - Confluence - Hi County Drive Realignment

Phase 2 calls for realigning through both public and private properties. The trail will utilize a series of existing and new alignments to connect the trail from the south end of Trailhead Lodge to the ponds at Telemark Drive. This alignment will require coordination with property owners to establish easements as well as a dedicated trail along Hi Country Drive. Final alignment to be determined after feasibility assessment. *See Page 47 for proposed Phase 2 Alignment plan.*

Phase 3: Roam Community - US Forest Service Realignment

Phase 3 is a potential phase to realign the trail further from US 40 and into the US Forest Service lands south of the Roam Community. This alignment will need to be further studied as the terrain in this location is steep and the Town will need to work with the US Forest Service to determine the final alignment.

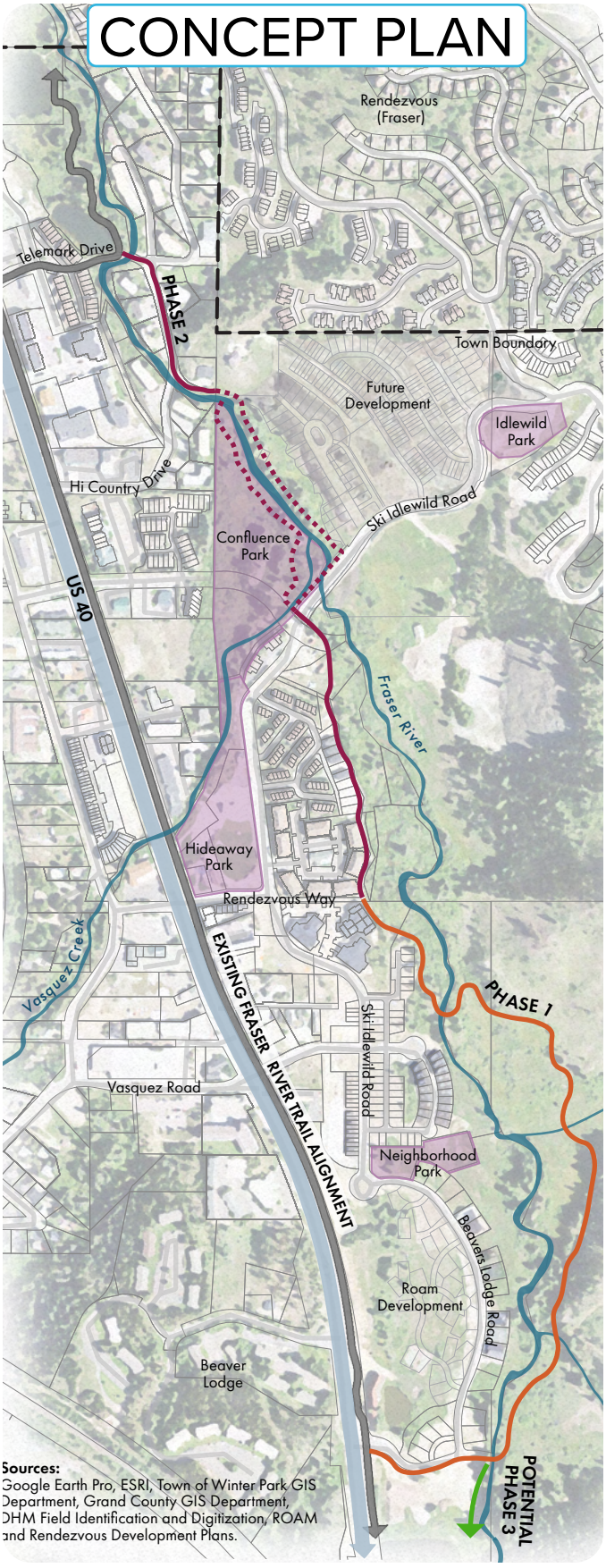


FIGURE 3–48. The Town is actively working to realign the Fraser River Trail through Town and off US 40. Realignment will need to be phased for the Town to achieve this effort and coordinate with property owners.

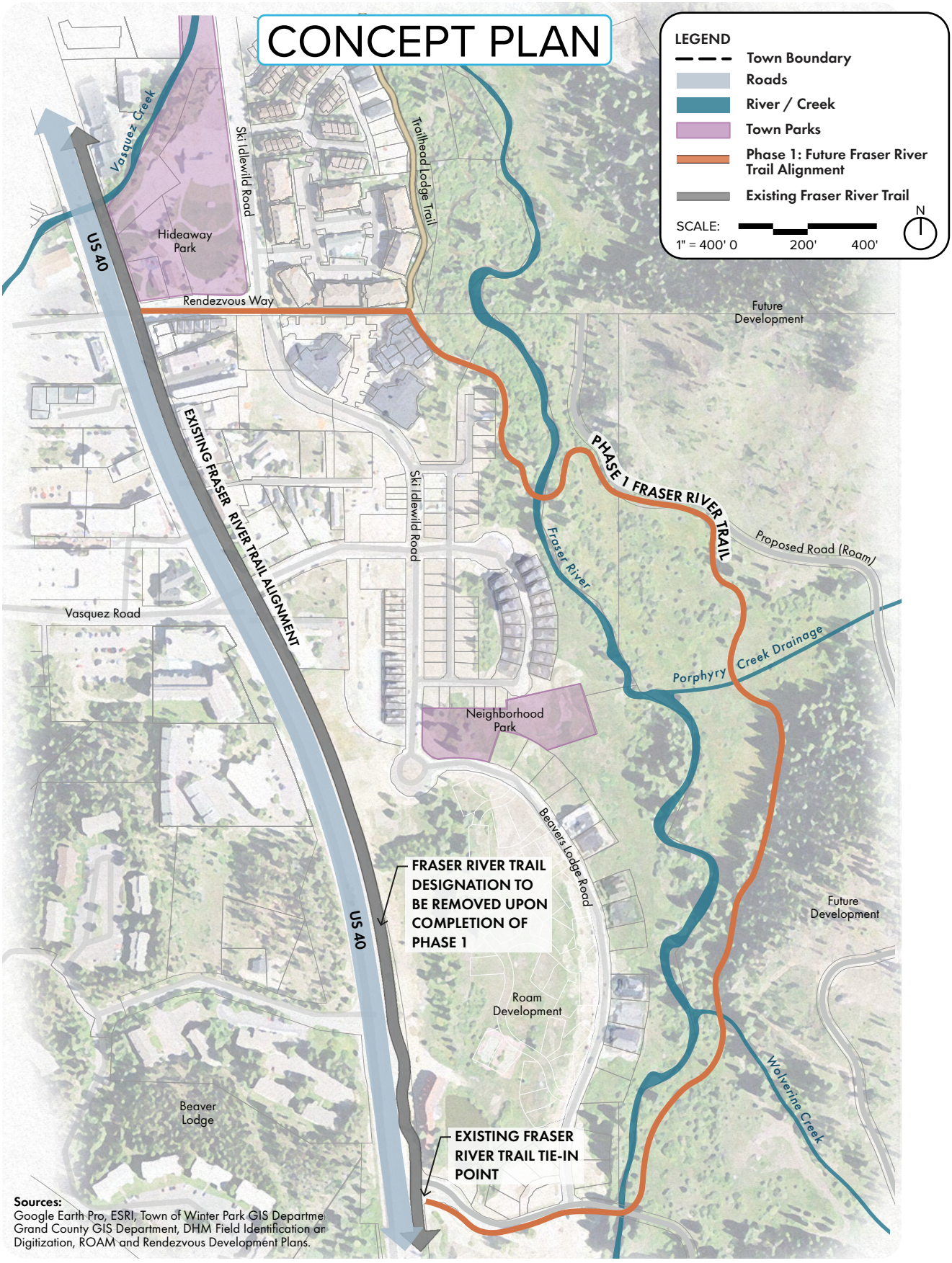


FIGURE 3–49. Phase 1 of the Fraser River Trail Realignment will require realigning the trail from the existing connection at Beaver Village through a series of boardwalks in wet meadows to the south end of Trailhead Lodge Trail. In the interim, users will need to utilize the sidewalk/road at Rendezvous Way to connect back to the existing trail along US 40 until Phase 2 is completed.

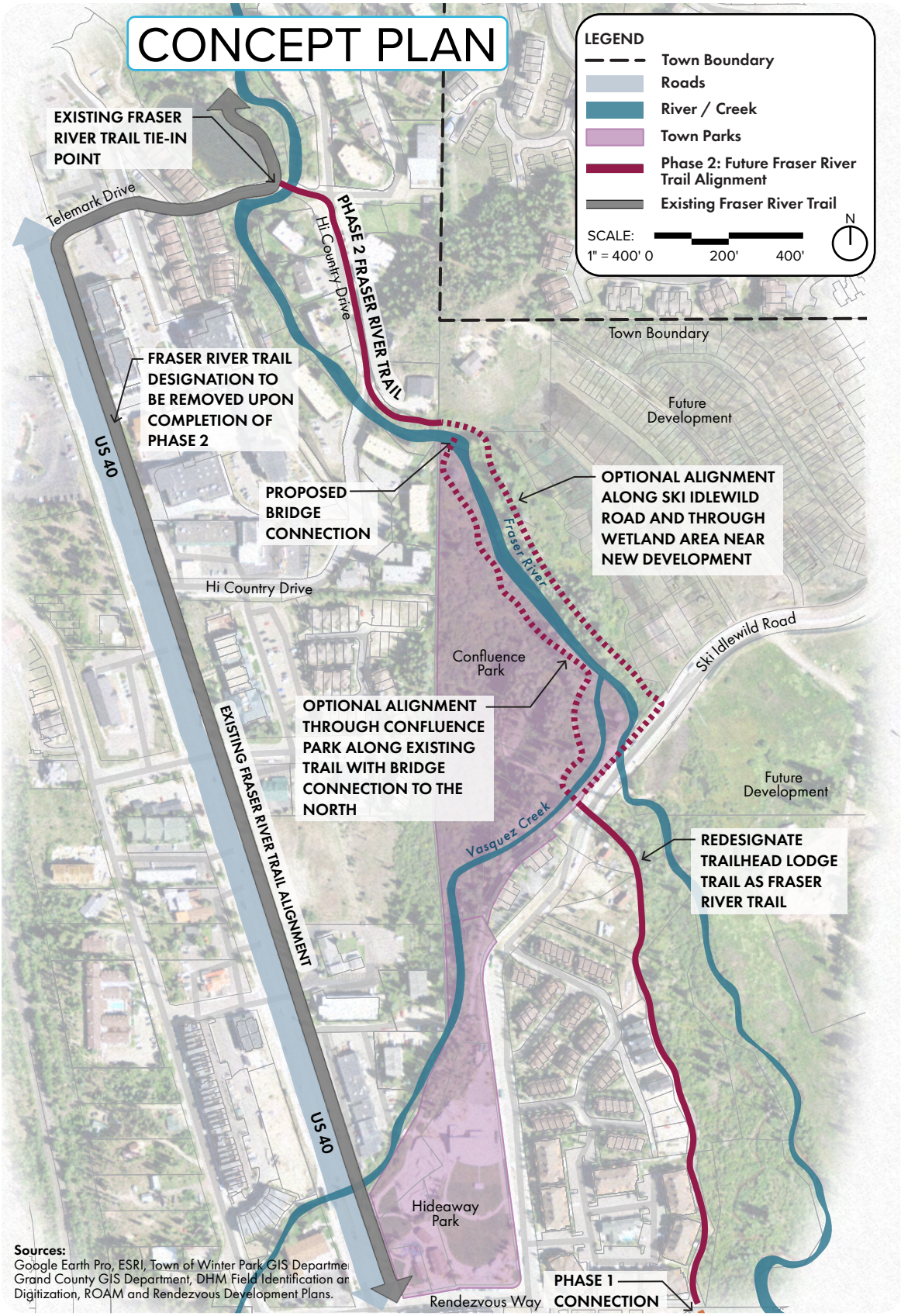


FIGURE 3–50. Phase 2 of the Fraser River Trail Realignment will require redesignating Trailhead Lodge and Vasquez Creek trail sections as part of the Fraser River Trail. The Town will need to develop a easement through the Snowshoe Property. From Confluence Park, the trail will need to cross over the Fraser River and connect to Hi Country Drive. To facilitate safe movement along roads, a dedicated bike lane/sidewalk should be incorporated along Hi Country Drive and Telemark Drive to connect to the existing Fraser River Trail near the ponds.

East Side: The Future of the Rendezvous/ Idlewild Trail System

The Rendezvous/ Idlewild trail system offers great access to a network of Town and US Forest Service trails. The Rendezvous developers are responsible for developing, dedicating, and aligning a network of trails based on the Final Development Plan (FDP), approved in 2008. These trails are intended to be a combination of paved and unpaved, non-motorized, and multi-use recreational trails connecting the Rendezvous Community to the Town and the US Forest Service lands. The trails dedicated by Rendezvous act as an interconnected public greenway where the trails will be dedicated to the Town for public use at the time of non-minor final subdivision platting.

Some of these trails have already been dedicated to the Town and the Rendezvous developer may relocate sections of the alignments as development occurs. The trails were not named in the FDP document, but to date, some of the alignments have already been built out. The graphic below illustrates which trail alignments have been dedicated.

The exact alignment of these trails is yet to be determined and will likely not reflect exactly what is depicted below; however, the primary connections noted should be established per the FDP. Community members desire these trails retain some scenic value and showcase the natural/ forested qualities of the existing trail system. Ideally, a forested buffer of 6' to 25' should be established on either side of the trail to buffer it from residential and commercial adjacencies.

Additionally, trailhead parking areas should be established where the trail system crosses the future and existing road network.

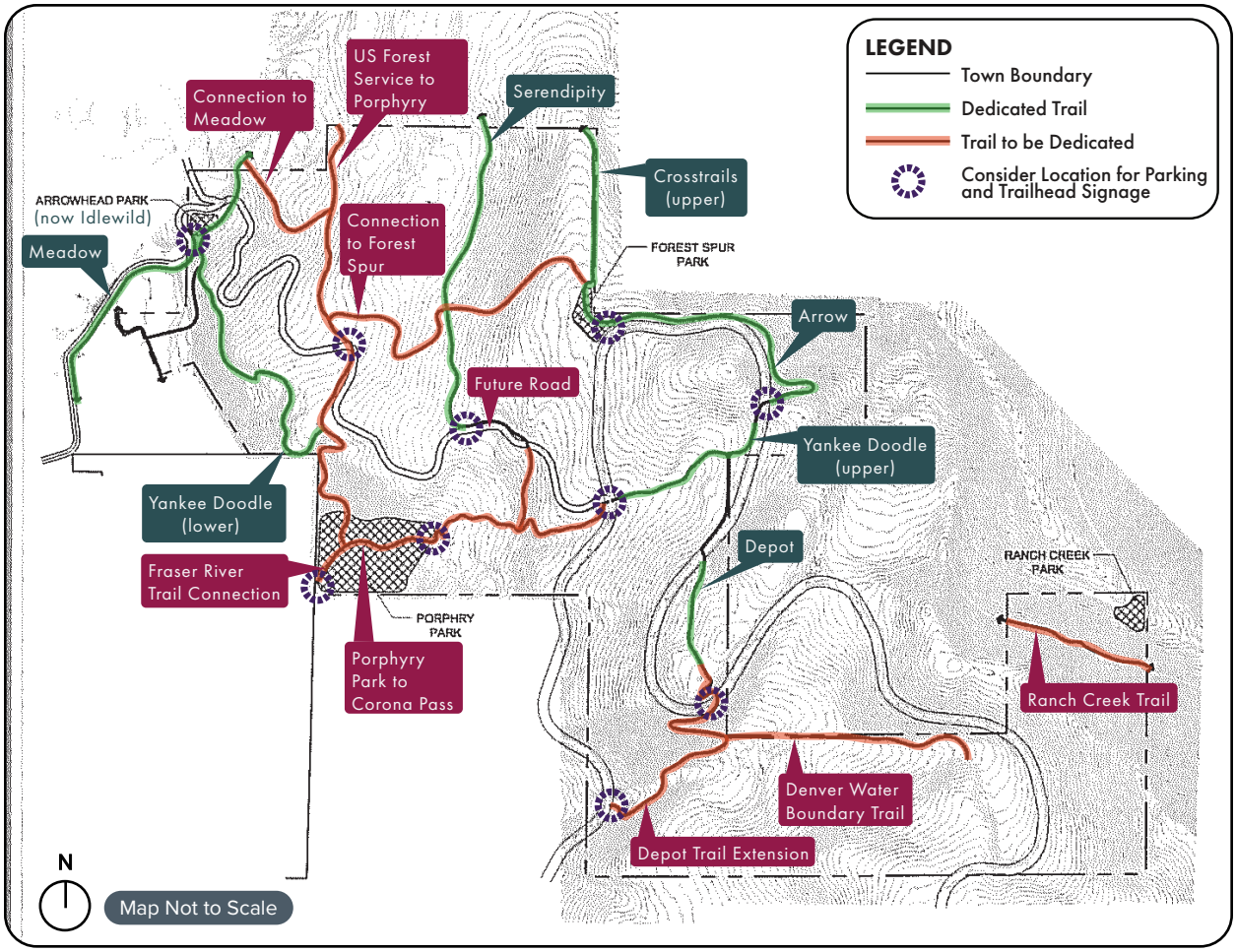


FIGURE 3–51. Dedicated Open Space/Trail network dedicated by Rendezvous developer in the *2008 FDP*. The plan is annotated to indicate the alignments that have been built (Original Map by Rendezvous developer; annotated by DHM Design).

East Side: Porphyry Park Trail

This master plan proposes using Porphyry Park to act as a trailhead and a connector between developments on the east side of Town. This will provide a connection between Yankee Doodle and the Fraser River trails. This will give users an option to access east side trails, outside of Corona Pass Road and Ski Idlewild Road.

This proposed trail alignment extends from the east side of the future Roam Road and Fraser River Trail to the west entrance/parking area of Porphyry Park. The trail then snakes its way up a series of switchbacks to the far east parking area of the park where users can connect to the Yankee Doodle Trail.

Note: The feasibility and connectivity of this trail is contingent on final alignments of connecting roads within the Roam and Rendezvous Communities. Development of these roads should factor in trailhead parking and trail connectivity through Porphyry Park. It is unclear if this route would be accessible in the winter as a winter groomed trail.

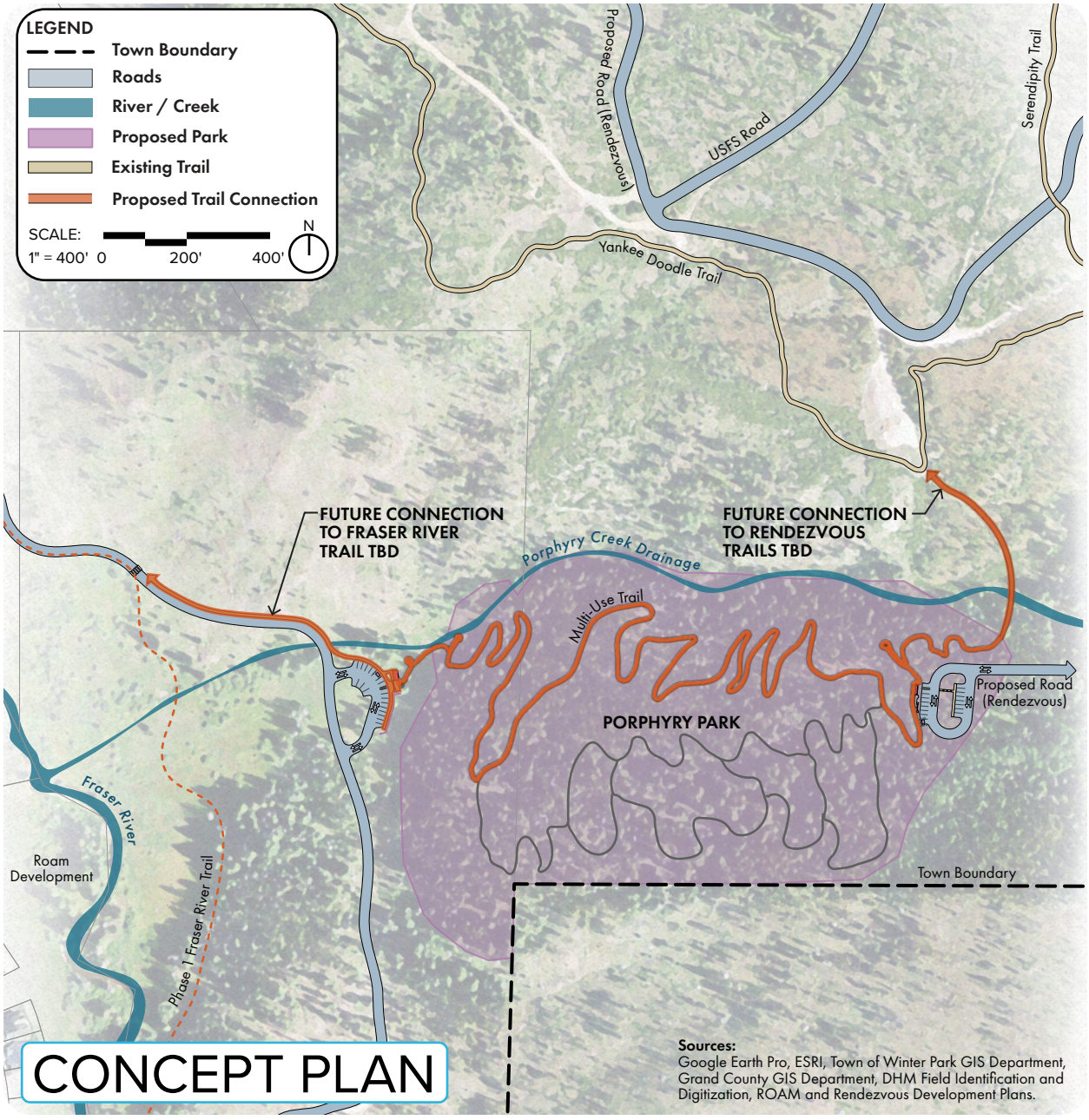


FIGURE 3–52. Proposed Porphyry Park connector trail between the Fraser River Trail and Yankee Doodle Trail offers a whole new way to connect pedestrians to amenities and trails on the east side.

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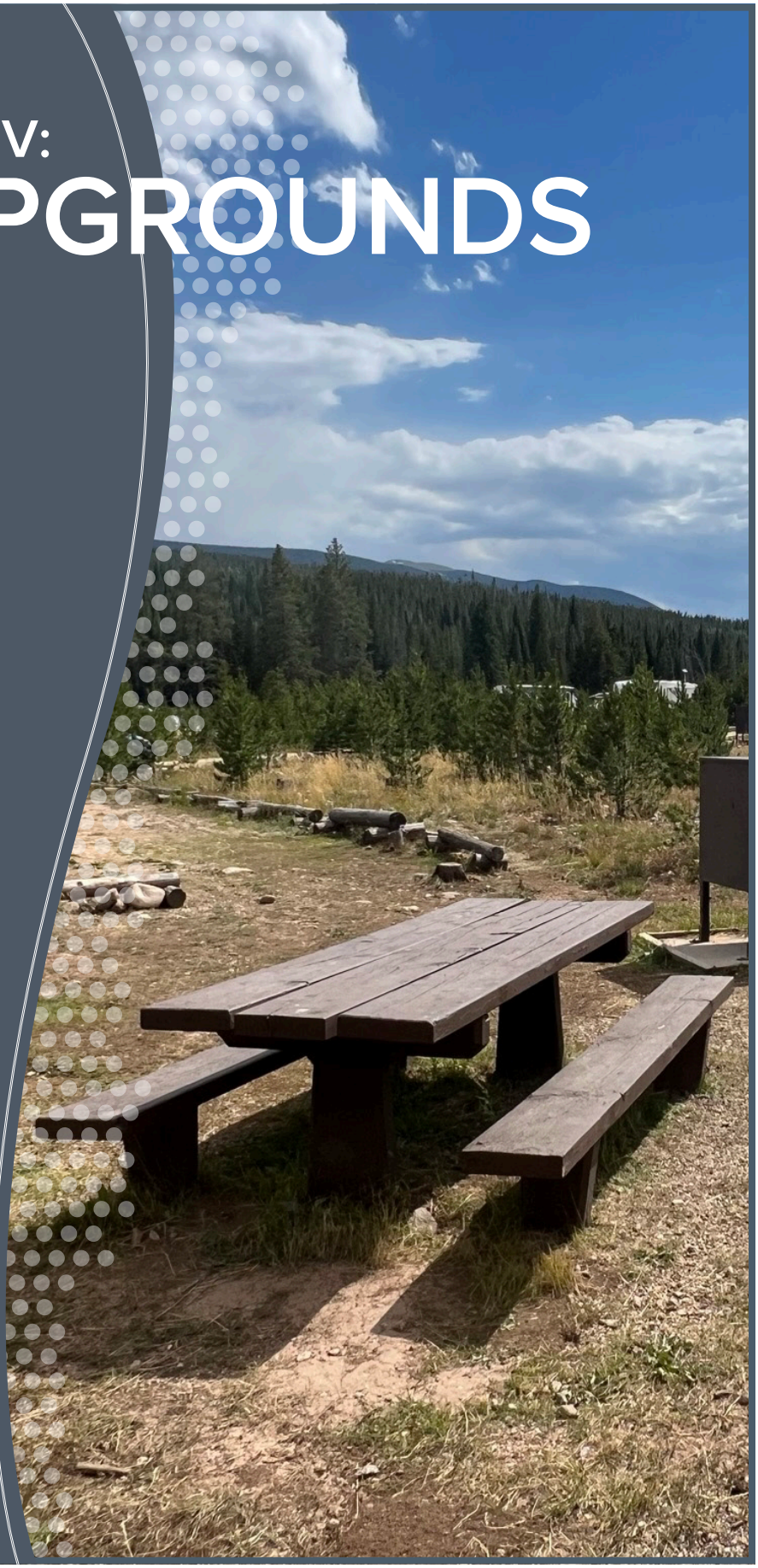
CHAPTER IV:
CAMPGROUNDS



CAMPGROUNDS

Introduction

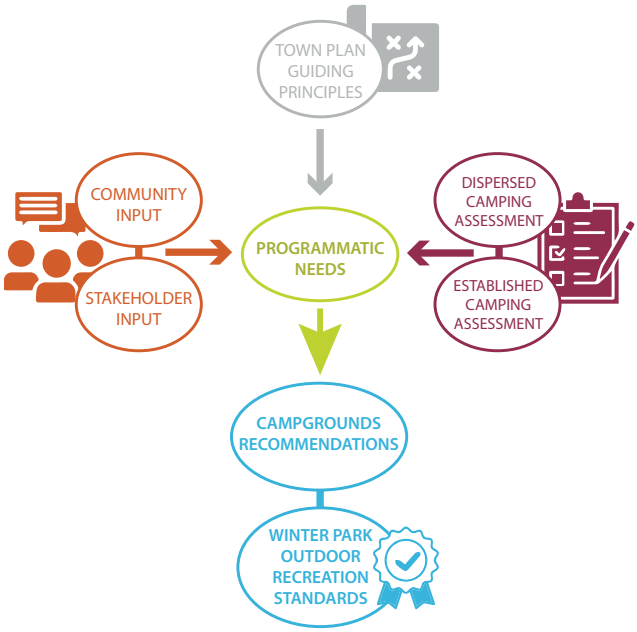
Access to camping areas has been a fundamental part of outdoor recreation for generations. It provides visitors and local residents alike an opportunity to disconnect from their traditional day-to-day lives and reconnect and recoup in nature. Whether staying in the area to bike the world-class trails, fish the Fraser River, or reconnect with friends or oneself, camping is a quintessential part of the Winter Park recreation experience.

The purpose of the Campgrounds chapter of this report is to take a broad look at the camping resources and opportunities surrounding Winter Park. Since the Town of Winter Park (the Town) does not currently have its own managed facilities, this chapter looks at both dispersed and established camping administered by the US Forest Service. This chapter outlines how camping resources can be improved with the assistance of community partnerships to offer continued access to recreational opportunities within and around the Town.

This chapter provides an inventory and analysis of existing resources in dispersed and established camping areas, an assessment of needs and opportunities identified by the community and Town staff, and recommendations for improvements. These recommendations inform ***Chapter VI: Outdoor Recreation Standards*** and aid Town staff in decision-making and planning for the future.

Existing Campgrounds Standards

They also allow for vehicle-based dispersed camping within 300 feet of the centerline of US Forest Service roads in select areas as long as the road is seasonally open to permitted vehicles. Campers may camp at the same site for no more than 14 days of a 30 day period. Additionally, campsites must be at least 100 feet from any stream or water source. Some areas, like Vasquez Creek Road have been closed to dispersed camping due to overuse and resource damage.



PART IV CAMPGROUNDS FRAMEWORK

Town Plan Guiding Principles
Community Input
Stakeholder Input
Programmatic Needs
Dispersed Camping Assessment
Dispersed Camping Recommendations
Established Camping Assessment
Established Camping Recommendations

See Part VI Winter Park Outdoor Standards

FIGURE 4–1. This chapter is organized using the following visual structure. Color guides on each page indicate if that page corresponds to either Guiding Principles, Community/ Stakeholder Input, Assessments, or Recommendations.

Camping Locations

The map below highlights the locations of established campgrounds owned and operated by the US Forest Service as well as popular vehicle-based dispersed camping sites within a 15-minute drive of downtown Winter Park. All of the dispersed camping sites shown are along road corridors. As of 2024, roads closed to dispersed camping are highlighted below.

Note: The US Forest Service routinely updates their field maps and road closures. Historically, they have opened and closed roads to dispersed camping as needed.

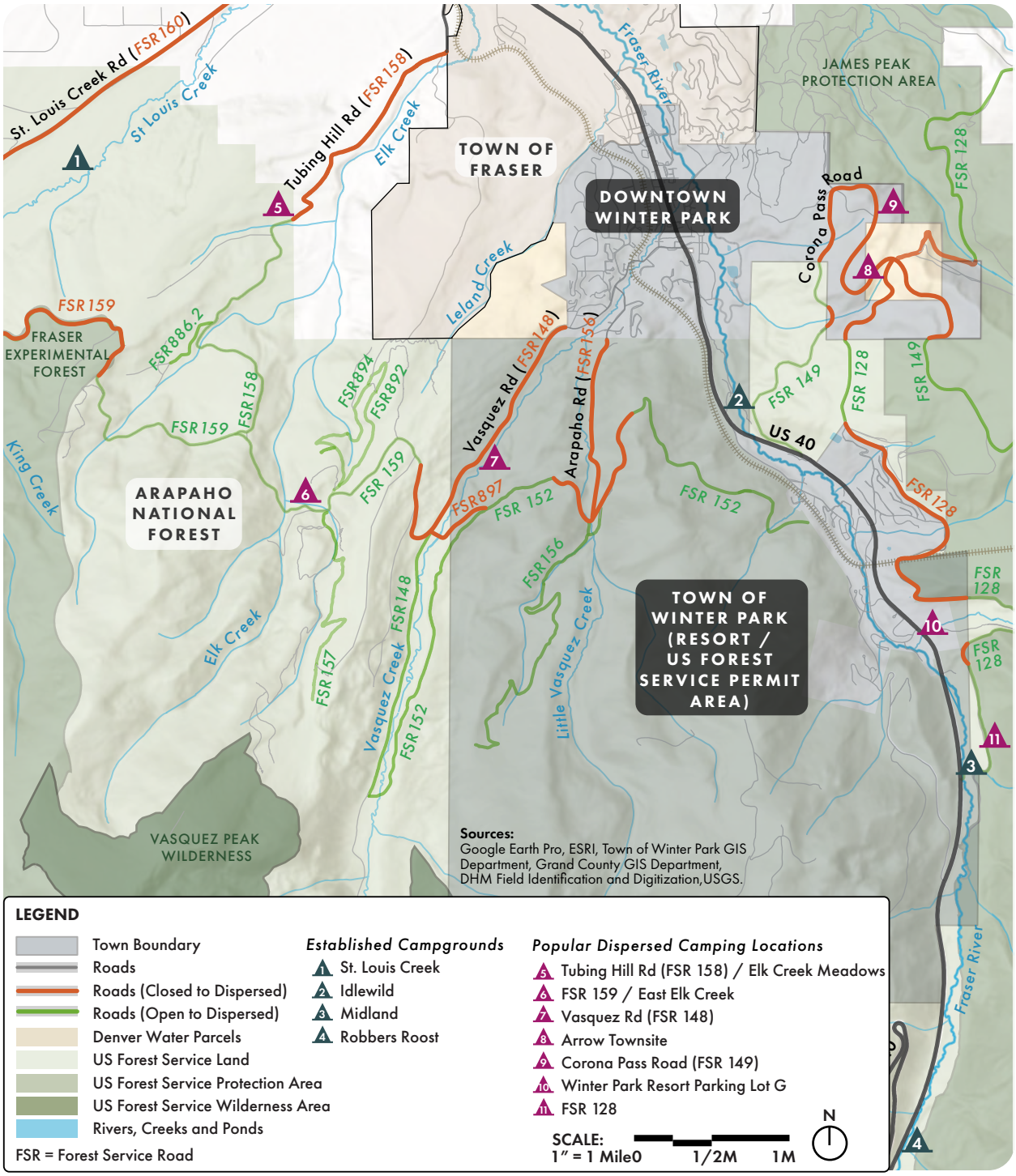


FIGURE 4–2. Established and Dispersed Camping Locations within a 15-minute drive of Downtown Winter Park.

	Strategy	Vision Statement
Character and Culture	CC 2.9	Build on Winter Park's designations as "Mountain Bike Capital USA" and Colorado's "Top Adventure Town" as a way to attract growth that supports our recreational heritage.
World-Class Outdoor Recreation	OR 2.6	Collaborate with public, private, and non-profit entities to increase recreation opportunities for everyone.
	OR 3.7	Examine regional solutions when responding to evolving recreational preferences and opportunities (e.g. determining where a facility would fit best).
	OR 3.8	Capitalize on and enhance existing recreational facilities.
Healthy and Thriving Environment	EN 1.1	Protect and increase physical and visual access to waterways within and around the Town.
	EN 1.4	Strengthen the Fraser River and its associated floodplain as a recreational and economic amenity while preserving the riparian habitat.
	EN 1.5	Protect the viability of natural wetlands and watercourses as a key component of our natural and built environments.
	EN 1.7	Restore or enhance degraded or disturbed waterways to improve ecological conditions, aesthetics, and recreation.
	EN 1.9	Promote public safety and protect Town waterways by implementing floodplain regulations.
	EN 2.4	Foster alliances and partnerships with organizations that are working toward a healthy and thriving environment.
	EN 2.5	Promote education and understanding of public lands through appropriate recreational activities, formal and non-formal education, and interpretive programs.
	EN 3.2	Work with the US Forest Service to formalize camping along Vasquez Road to protect Winter Park's water quality, outdoor experience, and the health and safety of wildlife, residents, and visitors.
	EN 3.3	Proactively plan for disasters and implement mitigation and resilience measures to reduce community vulnerability (e.g. requiring firebreaks).

FIGURE 4–3. The strategies above from the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* plan relate directly to the guiding principles for dispersed and established campgrounds around Winter Park.

Town Plan Guiding Principles

This section builds upon the strategies outlined in the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* and uses them as the foundation for guiding principles to improve dispersed and established camping around Winter Park. Below are some of the recommendations and goals that were developed based on the vision statements from the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019).*

Culture

- Foster a positive camping culture that supports dispersed camping regulations;
- Promote Leave No Trace (LNT) and Tread Lightly principles within and across the greater community. Foster a sense of stewardship where the community advocates for taking care of the places in which they recreate.

Recreation

- Collaborate with US Forest Service and community stakeholders to establish a dispersed camping monitoring program and improve existing established campgrounds;
- Identify locations for designated dispersed camping based on regional/ecological appropriateness (distance from water resources, terrain along forest roads, etc).

Environment

- Formalize a designated dispersed camping area which aims to concentrate camping to select locations in an effort to limit degradation impacts to existing water sources and/or forest habitat;
- Establish a program for monitoring camping impact and aim to preserve, protect, and restore ecological resources in degraded or at-risk locations;
- Continue to invest in established campgrounds along the Fraser River while also prioritizing the stabilization and restoration of disturbed riparian habitat;
- Establish enforcement programs that work with the US Forest Service to monitor and mitigate risks (public health/safety, fire risks, etc.)

Community Input

Community input was gathered through in-person events and online engagement. In the summers of 2023 and 2024, the Town and the consultant team held three community pop-up events during High-Note Thursdays at Hideaway Park to engage the public on campgrounds. Over 100 participants from the community shared input based on camping opportunities and identified regional issues related to dispersed and established camping. Town staff and the consultant team answered questions, discussed issues, and guided the public to participate in the online survey. The online survey, which received comments from 55 individuals, was available during the summers of 2023 and 2024. Key takeaways from the community input are located on the following pages.

Note: Only 46% of respondents actually camped in the vicinity of Winter Park whereas 37% of respondents were residents of the Fraser Valley who did not camp, but wanted to share opinions on camping in the area.

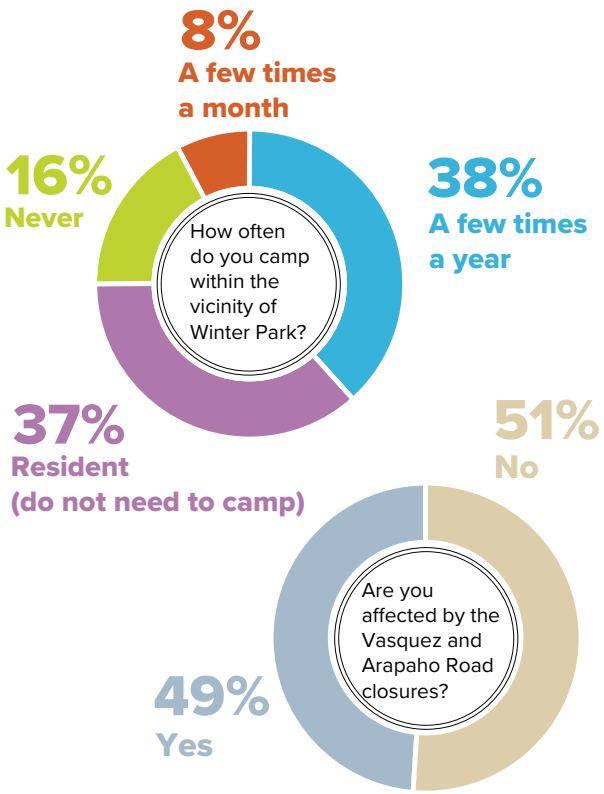
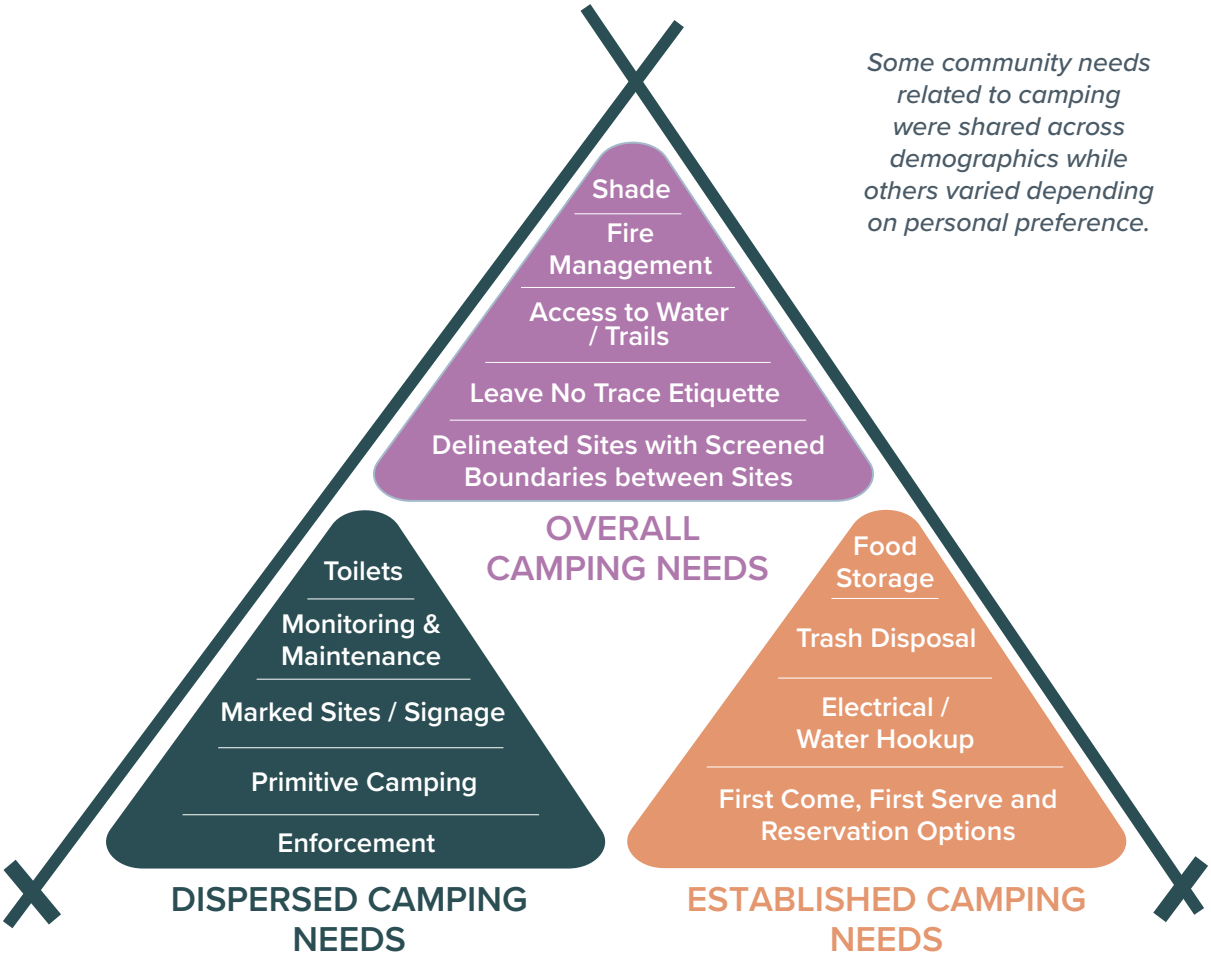


FIGURE 4–4. Participants review and discuss information on boards at community event.

Key Takeaways on Overall Camping

- Residents are generally favorable of camping within the Fraser Valley as it brings visitors into the area to experience the region's recreational and scenic resources. They wish existing restrictions and regulations were enforced and that visitors were better educated on LNT principles;
- Respondents wish to see an equal number of first come, first serve camping options as well as reservation-only sites in established campgrounds;
- Respondents select campsites based on site proximity to trails and water, but would prefer sites to be somewhat distant from developed areas for privacy and solitude;
- Respondents want to camp within proximity to mountain biking trails for convenience. Feedback noted camping near other campers who are participating in the same type of recreation activities builds community;
- Respondents use a variety of phone apps and websites that advertise dispersed camping sites; however, the information on these websites is user submitted/non-verified and not always updated with accurate or current closures or fire restrictions;
- While the majority of respondents camp in tents, they are likely supported by a nearby vehicle and require a parking or pull-off. Those not using a tent use small trailers, teardrop or pop-ups, pickup campers, or modified commercial vans (Sprinter, Ford Transit, etc.) Few respondents were using RVs or motorhomes;
- 90% of respondents report that they check for fire bans or restrictions online prior to camping in a new area.

Some community needs related to camping were shared across demographics while others varied depending on personal preference.

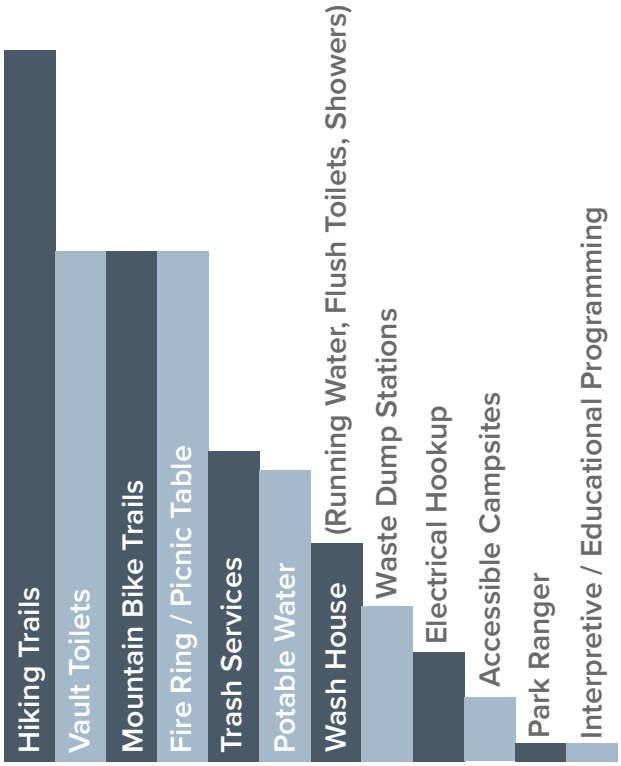


Key Takeaways on Dispersed Camping:

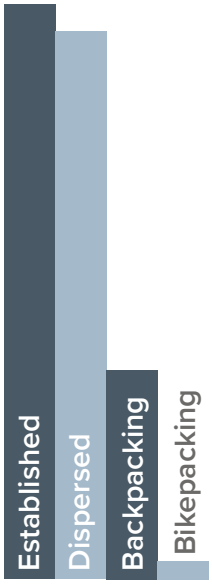
- Respondents are unhappy with the closure of Vasquez Creek Road since it was a great camping option in close proximity to Town and trails. Despite its closure, people continue to camp illegally along the road corridor;
- Respondents enjoy dispersed camping because of its convenience, solitude and privacy, options for sites, and access to trails/amenities;
- While there are likely visitors who practice LNT principles and abide by dispersed camping regulations, some are not abiding by regulations. Common issues include trash dumping, oversized gatherings, human waste in open areas, inappropriate fire rings/unattended fires, and violations of 14-day limits at a site;
- Respondents would like to see dispersed camping violations be enforced by law enforcement in the Sulphur Ranger District as well as more consistent monitoring at known dispersed camping locations during peak camping seasons and fire ban restrictions.

Key Takeaways on Established Campgrounds:

- Respondents prefer sites that are clearly delineated with spaces for parking, tent pads, and physical buffers/screening between campsites;
- Respondents prefer established campgrounds that include access to quality amenities including toilets, trash disposal, fire pits, and optional vehicle hook-ups to water and electric;
- Over half of the respondents have never camped in Idlewild or St. Louis Creek Campgrounds, citing issues with early seasonal closures or full capacity;
- Respondents appreciate the proximity of Idlewild Campground to downtown Winter Park, the existing trail network, and the cozy atmosphere/forest cover. They would like to see improvements to access from US 40, more defined space between campsites, and tree clearing to allow for more sunlight;
- Respondents appreciate the proximity of St. Louis Creek Campground to downtown Winter Park, existing trails, and waterways. They love the views at the campground but would like to see more shade cover/ trees and distance between sites.



Most valued campground facilities/amenities



Preferred camping experience

Stakeholder Input

The Town and consultant team identified stakeholders who have an overlapping interest in campgrounds within the Fraser Valley. Stakeholders include Winter Park and Fraser Chamber, Winter Park Resort, Headwaters Trails Alliance, and the US Forest Service. Stakeholders were interviewed to determine potential partnerships to meet community needs. Notable partnerships and goals for each stakeholder are examined and presented on the following pages.

Winter Park and Fraser Chamber

Feedback on Camping in Winter Park

- The Chamber believes there should be camping near town, either along Vasquez Road or at the Denver Water parcels, but that camping should be located further from residences;
- The Town should work with US Forest Service to improve Idlewild Campground. They would like too see access improvements from US 40;
- The Chamber does not promote dispersed camping to visitors or provide a guidance on where to find dispersed camping sites.

Winter Park Resort

Feedback on Camping in Winter Park

- Limited overnight self-contained camping is allowed in the upper G-Lot of the Resort for a maximum of 3 days for any 30-day period. This is enforced regularly and security will file trespassing charges against violators. No amenities are provided;
- The Resort does not currently have an interest in operating or managing campgrounds within the permit area; however, they would support the Town working with US Forest Service to improve camping conditions along Vasquez Road.

Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA)

Feedback on Camping in Winter Park

- HTA cited inappropriate and irresponsible dispersed camping behavior prompted the closure of camping along Vasquez Road. E. coli contamination from human waste was a large contributor to the closure;
- HTA previously worked with US Forest Service to identify appropriate sites with adequate space for parking, tents, and fire rings that were at least 200 feet from water;
- HTA acknowledged the US Forest Service does not have the ranger capacity to enforce dispersed camping restrictions, maintain sites, or monitor for fires. They believe a third party agreement could be set up, similar to other municipalities, with dispersed camping in their vicinity.

US Forest Service (USFS)

Feedback on Camping in Winter Park

- US Forest Service supports designated dispersed camping along Vasquez Road and other locations in the vicinity of Winter Park. These sites need to be defined by buck and rail fencing and marked with a carsonite campsite marker. Fire rings would likely not be permitted since they are prohibited outside of developed recreation sites under Grand County Stage One Fire Restrictions;
- US Forest Service supports expanding and improving campground facilities, but any work would need to be supported by a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process conducted by a third-party before it could enter the design/implementation stage.

Programmatic Needs

Unlike other existing or proposed resources evaluated within this master plan, the Town of Winter Park does not own or manage any campground resources. The Town does not have the land area to build a campground or the staff to manage one as a year-round or seasonal resource for public use. The Town must continue to rely on adjacent US Forest Service established campgrounds and lands for dispersed camping for residents and visitors to use.

The table below incorporates existing camping resources and recommended camping improvements to illustrate the various ways they can help address the Town's collective camping needs. The success of camping resources relies on a continued partnership with the US Forest Service and stakeholders in order for community and visitor needs to be met.

		Improved Dispersed Camping	Designated Dispersed Zone	Improved Established Camping			
				Idlewild	Midland	Robbers Roost	St. Louis Creek
Overall Camping Needs	Shaded Camping Areas	Existing at Select Sites	To Be Determined	Existing			x (After Area Regrowth)
	Fire Management	To Be Improved with Implementation of Programs 1,2, and 3 Dispersed Camping Recommendations)					(see
	Access to Water	To Be Regulated	To Be Determined	Existing			
	Access to Trails	To Be Regulated	To Be Provided	Existing	-	-	Existing
	Improved Leave No Trace Etiquette	To Be Improved with Implementation of Program 1 (see Dispersed Camping Recommendations)					
	Delineated Campsites	To Be Determined	To Be Determined	Existing			
Dispersed Camping Needs	Toilets	To Be Determined	Preferred; To Be Determined	Existing			
	Monitoring & Maintenance	Improved with Program 2 (see Dispersed Camping Recommendations)		To Be Improved After Restoration and Campsite Improvements			
	Marked Sites / Signage	To Be Determined	To Be Provided	Existing			
	Primitive Camping	To Be Provided	To Be Provided	-	-	-	-
	Enforcement	To Be Improved with Implementation of Program 3 Dispersed Camping Recommendations)					(see
Established Camping Needs	Food Storage	-	-	Existing	To Be Provided with Campsite Improvements		Existing
	Trash Disposal	-	-	Existing	To Be Provided with Campsite Improvements		Existing
	Electrical / Water Hookup	-	-	Existing	-	-	Existing
	First Come Option	To Be Provided	To Be Provided	Existing	-	Existing	Existing
	Reservations	-	To Be Provided	Existing		-	Existing

FIGURE 4–5. The Programmatic Needs matrix for Campgrounds illustrates how needs can be met upon implementation of programs for dispersed camping and improvements to the existing established campgrounds.

Dispersed Camping Assessment

Vehicle-based dispersed camping has long been a cost-effective and convenient option for visitors looking to experience Colorado's public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities. It offers an alternative camping option to visitors who want more primitive or self-sustained experience not offered at developed campgrounds. There is also unparalleled flexibility with dispersed camping as campers are not locked into one location and can easily relocate if they are seeking privacy from others or a better view of the night sky. Dispersed camping is typically free, which appeals to campers looking to experience the outdoors on a tighter budget.

This freedom to choose your own camping experience has its drawbacks. In recent years, the US Forest Service and other public-land agencies have closed popular dispersed camping along US Forest Service roads in order to protect resources. Within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, thousands of new dispersed campsites were created by visitors outside of developed campgrounds.

These dispersed campsites led to several negative impacts including the following:

- Trampled vegetation;
- Noxious weed infestation;
- Accelerated erosion;
- Compacted soils and tree roots from humans, tents, and vehicles;
- Sites in close proximity to the road;
- Abandoned rock campfire rings and unattended fires;
- Excessive trash and human waste in dispersed campsites and near trailheads;
- Large, unregulated group gatherings;
- Animal encounters due to improper food storage;
- Contamination of municipal water supplies from human waste and trash in streams.

FIGURE 4–6. The Arrow Townsite features a heavily trampled area with multiple stone fire rings. Camping is not permitted on the Denver Water land outside of their designated campgrounds (none of these are in Winter Park). Dispersed camping restrictions are not enforced, posing a risk to resources at the site.

FIGURE 4–7. Dispersed campsite located along FSR 128, just north of Rendezvous property and the future Ranch Creek Park site. The campsite appears to be popular as it is a heavily trampled and features a collapsed stone fire ring.

FIGURE 4–8. A log barrier was placed by US Forest Service along Vasquez Creek Road (FSR 148) to deter camping in the closure area.

The Town of Winter Park does not have jurisdiction over any dispersed campsites on US Forest Service lands. The closures of dispersed sites along areas like Vasquez Road are essential to protecting at-risk resources. These closures are not permanent solutions and do not solve the myriad of unregulated dispersed camping issues. For dispersed camping to be allowed without jeopardizing natural resources, it must be managed to prevent damaging and irresponsible activities.

The table below summarizes some of the most popular dispersed campsites near Town. Information includes ownership, restrictions, and the current status of use. The locations and distances are generalized, as many of the campsites exist across large stretches of road. The condition of campsites at each location varies, ranging from small, appropriately maintained sites to large, trampled sites.

Name (Primary Road Location)	Approximate Distance and Time to Downtown	Setting	Features	Land Owner / Dispersed Camping Restrictions	Status
Tubing Hill Rd (FSR 158) / Elk Creek Meadows	5 Miles / 13 to 15 Minutes	Forests Creeks Wetlands	Hiking and biking trail access (Elk Meadows) Secluded	US Forest Service (Sulphur Ranger District) 14-day limit for 30-day period; 30-day limit for 365 day period	Open May to Early October
FSR 159 / East Elk Creek	5 Miles / 12 to 15 Minutes	Forests Creeks	Hiking and biking trail access (Elk Meadows / Twin Bridges)		Open May to Early October
Vasquez Rd (FSR 148)	< 3 Miles / 5 to 9 Minutes	Forests Creeks Wetlands	Hiking and biking trail access (Denver Water West / Twin Bridges)		Closed Indefinitely
Corona Pass Road (FSR 149)	3 to 6 Miles / 8 to 15 Minutes	Forests Creeks	Hiking and biking trail access (Rendezvous Trail System)		Open May to Early October
FSR 128	< 5 Miles / 8 Minutes	Forests	Proximity to Resort / US 40		Open May to Early October
Arrow Townsite	< 6 Miles / 12 to 15 Minutes	Forests Open / Exposed	Hiking and biking trail access (Rendezvous Trail System)	Denver Water Camping is not permitted in this area per Denver Water camping guidelines. Camping is currently unregulated	Closed Permanently
Winter Park Resort Parking Lot G	< 4 Miles / 7 Minutes	Open / Exposed	Proximity to Resort / US 40	US Forest Service (Sulphur Ranger District) / Winter Park Resort 3-day limit	At the Discretion of the Resort / Typically Year-Round

FSR = US Forest Service Road; Table based off data collected in Fall 2024. Refer to the US Forest Service website for information on closures and changes in status and regulations.

Many of the issues that stem from dispersed camping are the result of visitors not abiding by existing regulations. The table below summarizes some of the existing restrictions and guidance for dispersed camping developed by US Forest Service units across the region.

Note: Not all US Forest Service units publish the same dispersed camping information on their websites. Read about current regulations online and contact the District Ranger office for any forest specific rules.

Feature	Existing Restriction	Source
Location	Dispersed camping is allowed within 300-feet of the centerline of select US Forest Service roads.	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, CO
	Dispersed camping is not allowed within 100-feet of water sources; Dispersed camping is not allowed within the vicinity of developed recreation areas including established campgrounds, picnic areas, or trailheads.	Fishlake National Forest, UT
	Camp on pre-existing dispersed camping sites on barren, flat soil to avoid trampling any vegetation or tree roots. Tents should be sited in level areas with good drainage. Avoid setting up tents in open areas or within view of the road.	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin Grassland, CO
	Avoid driving off road to access dispersed sites and only drive on designated roads.	
Human Waste	All human waste must be properly buried in a hole of 6" minimum and at least 200-feet from a water source. Toilet paper must be packed-out and disposed of in a proper container.	Pike-San Isabel National Forest & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands
Trash	All trash must be packed-in and packed-out. There is no trash removal or disposal at sites.	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin Grassland, CO
	Leaving camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours is not allowed	Pike-San Isabel National Forest & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands
Water Access	Water must be properly treated before drinking. Potable water is not available at dispersed sites and most US Forest Service water resources are contaminated with microorganisms, like giardia.	Fishlake National Forest, UT
Camping Duration	14-day limit for 30-day period; 30-day limit for 365 day period.	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, CO
Fires	Campfires must comply with current fire regulations. Refer to the US Forest Service District Ranger Office for current fire bans.	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, CO
	Firewood permits are required before harvesting firewood products.	
	If fires are permitted, use existing, properly established/built stone fire rings.	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin Grassland, CO
	Avoid building new fire rings to minimize scarring of additional rocks and soils. Avoid fires under low over-hanging trees or in wet/dry meadows. Only collect dead firewood for use in fires.	
	Do NOT leave fires unattended. Make sure campfires are completely out and ashes have cooled before leaving a fire/campsite. Stir ashes to make sure embers have cooled.	
Group Size	Groups over 75 people must obtain a special use permit from the US Forest Service District Ranger Office.	Fishlake National Forest, UT

Many of the US Forest Service regulations stem from best practices and etiquette established by non-profit groups such as *Leave No Trace (LNT)* and *Tread Lightly* to reduce the impacts of recreation to public lands. The *LNT* principles are utilized more broadly across all sectors of recreation whereas *Tread Lightly* principles are for motorized vehicle-based recreation, including vehicle-based dispersed camping.

The *LNT* and *Tread Lightly* principles that overlap with best camping practices are included below.

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

▶ Know the regulations before camping including restrictions and appropriate site use;
▶ Identify camping location(s) prior to travel.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

▶ Use pre-existing sites with minimal vegetation;
▶ Camp 200-feet from water, if feasible (100 min);
▶ Keep campsites small and impacts isolated to one location.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

▶ Inspect campsite for food and trash prior to leaving and pack-out all trash. Aim to leave site better than it was found by removing trash left by others;
▶ Deposit solid human waste in a cathole (6" - 8" deep), 200-feet from water, camp, and trails. Disguise the cathole when finished and pack-out toilet paper;
▶ Wash dishes 200-feet away from streams and use biodegradable cleaning products.

4. Leave What You Find

▶ Do not build new structures/fire rings or build trenches;
▶ Minimize impacts to nature resources.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

▶ Use established fire rings where they are permitted;
▶ Keep fires small and only use sticks that can be broken by hand;
▶ Use a stove for cooking and a lantern for light;
▶ Put out campfire completely before leaving a site and confirm there are no embers remaining.

6. Respect Wildlife

▶ Store food and trash in appropriate containers. Refer to regulations in area about proper food storage;
▶ Control pets at all times and avoid letting them off-leash in wildlife areas.

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

▶ Be courteous of other campers/visitors. Avoid loud music/noise and camping in areas where you may disturb others outdoor experience.

TREAD LIGHTLY PRINCIPLES

T - Travel and Recreate with Minimum Impact

▶ When looking for a dispersed camping site for a vehicle, travel/stay only on designated motor vehicle routes and corridors;
▶ Do not create new routes. Avoid expanding pull-offs;
▶ Only drive on previously disturbed/compacted areas. Avoid sensitive habitats (wetlands, meadows, etc).

R - Respect the Environment and the Rights of Others

▶ Be respectful and considerate of other users so that all can enjoy a quality experience in the outdoors;
▶ Respect wildlife. Be sensitive to their needs by keeping your distance;
▶ Comply with posted signage.

E - Educate Yourself, Plan and Prepare Before You Go

▶ Know local laws and regulations for the land you are camping within;
▶ Acquire the correct information, maps, and equipment prior to your trip;
▶ Know which areas and routes are open for camping.

A - Allow for Future Use of the Outdoors, Leave It Better than You Found It

▶ Properly dispose of food, human waste, and trash; Everything you bring must be packed-out;
▶ Leave what you find;
▶ Minimize use of fire to avoid burn scars on the land and reduce risk of wildfire.

D - Discover the Rewards of Responsible Recreation

▶ Do all you can to help preserve the beauty and inspiring attributes of our lands and waters for yourself and future generations.

Dispersed Camping Recommendations

Dispersed camping is a great public amenity that should be allowed to continue in the Winter Park / Fraser Valley area under improved conditions and management. There is not one site-scale solution to resolve the issues relating to dispersed camping around Town or throughout Colorado. The Town will need to partner with the US Forest Service and partner organizations to improve dispersed camping conditions and remedy negative impacts to the surrounding forests and resources.

Currently, dispersed camping management falls almost entirely on the US Forest Service. As the owner/manager of the public land where dispersed camping occurs in the region, they are ultimately responsible for developing a dispersed camping/ campground management plan to help regulate the camping on their lands.

In 2022, the Salida and Leadville Ranger Districts in adjacent Pike-San Isabel National Forests initiated a project to manage vehicle-based dispersed camping issues. While this plan is still under development, its findings will likely yield data that can help the Sulphur Ranger District to develop a similar plan for the Winter Park / Fraser area. At this time, the Sulphur Ranger District is limited in its capacity to develop or implement a dispersed camping management plan. Additionally, the District does not have the employee capacity to monitor or maintain dispersed campsites and enforce regulations.

The recommendations in this section parallel what the US Forest Service and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources are aiming to accomplish with its *Shared Stewardship Program*. Numerous agencies, stakeholders, and non-profit groups have been identified to assist with stewardship of the state's forest lands. Managing dispersed camping in the region will need to be an on-going project. The **Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA),** as the primary outdoor recreation advocacy group in the region, is the best partner to assist with navigating programming solutions and identifying additional partner organizations.

Town of Winter Park x Headwaters Trails Alliance

Through *Shared Stewardship*, the US Forest Service, Town of Winter Park, and partner organizations can improve dispersed camping for the long-term benefit of its natural and recreational resources. This master plan presents recommended programs that can help address dispersed camping issues in the area. Each program is briefly outlined on the following pages with an accompanying program matrix. The charts are intended to highlight key responsibilities and partners, but **additional partners, stakeholders, and agencies should be identified as needed.**

FIGURE 4–9. Dispersed camping is one of the many ways to experience the beauty of the Fraser Valley (Photo by: Winter Park and Fraser Chamber).

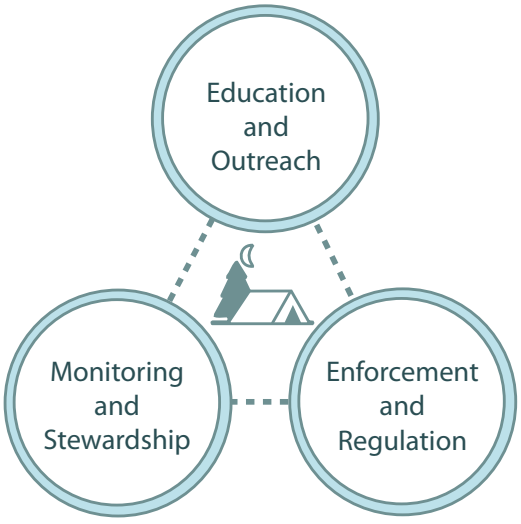


FIGURE 4–10. The three-part system for improving dispersed camping involves equal investment into programs for monitoring and upkeep, education and outreach, and permitting and enforcement.

Program 1: Education and Outreach

This program requires an improvement to existing educational programming and outreach within the Town and the Sulphur Ranger District. Currently, there is limited and mixed information on dispersed camping regulations within the region. The US Forest Service and the Town should work together to publish a joint guidance on regulations and protocols.

The US Forest Service is ultimately responsible for publishing comprehensive guidelines and identifying where dispersed camping is permitted. Some US Forest Service units have examples of guides on their websites, but rules and regulations differ between regions. The management matrix below identifies the roles each organization could take on to assist with education and outreach for dispersed camping.

Program 1: Education and Outreach

US Forest Service	Town of Winter Park	Winter Park & Fraser Chamber
▶ Develop and publish dispersed camping guidelines/management plan for the Sulphur Ranger District; ▶ Publish list of dispersed camping sites and regulations in easy to access public locations.	▶ Coordinate with US Forest Service on developing protocol for areas around Town; ▶ Parks/trails staff could assist US Forest Service with placing signage and dispersed camping regulations at trailheads and in public areas around Town.	▶ Disseminate dispersed camping information in one location on the Town website. Link to US Forest Service page for updated regulations. ▶ Provide LNT principles literature and guidance at the Visitor Center.

FIGURE 4–11. Clear and consistent signage with camping regulations and informing visitors where they can and cannot camp will likely reduce illegal dispersed camping. The Town and US Forest Service should work together to identify locations for signage between Town and federal properties (Source: US Forest Service, Pumphouse Dispersed Camping Area, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff, AZ).

FIGURE 4–12. Sharing LNT principles, regulations, and locations of designated dispersed camping sites can help visitors make informed decisions on where it is appropriate to camp near Town. Information sharing can be done both through the distribution of pamphlets as well as in one location online. (Source: National Park Service).

Program 2: Monitoring and Stewardship

This program involves improving monitoring and stewardship of dispersed campsites (existing and future) adjacent to Town. Currently, there is no inventory for dispersed camping sites on US Forest Service lands in this section of the Sulphur Ranger District. The management and stewardship of these sites falls on the US Forest Service, which has limited capacity to monitor and maintain sites. The Town can assist the US Forest Service by partnering with a third-party conservation/recreation organization to help inventory sites and develop a plan to manage and maintain them.

An inventory would help identify focus areas where the majority of dispersed camping occurs. From this inventory, the US Forest Service could select additional locations that need more signage, monitoring, closures, or repairs. The management matrix below identifies the roles each organization could take to help identify, monitor, and maintain dispersed campsites near Town.

Program 2: Monitoring and Stewardship

US Forest Service	Town of Winter Park	Third Party Conservation Organization
▶ Develop inventory of dispersed campsites with third-party assistance; ▶ Establish protocol for repairing sites. Determine locations that need to be permanently closed with fencing or signage.	▶ Aid with identifying an organization to assist with monitoring and repair of dispersed campsites; ▶ Notify all parties if illegal dispersed campsites are established within the Town boundary.	▶ Monitor known dispersed campsites and identify new sites in need of repair; ▶ Perform general upkeep, including cleaning up trash, deconstructing inappropriate fire rings, etc; ▶ Work directly with the Sulphur Ranger District to establish any restoration or rehabilitation protocol.

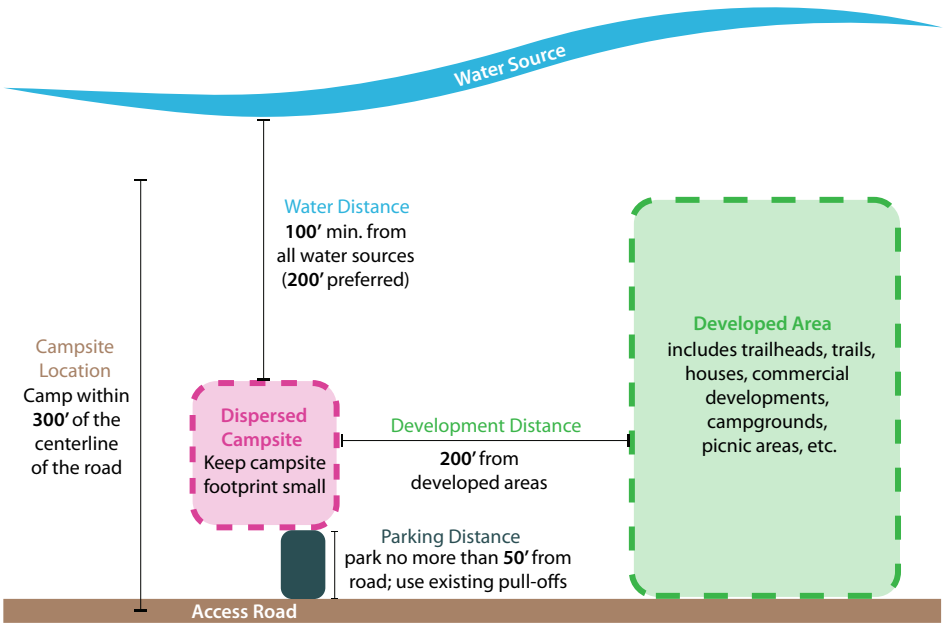


FIGURE 4–13. The diagram above illustrates the baseline location requirements for a dispersed campsite. Any sites that infringe upon these requirements should be removed from dispersed camping consideration and rehabilitated.

Program 3: Enforcement and Regulation

The final recommended program calls for the Town and US Forest Service to improve enforcement and regulation of dispersed camping activity near the Town boundary.

One approach the Town and US Forest Service could use to alleviate dispersed camping issues is for the another law enforcement entity (Town law enforcement, county law enforcement, or a third-party private security) to enter into a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service to help patrol dispersed camping sites, monitor for illegal activity/camping in closed areas, douse abandoned fires, and assist in monitoring for fire threats including abandoned campfires, improper fire rings, and infringements during a Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Similar agreements have been developed with other recreation-focused municipalities to help curb illegal camping activities and help protect against fire threats.

Under a Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement, law enforcement officers outside of the US Forest Service are granted select authority to help patrol and regulate activities on US Forest Service lands if they pose a threat to Town residents and general well-being. The rules and regulations of the cooperative agreement would need to be drawn up and approved by both parties. For patrols within the Resort Permit Area, the Winter Park Resort should be consulted as they also have security patrolling their property. Similar agreements could be set up with Denver Water to patrol unregulated, illegal camping on these parcels.

In addition to enforcement, this program also advocates for establishing areas where dispersed camping is more heavily regulated. These more regulated sites known as *Designated Dispersed Camping Areas* are covered more on the following page.

Program 3: Enforcement and Regulation

US Forest Service	Town of Winter Park	Winter Park Resort
▶ Establish an agreement authorizing the Town to conduct patrols and enforcement activities on adjacent US Forest Service lands to help regulate dispersed camping.	▶ Establish a desired patrol area, schedule, and program for the additional law enforcement entity to can help cover.	▶ Work with the Town and US Forest Service to patrol land within the Resort Permit Area.

FIGURE 4–14. US Forest Service law enforcement officers patrol the entirety of the Sulphur Ranger District, which extends beyond the Fraser Valley. The Town law enforcement could assist with day-to-day activities including extinguishing fires and patrolling for illegal activity (Source: The Colorado Sun).

Designated Dispersed Camping

In other locations within Colorado and across the Western United States, the US Forest Service has had success with developing designated dispersed camping zones for managing dispersed camping in popular recreation areas. Some of these designated dispersed zones allow free camping whereas others are operated by a third-party host organization for a fee. The campsites within these designated dispersed zones are signed and provide additional amenities including fire rings and nearby pit toilets.

For the visitor, designated dispersed campsites offer more amenities than are typically provided in traditional dispersed camping areas, as well as increased camping capacity outside of established campgrounds. For land management agencies and law enforcement, these designated dispersed campsites limit the area of impact to one location and they help identify users camping outside the defined camping area.

In recent years, the Town of Crested Butte has had success implementing a large designated dispersed camping program. In 2021-2022, they worked with the US Forest Service in the Gunnison National Forest to establish designated zones for camping, effectively removing traditional dispersed camping and most of the issues surrounding it altogether. Previously dispersed/disturbed sites that were deemed acceptable within these zones were signed as designated sites and equipped with metal fire rings. All sites are first come, first serve and have limitations on length of stay, permitted activities, and vehicle requirements. Select sites in high volume recreation areas require an additional fee for use. This model has been successful in protecting natural resources and for law enforcement.

The Town of Winter Park and the Arapaho National Forest could consider implementing a model similar to Crested Butte and the Gunnison National Forest to help protect and manage its natural and recreational resources. The first step in this process would be to establish designated camping zones by evaluating the surrounding land area and existing forest road network.

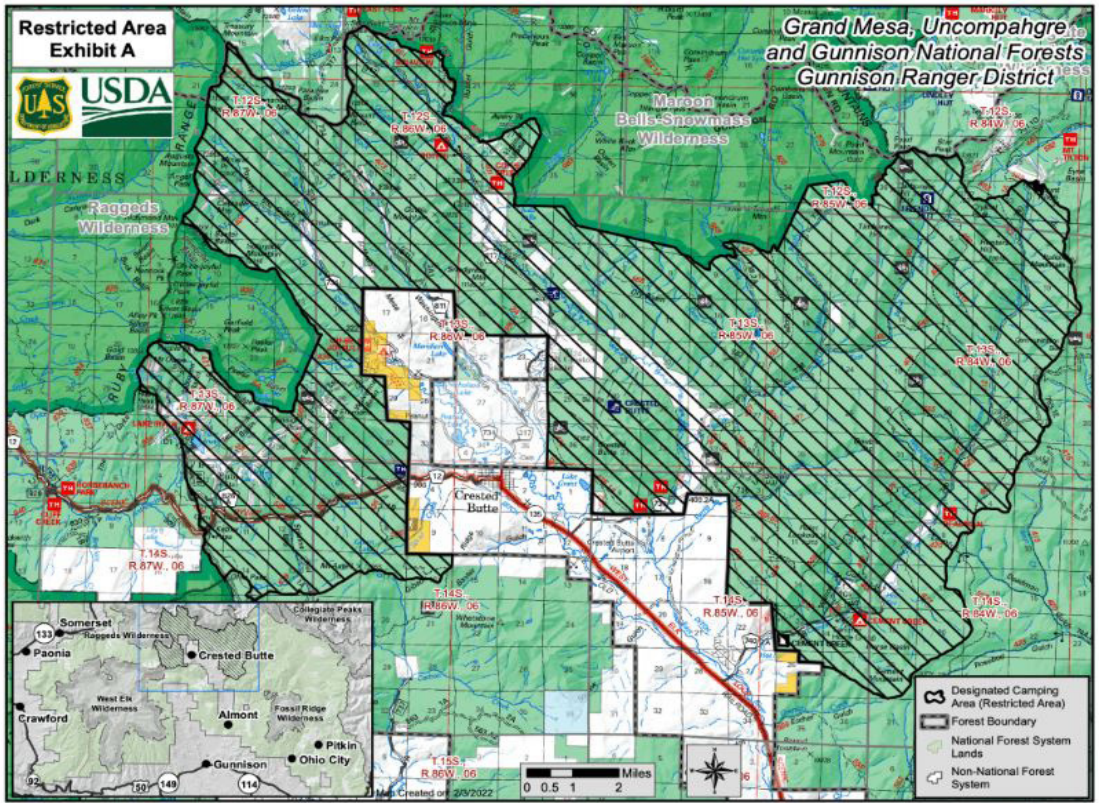


FIGURE 4–15. The map above depicts the designated camping zone the Town of Crested Butte implemented to protect resources. The zones were determined by evaluating existing drainages and resources and designating a few select dispersed sites along existing roads where camping would be appropriate. There are 5 zones established along major forest roads and each has about 40 sites. The Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association established an interactive website that lists the location of each site and nearby amenities. (Source: Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association/ US Forest Service).

Designated Camping Zone Site Selection

Vasquez Road (FSR 148) has been previously considered for designated dispersed camping due to its popularity and proximity to Town and recreational trail/water access. Unlike other popular designated dispersed camping zones in Colorado, such as Rampart Range in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest, Vasquez Road runs parallel to high-priority creek habitat that acts as the Town's source of drinking water. Extensive camping along this corridor and within this watershed poses a risk to this water source in terms of habitat damage and public health.

The analysis map of the Vasquez Creek corridor illustrates the conflict of locating multiple dispersed camping sites within the Vasquez Creek corridor. There are only a few disturbed sites that are located 200-feet from the creek that are also located on acceptable slopes. All sites are located within the watershed drainage boundary. Limiting the number of sites will limit the amount of impact within the watershed and decrease the likelihood of resource degradation and pollution. If reopened to camping, the Town and US Forest Service would need to continue monitoring the corridor for impacts and routinely assess if camping should be permitted within the corridor. Vasquez Road may be an appropriate location for a select few sites, but it will not be able to provide the camping capacity it did before its closure.

In addition to potentially reopening the Vasquez Creek corridor to camping, the Town should consider working with the US Forest Service to designate a larger network of forest roads for designated dispersed camping. Similar to the Crested Butte model, these zones can be scattered throughout the surrounding US Forest Service land, but it may be in the best interest of the Town and agency to increase the capacity and number of camping zones over several camping seasons in order to monitor the impacts and have time to slowly implement the system. Programs 1, 2, and 3 will need to be implemented in order to educate the public about the change in camping protocol, monitor and establish new designated sites, and have the law enforcement capacity to patrol and monitor the designated camping areas.

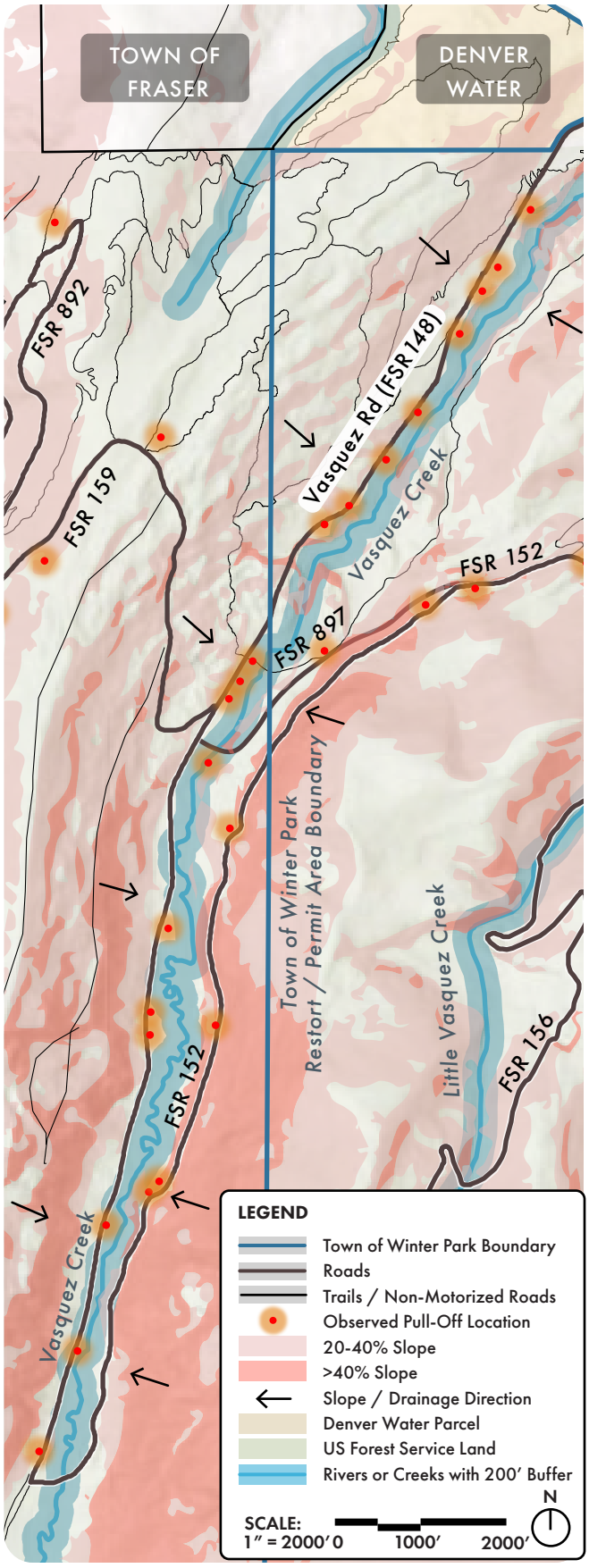


FIGURE 4–16. Analysis map of the Vasquez Creek corridor and areas of disturbance.

CAMPGROUNDS

The most appropriate location(s) for a designated camping zone would need to be determined through a NEPA process/ Environmental Assessment (EA). The ideal designated camping zones should be able to accommodate 20 to 40 vehicle-access campsites on relatively flat ground outside of a sensitive watersheds. These sites would ideally be within a 15-minute drive of Town.

A few potential sites have been identified below based on preliminary mapping and analysis. The final number of sites that could be supported would need to be determined by the EA.

Ideally, the designated dispersed camping area would have access to a pit toilet facility, be within walking or driving distance of a trailhead or water source, have previous disturbance, provide shade, and be managed by a third-party organization who could assist with monitoring and regulating camping activities.

The following roads should be considered for further investigation in a Environmental Assessment process based on this preliminary assessment:

West of US 40:

- Vasquez Road (FSR 148)
- Arapahoe / Little Vasquez Road (FSR 156)
- Tunnel Hill Road (FSR 152)
- Leland Creek Road (FSR 159)
- FSR 892, 893, 894.1D, and 2894.2D

East of US 40:

- Corona Pass Road (FSR 149)
- Near Midland Campgrounds/FSR 128 (outside of the James Peak Protection Area)

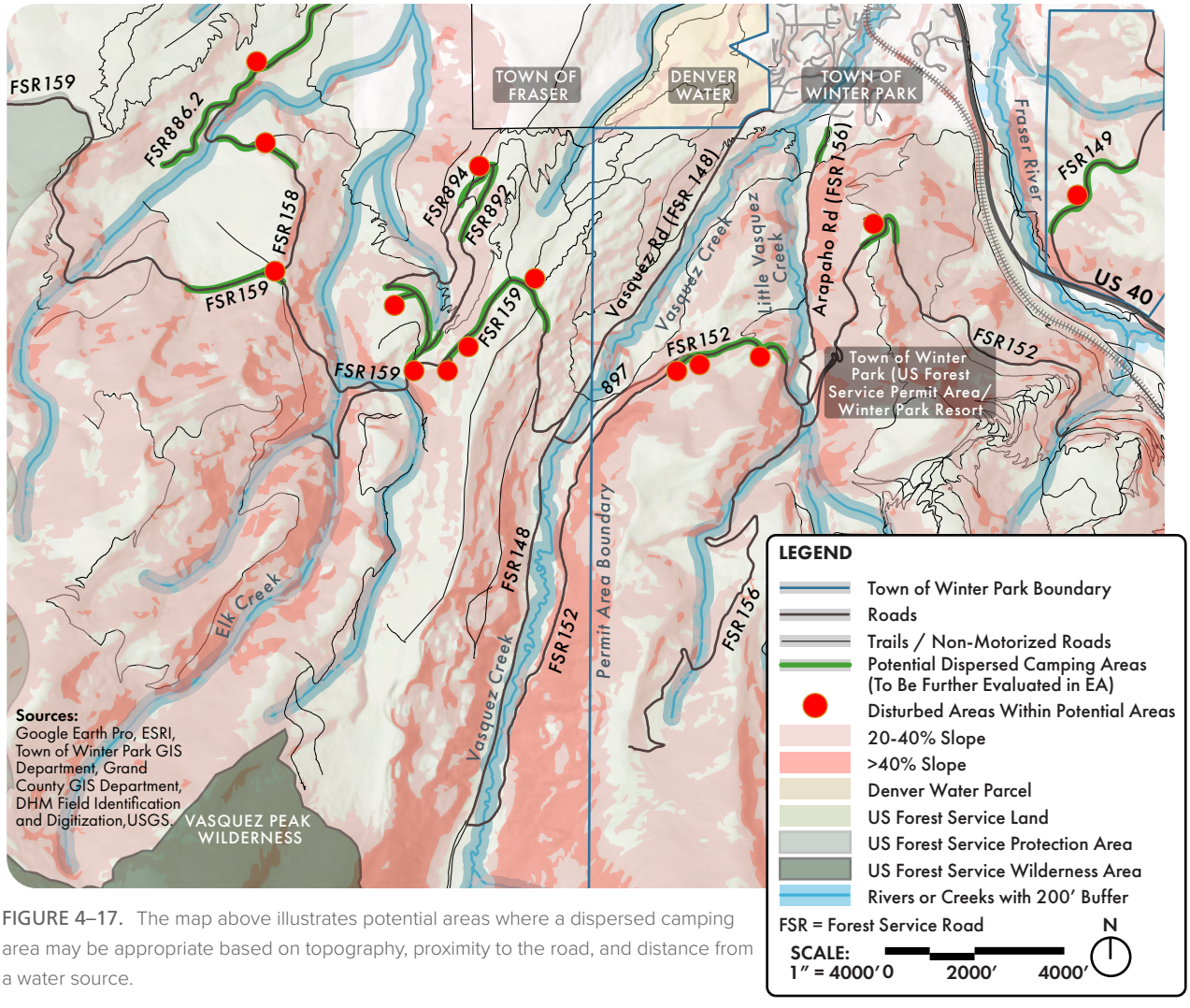


FIGURE 4–17. The map above illustrates potential areas where a dispersed camping area may be appropriate based on topography, proximity to the road, and distance from a water source.

Established Camping Assessment

Established Camping, also known as Developed Camping, was a concept first established in the 1930s to curb the effects of dispersed, unregulated camping on public lands. Federal and state organizations including the National Park Service, US Forest Service, and state parks developed automobile campgrounds in order to consolidate the impacts of camping, vehicles, and foot traffic to one regulated location, thus limiting damage to surrounding natural and cultural resources. These campgrounds evolved to include convenient amenities, including access to potable water and restroom facilities, that further enticed visitors to use them over primitive camping.

As the popularity of these campsites grew, so did the vehicles that utilized them, giving rise to the motorhome with larger clearances for turning and parking. The desire for modern amenities to support extended visits grew as well, with visitors requesting more access to electricity and showers. Established campgrounds often cater to visitors who want to experience the outdoors with some of the comforts of their day-to-day lives. They are ideal for trip planners who want to reserve a location prior to their visit, removing the hassle of trying to find a site during a trip.

The US Forest Service offers four established campgrounds within a 15-minute drive to Town. Based on historic topographic maps, all four campgrounds were built around 1959 and likely have received very few improvements outside of amenity replacements and repaving since establishment. Each campground offers different amenities and experiences for campers wishing to visit and recreate in the Fraser Valley. The Town does not have jurisdiction over any of these campgrounds, however many of the campers using these spaces are camping in these locations to be in close proximity to the Town and its recreation resources.

Note: The US Forest Service also owns Jim Creek Campground which is operated by the National Sports Center for the Disabled. This campground is only open for organized events and reservations through this agency. Similarly, there are private campgrounds within the region that are operated by outfitters. These established camping sites were not evaluated as part of this master plan as they are not public amenities.

FIGURE 4–18. Campsites at Idlewild Campground are typically shaded and have campsite numbers with a parking spur, picnic table, fire ring, and bear-proof food storage. Sites often lack clear boundaries due to excessive root trampling.

FIGURE 4–19. St. Louis Creek Campground offers stunning 360-views of the landscape. The openness does limit privacy at the site and shade is almost non-existent.

FIGURE 4–20. Robbers Roost Campground acts as an alternative to Idlewild Campground. Although it is further from Town and has few amenities, it acts as a great substitute to campers looking for a more secluded experience (Source: Google Images)

CAMPGROUNDS

The table below summarizes the four US Forest Service operated campgrounds closest to Town as well as their features, restrictions, and current use status. The two most popular campgrounds are Idlewild and St. Louis Creek due to their size, reservation options, and amenities. None of the campgrounds below feature electric or water hookups for RVs or camper vans.

Name	Approximate Distance and Time to Downtown	Number of Sites	Setting	Features	Amenities	Reservation Type	Status
Idlewild	< 2 Miles / 4 Minutes	26	Forested / Shaded	River Access Access to Town Close to US 40	Picnic Tables & Fire Ring at Campsites Bear-resistant Food Storage Firewood Available Campground Host (Vista Recreation, and the Fraser River Valley Lions Club) Pay Station Potable Water Multiple Vault Toilets (including Accessible) RV Camping (30-feet max)	Half First Come, First Serve / Half Reservation	Open Mid-May to Late September
Midland	< 5 Miles / 7 Minutes	1 Group Site for 36 people max / 10 vehicles	Forested / Shaded	Group Campsite River Access Close to US 40	Picnic Tables & Fire Rings within site Gate Access with Reservation Portable Toilet Tent Camping Only (Parking area outside of camp site)	Reservation Only	Open Early June to Early September
Robbers Roost	< 7 Miles / 10 Minutes	11	Forested / Shaded	River Access Close to US 40 Close to Berthoud Pass	Picnic Tables & Fire Ring at Campsites Vault Toilets RV Camping (25-feet max)	First Come, First Serve	Does not operate on a regular basis and opens/ closes randomly.
St. Louis Creek	< 6 Miles / 15 Minutes	17	Upland Plains / Open	Views of Byers Peak mountain range Hiking and biking trail access (St. Louis Creek) Further From Highways / Secluded Fishing Access	Picnic Tables & Fire Ring at Campsites Bear-resistant Food Storage Campground Host (Vista Recreation, and the Fraser River Valley Lions Club) Pay Station Potable Water Vault Toilet RV Camping (25-feet max)	Half First Come, First Serve / Half Reservation	Open Mid-May to Late September

Table based off data collected in Fall 2024. Refer to the US Forest Service website for information on closures and changes in status and regulations.

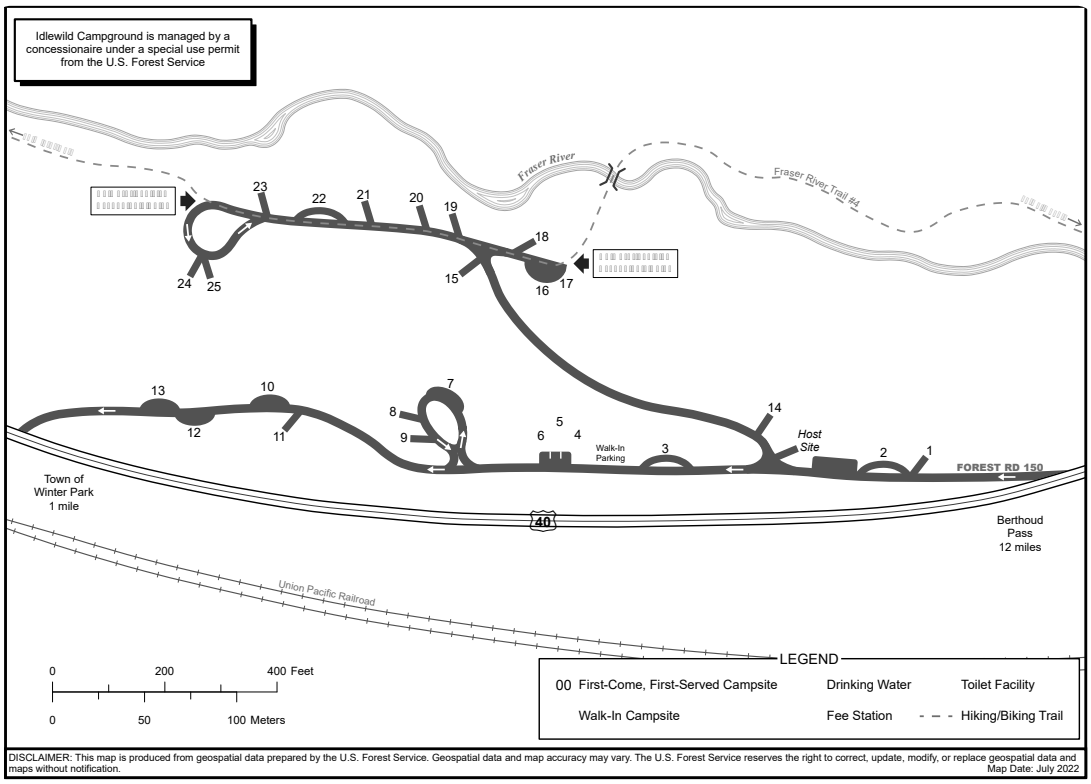


FIGURE 4–21. Idlewild Campground is very popular with visitors, with a beautiful location on the Fraser River in a lodgepole pine forest. The Fraser River Trail runs through the campground, sharing the campground road. This makes it easy and convenient to walk or bike into town from the campground without needing to drive. During peak season, the campground regularly operates at full capacity (Map Source: US Forest Service).

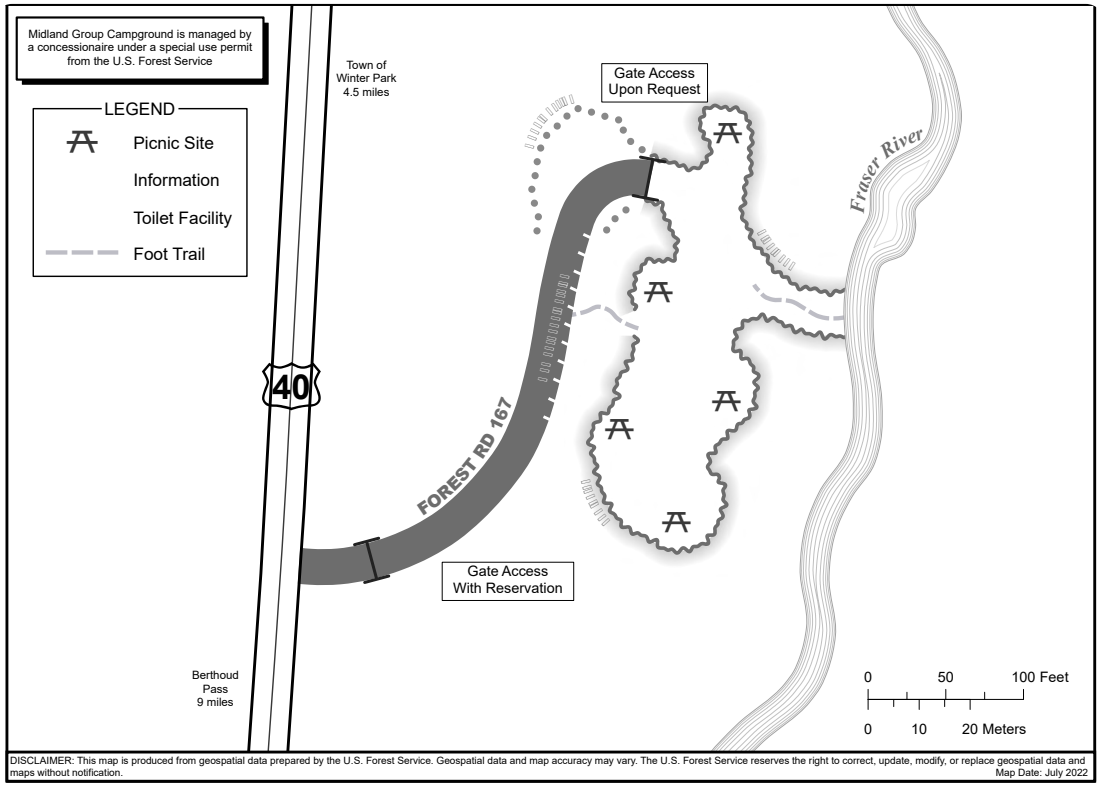


FIGURE 4–22. Midland Campground acts as group site extension of Idlewild Campground, with similar beautiful scenery along the Fraser River. Although close to US 40, the group site is gated and feels relatively secluded and primitive. A high concentration of wildlife frequents the area due to its proximity to the Fraser River (Map Source: US Forest Service).

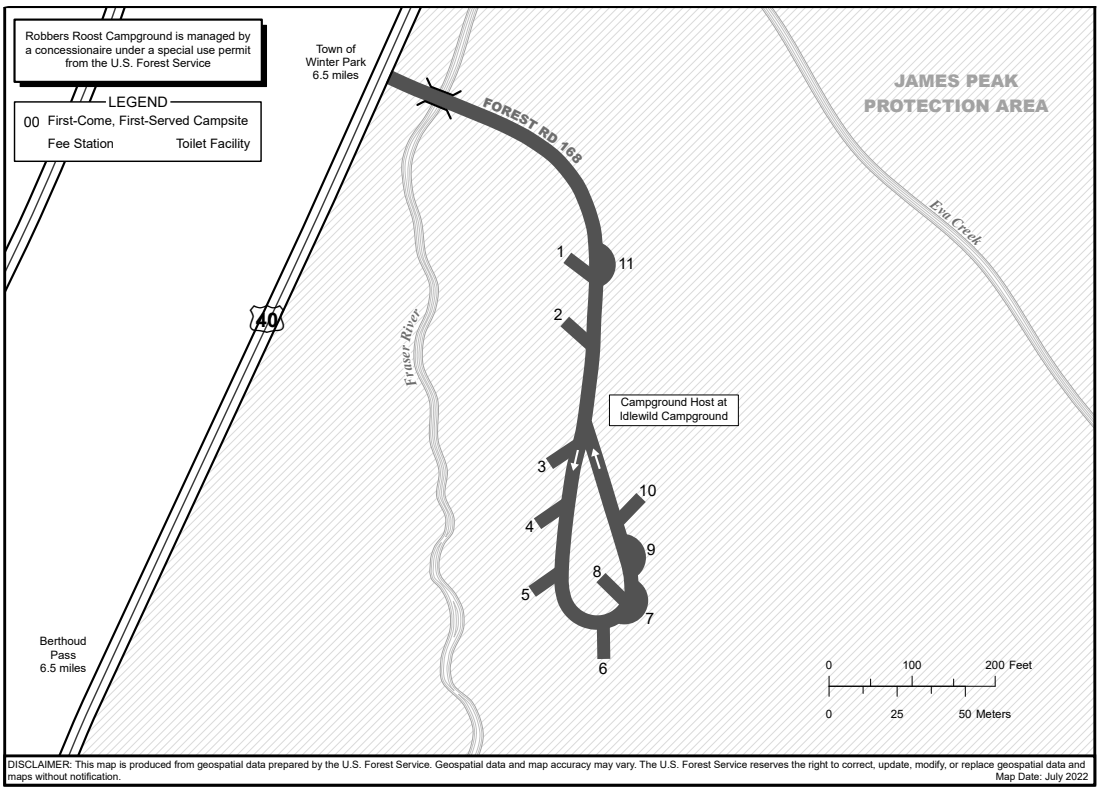


FIGURE 4–23. Robbers Roost Campground is located along US 40, south of Idlewild and Midland Campgrounds. It offers great access to water and wildlife viewing while still offering access to Town (Map Source: US Forest Service).

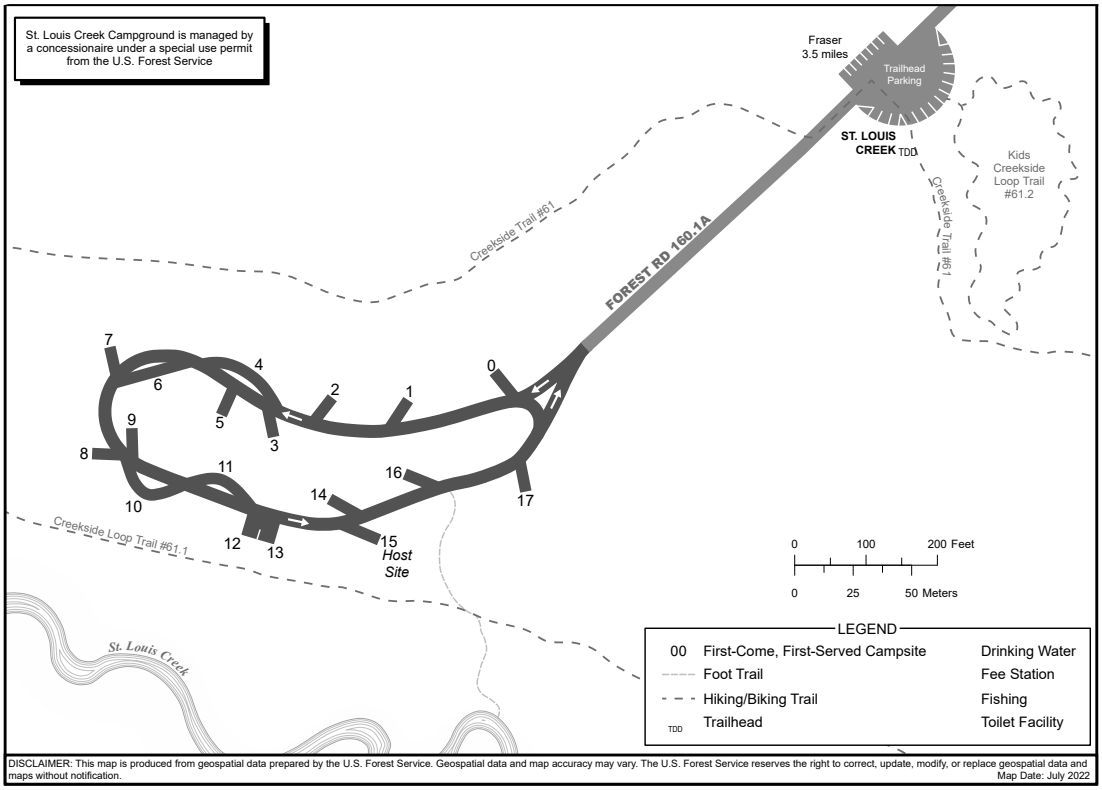


FIGURE 4–24. Unlike other US Forest Service campgrounds in the area, the St. Louis Campground is unshaded and is recovering from a beetle infestation that killed many of the large trees. The lack of trees opens the site to stunning views of the surrounding mountains. The Creekside Trail and the Creekside Loop Trail run through the campground, providing access to other trail networks and to the Town of Fraser. During peak season, the campground regularly operates at full capacity (Map Source: US Forest Service).

Established Camping Recommendations

Improving established campgrounds may indirectly improve some of the dispersed camping issues around Town, as providing improved amenities and increased capacity at campgrounds may alleviate some of the challenges visitors face when trying to find a campsite. A *Camping Industry Trends* report published for the National Park Service in 2019 found that the greatest issues visitors faced when camping was locating a site. There are a finite number of existing campsites and many of these at established campgrounds get booked up months in advance, making it difficult to find a place to stay. The trends report also emphasizes that older generations still rely on established campgrounds for comfort and accessibility. Additionally, if the Town is going to invest in improved recreational amenities that will drive more tourism, this will further increase the demand for camping and may exacerbate unauthorized camping activities if the demand is unmet. The lack of investment will likely lead to more dispersed camping issues in the future.

Currently, the US Forest Service is responsible for long-term the management and maintenance of its established campgrounds. Seasonally, they rely on a third-party camp host that acts a liaison to regulate campground activities, provide information, perform light maintenance, and assist with reservations for the campground. While the Town does not currently have the capacity to take over the management of these campgrounds, the Town could provide financial backing and support the US Forest Service in fund-raising to improve existing campground facilities. Grant programs offered through the **Innovative Finance for National Forests** and/or the **Trust for Public Land** could be utilized to help offset some of the cost of established campsite/campground improvements.

To help facilitate improvements to established campgrounds, the Town could team with the US Forest Service and other stakeholders in prioritizing needs, developing grants and funding sources, and conducting planning, design, permitting, and implementation.

While a detailed assessment of US Forest Service facilities is outside the scope of this plan, high-level recommendations that would provide significant improvements to the Winter Park established camping experience are outlined on the following pages.

Note: New construction or expansion of established campgrounds will likely require a NEPA process and EA.

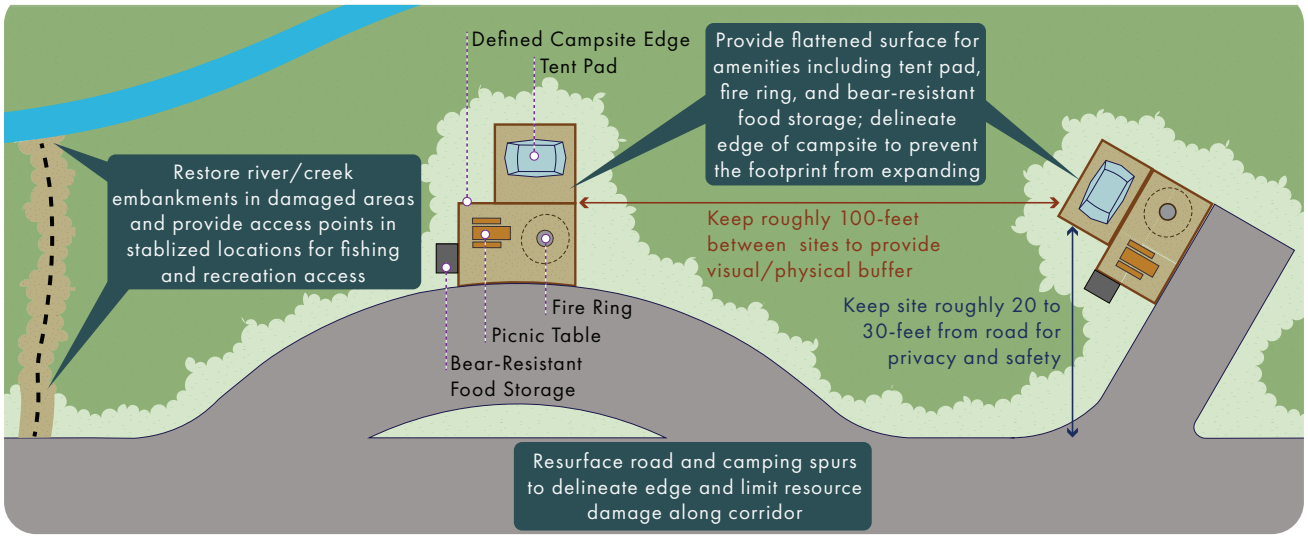


FIGURE 4–25. The graphic above illustrates some of the improvements that have occurred at forested campgrounds across the country to curb resource damage and improve visitor experience. Improving the layout of existing campsites and access to recreation features such as trails and waterways will help alleviate some of the damage to natural resources and improve visitor experience.

Improve Campground Access Along US 40

Idlewild, Midland, and Robbers Roost Campgrounds are all located along the Fraser River and US 40. The access spurs are nearly indistinguishable from the surrounding forested context, making them difficult to identify along the high-speed (50-mph) road. Additionally, all three campgrounds lack monument signs, stable road shoulders, and lanes that allow for deceleration/acceleration when entering or exiting US 40. The lack of wayfinding signage or turning lanes makes these campgrounds difficult to safely access.

Of these campgrounds, Idlewild Campground is the most popular and dangerous to access, as the entrance is located on a blind curve. The campground entrance comes up suddenly and the short visibility allows for limited reaction timing for oncoming drivers. It is highly recommended for the Town, the US Forest Service, CDOT, and highway engineers to develop a solution to alleviate the safety issues at the campgrounds along US 40. A short term solution would be to add more signage and wayfinding along US 40 to help facilitate access. The conceptual plan shown depicts a long-term solution to improve access to Idlewild Campground with acceleration, deceleration, and turn lanes along US 40 to provide safe access to the campground.

After addressing access safety issues, the next priority would be to evaluate potential improvements to campground infrastructure and layout. Many of the sites at these three campgrounds are located in close proximity to the Fraser River, so the carrying capacity of the river sites should be evaluated to determine if sites could be added or if some should be removed to protect the Fraser River as a recreation and natural resource. Additionally, the Town should work with the US Forest Service to keep all three campgrounds along US 40 open for the same seasonal duration.

A long-term goal could investigate improving connectivity and access between the campgrounds via a trail that connects Idlewild to Midland and Robbers Roost to the Resort and Downtown.

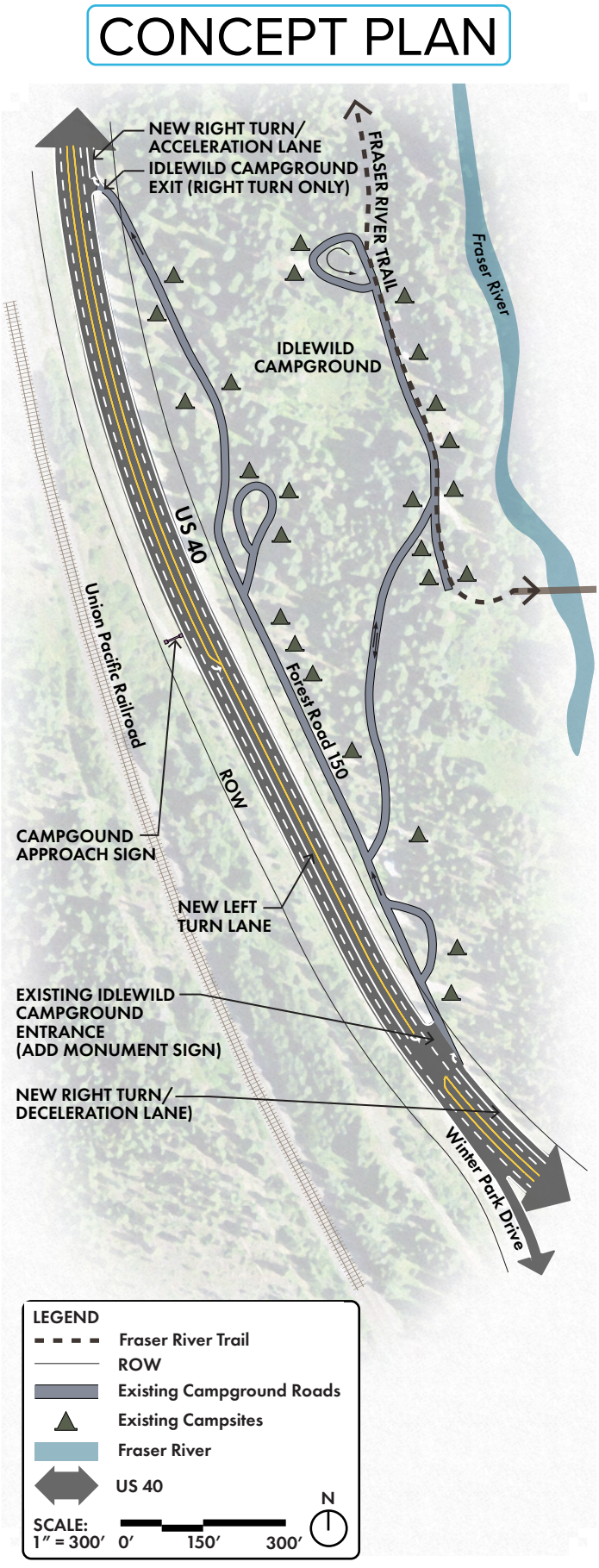


FIGURE 4–26. Concept plan for improved access to Idlewild Campground along US 40.

Campground Expansion

While the expansion of established campgrounds along US 40 may not be feasible due to constraints along the Fraser River, the US Forest Service could consider expanding St. Louis Creek Campground to accommodate an additional camping loop. The terrain around St. Louis Creek Campground is relatively flat and would be easier to develop than most of the land closer to Town.

The conceptual plan for this expansion is illustrated below. This concept proposes more than doubling the footprint of the existing campground while still remaining outside the adjacent riparian corridor of St. Louis Creek. The loop could be accommodated along a spur road from the existing campground entrance road.

It is recommended that the Town of Winter Park work jointly with the Town of Fraser and the US Forest Service to implement this campground expansion. The final footprint of development would need to be determined through a NEPA process.

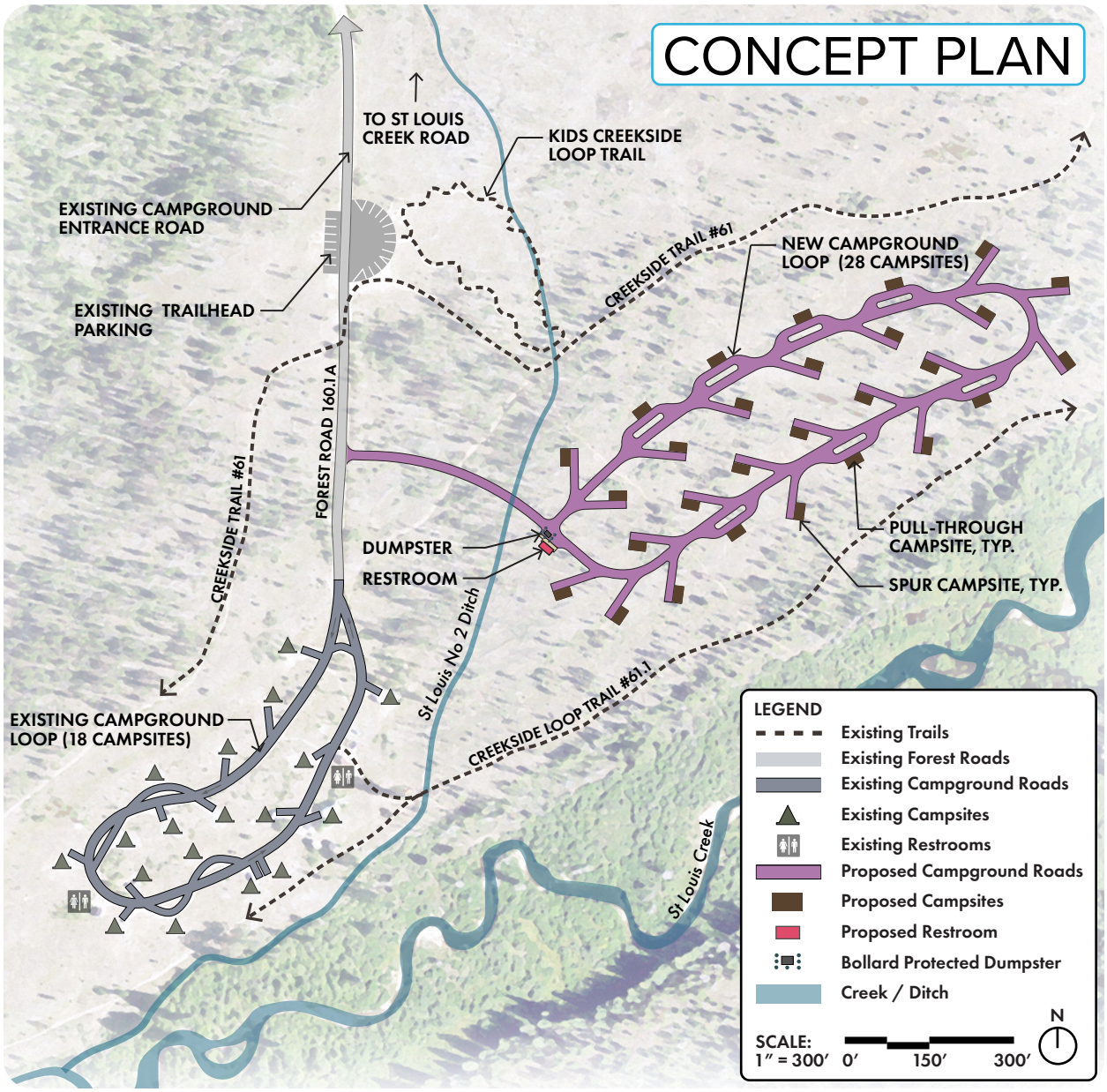


FIGURE 4–27. Concept plan for campground loop expansion at St. Louis Creek Campground.

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CHAPTER V:
OPEN SPACE

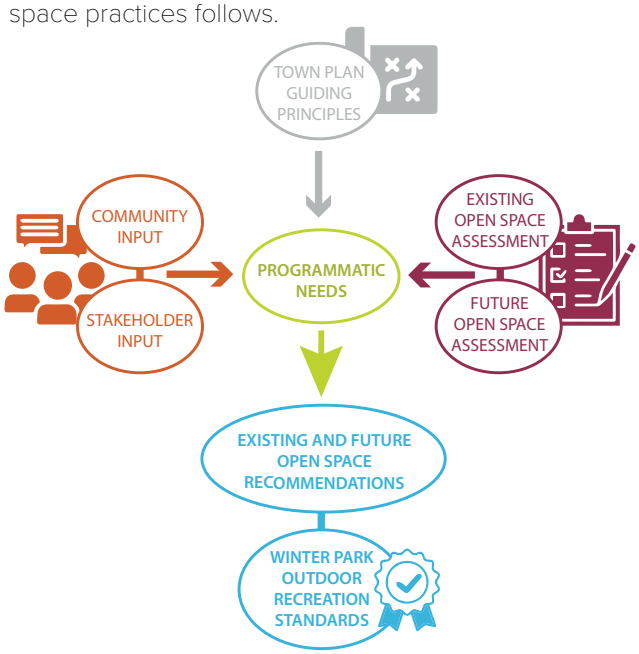
OPEN SPACE

Introduction

The mission of the Town of Winter Park (the Town) Open Space program is to acquire, preserve, maintain, and manage open space for multiple purposes including, but not limited to, recreation, wildlife, access and development. Open space stewardship practices seek to preserve and enhance the ecological, scenic, recreational and cultural values of the open space and trails acquired by the Town. Through joint planning and acquisition efforts, and through the Town's land use approval process, the Town actively performs its role as the public's advocate for trails, for the preservation of open space, and for access to public lands and protection of water resources.

Existing Open Space Standards

The Town's existing standards for open space generally align with broader goals related to preserving the natural environment and ensuring recreational opportunities for the community. These standards can be found in the town's zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, and comprehensive plans. However, there is no single unified document that contains all open space standards, as they may vary depending on the specific zoning district, development type, or location within Winter Park. A summary of existing open space practices follows.



Open Space Requirements in Zoning Districts:
Different zoning districts may have varying open space requirements. Residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments have their own set of expectations for dedicating open space or making contributions to the town's open space fund.

Dedication of Open Space in New Subdivisions:
New developments are typically required to dedicate a portion of the property for open space or provide compensation through fees. This is done to ensure that new growth doesn't negatively impact the town's environmental resources or public access to recreational areas.

Public Access and Trails:
Open space in Winter Park may include public trails and access to public lands, including National Forests. The Town often incorporates these connections into the development process, particularly for pedestrian and recreational access.

Open Space Maintenance and Design:
For new developments that include open spaces, the Town sets design guidelines to ensure spaces are usable, accessible, and integrated with the natural environment. Developers may also be required to provide maintenance plans for newly created open spaces.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs):
The town policies around the transfer of development rights to preserve open space, which can protect key natural areas by allowing development to occur elsewhere, away from sensitive lands.

PART V OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

Town Plan Guiding Principles
Community Input
Stakeholder Input
Programmatic Needs
Existing Open Space
Existing Open Space Recommendations
Future Open Space
Future Open Space Recommendations

See Part VI Winter Park Outdoor Standards

FIGURE 5–1. This chapter is organized using the following visual structure. Color guides on each page indicate if that page corresponds to either Guiding Principles, Community/ Stakeholder Input, Assessments, or Recommendations.

Open Space Overview

The Town of Winter Park's open space network includes both existing and future parcels that enhance the town's natural and ecological character. Additional privately-owned parcels considered as open space also exist and add to the overall network acreage, however they are not assessed in this document. Currently, six open space parcels totaling approximately six acres are intermixed within the town and existing parks. These parcels contain a range of vegetation that is reflective of the Fraser Valley, and includes lodgepole pine forests, mixed aspen-spruce-fir woodlands, and open grasslands which provide valuable habitat and recreational activities.

Looking ahead, future areas may be acquired for open space if the Town annexes properties identified in the Town's *Three Mile Area Plan (2021)*. These properties include the Denver Water West Parcel, Denver Water East Parcel, Snowshoe Parcel, and Forest Service LOAP Parcel. If these properties are annexed, they will significantly expand the Town's open space network. These parcels encompass diverse habitats, including riparian shrublands, wetlands, mature spruce-fir forests, aspen woodlands, and lodgepole pine forests and will further contribute to wildlife conservation, ecological connectivity, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

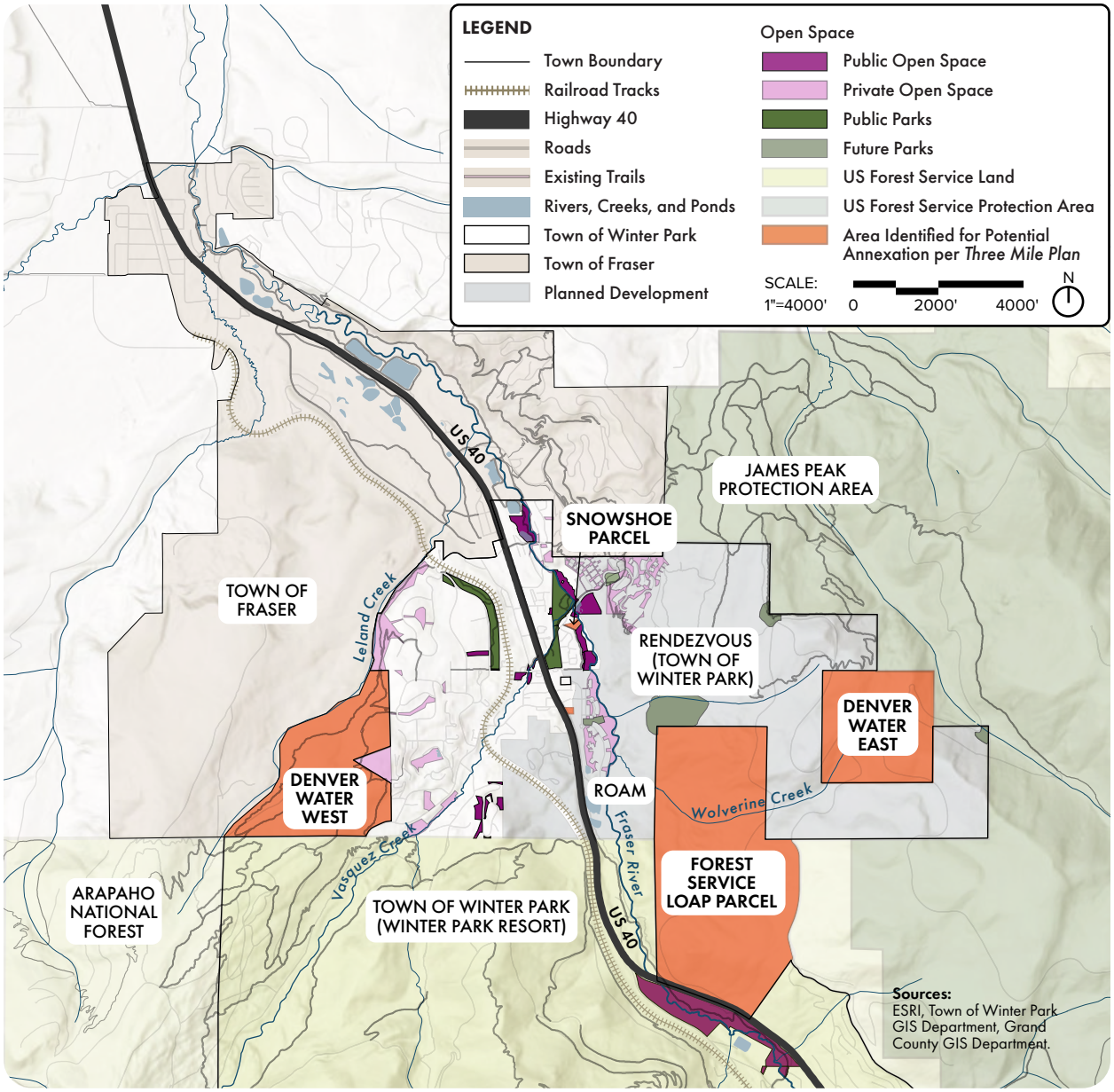


FIGURE 5–2. Town of Winter Park context map with the locations of existing public and private open spaces. Areas for potential annexation are also highlighted.

Ecological Zone Overview

The existing and proposed open space parcels in Winter Park overlap with key ecological zones, as detailed on the following pages. Each is characterized by distinct vegetation communities and structural elements representative of the regional ecology. Most parcels include lodgepole pine forests, a fire-adapted community typically found on well-drained soils at elevations above 8,000 feet. These forests are characterized by dense, uniform stands resulting from fire regeneration, with sparse understories dominated by drought-tolerant shrubs and grasses such as Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), huckleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*), and golden banner (*Thermopsis divaricarpa*).

Parcels containing significant waterways, such as the Fraser River or Wolverine Creek, frequently support riparian shrublands, which are typically dominated by a mix of willows (*Salix ssp.*), alder (*Alnus incana*), and water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), occurring in areas with seasonally saturated soils and low-velocity water flow. The dense shrub layer in these areas stabilizes streambanks and facilitates nutrient cycling in floodplains.

Aspen woodlands are present in parcels with moderate slopes and mesic conditions. These forests often have an open canopy that allows light penetration, fostering a dense understory of forbs, grasses, and shrubs, including ninebark (*Physocarpus monogynus*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), and meadow rue (*Thalictrum spp.*). Aspen stands often regenerate through root suckers, particularly after disturbances such as fire or logging, and maintain their dominance in early successional stages. Aspen stands were uncommon throughout the analysis of the existing and proposed open space parcels, and should be preserved, if possible, to increase habitat diversity present on conserved land parcels.

Spruce-fir forests are present in wetter and higher-elevation areas. These forests are characterized by a dense overstory of Engelmann spruce (Picea engelmannii), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), with a sparse understory due to the limited light penetration. Mosses and lichens are commonly found in these moist environments, contributing to nutrient cycling and soil stability. These forests are present in many of the parcels, with unique, mature stands present in the Forest Service LOAP and Denver Water East parcels.

Lodgepole Pine Forest

Mixed Montane Aspen Forest

Wet Meadows

Riparian Areas

Montane Grasslands

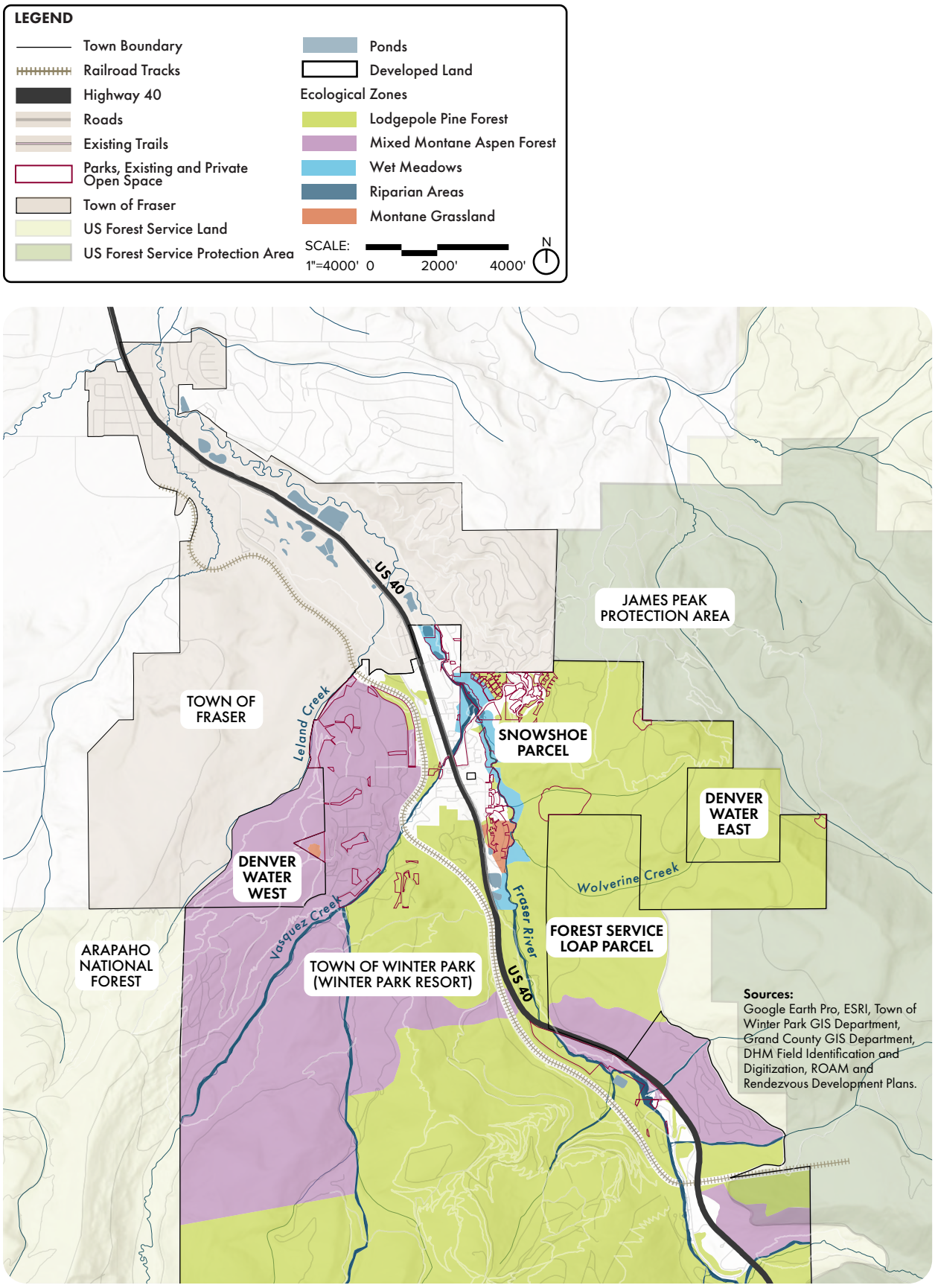


FIGURE 5–3. Ecological zone context map with the locations of open spaces outlined.

FIGURE 5–4. The section above illustrates the variety of ecozones that can be found in one cross-section of Town.

Lodgepole Pine Forest

Description

Lodgepole pine forests are the most common ecological community in town and the surrounding area. They occur between 8,000 and 10,500 feet. This forest community is heavily shaded and thrives in the aftermath of fire. This habitat is known to provide important forest cover for mule deer, elk, black bear and a variety of birds.

Common Vegetation

- Kinnikinnick / *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Huckleberry / *Vaccinium scoparium*
- Oregon Grape / *Mahonia repens*
- Common Juniper / *Juniperus communis*
- Golden Banner / *Thermopsis divaricarpa*
- Heartleaf Arnica / *Arnica cardifolia*
- Columbia Needlegrass / *Achnatherum nelsonii*

Mixed Montane Aspen Forest

Description

Mixed Montane Aspen Forests are characterized by a diverse mix of aspen and various conifers including spruce, fir and pine. They occur between 5,000 and 10,000 feet. Aspens have open canopies which allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, leading to a more lush understory. The aspens provide vibrant fall color amidst the dense green conifer forest.

Common Vegetation

- Mountain Ninebark / *Physocarpus monogynus*
- Cinquefoil / *Potentilla fruticosa*
- Meadow Rue / *Thalictrum fendleri*
- Silvery Lupine / *Lupinus argentus*
- Indian Paintbrush / *Castilleja coccinea*
- Snowberry / *Symphoricarpus albus*
- Thurber Fescue / *Festuca thurberi*
- Prairie Junegrass / *Koeleria macrantha*
- Wild Strawberry / *Fragaria virginiana*

Wet Meadows

Description

Wet Meadows occur along river and creek corridors. This ecological community is becoming increasingly rare in the western slope as development alters hydrology and decreases water availability in meadows. The water table in this location is high and is fed by spring runoff. This vegetation community typically contains high plant species diversity and is heavily used by wildlife including waterfowl, ungulates, migratory birds and small mammals.

Common Vegetation

- Beaked Sedge / *Carex utriculata*
- Water Sedge / *Carex aquatilis*
- Tufted Hairgrass / *Deschampsia cespitosa*
- Baltic Rush / *Juncus balticus*
- White Marsh Marigold / *Caltha leptosephala*
- Purple Avens / *Geum rivale*
- Rocky Mountain Willow / *Salix monticola*
- Bebb's Willow / *Salix bebbiana*
- Geyer Willow / *Salix geyeriana*

Riparian Areas

Description

Riparian Areas, including shrublands and forests, are found within the flood zone of rivers and immediately adjacent to streambanks, including the Fraser River. Animals that occupy montane habitats rely on riparian forests at some point in their life cycle including beavers, river otters, amphibians.

Common Vegetation

- Thinleaf Alder / *Alnus tenuifolia*
- Water Birch / *Betula occidentalis*
- Rocky Mountain Willow / *Salix monticola*
- Geyer Willow / *Salix geyeriana*
- Drummond's Willow / *Salix drummondii*
- Colorado Blue Spruce / *Picea pungens*
- Wax Currant / *Ribes cereum*
- Wild Licorice / *Glycyrrhiza lepidota*
- False Solomon's Seal / *Maianthemum racemosum*

Montane Grasslands

Description

Montane Grasslands are found sparsely within the Town boundary. This ecotype is devoid of tree and shrub strata and is often found on flatter and drier sites. These patch-grasslands are commonly intermixed in lodgepole pine and aspen forests. Grasslands provides essential foraging opportunities for wildlife including ungulates and small burrowing mammals.

Common Vegetation

- Thubers Fescue / *Festuca thurberi*
- Arizona Fescue / *Festuca arizonica*
- Mountain Muhly / *Muhlenbergia montana*
- Bluebunch Wheatgrass / *Psuedoroegneria spicata*
- Blue Grama / *Bouteloua gracilis*
- Sandberg Bluegrass / *Poa secunda*

	Strategy	Vision Statement
Character and Culture	CC 5.1	Allow for publicly accessible parks, plazas, and open spaces in both design and policy, meeting the goal of being an inviting community.
	CC 5.2	Include neighborhood-scale parks and open spaces within developments that are fully accessible to the public.
World-Class Outdoor Recreation	OR 2.1	Develop recreational opportunities suited to short, daily activities (e.g. shorter, close-to-town trails, opportunities for water play, fishing ponds, etc.).
	OR 3.7	Examine regional solutions when responding to evolving recreational preferences and opportunities (e.g. determining where a facility would fit best).
Healthy and Thriving Environment	EN 1.1	Protect and increase physical and visual access to waterways within and around the Town.
	EN 1.4	Strengthen the Fraser River and its associated floodplain as a recreational and economic amenity while preserving the riparian habitat.
	EN 1.5	Protect the viability of natural wetlands and watercourses as a key component of our natural and built environments.
	EN 1.7	Restore or enhance degraded or disturbed waterways to improve ecological conditions, aesthetics, and recreation.
	EN 2.1	Support forest biodiversity and control the invasion and spread of undesirable non-native plants, animals, and insects.
	EN 2.3	Protect the integrity of significant wildlife habitat and movement corridors.
	EN 2.4	Foster alliances and partnerships with organizations that are working toward a healthy & thriving environment.
	EN 2.5	Promote education & understanding of public lands through appropriate recreational activities, formal and non-formal education, and interpretive programs.
	EN 2.7	Protect significant viewsheds to maintain our connection with the natural environment.
	EN 3.1	Encourage density in appropriate locations and clustering of development to maximize open space.

FIGURE 5–5. The strategies above from the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* relate directly to the principles that guide the Open Space chapter of this report.

Town Plan Guiding Principles

This chapter builds upon the strategies outlined in the *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* and uses them as the foundation for its guiding principles for open space resources.

Character and Culture

- Preserve in-town public and private open spaces. The forested character of lots and open spaces gives the Town its mountain-town character while providing sensitive habitat for the wildlife;
- Avoid development or rezoning of these to protect the scenic character in-town and maintain them per recommendations.

World-Class Outdoor Recreation

- Establish open space areas for both active and passive recreation use. Whereas active recreation is more programmed and hosts a variety amenities, passive recreation and areas of limited programming are equally important to preserve scenic character, provide areas for solitude and connection with nature, and protect natural resources.

Healthy and Thriving Environment

- Manage open spaces as part of a regional system, aiming to provide land connectivity between isolated, undisturbed patches of land, through preservation of important riparian corridors, and maintaining intact forests, to protect and enhance habitat for plants and wildlife throughout Town;
- Distribute interpretive signage throughout parks and open space areas to educate locals and visitors about the importance of the surrounding natural systems;
- Preserve and enhance the Fraser River and supporting tributaries as well as viable wetlands and surrounding habitats that support riparian corridors;
- Restore degraded or diminished habitats.

Community Input

Community input was gathered through in-person events and online engagement. In the summer of 2024, the Town and the consultant team held two community pop-up events during High-Note Thursdays at Hideaway Park to engage the public on the open space areas. Participants from the community shared input based on existing open space and future open space needs. Town staff and the consultant team answered questions, discussed issues, and guided the public to participate in the online survey. Key takeaways and general sentiments from the community input are discussed below.

Key Takeaways on Open Space in Winter Park

- Community members are concerned about the increased scale and speed of development in recent years;
- Community members wish to see protections put into place for creek and river corridors as well as surrounding wetlands;
- Community members have concerns with the loss of scenic views and viewsheds around Town. They would like the Town to retain its mountain-town feeling and preserve views to mountains and surrounding forest areas;
- Community members would like to see more open space areas and protections in the Fraser River and Vasquez Creek corridors;
- Community members would like to see a buffer between US Forest Service lands and development to limit the proliferation of user-created trails;
- Surveyed community members are in favor of the Town acquiring more land for open space but would like to see more community input before the acquisition of land. Community members want to weigh in on the level of development of these potential lands.

Stakeholder Input

The Town and consultant team identified stakeholders who have an overlapping interest in open space. Although all stakeholder groups were interviewed about open space, only Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA) provided input on open space and the Town's future role in preserving it.

Headwaters Trails Alliance

Feedback on Open Space in Winter Park

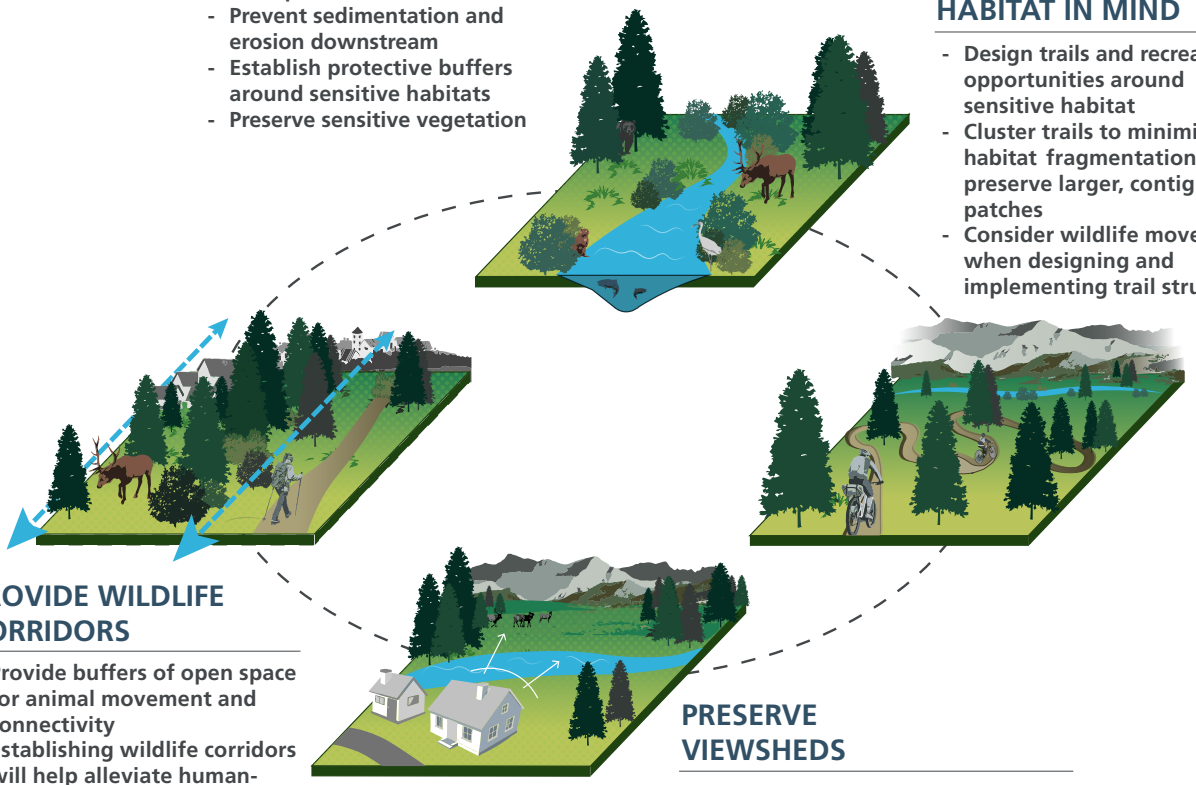
- HTA continues to advocate for habitat preservation along waterways and wildlife corridors to protect the character of the Fraser Valley;
- HTA would like the master plan to include language for protection of natural areas and viewsheds within the Fraser Valley. They would like to see modifications to "relocatable easements" for trails. They feel trail connectivity has been fragmented by development;
- HTA believes the Town should work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to designate open space and provide more wildlife protections;
- HTA expressed that the Town should engage CPW and support the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership's Colorado Outdoors Strategy that outlines common goals, amplifies regional efforts for conservation, and provides data/tools for local decision-making.

PRESERVE HIGH-QUALITY HABITAT

- Protect critical riparian and subalpine habitat
- Prevent sedimentation and erosion downstream
- Establish protective buffers around sensitive habitats
- Preserve sensitive vegetation

DESIGN AND BUILD WITH WILDLIFE AND HABITAT IN MIND

- Design trails and recreational opportunities around sensitive habitat
- Cluster trails to minimize habitat fragmentation and preserve larger, contiguous patches
- Consider wildlife movement when designing and implementing trail structures



PROVIDE WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

- Provide buffers of open space for animal movement and connectivity
- Establishing wildlife corridors will help alleviate human-wildlife conflict by planning around wildlife corridors
- Implement seasonal trail closures during critical wildlife development stages to limit disturbance

PRESERVE VIEWSHEDS

- Preserve viewsheds where feasible to rivers, alpine peaks, and forested hillsides
- Preserve and foster stewardship of forests that act as wildlife corridors and screen mixed uses

FIGURE 5–6. The above priorities for open space and natural resource management were identified based on the Town's *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* and conversations with community members and stakeholders.

Programmatic Needs

The Town's setting offers unmatched scenic views and recreational access to its surrounding natural areas. This master plan outlines and identifies some of the key natural resources that support the Town's character.

Public feedback stressed the need to maintain the natural and scenic qualities of the Town as development expands. This master plan is limited in that the open space parcels identified cannot fully address the regional natural resource needs identified in the Town's *Imagine Winter Park Town Plan (2019)* and by community members and stakeholders. The Town should develop a *Natural Resource Management Plan* to address key needs identified including:

- The protection of significant wildlife habitat and movement corridors (EN 2.2);
- Methods to reduce conflicts between wildlife, humans, and domestic animals (EN 3.6);
- Recommendations for fire mitigation to reduce community vulnerability (EN 2.6 and 3.4);
- Regional viewshed analysis to identify significant viewsheds and methods for protection (EN 2.7);
- Methods and recommendations for becoming a Dark Sky Community (EN 3.2).

The Town is currently not able to acquire more open space outside of the areas identified for potential annexation in the *Three Mile Area Plan (2021)*. Additionally, the Town is not able to amend any of the Final Development Plans (FDPs) previously approved to increase its open space capacity. However, the Town can work with these landowners and other private homeowners to advocate for the stewardship of the natural resource protection on private lands. Some private land developers have set aside private open space parcels in wetlands areas, along private trails, and in riparian corridors. It is in the best interest of the community that these areas are protected and maintained.

The matrix below identifies some of the needs the existing and future Town-owned open spaces can meet. ***Further information about these open spaces can be found within the Assessment and Recommendations sections on the following pages.***

	Existing Open Space	Forest Service LOAP Parcel	Snowshoe Parcel	Denver Water East Parcel	Denver Water West Parcel
	Existing Town Open Space	**Future Open Space**			
Acreage	65 ac	434.7 ac*	1.1 ac*	157.8 ac*	195.9 ac*
Ecological Zone	Lodgepole Pine, Mixed Montane Aspen Forest, Riparian, & Wetlands	Lodgepole Pine, Mixed Montane Aspen Forest, Riparian, & Wetlands	Riparian & Wetlands	Lodgepole Pine Forest, Riparian, and Wetlands	Mixed Montane Aspen Forest, Riparian, and Wetlands
Forest Cover	x	x	x	x	x
Riparian Corridor	Vasquez Creek	Wolverine Creek	Fraser River	Wolverine Creek	Leland Creek
Wetlands	x	x	x	x	x
Scenic Value	Low to Medium	High	Low to Medium	Medium to High	Medium to High
Supports Wildlife Movement	x	x	x	x	x
	Recommendations				
Native Vegetation Enhancements	x	x	x	x	x
Wildlife and Habitat Enhancements	x	x	x	x	x
Wetland/ Water Resource Enhancements	x	x	x	x	x

**Denotes total land area for parcel. Open space areas to be determined in final platting if parcel is annexed by the Town.*

FIGURE 5–7. Programmatic Needs matrix for existing and future open space parcels.

Existing Open Space Assessment

The Town currently owns twenty-one open space parcels, totaling approximately 65 acres. These properties, ranging in size from 0.13 to 41.53 acres, are interspersed throughout the town and integrated with existing parks, enhancing the community's access to natural areas. The parcels feature diverse vegetation communities, including lodgepole pine forests, mixed aspen-spruce-fir woodlands, open grasslands, wet meadows, and riparian corridors which provide habitat for wildlife and contribute to the town's scenic and ecological value.

These open spaces play a crucial role in supporting local biodiversity, offer opportunities for recreation, and preserve the natural character of Winter Park.

Additionally, there are 55 parcels owned by private landowners and Denver Water. These parcels account for 105 acres. While not covered in this assessment, these areas should continue to be preserved as open space by private developers to preserve the natural character of the Town.

Parcel #	Acreage	Description
West Side (Wolf Park/Vasquez Creek)		
158733203028	1.1	Located west of Wolf Park, this open space provides additional green space in an area otherwise composed primarily of private development. It contains a variety of vegetation including mixed aspen, lodgepole pine, willow, and wet meadow.
158733200083	0.44	These three parcels are located along Vasquez Creek and Lions Gate Drive. They are primarily forest of mixed lodgepole pine forests with Douglas-fir and aspen interspersed with private development and bisected by private drives. Sections of Vasquez Creek in these areas have dense riparian shrublands.
158733206023	0.28	
158733206024	0.13	
West Side (Timber Drive Parcels)		
158733305003	0.26	Five irregular shaped open space parcels are located along Timber Drive, a road that switchbacks and loops uphill through a mixed lodgepole pine forest and aspen woodlands. Many of the open space areas contain new growth and the parcels are interspersed with private residential development. Directly east of the site is an undeveloped area that will eventually become the planned residential development area for Cooper Creek.
158733302005	0.67	
158733302007	0.76	
158733302021	2.48	
158733302016	0.1	
West Side (Winter Park Village)		
170510112001	41.53	These parcels are located along the east side of US 40 and border US Forest Service land and Winter Park Village. The largest of these parcels is bisected by the Fraser River and contains a mix of aspen and lodgepole pine forests as well as riparian and wet meadow ecologies typical of the Fraser River corridor.
170510146004	0.3	
170510123006	0.92	
170510100001	0.28	
East Side (Fraser River)		
158728354004	5.77	Located north of Telemark Drive, near the Town of Winter Park and Fraser boundary, this open space parcel contains a man-made pond and contains wet meadows and small stand of lodge pole pines and riparian trees/shrubs. The parcel borders a section of the Fraser River Trail and borders the west side of the Fraser River.
158728403004	2.92	Located on the east side of Confluence Park and the Fraser River, this wet meadow features woody vegetation similar to that found within the park including lodgepole pine, aspen, mixed wiliow and alder species as well as wetland vegetation including sedges and rushes.
158728349007	0.20	This small parcel borders the west side of Confluence Park and acts a buffer between the park and Red Quill Village. The Riverwalk development borders the west side of the parcel. The parcel contains mixed aspen, lodgepole pine, and wet meadow vegetation.
158728400181	4.65	Located across from Confluence Park along Ski Idlewild Road, these parcels border both sides of the Fraser River. The larger parcel to the east contain wetlands and wetland vegetation as well as lodgepole pines and Engelmann spruce.
15872840008	0.39	
158733125011	1.91	These open space parcels are located between the Trailhead Lodge development and the Fraser River. They contain a mix of lodgepole pine forests, wet meadow, and riparian vegetation.
158733109034	0.31	
158733109017	2.24	

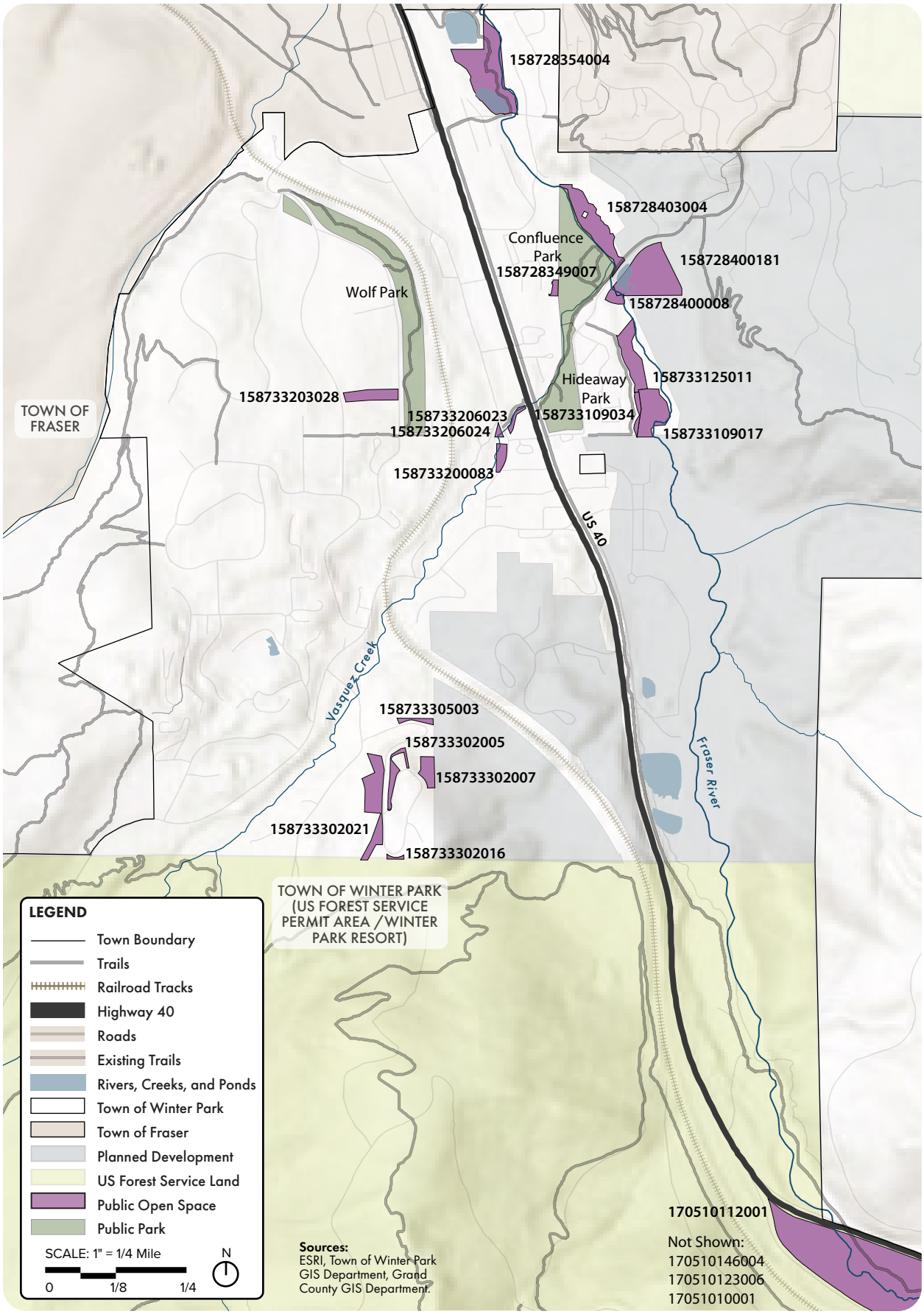


FIGURE 5–8. Context map indicating the location of existing open space parcels owned and managed by the Town.

Existing Open Space Recommendations

The following recommendations outline strategies to preserve and enhance ecological integrity, habitat connectivity, and recreational value of existing open space properties while minimizing impacts to sensitive habitats and wildlife. These recommendations consider each properties' urban context and locations.

Manage Native Vegetation:

- Restore, enhance, and maintain native vegetation communities in disturbed areas within the properties. Use native plant species suited for local ecological conditions to improve habitat quality, increase biodiversity, and reduce the need for maintenance.

Create Wildlife-Friendly Buffers:

- Establish vegetative buffers along parcel edges to minimize disturbances from nearby developed areas. These buffers can include dense plantings of shrubs and small trees to provide cover for wildlife and reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

Preserve and Enhance Wetland and Water Resources:

- Implement protective measures to maintain the integrity of wetlands and water resources within the existing open space properties. Establish no-disturbance buffers around wetlands and waterways to prevent degradation from urban runoff, sedimentation, and human activities. Avoid or limit impacts to areas adjacent to perennial water sources, which provide important habitat for wildlife species present in the area.

Manage Non-native Plant Species:

- Implement regular monitoring and removal programs for non-native plants that may out compete native vegetation or degrade habitat quality.

Develop Low-Impact Recreational Opportunities:

- Where appropriate, create small-scale trails, interpretive signage, or viewing areas that allow residents and visitors to enjoy the parcels without significantly impacting their ecological integrity. Use natural materials and design features that blend with the environment. Restore unnecessary or redundant social trails on open space properties;
- Group or consolidate trails to the extent possible to limit the overall disturbance to the land.

Enhance Wildlife Habitat:

- Install bird nesting boxes (bluebirds, swallows, kestrels), bat boxes, or pollinator gardens to support species native to the region. These features can help mitigate the limited habitat availability caused by the parcels' small sizes and the surrounding development.

Preserve Existing Privately-Owned Open Space

- Work with private landowners to preserve and manage existing privately-owned open space parcels. These parcels offer patches of habitat that provide connectivity to other open space areas, preserve river corridors such as the Vasquez Creek and the Fraser River, and provide relief for wildlife traveling through developed areas of town. Work with private landowners to develop trail easements on privately-owned open space parcels ***identified in the Trails Chapter of this Master Plan.***

Future Open Space Assessment

The parcels identified for potential annexation in the *Three Mile Area Plan (2021)* include areas for open space which offer a diverse array of ecological, hydrological, and recreational values. The Denver Water West, Denver Water East, Snowshoe, and Forest Service LOAP parcels encompass a variety of habitats ranging from riparian shrublands and wetlands to mature spruce-fir forests, aspen woodlands, and lodgepole pine forests. Each parcel contributes uniquely to the regional landscape by supporting biodiversity, providing wildlife corridors, and preserving wetland and water resources. Their proximity to important water resources, including the Fraser River, Leland Creek, and Wolverine Creek, further enhance the importance of conservation and public enjoyment. Detailed descriptions of each parcel's ecological characteristics and management considerations are provided in the following sections.

Conservation Suitability Analysis

A comprehensive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis was conducted to evaluate the suitability of conservation for the proposed open space parcels. This analysis was based on the potential to provide high-quality habitat for wildlife and plants and existing development at each parcel that would degrade habitat. This analysis incorporated multiple GIS data layers that were scored and summarized based on overlapping areas to assess habitat values and potential environmental constraints.

Data layers include CPW Species Activity Mapping information which are broad datasets outlining important wildlife ranges and activity areas. Slope data was analyzed to understand terrain variability and to identify steep areas that may present challenges for development or specific ecological significance. Unique vegetative communities documented during field surveys were mapped to highlight habitats of particular ecological importance, such as mature spruce stands or aspen woodlands.

Additionally, wetland and water resource data were integrated to identify sensitive hydrological features, including riparian buffers and wetland complexes, which are critical for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. Lastly, developed areas, such as trails and roads, were incorporated and given a negative score as these areas provide low to no conservation value after previous disturbance. This GIS-driven approach provides a robust foundation for identifying priority conservation areas and informing management recommendations for each parcel.

A summary of the data and the scores associated with the individual data layers are provided in the table on this page and maps of each parcel are provided in respective sections.

Data Layer	Source	Conservation Value Score
Wet Meadow	DHM Design Ecological Team	5
Wetland Complex	DHM Design Ecological Team	5
Mature Spruce Forest	DHM Design Ecological Team	4
Aspen Woodland	DHM Design Ecological Team	4
Moose Priority Habitat	CPW SAM	3
Moose Concentration Area	CPW SAM	3
Black Bear Summer Concentration Area	CPW SAM	3
Black Bear Migration Corridor	CPW SAM	3
Wetlands	National Wetland Inventory	3
Streams / Rivers + 300' Buffer	National Hydrography Dataset	3
Slope	DHM Design Ecological Team	0: 0-10% slope
		1: >10-20% slope
		2: >20-30% slope
		4: >30-60% slope
		6: >60-100% slope
Trails (Official and social) + 2-foot buffer	DHM Design GIS Team (digitized)	-1
Existing Disturbed Area	DHM Design GIS Team (digitized)	-2
Roads + 10-foot buffer	DHM Design GIS Team (digitized)	-3
Existing Infrastructure + 5-foot buffer	DHM Design GIS Team (digitized)	-3

Forest Service LOAP Parcel

The Forest Service LOAP Parcel is currently zoned as Forestry and Open Space in Grand County and was identified as a potential growth area for Winter Park in the 2011 *Grand County Master Plan*. The *Three Mile Area Plan (2021)* notes that the 434.7 acre parcel is currently undeveloped forest owned by the US Forest Service. The *Land Ownership Adjustment Plan* (Resolution 257, Series 1988) states that this area should encourage the retention and development of attractive open space as well as establish provisions for passive and active recreation areas.

The Forest Service LOAP Parcel is the largest of the parcels considered for open space designation. It is located southwest of the Denver Water East Parcel and is bordered by private property. The parcel is defined by the Fraser River, which runs north-to-south outside of its western boundary, and Wolverine Creek, which branches off from the river into the upper third of the site. These hydrological features enhance the ecological diversity and connectivity of the parcel, providing movement corridors and aquatic and riparian habitats.
The vegetation of the parcel is primarily composed of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) woodlands, interspersed with areas of spruce-fir forests, open aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) woodlands, and montane riparian shrublands. The lodgepole pine forests dominate much of the landscape and are characterized by open canopies and sparsely vegetated understory. Spruce-fir forests, found primarily along Wolverine Creek, provide dense, moist habitat critical for species requiring cooler microclimates and mature forest structure. The mature spruce (*Picea spp.*) in these areas should be preserved to enhance ecological function of the forests by increasing age class diversity. Scattered open aspen woodlands, with their open canopies and rich understories, offer significant habitat for a variety of wildlife, including herbivores and cavity-nesting birds. Montane riparian shrublands, located along the Fraser River and Wolverine Creek, further contribute to the parcel's ecological value by supporting large mammals and songbirds, while also stabilizing stream banks and improving water quality.

The parcel's expansive size, diverse vegetation communities, and hydrological features make it a sound candidate for open space designation, as it can provide wildlife habitat, vegetative diversity, and regional ecological connectivity.

FIGURE 5–9. The Forest Service LOAP Parcel is located along US 40 and across from the Town's public works complex.

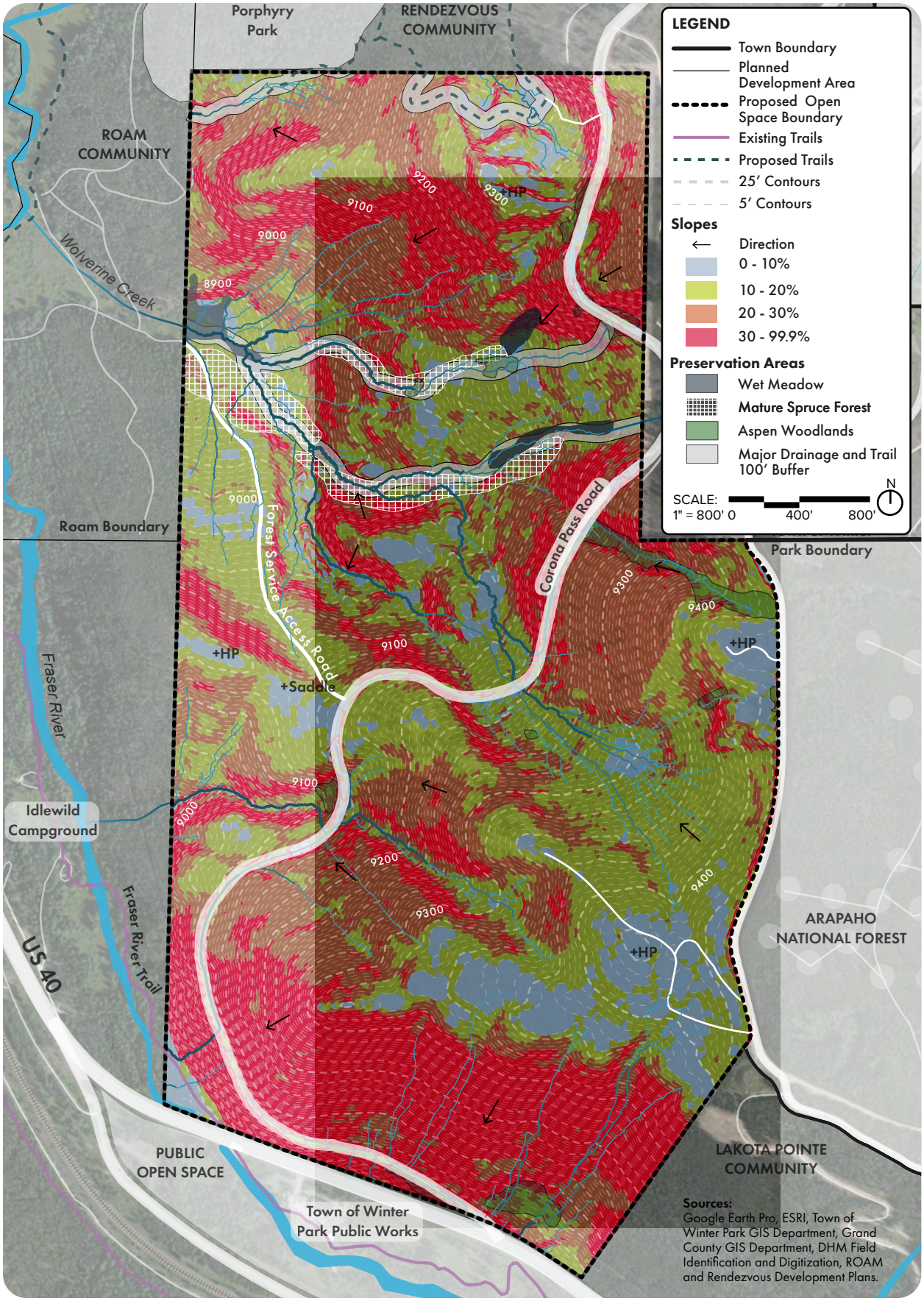


FIGURE 5–10. Slope analysis and preservation area map for Forest Service LOAP parcel.

Conservation Suitability

The Forest Service LOAP Parcel has extensive areas of high conservation value (4–5), particularly along the Fraser River and Wolverine Creek, which support riparian shrublands and mature spruce forests critical for aquatic and terrestrial species. The scattered aspen stands throughout the parcel add vegetative diversity and moderate conservation value (3–4), while the lodgepole pine forests and spruce-fir forests contribute significant ecological value. The parcel's size and connectivity to adjacent lands amplify its importance, particularly for regional wildlife corridors and sensitive habitat preservation.

Recommendations

The following recommendations outline strategies to preserve and enhance ecological integrity, habitat connectivity, and recreational value of the parcel while minimizing impacts to sensitive habitats and wildlife. The recommendation map on the following page shows areas of conservation priority that could be incorporated into the Town's existing open space, private open space or conservation easements.

Design and Build Trails with Wildlife Habitat in Mind

- Cluster trails in designated areas to concentrate recreational impacts and preserve larger, contiguous patches of undisturbed habitat. Use existing natural or human-made barriers, such as topography or existing roads, to define trail groupings and to limit new trail sprawl;
- Allow for the development of scenic trails in select locations to improve connectivity from downtown to the Lakota Pointe Community;
- Establish small trailhead(s) and parking along Corona Pass Road outside of sensitive areas so future trails intersect with the road.

Establish Protective Buffers Around Sensitive Habitats

- Avoid placing trails within a minimum 300-foot buffer zone around riparian and wetland habitats associated with Wolverine Creek. This buffer will protect the ecological integrity of these sensitive areas, reduce disturbances to wildlife, and maintain water quality.

Implement Seasonal Trail Closures for Wildlife Protection

- Temporarily close trails during critical wildlife life stages, such as calving, nesting, or migration periods, to minimize disturbances. Use signage and public outreach to inform trail users of the closures and the ecological reasons behind them, fostering awareness and compliance.

Preserve Unique Vegetation

- The three wet meadows within the Wolverine Creek floodplain, mature spruce stands surrounding Wolverine Creek, and scattered aspen stands should be avoided areas during future development.

Porphyry Park Expansion

- If annexed, consider expanding Porphyry Park south of its proposed boundary to include high-sensitivity areas like the Wolverine Creek drainage area.

Viewshed Preservation

- Preserve the viewsheds that define the Town's character and attract residents and visitors. Identify key visual corridors within the parcel for protection, particularly those framing the surrounding mountain ranges and forested landscapes;
- Implement zoning policies which limit development heights and require site planning that minimizes visual intrusion into vistas. Incorporate vegetation management practices to screen potential structures;
- Design trails and recreation areas to enhance viewshed experiences.

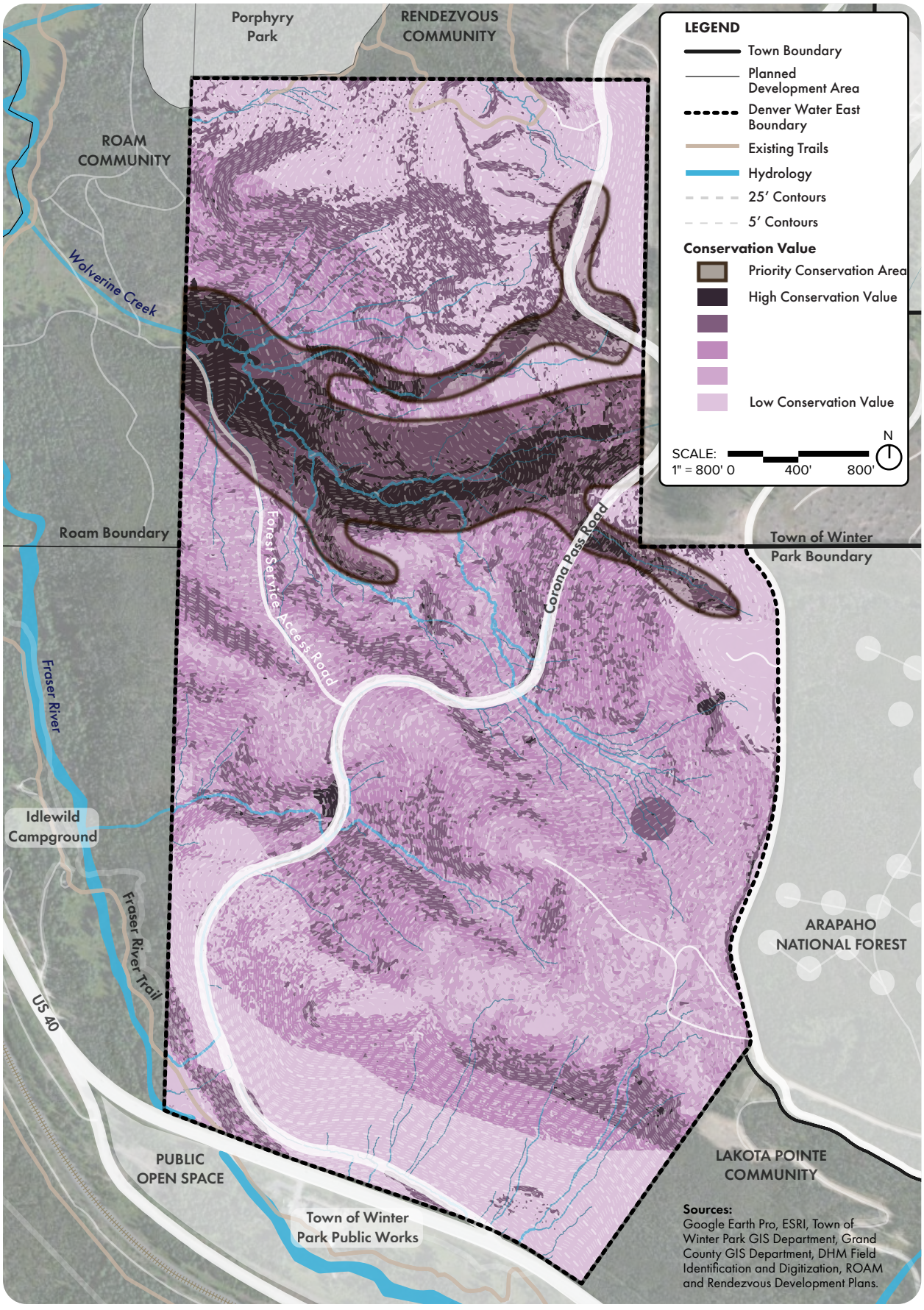


FIGURE 5–11. The Conservation Suitability analysis map for the Forest Service LOAP Parcel ranks the priority conservation areas that should be preserved for Open Space or Conservation Easements if the parcel is annexed into the Town for development.

Snowshoe Parcel

The Snowshoe Parcel is currently zoned as Forestry and Open Space in Grand County and was identified as a potential growth area for Winter Park in the 2011 *Grand County Master Plan*. The 1.1-acre parcel is owned by Snowshoe Properties LLC.

The *Three Mile Area Plan (2021)* notes that the parcel is developed with a single-family home. It is in close proximity to the Fraser River and 0.4 acres from surrounding wetlands.

The Snowshoe Parcel, situated east of the Town, is a small but ecologically significant property. The surrounding areas are privately owned, including the planned Riverwalk and Rendezvous developments. The proposed Phase 2 portion of the Fraser River Trail is planned to traverse the center of the parcel's location. The western side of the parcel has been previously disturbed and contains two structures. Its location along the Fraser River near the confluence with Vasquez Creek makes it a unique parcel of land that can provide high conservation value to the Town. The proximity to two converging waterways enhances the parcel's role in supporting riparian and aquatic ecosystems.

The vegetation within the Snowshoe Parcel consists primarily of willow (*Salix spp.*) shrublands in low-lying areas and lodgepole pine forests in upland areas. The willow shrublands thrive in the moist soils near the Fraser River, providing important habitat for a variety of riparian species, including songbirds, small mammals, moose, mule deer, and pollinators. These areas also contribute to bank stabilization and water quality. The upland lodgepole pine forests are characterized by closed-canopy forests with drought-tolerant understory vegetation, supporting a different suite of wildlife which are adapted to drier conditions, including important calving grounds for elk, mule deer, and moose.

The property slopes eastward toward the Fraser River, creating a gradient of ecological conditions from upland to riparian zones. This gradient supports a diverse assemblage of plant and animal species, enhancing the parcel's ecological value despite its small size. The Snowshoe Parcel's location and varied habitats make it a valuable resource for both conservation and connectivity for the Town.

FIGURE 5–12. The Snowshoe Parcel is located in proximity to Ski Idlewild Road and the Fraser River.

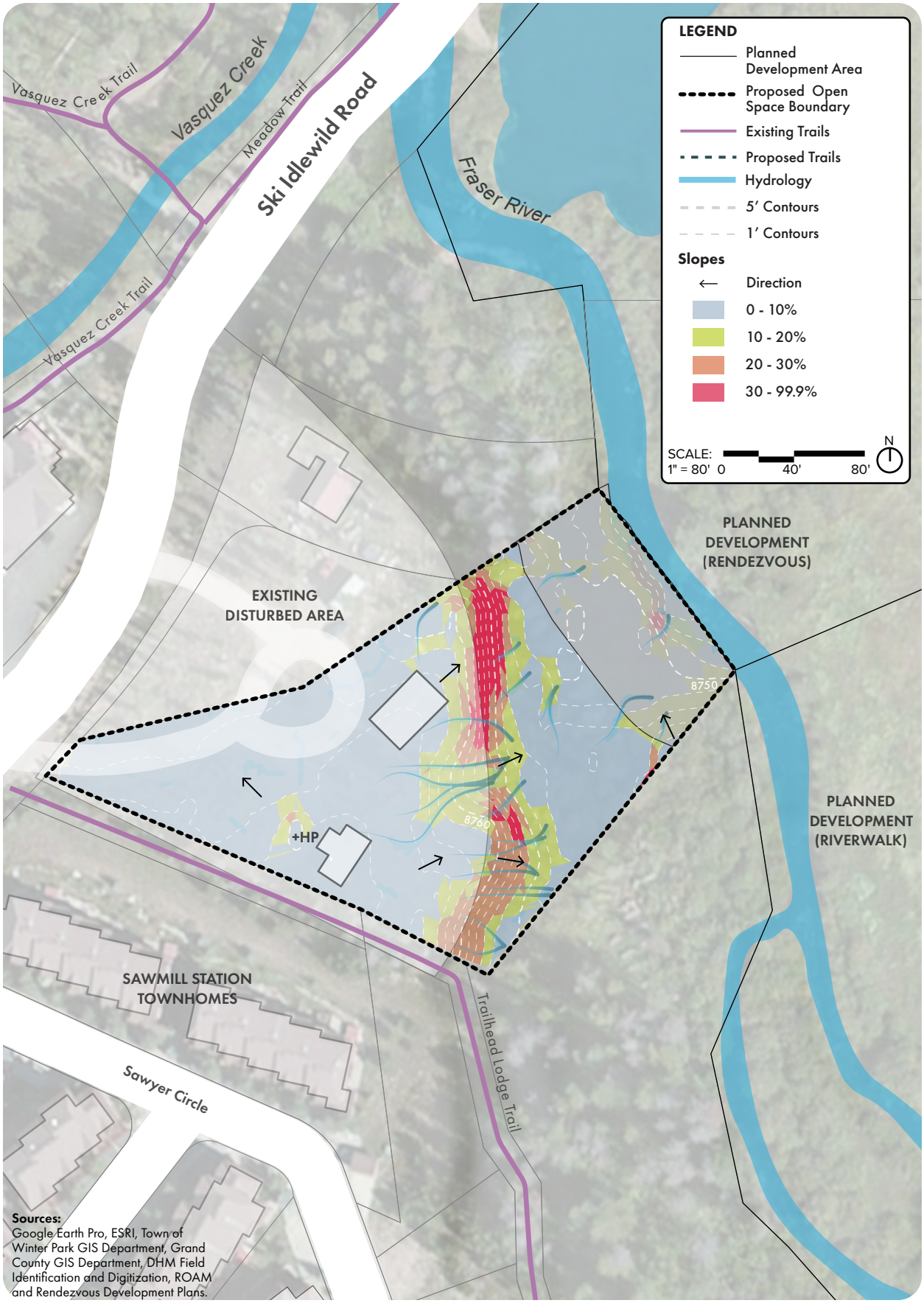


FIGURE 5–13. Slope analysis and preservation area map for the Snowshoe Parcel.

Conservation Suitability

Despite its small size, the Snowshoe Parcel includes areas of high conservation value (4–5) along the Fraser River and near its confluence with Vasquez Creek. These riparian zones support critical hydrological and ecological processes, and the willow shrublands within them are particularly sensitive. The upland ponderosa pine woodlands have moderate conservation value (3–4), but their ecological role is significant given the parcel's connectivity to the larger river system.

Recommendations

The following recommendations outline strategies to preserve and enhance ecological integrity, habitat connectivity, and recreational value of the parcel while minimizing impacts to sensitive habitats and wildlife. The recommendation map on the following page shows areas of conservation priority that could be incorporated into the Town's existing open space, private open space or conservation easements.

Design and Build the Fraser River Trail with Wildlife Habitat in Mind

- Incorporate the Fraser River Trail Phase II extension along a trail easement through this parcel. Extend easement/open space to incorporate high-quality wetlands and sensitive areas to offer additional protection of these resources;
- Cluster trails in designated areas to concentrate recreational impacts and preserve larger, contiguous patches of undisturbed habitat. Use existing natural or human-made barriers, such as topography or existing roads, to define trail groupings and to limit new trail sprawl;
- Establish a small trailhead across from Confluence Park, along Ski Idlewild Road and outside of sensitive areas.

Establish Protective Buffers Around Sensitive Habitats

- Avoid placing trails within a minimum 300-foot buffer zone around riparian and wetland habitats associated with the Fraser River. This buffer will protect the ecological integrity of these sensitive areas, reduce disturbances to wildlife, and maintain water quality.

Implement Seasonal Trail Closures for Wildlife Protection

- Temporarily close trails during critical wildlife life stages, such as calving, nesting, or migration periods, to minimize disturbances. Use signage and public outreach to inform trail users of the closures and the ecological reasons behind them, fostering awareness and compliance.

Viewshed Preservation

- Preserve the viewsheds that define the Town's character and attract residents and visitors. Identify key visual corridors within the parcel for protection, particularly those framing the surrounding mountain ranges and forested landscapes;
- Implement zoning policies which limit development heights and require site planning that minimizes visual intrusion into vistas. Incorporate vegetation management practices to screen potential structures;
- Design trails and recreation areas to enhance viewshed experiences.

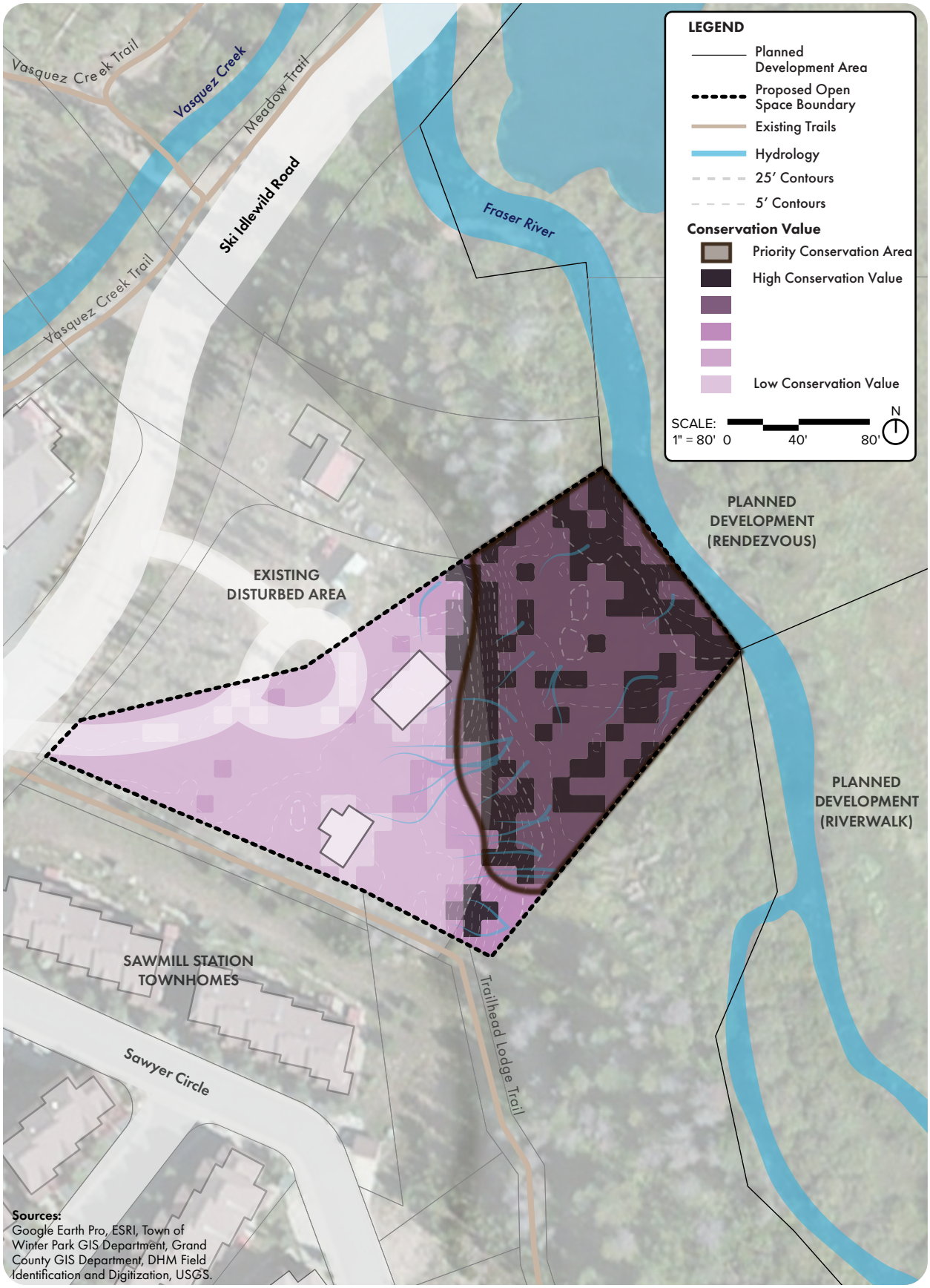


FIGURE 5–14. The Conservation Suitability analysis map for the Snowshoe Parcel ranks the priority conservation areas that should be preserved for open space or conservation easements if the parcel is annexed into the Town for development.

Denver Water East Parcel

The Denver Water East Parcel is currently zoned as Forestry and Open Space in Grand County and was identified as a potential growth area for Winter Park in the 2011 *Grand County Master Plan*. The parcel borders the Rendezvous development on three sides. The 158-acre parcel is owned by Denver Water.

Denver Water uses this parcel to store materials associated with projects in the area. The majority of the site was clear-cut in 2008 after the pine beetle epidemic and has since regenerated with lodgepole pine.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Town of Arrow (or Arrowhead) was located at the southwest corner of what is now the Denver Water East Parcel, near the intersection of Corona Pass Road. The town served a population of 2,000 people at its peak. The town burned to the ground in 1905. Today, only building foundations and stray material remain.

The parcel is located east of Winter Park and is a diverse ecological area bordered by private properties and the Arapaho National Forest. Wolverine Creek, a key hydrological feature, flows into the property from the southeast and contributes to a large wetland complex located in the lower elevations of this region. This wetland area is surrounded by mature spruce (*Picea spp.*) forests, which is a unique ecological feature of the site that should be maintained.

Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forests are the dominant vegetation community on site and are interspersed with diverse understory species including kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), huckleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*), and Oregon Grape (*Mahonia repens*). Pockets of aspen woodlands with younger spruce trees are also present, adjacent to County Road 81 and Corona Pass Road, offering open canopies that foster a lush understory and important habitat for herbivores and cavity-nesting birds. It is advised that these aspen stands be preserved, if possible, to maintain vegetative diversity on the site. Additionally, spruce-fir forests are present scattered throughout the property which thrive in cold, moist climates with short growing seasons and deep, well-drained soils. These communities support a range of herbaceous and woody plants that provide forage and cover for wildlife.

The wetland complex in the southeast corner of the property serves as a critical resource for both terrestrial and aquatic species, supporting amphibians, birds, and mammals reliant on water and riparian vegetation. The presence of mature spruce forests adjacent to these wetlands enhances habitat diversity, creating transition zones that support a wide array of wildlife.

Although some major roads cross portions of the parcel, careful management of human activities can mitigate their impact on wildlife corridors. The Denver Water East Parcel's combination of wetland, forest, and steep slope ecosystems highlights its ecological importance and role as a key interface between private lands and the surrounding Arapaho National Forest.

FIGURE 5–15. Denver Water East has multiple existing forest roads extending across it and the remnants of the historic Arrow Town Site.

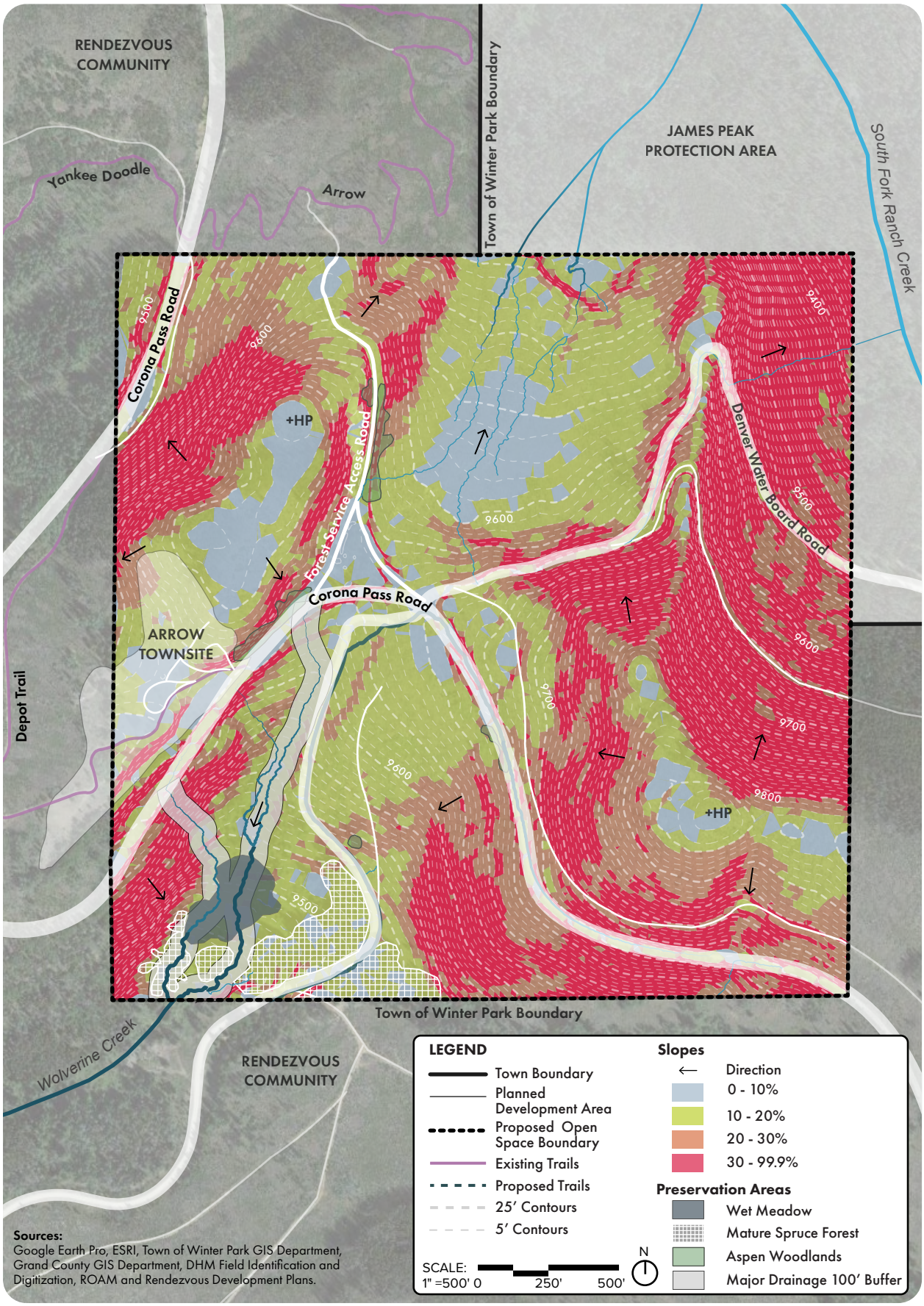


FIGURE 5–16. Analysis map for the location of Forest Spur Park in the Rendezvous Community.

Conservation Suitability

High conservation value areas (ratings of 4–5) are concentrated in the wetland complex in the southeastern portion of the parcel and along Wolverine Creek. These areas are essential for hydrological function and provide important habitats for wetland vegetation and mature spruce forests. The slopes and aspen stands in the eastern section have moderate conservation value (3–4), with vegetative diversity and wildlife value. Preserving these features ensures the protection of sensitive ecosystems and species.

Recommendations

The following recommendations outline strategies to preserve and enhance ecological integrity, habitat connectivity, and recreational value of the Denver Water East Parcel, while minimizing impacts to sensitive habitats and wildlife. The recommendation map on the following page shows areas of conservation priority that could be incorporated into the Town's existing open space, private open space or conservation easements.

Design and Build Trails with Wildlife Habitat in Mind

- Cluster trails in designated areas to concentrate recreational impacts and preserve larger, contiguous patches of undisturbed habitat. Use existing natural or human-made barriers, such as topography or existing roads, to define trail groupings and to limit new trail sprawl;
- Allow for the development of scenic trails in select locations to improve connectivity to the Arrow Town site and Rendezvous;
- Establish small trailhead(s) and parking along Corona Pass Road outside of sensitive areas future trails intersect with the road.

Establish Protective Buffers Around Sensitive Habitats

- Avoid placing trails within a minimum 300-foot buffer zone around riparian and wetland habitats associated with Wolverine Creek. This buffer will protect the ecological integrity of these sensitive areas, reduce disturbances to wildlife, and maintain water quality.

Implement Seasonal Trail Closures for Wildlife Protection

- Temporarily close trails during critical wildlife life stages, such as calving, nesting, or migration periods, to minimize disturbances. Use signage and public outreach to inform trail users of the closures and the ecological reasons behind them, fostering awareness and compliance.

Preserve Unique Vegetation

- The large wetland complex in the southwest corner of the property, mature spruce stands surrounding Wolverine Creek, and scattered aspen stands should be avoided areas during future development.

Provide Interpretation at the Arrow Town Site

- Hire a third-party consultant to perform a cultural resource assessment/State Historic Preservation Office review to determine extent of existing historic resources and define a boundary of the Historic Town Site;
- Preserve the remains of the Arrow Town Site as an interpretive area. Incorporate signage and passive use opportunities including trails and parking;
- Rehabilitate the site to incorporate passive, protect existing historic resources, and interpretive the site. Repair and revegetate extensive network of social trails;
- Incorporate design that deters dispersed camping activities which have led to extensive damage to the resources and surrounding lands.

FIGURE 5–17. A cultural resource assessment will help identify future resources for interpretation at the Arrow Town Site (Google Images, Original source unknown).

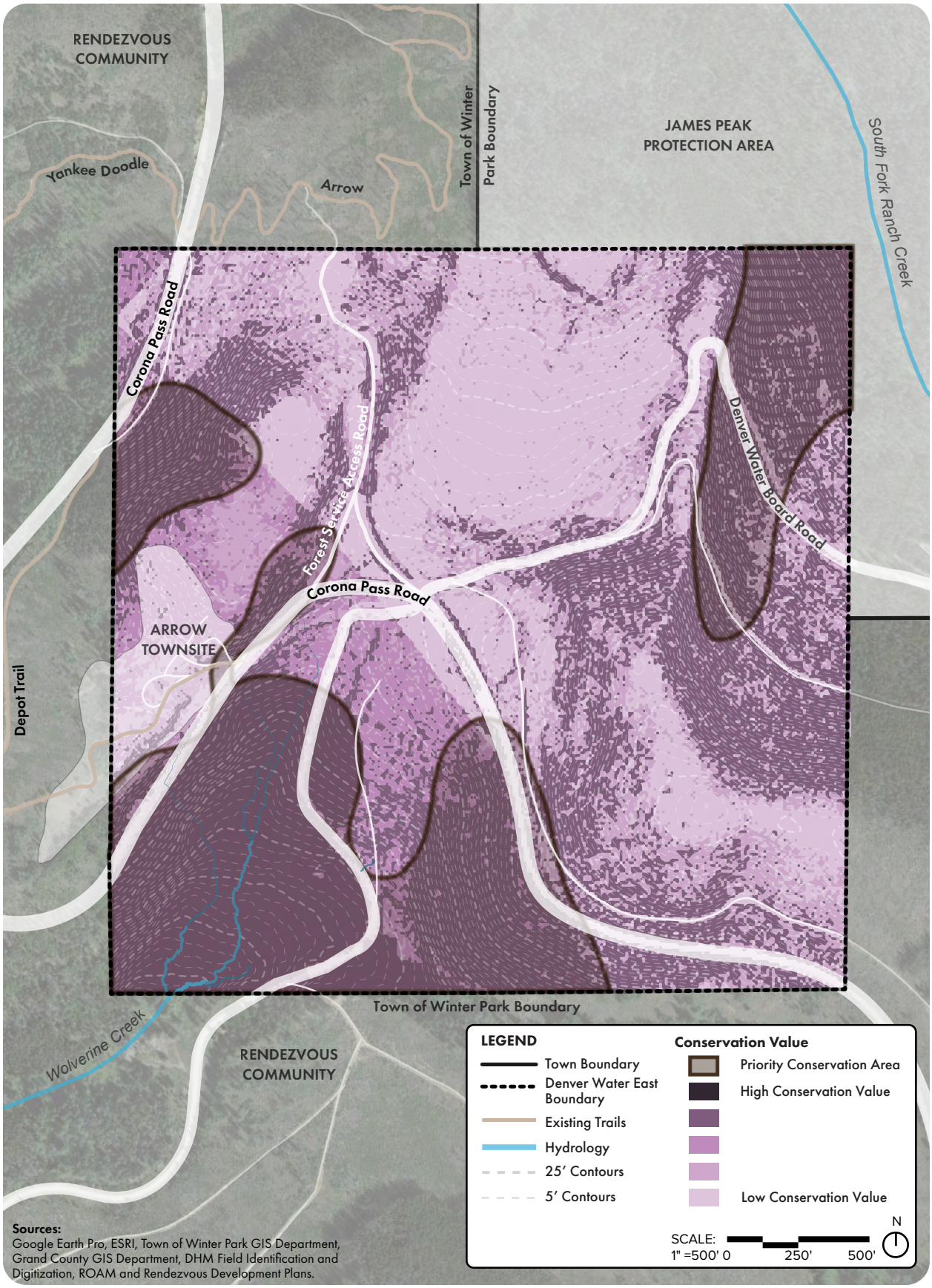


FIGURE 5–18. The Conservation Suitability analysis map for the Denver Water East Parcel ranks the priority conservation areas that should be preserved for Open Space or Conservation Easements if the parcel is annexed into the Town for development.

Denver Water West Parcel

The Denver Water West Parcel is currently zoned as Forestry and Open Space in Grand County and was identified as a potential growth area for Winter Park in the 2011 *Grand County Master Plan*. The 199 acre parcel borders the west side of Winter Park and is owned by Denver Water. A private development in the Town of Fraser extends along the west side of the parcel.

The Town of Winter Park has a lease agreement with Denver Water to use the parcel as an open space for trails. The majority of the site was clear-cut in 2008 after the pine beetle epidemic and has since regenerated with lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*).

The Denver Water West Parcel is bordered to the north, east, and west by private lands, and to the south by Arapaho National Forest, owned and operated by the US Forest Service. The parcel is an ecologically diverse area defined by its unique hydrology, vegetation, and wildlife habitat. The northwestern limits of the property are bounded by Leland Creek, a perennial waterway that serves as a key hydrological feature supporting riparian ecosystems and connecting to several smaller drainages that traverse the property. Several hiking and mountain bike trails are present, bisecting the parcel.

The vegetation within the Denver Water West Parcel is predominantly lodgepole pine forest, with additional coverage by mixed montane aspen-conifer forests and riparian communities. The lodgepole pine forests are heavily shaded, adapted to post-fire regeneration, and provide important habitat and cover for a range of species, including mule deer, elk, black bear, and various avian species. Mixed montane aspen-conifer forests consist of a heterogeneous blend of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and coniferous species such as Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), fir (*Abies spp.*), and lodgepole pine ((Pinus contorta).

The open canopy of the aspen woodlands allows for sunlight penetration, fostering a diversity of understory herbaceous plant species. Riparian scrub-shrub habitat, located along Leland Creek and its adjacent floodplains, supports a high level of biodiversity. These areas provide essential habitat for species such as moose, black bear, mule deer, mountain lions, a high diversity of avian species, and amphibians and serve as critical resources for many species inhabiting the montane ecosystem.

The southeastern portion of the parcel is characterized by steep slopes where upland vegetation dominates. This terrain provides a transition zone between the lower wetlands and higher elevation forests, fostering diverse microhabitats. In contrast, the northwestern portion of the property supports scrub-shrub wetlands, which are seasonally saturated areas dominated by willows (*Salix spp.*) and other riparian vegetation. These wetlands serve essential ecological functions, including water filtration, flood attenuation, and providing habitat for numerous wildlife species.

Of particular note is the parcel's designation as high-quality, priority habitat for moose by CPW. Moose utilize the scrub-shrub wetlands and riparian areas for foraging, primarily on willow and aspen, and the upland slopes for shelter and movement. The parcel topographically connects habitat surrounding Leland Creek to Vasquez Creek. The identified habitat is important for supporting the local moose population, particularly during calving and the winter months when food and shelter become limited.

FIGURE 5–19. Denver Water West Parcel features a rich diversity of ecological communities and hosts the Town's designated mountain biking trails.

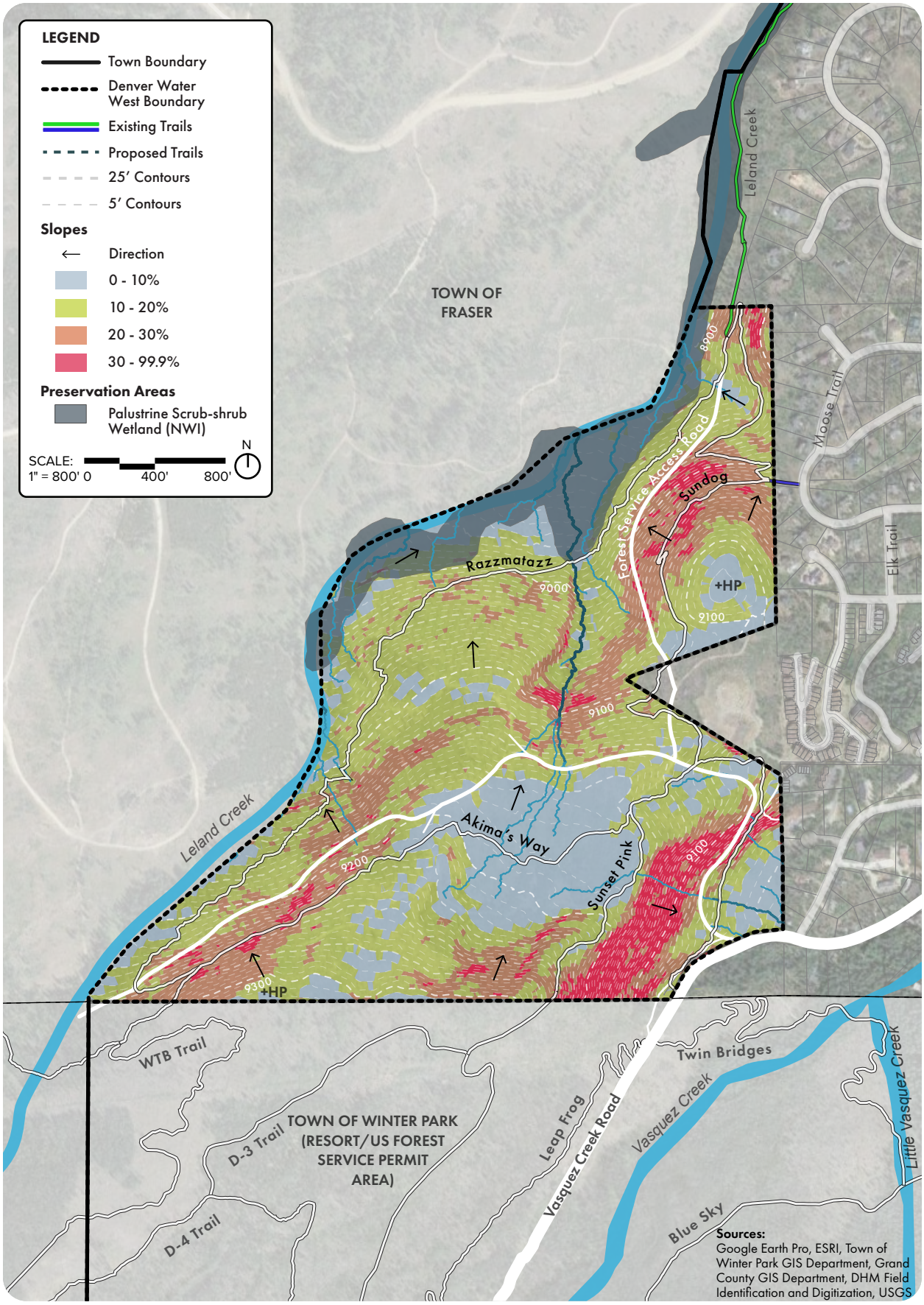


FIGURE 5–20. Analysis map for the Denver Water West Parcel.

Conservation Suitability

This parcel exhibits high conservation value primarily along Leland Creek and the associated wetlands, which are areas of high value due to their critical role in supporting riparian and wetland-dependent species. The steep slopes in the southeastern portion are moderately sensitive, with potential for erosion if trails or development occur. Conservation value ratings are highest (4–5) near Leland Creek, emphasizing the importance of protecting riparian corridors and the adjacent priority moose habitat.

Recommendations

The following recommendations outline strategies to preserve and enhance ecological integrity, habitat connectivity, and recreational value of the Denver Water West Parcel while minimizing impacts to sensitive habitats and wildlife. The recommendation map on the following page shows areas of conservation priority that could be incorporated into the Town's existing open space, private open space or conservation easements.

Design and Build Trails with Wildlife Habitat in Mind

- Cluster trails in designated areas to concentrate recreational impacts and preserve larger, contiguous patches of undisturbed habitat. Use existing natural or human-made barriers, such as topography or existing roads, to define trail groupings and to limit new trail sprawl;
- Allow for the development of scenic trails and mountain bike trails in select locations to improve connectivity and access across the parcel.

Establish Protective Buffers Around Sensitive Habitats

- Avoid placing trails within a minimum 300-foot buffer zone around riparian and wetland habitats associated with Leland Creek. This buffer will protect the ecological integrity of these sensitive areas, reduce disturbances to wildlife, and maintain water quality.

Incorporate a Wildlife Movement Corridor

- Designate and maintain a pathway through the site that allows moose and other large mammals to move freely between Leland Creek and Vasquez Creek. Ensure this corridor is free of high-use trails and other barriers, using signage or fencing to limit human intrusion and maintain its functionality for wildlife.

Implement Seasonal Trail Closures for Wildlife Protection

- Temporarily close trails during critical wildlife life stages, such as calving, nesting, or migration periods, to minimize disturbances. Use signage and public outreach to inform trail users of the closures and the ecological reasons behind them, fostering awareness and compliance.

Viewshed Preservation

- Preserve the viewsheds that define the Town's character and attract residents and visitors. Identify key visual corridors within the parcel for protection, particularly those framing the surrounding mountain ranges and forested landscapes;
- Implement zoning policies which limit development heights and require site planning that minimizes visual intrusion into vistas. Incorporate vegetation management practices to screen potential structures;
- Design trails and recreation areas to enhance viewshed experiences.

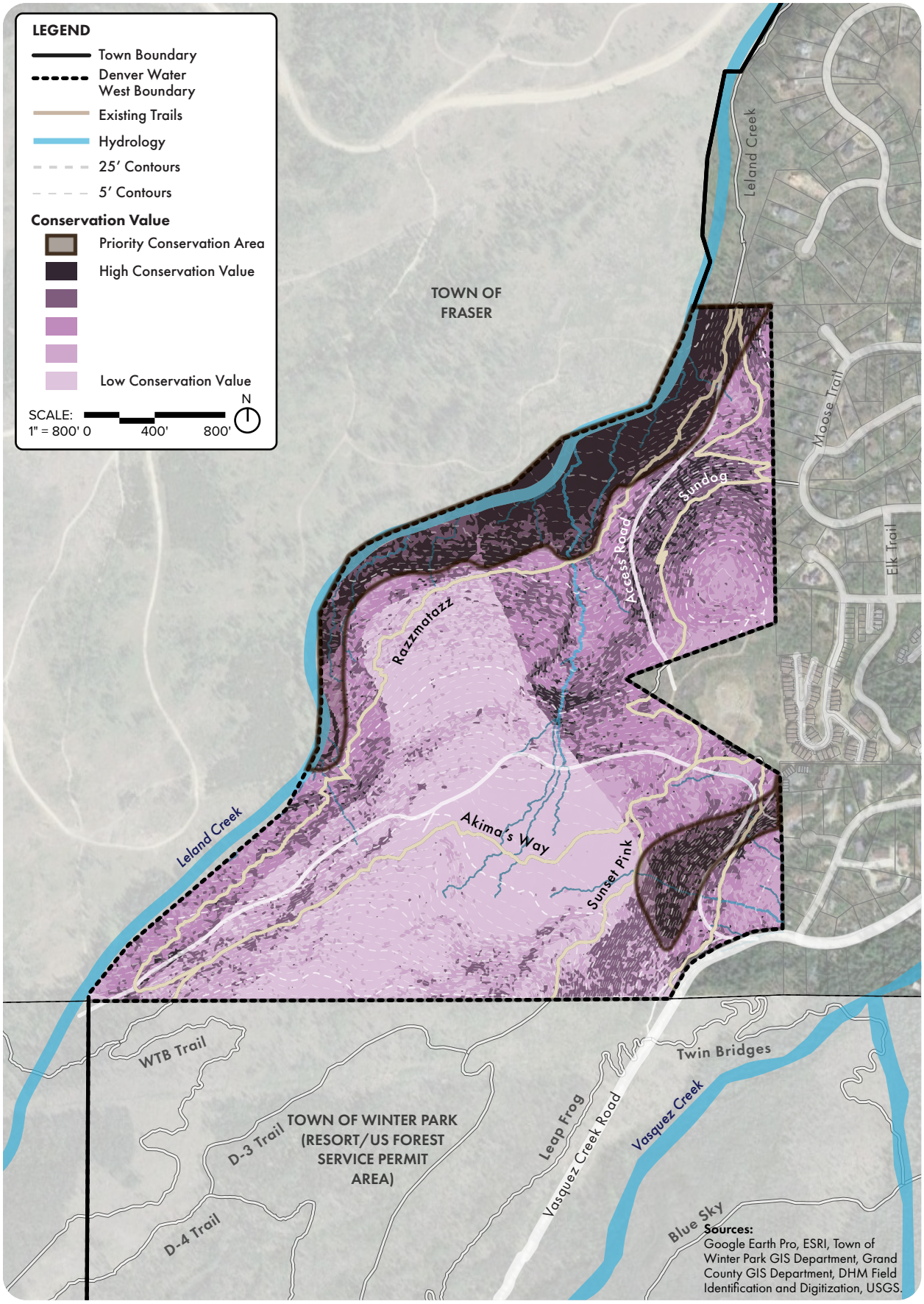
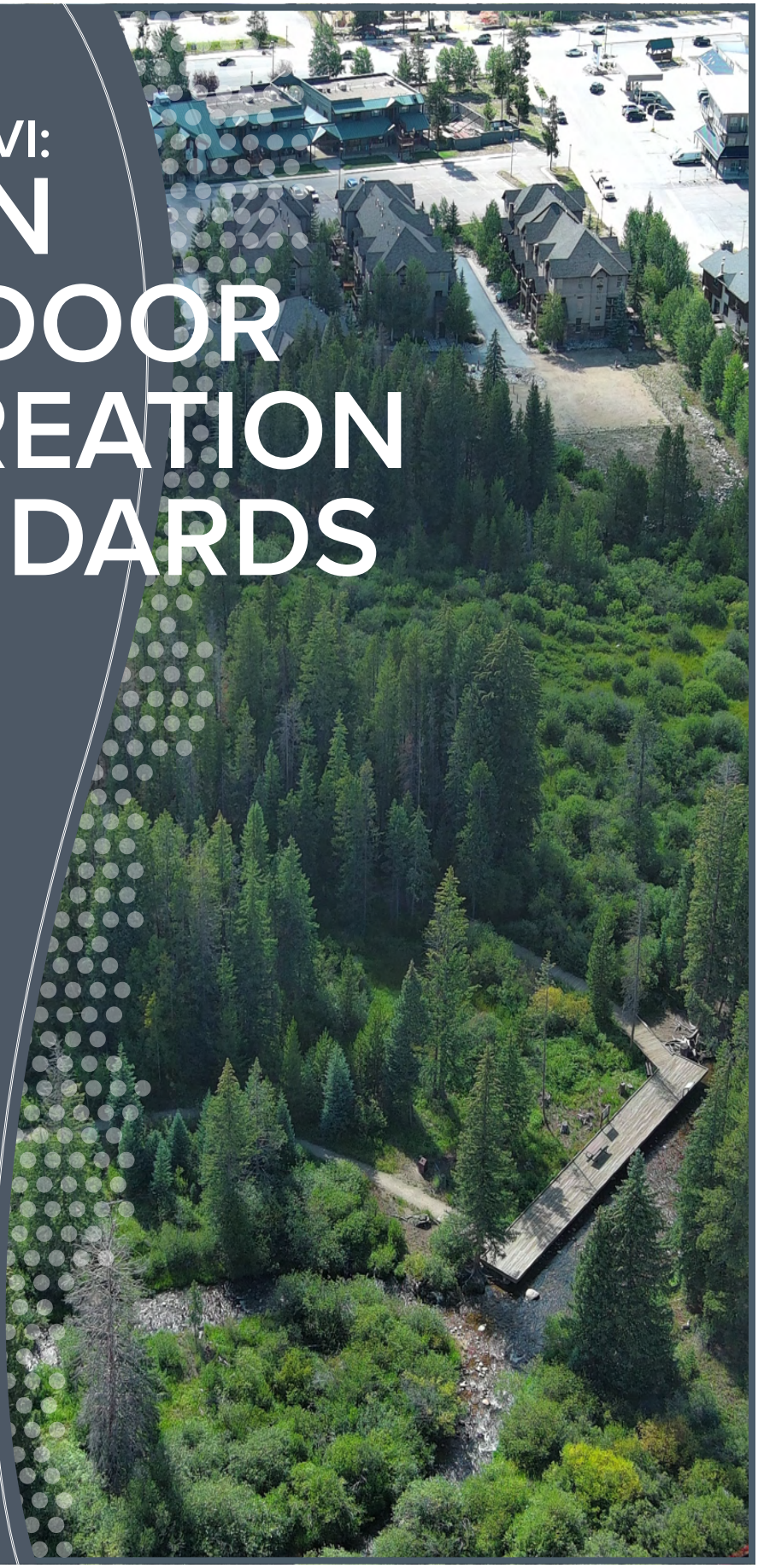


FIGURE 5–21. Analysis map for the Denver Water West Parcel.

CHAPTER VI:

TOWN OUTDOOR RECREATION STANDARDS



TOWN OUTDOOR RECREATION STANDARDS

Introduction

The goal of this standards section is to provide the Town of Winter Park (the Town) with design guidelines and recommendations for all parks, trails, campgrounds, and open space within Winter Park and the greater Fraser Valley. Standards consider replacement protocols and improvements to existing outdoor recreation areas, maintenance strategies and efficiencies, and guiding principles for future site design.

These recreation standards have been developed by the consultant team through existing conditions documentation, site analysis, and discussions with Town maintenance and facilities personnel. Subsequent subsections may include additional supporting references outlined in orange text and boxes. The following Winter Park planning and design documents were reviewed and incorporated as feasible and support the standards which follow in this chapter.

- 1997 Town of Winter Park Landscape Design Regulations and Guidelines;
- 2012 Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction;
- 2014 Community Trails Plan, Winter Park & Fraser Trail Plan;
- 2017 Winter Park Brand Standards;
- 2019 Imagine Winter Park Town Plan;
- 2019 Headwaters Trails Alliance Strategic Trails Plan;
- 2020 Town of Winter Park Downtown Master Plan;
- 2021 Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines *(Appendix to the UDC);*
- 2022 Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 *(adopted 06/12/2022);*

The standards in this section are intended to provide the Town with the methods and means to create a consistent character and identity for public parks. All parks — existing and future — should abide by professional design standards and references which consider each specific site. Guidelines and recommendations provide a cohesive design vocabulary for the Town and are not a substitution for the *Winter Park Unified Development Code*, *Title 7 (2022)*. Standards should be reviewed and assessed by the Town staff on a regular basis as the Town continues to grow. A bi-annual review of Town staff feedback and analysis will provide updated information to consider for changes to recreation standards.

As public parks are incorporated into new residential and commercial developments, it is critical that the Town parks are established as public amenities which promote universal access, safety, and benefit to all members of the community.

Outdoor recreation standards have been outlined in the following categories:

1.0 Hardscape

2.0 Landscape

3.0 Natural Areas

4.0 Irrigation

5.0 Structures

6.0 Program Spaces

7.0 Furnishings

8.0 Signage

Site/Landscape Plan Submittal Checklist

The following provides a checklist of items to be reviewed and submitted as part of a site or landscape plan for the Town of Winter Park. This checklist should be utilized by contractors, developers, and Town reviewers to ensure all standards in this section have been reviewed, implemented, and submitted. ***Note: Refer to the Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction and the Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 (2022) for additional requirements for all site or landscape plans.***

1.0 Hardscape

- ☐ Layout plans show scoring and joint locations which adhere to Town maximum and minimum distance requirements
- ☐ All accessible hardscape meets US Access Board slope and clearance requirements
- ☐ Provide a snow removal or snow storage plan for all proposed parking areas
- ☐ All parking area layout, stalls, and drive aisles conform with *Winter Park Unified Development Code*, *Title 7 (2022)* standards

2.0 Landscape

- ☐ All proposed planting aligns with Town accepted minimum plant sizes and spacings
- ☐ All proposed planting in Town developed areas aligns with the recommended plant list and native seed mix

3.0 Natural Areas

- ☐ All proposed planting follows recommended plant list and native seed mixes based on the correct ecozone
- ☐ Select the correct seed installation method based in coordination with the Town

4.0 Irrigation

- ☐ Follow the Town specifications and standards for all irrigation systems

5.0 Structures

- ☐ All proposed structures meet US Access Board criteria for universal access
- ☐ All proposed structures and buildings adhere to the Town approved building materials list

6.0 Program Spaces

- ☐ All proposed program spaces are approved by the Town and abide by the recommended industry standards as applicable

7.0 Furnishings

- ☐ All proposed site furnishings — including model, size, color, and material — align with the recommended manufacturer unless otherwise approved by the Town

8.0 Signage

- ☐ All proposed signage conforms to the Town standards for color, text, style, material, etc unless otherwise approved by the Town

1.0 Hardscape

The section describes paving areas which promote gathering in movement throughout the Town's parks. Concrete walks, stairs, and ramps facilitate circulation patterns while features like concrete mow bands define spaces and support maintenance operations. Parking areas are important considerations for access to most outdoor recreation spaces.

For full hardscape specifications, guidelines, and requirements, refer to the latest version of *Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction*

1.1 Concrete Walks

When considering the layout and design of concrete walks, a hierarchy of circulation should be established.

- **Shared-use** - includes sidewalk trails and high use/event space walkways (i.e. perimeter of Hideaway Park) used by pedestrians and bikers. Universal access (ADA) is typically provided, especially within the downtown corridor. Shared-use routes should be vehicle rated and consider site lighting.
- **Primary** - walkways which formalize the primary pedestrian circulation route. These walkways typically provide universal access (ADA) for all users and access for emergency vehicles. Primary routes should be vehicle rated and consider site lighting.
- **Secondary** - walkways which support and connect primary circulation routes. Secondary walkways typically divide programmatic spaces and are ADA compliant. In some cases, walkways may provide access to smaller or less utilized spaces. These routes are less formal than primary or secondary walkways, and not all are plowed during the winter months.

FIGURE 6–1. Example of integral color paving in Hideaway Park.

Hardscape Walkway Layouts	
Type of Walkway	**Recommended Width**
Shared-use Walkway	10'-0" minimum
Primary Walkway	8'-0" minimum
Secondary Walkway	6'-0" minimum

Concrete Walk Standards:

- All exterior concrete walkways shall be broom finish to reduce slipping hazards.
- Avoid sandblast etching in concrete walkways as the life cycle is reduced by snow/maintenance.
- Consider heated concrete in select locations for safety and extending winter use.
- Integral color concrete may be used with approval from Town staff.
- All concrete work subgrade preparation shall adhere to the most recent version of the *Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction (2012).*

Concrete Joint Standards:

- All concrete joints shall comply with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Standard Details.
- Control/Contraction Joints shall be at intervals not to exceed 10'-0" and 1 1/2" deep, tooled or sawcut.
- Expansion Joints shall be 1/2" premolded joints where sidewalks end at curbs, at buildings, against fixed objects, at points of sharp radius, and between different concrete slabs.
- Place Expansion joints at minimum of every 100'-0".

1.2 Concrete Mow Band

Concrete mow bands shall be used to separate all maintained landscape areas from adjacent natural areas, planting beds, and pavement areas. Wood and metal edgers/mow bands shall not be permitted as the intense winter seasons and plowing lead to decreased life cycles for these products.

Concrete Mow Band Standards:

- Mow bands shall be 8" width minimum to maintain separation between spaces and reduce unwanted vegetation/weeds from spreading.
- Mow bands shall be 1" above grade or flush with surrounding finish surfaces.
- Consider mow bands under all fencing types with posts which penetrate the ground surface.

FIGURE 6–2. Existing concrete mow band at Hideaway Park, north of the Rendezvous Event Center.

1.3 Concrete Stairs/Ramps

Concrete Stairs and ramps shall conform with the U.S. Access Board's Guide to ADA Accessibility Standards.

Concrete Stair Standards:

- Concrete stairs shall abide by ADA Accessibility Standards Chapter 5: Stairways, including the following requirements:
  - Open risers shall not be permitted.
  - Riser heights shall be uniform within a range of 4-7" height.
  - Tread depth shall be 11" minimum.
  - Treads and landings subject to wet conditions must be designed to prevent the accumulation of water.
  - Stair slopes shall not exceed 1:48.
- The maximum height between landings shall be 5'-0".
- A minimum of (3) risers are required for steps to prevent tripping hazards.

FIGURE 6–3. Stairs at Hideaway Park in downtown Winter Park.

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Concrete Ramp Standards:

- Concrete stairs shall abide by *ADA Accessibility Standards Chapter 4: Ramps and Curb Ramps*, including the following requirements:
  - Ramps shall have a minimum clear width of 36" between handrails.
  - Landings are required at the top and bottom of each run, shall be a minimum of 60" length, and shall not exceed 1:48 (2%) slopes.
  - The maximum height of a single run is limited to 30".

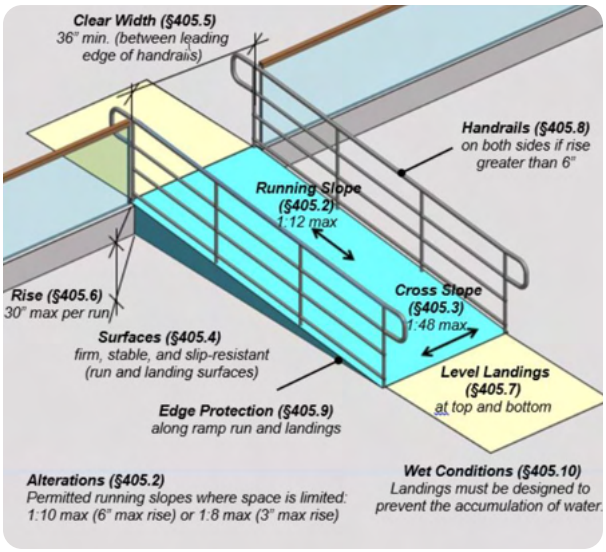


FIGURE 6–4. Typical ramp detail. Image courtesy of the U.S. Access Board, 2024.

Concrete Curb Ramp Standards:

- Concrete curb ramps shall be a minimum of 3'-0" width and provide landings at top and bottom of runs.
- Curb ramp wings slope shall not exceed 10:1 (10%).
- Slopes of curb ramps shall not exceed 12:1 (8.33%).

1.4 Asphalt Walks

Some trails and pedestrian walks may consider asphalt paving in lieu of concrete.

- Asphalt pedestrian walks shall provide an aggregate base with a minimum depth of four inches (4").
- Consider extending the aggregate base beyond the walk on both sides for longer durability.

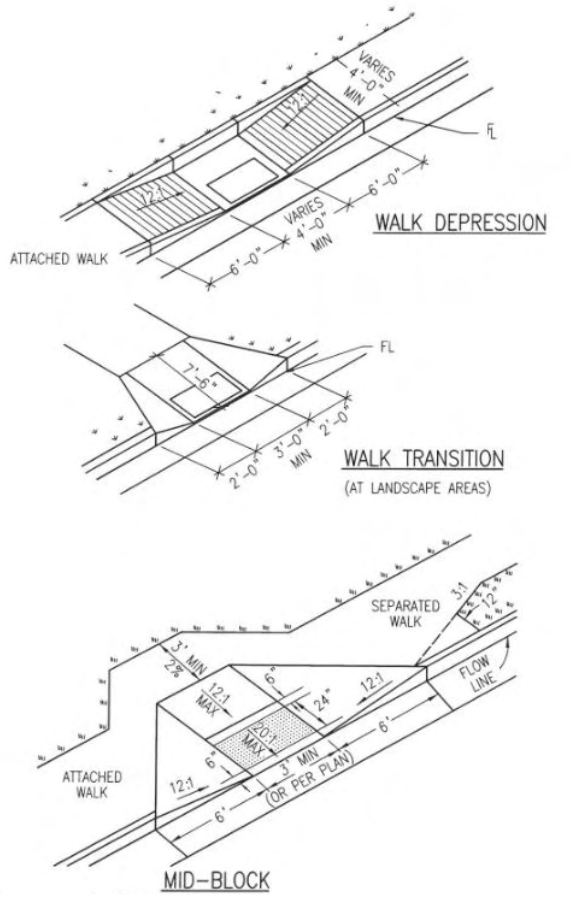


FIGURE 6–5. Typical curb ramp details. Image courtesy of the *2012 Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction*.

1.5 Parking Areas

Parking areas include defined in-town parking lots, street parking, and parking beyond the downtown corridor such as trailheads.

- All parking areas shall provide accessible parking which conforms with the U.S. Access Board's Guide to ADA Accessibility Standards.
- All parking areas may consider parallel, 45, 60, or 90 degree parking configurations only. Refer to the Town UDC, Article 3.H. for drive aisle requirements.
- Parking areas shall be designed with positive drainage and manage all stormwater drainage created as a result of the parking area.
- The maximum grade of any off-street parking area shall be five percent (5%) for both parallel and cross slopes.
- Paved parking areas shall be designed to provide a dedicated snow storage location. Avoid sight triangles, utilities, and planting areas for snow storage. Per the Town UDC, one square foot per every four square feet (1:4) shall be used for snow storage.
- A vertical clearance of eight feet (8') shall be maintained over all parking spaces.
- Avoid dead end parking lots which require additional turning and can cause congestion or safety issues.
- All proposed parking areas shall provide a snow removal and/or snow storage plan to be approved by Town staff.

In-town Parking:

- All parking areas shall be surfaced with asphalt or concrete.

Trailhead and Open Space Parking:

- Consider perimeter barriers such as boulders or fencing at edges of parking areas and along roads to eliminate illegal/overcrowded parking.
- In appropriate parking areas, consider wider/ oversize parking stalls and turning radii for vehicles like RVs and campers.

All parking areas shall refer to the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7, Article 3.H. Parking, Loading, and Access (2022)* and the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guidelines*

Typical Parking Stall Dimensions	
Type of Parking	**Recommended**
Parallel	10' x 23' (minimum)
45 Angle	10 'x 20'-7"
60 Angle	10 'x 21'-11"
90 Angle (front-end)	10' x 20'

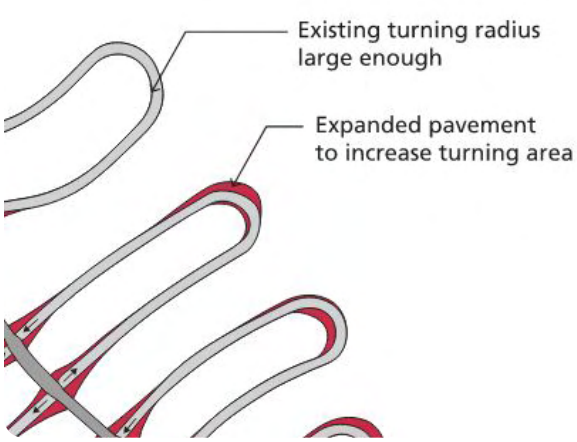


FIGURE 6–6. An example of wider turning radii locations for oversize vehicles. Image courtesy of the *2021 National Park Service Campground Design Guidelines*.

2.0 Landscape

The landscape standards aim to provide a concise list of recommendations which complement and heighten the outdoor recreation areas of the Town. Plant sizes, layouts, and species should align with the *Winter Park Unified Development Code*, adopted 2022, and contribute to the natural character of the Town. This section focuses primarily on landscape guidance of developed areas (i.e. within the Town). ***Refer to 3.0 Natural Areas of this chapter for additional information on non-developed areas.***

For full landscape specifications, guidelines, and requirements, refer to the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7, Chapter 3. Development Standards, Article 3.1 Landscaping, Buffering, and Screening (2022)*

The following standards should be considered for all outdoor recreation sites in Winter Park (from the *2021 Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines*):

- **Preserve** and **maintain** mature trees and other significant vegetation.
- Use a **coordinated landscape palette** to establish a sense of visual continuity within a site.
- Use landscaping to **enhance pedestrian facilities**.

2.1 General Design Considerations

- The aesthetic value of planting beds/areas should be balanced with maintenance needs and considerations.
- Planting beds/areas should be considered in highly visible entrances, transition areas between separate uses, and steeply sloped areas to prevent erosion.
- Trees should be used to provide shade, create seasonal interest, screen views, enhance site character, and highlight design forms.
- Plants should be grouped by water requirements and comply with the Town's irrigation zone standards.
- Minimize water consumption through proper plant selection.
- Trees shall not be planted within site triangles at intersections. Planting beds and vegetation heights shall not impede on site triangles.
- All parks shall provide a snow removal and/or snow storage plan to be approved by Town staff.
- Prepare soil per recommendations of a soil test or by adding one to three cubic yards (1-3 cu. yd.) of approved organic materials per one-thousand square feet (1,000 sf) and roto-tiling to a depth of six to eight inches (6"-8").
- Establishment irrigation shall be provided for all trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and native grasses as determined by Town staff.

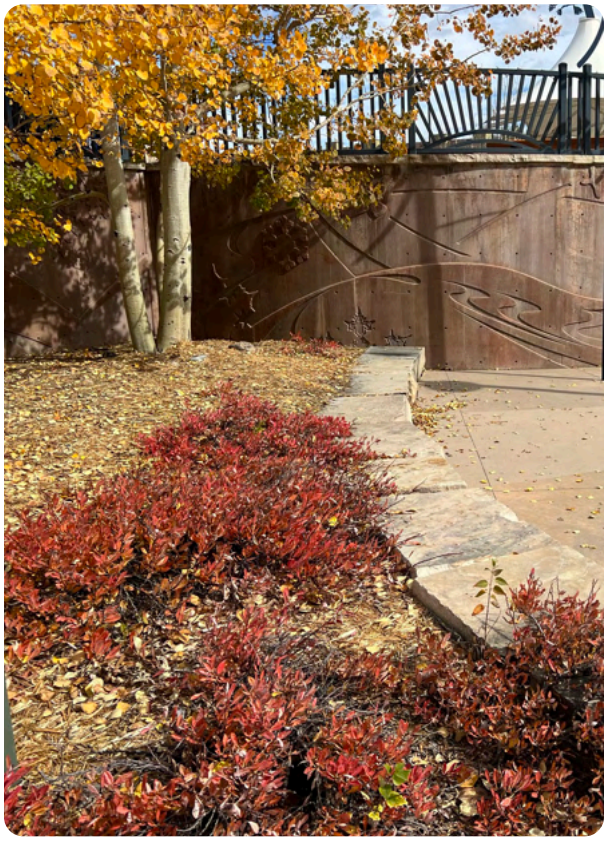


FIGURE 6–7. An example of a coordinated fall plant palette at Hideaway Park.

Minimum Size of Plants at Installation	
Type of Plant	**Minimum Size**
Deciduous - Single Stem Tree	1" minimum caliper with an overall average of 2"
Deciduous - Multi-Stem Tree	8' minimum height with an overall average of 10'
Evergreen Tree	4' minimum
Deciduous and Evergreen Shrubs	Five-gallon root base for 80% of the shrubs used, one-gallon minimum shrubs for the remainder

2.2 Planting Protection:

- The drip line of trees shall have a radius equal to the length of the longest branch of the tree. The drip line shall be barricaded during construction to prevent damage to trees and roots by construction equipment or soil compaction. Barricades shall be posted with 'Off Limits' signage.
- The protected landscape zone shall extend to the drip line of all trees over four inches (4") in caliper.
- Snow fencing or other highly visible material shall be used to designate protected zones and to protect all existing trees, shrubs, ground covers and grasses from construction.

2.3 Planting Locations and Spacing:

- Shrubs and groundcovers shall be spaced at a minimum of one-half of their mature diameter from all walkways to prevent overcrowding/ impediments to walkways.
- No tree shall be planted within ten lateral feet (10') of any overhead utility lines.
- No tree or shrub shall be planted within ten lateral feet (10') of any underground utility lines.
- Planting areas shall be installed adjacent to building foundations, between parking and vehicular use areas, and property/lot lines. Exceptions at buildings include direct vehicular access requirements such as loading bays, drive-through lanes and service windows.
- Evergreen trees within the right-of-way shall be planted a minimum of ten feet (10') from the edge of street pavement.
- Deciduous trees within the right-of-way shall be planted a minimum of five feet (5') from the edge of street pavement.

Refer to the ***Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 (2022)*** for information on the following landscape types: Landscape transition zones (LTZs), parking lot landscaping, bufferyards, and vegetation screening.

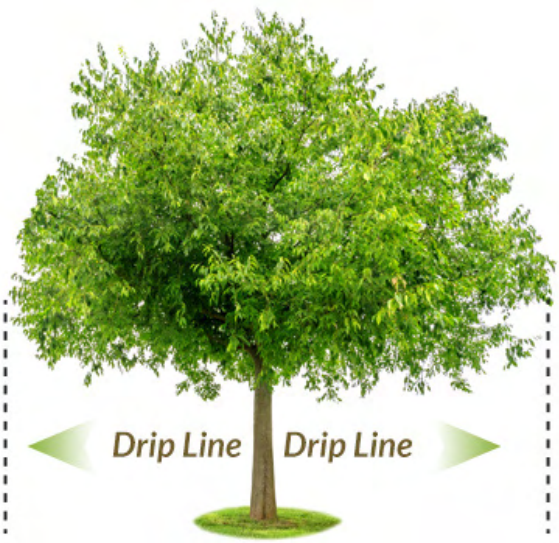


FIGURE 6–8. Typical tree drip lines extend as far as the longest branch of the tree on all sides. Image courtesy of the *Tree Care Guide (2018).*

FIGURE 6–9. The shrub installation and spacing at Hideaway Park allows for growth and reducing the risk of overcrowding.

Recommended Plant List - Developed Areas			
Note: Plants in hydrozone "H" are intended for use primarily in naturally wet soil areas that do not require supplemental irrigation.			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Hydrozone**	**Colorado Native**
Evergreen Trees			
Subalpine Fir	*Abies lasiocarpa*	M-H	Y
Rocky Mountain Juniper	*Juniperus scopulorum*	L	Y
Engelmann Spruce	*Picea engelmannii*	M-H	Y
Colorado Blue Spruce	*Picea pungens*	M-H	Y
Bristlecone Pine	*Pinus aristata*	L-M	Y
Lodgepole Pine	*Pinus contorta latifolia*	M	Y
Limber Pine	*Pinus flexilis*	L-M	Y
Deciduous Trees			
Rocky Mountain Maple	*Acer glabrum*	L-M	Y
Thinleaf Alder	*Alnus tenuifolia*	H	Y
Western Water Birch, Rocky Mountain Birch	*Betula occidentalis, Betula fontinalis*	H	Y
Crabapple (Dolgo or Hopa)	*Malus spp.*	L-M	N
Narrowleaf Cottonwood	*Populus angustifolia*	M-H	Y
Quaking Aspen	*Populus tremuloides*	M-H	Y
Narrowleaf Evergreen Shrubs			
Common Juniper	*Juniperus communis*	L-M	Y
Broadmoor Juniper	*Juniperus sabina 'Broadmoor'*	L	N
Buffalo Juniper	*Juniperus sabina 'Buffalo'*	L	N
Tammy Juniper	*Juniperus sabina 'Tamariscifolia'*	L	N
Mugo Pine	*Pinus mugo*	L-M	N
Broadleaf Evergreen Shrubs			
Kinnikinnick	*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*	L-M	Y
Creeping Oregon Grape, Creeping Mahonia	*Mahonia repens*	L-M	Y
Deciduous Shrubs			
Amur Maple	*Acer ginnala*	L	N
Saskatoon Serviceberry	*Amelanchier alnifolia*	L	Y
Silver Sagebrush	*Artemisia cana*	L	Y
Big Sagebrush	*Artemisia tridentata*	L	Y
Bog Birch	*Betula glandulosa*	H	Y
Siberian Peashrub	*Caragana arborescens*	L	N
Rabbitbrush	*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*	L	Y
Redtwig Dogwood	*Cornus sericea*	M-H	Y
Peking Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster acutifolia, C. lucidus*	L	N
Rock Spirea, Mountainspray	*Holodiscus dumosus*	L	Y
Waxflower	*Jamesia americana*	M	Y
Twinberry	*Lonicera involucrata*	M-H	Y
Mountain Lover	*Paxistima myrsinities*	M	Y
Mountain Ninebark	*Physocarpus monogynus*	M	Y
Dwarf Ninebark	*Physocarpus opulifolius 'Nanus'*	L	N
Potentilla (Bush Cinquefoil)	*Potentilla fruticosa*	M	Y

Common Name	Scientific Name	Hydrozone	Colorado Native
Deciduous Shrubs (continued)			
Chokecherry	*Prunus virginiana melanocarpa*	L	Y
Alpine Currant	*Ribes alpinum*	L	N
Golden Currant	*Ribes aureum*	L-M	Y
Wax Currant	*Ribes cereum*	L	Y
Woods Rose	*Rosa woodsii*	L-M	Y
Western Thimbleberry	*Rubus parviflorus*	M	Y
Rocky Mountain Willow, Yellow Mountain Willow	*Salix monticola*	H	Y
Native Red-berried Elder	*Sambucus pubens, S. racemosa var. racemosa*	M	Y
Russet Buffaloberry	*Shepherdia canadensis*	L-M	Y
Native Mountain-Ash	*Sorbus scopulina*	M	Y
Mountain Snowberry	*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*	L	Y
Common Lilac	*Syringa vulgaris*	L	N
Groundcovers			
Pussytoes	*Antennaria spp.*	L-M	Y
Kinnikinnick	*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*	L-M	Y
Wild Strawberry	*Fragaria vesca americana*	L	Y
Little Strawberry	*Fragaria vesca ssp. Bracteata*	L	Y
Virginia Strawberry	*Fragaria virginiana*	L	Y
Sweet Woodruff	*Galium odoratum*	M	N
Creeping Oregon Grape, Creeping Mahonia	*Mahonia repens*	L-M	Y
Sedum	*Sedum spp.*	L	N
Ornamental Grasses			
Indian Rice Grass	*Achnatherum hymenoides*	L	Y
Big Bluestem	*Andropogon gerardii*	L	Y
Tufted Hairgrass	*Deschampsia cespitosa*	M	Y
Siskiyou Blue Idaho Fescue	*Festuca idahoensis 'Siskiyou Blue'*	M	Y
Perennials			
Nodding onion	*Allium cernuum*	L-M	Y
Pearly everlasting	*Anaphalis margaritacea*	L-M	Y
Windflower	*Anemone multifida*	L-M	Y
Pussytoes	*Antennaria parvifolia and A. rosea*	L-M	Y
Blue columbine, Colorado Columbine	*Aquilegia caerulea*	M	Y
Golden columbine	*Aquilegia chrysantha*	L-M	Y
Fringed sage	*Artemisia frigida*	L	Y
Prairie sage, Silver sage	*Artemisia ludoviciana*	L	Y
Harebells	*Campanula rotundifolia*	L-M	Y
Aspen daisy, Showy daisy	*Erigeron speciosus*	L-M	Y
Sulphur flower	*Eriogonum umbellatum*	L	Y
Blanket flower	*Gaillardia aristata*	L	Y
Sticky geranium	*Geranium viscosissimum*	L-M	Y
Prairie smoke	*Geum triflorum*	L-M	Y

Common Name	Scientific Name	Hydrozone	Colorado Native
Perennials (continued)			
Showy goldeneye	*Heliomeris multiflora*	L	Y
Scarlet gilia, Fairy trumpets	*Ipomopsis aggregata*	L	Y
Blue flax	*Linum lewisii*	L-M	Y
Silver lupine	*Lupinus argenteus*	L	Y
Bee balm, Wild bergamot	*Mondarda fistulosa*	L-M	Y
White-tufted evening primrose	*Oenothera caespitosa*	L	Y
Pasque flower	*Pulsatilla patens*	L-M	Y
Scarlet bugler penstemon	*Penstemon barbatus*	L	Y
Mat penstemon	*Penstemon caespitosus*	L	Y
Smooth penstemon	*Penstemon glaber*	L	Y
Grand Mesa penstemon	*Penstemon mensarum*	L	Y
Orchid/Sidebells penstemon	*Penstemon secundiflorus*	L-M	Y
Rocky Mountain Penstemon	*Penstemon strictus*	L-M	Y
Bluemist penstemon	*Penstemon virens*	L-M	Y
Wand bloom penstemon	*Penstemon virgatus*	L-M	Y
Whipple's penstemon	*Penstemon whippleanus*	L-M	Y
Jacob's ladder	*Polemonium caeruleum*	M	Y
Black-eyed Susan	*Rudbeckia hirta*	M	Y
Prince's plume	*Stanleya pinnata*	L	Y
Golden banner	*Thermopsis divaricarpa*	L-M	Y

2.4 New Plantings:

- All new trees shall be staked or guyed with two (2) or three (3) points of connection for two to three years or until roots are firmly established.
- Native grasses and wildflower areas are not maintenance free. Provide occasional watering, erosion control, and other maintenance as needed to retain an attractive appearance.
- Mow all native grass and wildflower areas each fall (after natural seeding has occurred) to a height of six to eight inches (6" to 8").

FIGURE 6–10. Native grasses in hideaway park planters is maintained throughout each season.

Turf:

- Lawn areas shall be of a size and configuration which allows for the most efficient use of maintenance equipment and reduces the need for edges.
- Avoid the use of nonfunctional turf. Nonfunctional turf is defined as grass that is predominantly ornamental and located in areas that is not regularly used for civic, community, or recreational purposes such as parks, sports fields, and playgrounds.
- Temporary seeding shall be used for disturbed areas with a period of exposure of one year or longer prior to stabilization. Temporary seeding may be applied hydraulically, drilled, or broadcast.

Town Standard Native Seed Mix:

- This seed mix contains a variety of different species that are commonly found in most ecozones throughout the Town (refer to 3.0 Natural Areas in this chapter for descriptions of ecozones found in the Town). The grass species are both sod-forming, and bunchgrasses which helps create initial groundcover. The forbs are drought tolerant and can withstand long periods without moisture, while also providing pollinator habitat, and aesthetic color pallets. The shrub species, while a minor component, provide a mosaic and structural diversity within the seed mix. This mix can be used at most elevations, and in most upland settings. Refer to the recommended developed area native seed mix to the right, which describes plant species, percentages in the mix, and Pure Live Seed (PLS) in pounds per acre.

Recommended Developed Area Native Seed Mix			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**% in Mix**	**PLS lbs /acre**
Fringed Brome	*Bromus ciliatus*	15	2.7
Slender wheatgrass	*Elymus trachycaulus*	15	2.7
Big bluegrass	*Poa ampla*	10	1.8
Creeping fescue	*Festuca rubra*	15	2.7
Golden banner	*Thermopsis montana*	5	0.9
Indian paintbrush	*Castilleja coccinea*	10	1.8
Sulferflower buckwheat	*Erigonum umbellatum*	5	0.9
Western yarrow	*Acchilea millefolium*	5	0.9
Silvery lupine	*Lupinus argentus*	5	0.9
Scarlet gilia	*Imopsis aggregata*	5	0.9
Wild rose	*Rosa spp.*	5	0.9
Ninebark	*Physocarpus opulifolius*	5	0.9
Seeding Rate (Pure Live Seed lbs per Acre)			**18**

2.5 Planting Warranties:

- All new tree, shrubs, groundcovers, and native grasses which do not survive within the first year of installation shall be replaced by the contractor.

2.6 Mulch:

- Two to three inches (2"-3") depth of mulch shall be used for all tree, shrub, and perennial bed plantings.
- For all trees installed in turf areas, provide wood chip mulch with a minimum of forty-eight inches (48") diameter around the tree.
- Mulch shall be native wood chips or cleaned, variable sized native rock. Avoid materials such as lava rock which differ from locally sourced products.

FIGURE 6–11. Hideaway Park uses wood chips for mulching planting areas.

3.0 Natural Areas

Natural areas are a vital component to the character and experience of residents and visitors in the Fraser Valley. The following recommendations provide general guidance for protecting natural areas and preserving the alpine identity of Winter Park. The five prominent ecosystem types found in this area — Wetlands, Riparian, Uplands, Meadows, and Forests — are described in further detail.

Sections include recommended seed mixes and recommended plant lists developed specifically for the ecosystems found at and around the Town. Seed mix lists were created to consider commercial availability throughout the region.

For additional information on natural areas, refer to the following resources: ***USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, and Colorado State University Extension.***

3.1 General Design Considerations

Within the Town Center/Developed Area:

- To the extent possible, there shall be a no net-loss of riparian or wetland habitat within the downtown corridor area. In circumstances where loss of riparian or wetland habitat is unavoidable, all mitigation requirements shall conform to the *United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) guidelines* for wetland protection and restoration.

Outside the Town Center/Developed Area:

- Upland losses and non-riparian/wetland habitat losses are to be expected. Defensible space around structures should be prioritized and delineated, as should fire-wise building materials.

FIGURE 6–12. Natural areas are integrated with developed areas like parks and trails within the Town.

FIGURE 6–13. Rich ecozones make up the surrounding landscape outside of town.

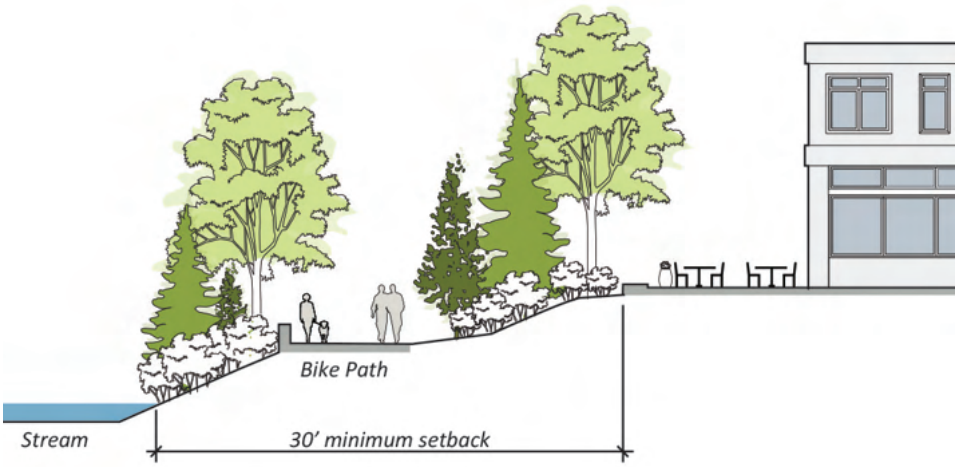


FIGURE 6–14. Transitions from natural settings to developed areas should provide gradual transitions using native vegetation. Image courtesy of the Town of Winter Park UDC, 2021.

Lodgepole Pine Forest

Brief Description

- Most common type of vegetation community in the town/ surrounding area.
- Occurs between 8,000-10,500 feet.
- Intolerant to shade and thrives in the aftermath of fire.
- Provides important cover for mule deer, elk, black bear, and a variety of birds and small mammals.

Mixed Montane Aspen Forest

Brief Description

- Characterized by a diverse mix of aspen and various conifers including spruce, fir and pine (as well as shrubs).
- Occurs between 5,000-10,000 feet.
- Aspens have open canopies which allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, leading to a more lush understory.
- Provides vibrant fall color within a conifer forest.

Wet Meadows

Brief Description

- Along the Fraser River and adjacent tributaries.
- Becoming increasingly rare in the western slope as development alters hydrology and impacts these sites.
- High species diversity and high wildlife utilization associated where found, includes waterfowl, ungulates, and migratory birds and small mammals.
- High water table fed by spring runoff.

Riparian Areas

Brief Description

- Riparian forests may be found within the flood zone of rivers and immediately adjacent to streambanks.
- Along the Fraser River corridor and adjacent to the smaller drainages and tributaries.
- Species that occupy montane habitats rely on riparian forests at some point in their life cycle (beavers, river otters, amphibians).
- Elk, mule deer, and moose favor this habitat.

Montane Grasslands

Brief Description

- Found sparsely within the Town boundary, ecotype exhibits no trees or shrubs.
- Often found on flatter and drier sites, these patch-grasslands are commonly intermixed in lodgepole pine and aspen forests.
- Provides some foraging opportunities for wildlife (ungulates and small mammals).
- Habitat to small burrowing animals.

Erosion/Bank Stabilization:

- Avoid activities that may cause banks or steep slopes to erode. If erosion is occurring, measures to stabilize the soils shall be taken immediately.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stabilization include placing/staking wattles or log structures perpendicular to the slope to prevent further erosion, reseeding and replanting proper anchoring vegetation, and applying a tackifier to hold materials in place.

3.2 Uplands

Uplands are land areas lying above the elevation where flooding generally occurs; areas found beyond riparian zones. These areas include shrublands, grasslands, forests, or alpine tundra. Uplands provide a variety of habitat types for wildlife including migration corridors and trail corridors for recreation.

- Uplands often do not contain as high of species diversity as more mesic settings, but are still very valuable ecosystems. Consider noxious vegetation management, forest and other wildlife thinning, fuels reduction treatments, and installing bird boxes to increase specific bird habitat.

3.3 Wetland Areas

Wetlands are unique ecosystems characterized by annual or seasonal inundation, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. These systems provide habitat for a variety of unique animals and plants that only exist in these areas. There are several types of wetlands, including emergent wetlands, shrub scrub, riverine, and freshwater.

- Avoiding wetland impacts is critical, as they are often federally protected, and serve a very important function in filtering sediments, improving water quality, and providing critical habitat for a variety of wildlife and plants. Wetlands often provide habitat for many special status species plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species.
- Consider wetland preservation, enhancement, and creation where sites allow to promote ecological diversity, provide habitat, and encourage environmental education and stewardship.

Existing Native Vegetation Protection:

- Silt fencing and construction fencing shall be erected to prevent disturbance of existing native vegetation around a project site or development. Tree root zones should be identified and avoided to reduce compaction and tree mortality.

FIGURE 6–15. Uplands consist of harsh climate condition areas which limit vegetation growth.

FIGURE 6–16. Wetlands are critically important ecosystems for both plants and animals.

3.4 Riparian Areas

Riparian areas are often found along the banks of streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes. These areas are very important for wildlife as they provide access to water, cover from predators, reproduction and calving habitat for ungulates, and contain sensitive plant communities. These areas often contain dense shrubs, trees, and herbaceous cover. They provide an important buffer for streams and aid in filtering storm water inputs.

- To the extent possible, avoid riparian areas for future development and prioritize them as areas for preservation. Riparian areas disproportionately affected by development in the past, and their preservation and protection, is critical for stream health and wildlife habitat.
- Consider reconnecting the floodplain in degraded areas to restore riparian areas where impaired.

FIGURE 6–17. Riparian areas at Winter Park include streams, creeks, rivers and lakes.

Riparian Area Native Seed Mix:

- The understory species found in this seed mix can be used for bank stabilization and erosion control. Containerized plants will be needed to restore riparian shrubs and trees such as willow, alder, cottonwood, and birch.

Recommended Riparian Area Native Seed Mix			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**% in Mix**	**PLS lbs /acre**
Wax currant	*Ribes cereum*	10	2.2
Wild licorice	*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*	5	1.1
False Salomons Seal	*Maianthemum racemosum*	10	2.2
Slender wheatgrass	*Elymus trachycaulus*	25	5.25
Perennial ryegrass	*Lolium perenne*	25	5.25
Mountain Brome	*Bromus marginatus*	25	5.25
Seeding Rate (Pure Live Seed lbs per Acre)			**21.25**

Recommended Riparian Area Plant List			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Hydrozone**	**Colorado Native**
Evergreen Trees			
Colorado Blue Spruce	*Picea pungens*	M-H	Y
Deciduous Trees			
Thinleaf Alder	*Alnus tenuifolia*	H	Y
Western Water Birch, Rocky Mountain Birch	*Betula occidentalis, Betula Fontinalis*	H	Y
Deciduous Shrubs			
Wax Currant	*Ribes cereum*	L	Y
Bebb's Willow	*Salix bebbiana*	H	Y
Geyer Willow	*Salix geyeriana*	H	Y
Rocky Mountain Willow	*Salix monticola*	H	Y
Perennials			
Wild Licorice	*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*	M-H	Y
False Solomon's Seal	*Maianthemum racemosum*	M-H	Y

3.5 Meadows

Meadows are often formed through a natural process of succession, where grasses and wildflowers gradually replace forests or other vegetation in open areas due to factors like grazing, fire, or changes in soil conditions. Meadow types found in Grand County include wet meadows and montane grasslands. High elevation wet meadows are a unique and ecologically rich vegetative community. These areas experience inundation seasonally or year-round, and have plant species present within them that are specially adapted to inhabit these wetlands.

- Implement sustainable land management practices such as rotational grazing, controlled burns, and limiting development in surrounding areas to ensure the preservation of diverse plant species. Provide habitats for wildlife crucial for pollination and ecosystem health.

Wet Meadow Native Seed Mix:

- The wet meadow seed mix contains species that are well adapted to seasonal saturation and wetland plant species. The grass species are tolerant of inundation and dry periods alike and the graminoids will likely gravitate toward wetter areas. These ecozones often exhibit less shrub cover early on, reflected in this seed mix, until shrubs eventually move on their own or when planted.

FIGURE 6–18. Meadows include open, grassy areas without prominent tree canopy.

Recommended Wet Meadow Native Seed Mix			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**% in Mix**	**PLS lbs /acre**
Tufted hairgrass	*Deschampsia cespitosa*	15	2.85
Fringed brome	*Bromus ciliatus*	15	2.85
Ticklegrass	*Agrostis scabra*	10	1.9
Fowl bluegrass	*Poa palustris*	10	1.9
Sloughgrass	*Beckmannia syzigachne*	5	0.95
Water sedge	*Carex aquatilis*	15	2.85
Beaked sedge	*Carex utriculata*	15	2.85
Bluejoint reedgrass	*Calamagrostis canadensis*	10	1.9
Tracy's rush	*Juncus tracyi*	5	0.95
Seeding Rate (Pure Live Seed lbs per Acre)			**19**

Recommended Wet Meadow Plant List			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Hydrozone**	**Colorado Native**
Deciduous Shrubs			
Bebb's Willow	*Salix bebbiana*	H	Y
Geyer Willow	*Salix geyeriana*	H	Y
Rocky Mountain Willow	*Salix monticola*	H	Y
Native Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes			
Water Sedge	*Carex aquatilis*	H	Y
Beaked Sedge	*Carex utriculata*	H	Y
Tufted Hairgrass	*Deschampsia cespitosa*	M-H	Y
Baltic Rush	*Juncus balticus*	H	Y
Perennials			
White Marsh Marigold	*Caltha leptosepala*	H	Y
Purple Avens	*Geum rivale*	H	Y

Montane Grassland Native Seed Mix:

- The species present in this seed mix represent the short-grass grasslands that are found within the Town and other surrounding areas. These grasslands are often found in exposed areas where climatic conditions are too harsh for forbs, shrubs, or trees to establish, or where soils only favor grass species to thrive.

Recommended Montane Grassland Native Seed Mix			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**% in Mix**	**PLS lbs /acre**
Alpine bluegrass	*Poa alpina*	30	6
Rocky Mountain Fescue	*Festuca saximontana*	30	6
Prarie Junegrass	*Koeleria macrantha*	25	5
Marmotgrass	*Trisetum spicatum*	15	3
Seeding Rate (Pure Live Seed lbs per Acre)			**20**

Recommended Montane Grasslands Plant List			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Hydrozone**	**Colorado Native**
Native Grasses			
Blue Grama	*Bouteloua gracilis*	L	Y
Arizona Fescue	*Festuca arizonica*	L	Y
Thurber's Fescue	*Festuca thurberi*	L	Y
Mountain Muhly	*Muhlenbergia montana*	L	Y
Sandberg Bluegrass	*Poa secunda*	L	Y
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	*Pseudoroegneria spicata*	L	Y

3.6 Forest

Forests typically form through a process called ecological succession, where bare land is gradually colonized by pioneer plant species like grasses and shrubs, eventually leading to the establishment of trees over time. Forests are characterized by their closed canopies.

- Forests in the Town are often dense and have high fuel loads. Thin out dead and dying trees, reduce fuel loads, and create fire breaks to encourage healthier, more resilient forests.

Forest types found in and surrounding the Town include mixed montane aspen forest, lodgepole pine forest, and sub-alpine forest. The following bullets provide information on the different types of seed mixes and recommended plant lists for each forest system.

FIGURE 6–19. The forest ecosystems surrounding the Town include mixed montane, lodgepole pine, and sub-alpine forests.

Mixed Montane Aspen Native Seed Mix:

- This seed mix contains a multitude of different plant species including grasses, forbs, and shrubs. All three plant stratums are typically found in this vegetative community, with high species richness as more sunlight penetrates through the canopy of the aspen forests.

FIGURE 6–20. Mixed montane forests encompass a larger diversity of species, leading to a higher variety in the seed mix.

Recommended Mixed Montane Aspen Forest Native Seed Mix			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**% in Mix**	**PLS lbs /acre**
Slender wheatgrass	*Elymus trachycaulus*	15	3.75
Mountain brome	*Bromus marginatus*	15	3.75
Thurber's fescue	*Festuca thurberii*	15	3.75
Big bluegrass	*Poa secunda*	15	3.75
Smooth blue aster	*Symphyotrichum laeve*	5	1.25
Aspen daisy	*Erigeron speciosus*	5	1.25
Rocky Mountain penstemon	*Penstemon strictus*	5	1.25
Blue columbine	*Aquilegia coerulea*	5	1.25
Western larkspur	*Delphinium occidentale*	5	1.25
Showy goldeneye	*Heliomeris multiflora*	5	1.25
Goldenrod	*Solidago missouriensis*	5	1.25
Western coneflower	*Rudbeckia occidentalis*	5	1.25
Seeding Rate (Pure Live Seed lbs per Acre)			**25**

Recommended Mixed Montane Aspen Forest Plant List			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Hydrozone**	**Colorado Native**
Deciduous Trees			
Quaking Aspen	*Populus tremuloides*	M-H	Y
Deciduous Shrubs			
Mountain Ninebark	*Physocarpus monogynus*	M	Y
Potentilla (Bush Cinquefoil)	*Potentilla fruticosa*	M	Y
White Snowberry	*Symphoricarpos albus*	L	Y
Native Grasses			
Thurber Fescue	*Festuca thurberi*	L	Y
Prairie Junegrass	*Koeleria macrantha*	L	Y
Perennials			
Indian Paintbrush	*Castilleja coccinea*	L-M	Y
Virginia Strawberry	*Fragaria virginiana*	L-M	Y
Silvery Lupine	*Lupinus argentus*	L-M	Y
Meadow Rue	*Thalictrum rochebrunianum*	L	N

Lodgepole Pine Forest Native Seed Mix:

- The understory vegetation in these forests is sparser due to the general lack of sunlight that hits the forest floor. As a result, low seeding rates with a mix of typical grass and forb species are used in these environments.

FIGURE 6–21. Lodgepole pine forests use low seeding rates with a mix of grass and forb species.

Recommended Lodgepole Pine Forest - Native Seed Mix			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**% in Mix**	**PLS lbs /acre**
Kinnikinik	*Arctostaphylus uva-ursi*	5	0.75
Golden banner	*Thermopsis montana*	10	1.5
Western yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	10	1.5
Heartleaf arnica	*Arnica cardifolia*	10	1.5
Oregon grape	*Mahonia repens*	5	0.75
Columbia needle-grass	*Acnatherum nelsonii*	20	3
Western wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*	20	3
Needle and thread grass	*Hesperostipa comata*	20	3
Seeding Rate (Pure Live Seed lbs per Acre)			**15**

Recommended Lodgepole Pine Forest Plant List			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Hydrozone**	**Colorado Native**
Evergreen Trees			
Lodgepole Pine	*Pinus contorta latifolia*	M	Y
Narrowleaf Evergreen Shrubs			
Common Juniper	*Juniperus communis*	L-M	Y
Broadleaf Evergreen Shrubs			
Kinnikinnick	*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*	L-M	Y
Creeping Oregon Grape, Creeping Mahonia	*Mahonia repens*	L-M	Y
Deciduous Shrubs			
Huckleberry	*Vaccinium scoparium*	L-M	Y
Native Grasses			
Columbia needlegrass	*Achnatherum nelsonii*	L	Y
Perennials			
Heartleaf Arnica	*Arnica cardifolia*	L-M	Y
Golden banner	*Thermopsis divaricarpa*	L-M	Y

Sub-alpine Forest Native Seed Mix:

- This seed mix contains some of the typical grass and forb species found in the higher elevation forests around the Town. These species are specifically adapted to grow at extreme altitudes, with very short growing seasons and drastic changes in precipitation, sunlight, and temperatures.

FIGURE 6–22. Sub-alpine forests seed mixes are limited by harsh climatic conditions.

Recommended Sub-alpine Forest Native Seed Mix			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**% in Mix**	**PLS lbs /acre**
Fringed brome	*Bromus ciliatus*	25	5.5
Rocky Mountain Fescue	*Festuca saximontana*	25	5.5
Spike trisetum	*Trisetum spicatum*	20	5
Pasque flower	*Pulsatilla patens*	10	2.5
Scarlet gilia	*Ipomopsis aggregata*	10	2.5
Aspen sunflower	*Helianthella quinquenervis*	5	1.25
Purple fringe	*Phacelia sericea*	5	1.25
Seeding Rate (Pure Live Seed lbs per Acre)			**23.5**

Recommended Sub-alpine Forest Plant List			
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Hydrozone**	**Colorado Native**
Evergreen Trees			
Subalpine Fir	*Abies lasiocarpa*	M-H	Y
Engelmann Spruce	*Picea engelmannii*	M-H	Y
Native Grasses			
Alpine Bluegrass	*Poa alpina*	M	Y
Perennials			
Alpine Avens	*Geum rossii*	M	Y
Alpine Spring Beauty	*Calytonia megarhiza*	M	Y
Moss Campion	*Silene acaulis*	M	Y
Old Man of the Mountain	*Tetraneuris grandiflora*	M	Y

3.7 General Seeding Guidelines & Methods

Reseeding:

Reseeding of disturbed areas shall commence immediately after an area will no longer be disturbed, or in bare areas outside of disturbance. Noxious vegetation will invade an area immediately after disturbance has stopped. BMP's include the following:

- Clear the site of all woody debris, noxious weeds, rocks, etc.
- Scarify soil with a rake or machinery to create a variable soil surface which increases seed to soil contact.
- Broadcast or drill seed mix in a uniform manner across the site at the appropriate rate.
- Apply seed in spring as soil temperatures allow. Dormant seeding in the fall is also acceptable.
- Weed-free mulch and a tackifier shall be applied to increase moisture and reduce herbivory.

Drill Seeding:

Drilling seed into the soil profile with a no-till drill is an optimal method where the ground is flat, and the soil isn't rocky. This method plants seed at the appropriate depth and rate, and is very efficient when correctly calibrated. This method requires some site preparation and a tractor to pull the drill. Any sort of seed mix can be applied via this method, however installation shall ensure the grass seed versus other seed (forbs, shrubs) goes in to the correct seed boxes.

- Consider generally flat, non-forested, non-rocky soil sites for this application. Drill seeding has the added benefit of decreased materials cost versus hand broadcast or hydroseeding. Mulch, tackifier, and fertilizer are not typically applied when seeding is performed as seed to soil contact and the seeds' planted depth reduce movement off site by wind, water, or herbivory.

Hand Broadcast Seeding:

Broadcasting seed by hand is a common method to achieve revegetation on site. This method includes tossing down seed by hand, or using a hand broadcaster. This installation typically creates less uniform seed application as it is less precise, but can still result in successful reseeding if carried out in a technical, monitored approach.

- Once the seed mix bags are ready to be distributed, it is important to weigh the bag and delineate each acre or unit of ground to be covered to apply the appropriate amount of seed.
- Once the seed is broadcasted, it should be followed by application of fertilizer, mulch, and tackifier to increase the germination success, reduce herbivory and erosion, and keep moisture in the soil profile.
- Consider this method where machine access is limited, on uneven or extreme terrain, or in small areas where mobilization of equipment is not feasible.

Hydroseeding:

Hydroseeding is the method of reseeding through specific machinery where a "slurry" of materials is mixed within a holding tank, and then applied with water within the mixture. This method can be very efficient and effective if carried out correctly. Typically, hydroseeding materials such as seed, fertilizer, and tackifier can be mixed together when water is added, creating a mixture that can be evenly spread across an area. This results in uniform application of large areas as long as equipment can access the site.

- Consider this method when reseeding large area, where steep slopes and erosion exist, or where ground crews cannot facilitate hand broadcasting.
- Consider the use/addition of specific products such as steep slope tackifiers to increase the efficacy on steep slopes.

4.0 Irrigation

Irrigation standards for the Town need to consider the harsh environmental factors of a high elevation ecosystem. The following provides general guidance for irrigation design which shall conform with the Town's irrigation standards.

4.1 General Design Considerations

- Xeriscaping is encouraged in lieu of traditional landscaping to promote water conservation and environmental stewardship.
- Drip systems are preferred for their efficiency in watering trees and shrubs.
- Irrigation systems shall be designed to avoid sprinkling and unnecessary runoff onto paved areas. Prevailing winds shall be considered with design of irrigation systems.
- Irrigation in constrained areas (i.e. street right-of-ways, parkways, and medians) shall be drip irrigation.
- No automated irrigation system shall be installed without the approval and a permit by Town staff.
- Irrigation zones should take into consideration hydrozones which help define the amount of water that should be applied to an area. Hydrozones assist with design considerations such as infiltration rate of soil, soil type, slope, sun exposure and water needs.

For full irrigation specifications, guidelines, and requirements, refer to the latest version of the *Winter Park Irrigation Standards*. Refer to sections *2.0 Landscape and 3.0 Natural Areas* of this chapter for additional planting recommendations

Hydrozones		
Hydrozone	**Description**	**Example Vegetation**
Low (L)	Viable without supplemental irrigation post establishment	Prairie plants
Moderate (M)	May require supplemental irrigation during dry conditions	Turf
High (H)	To be planted in sodded turf and areas with naturally wet soils	Sports fields, wetlands

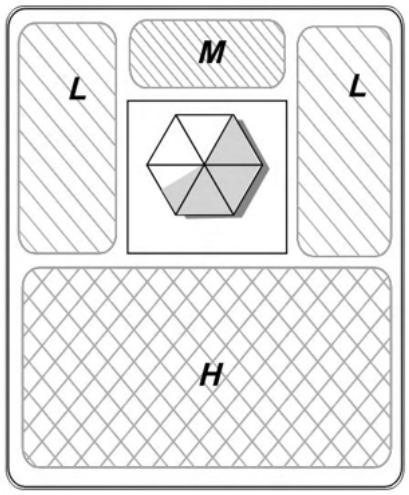


FIGURE 6–23. An example of a hydrozone map. Image courtesy of Denver Parks and Recreation, 2024.

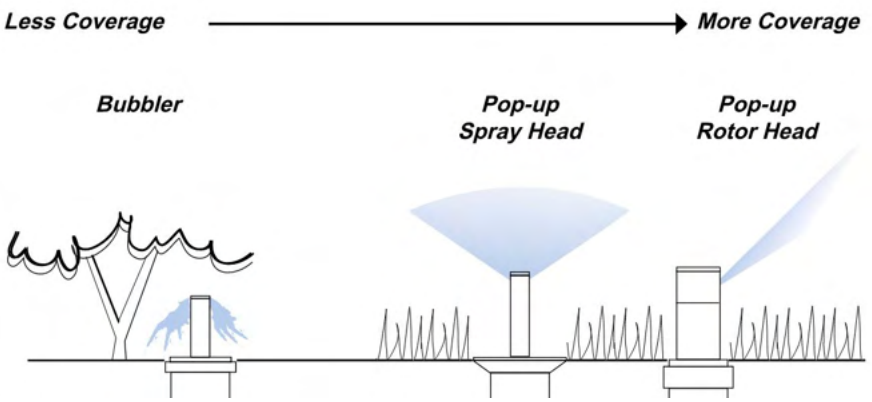


FIGURE 6–24. Irrigation type examples. Image courtesy of Denver Parks and Recreation, 2024.

5.0 Structures

This section provides recommendations for site structures found in outdoor recreation areas. Structures include buildings, shade shelters, bridges, retaining walls, and other constructed features which support outdoor areas. Refer to the Town UDC for all building code and regulation conformances.

For full building and structure requirements and standards, refer to the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7, Chapter 3. Development Standards (2022)* and *Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines (Appendix) (2021)*

5.1 General Design Considerations

- All structures used by visitors in outdoor recreation areas (i.e. buildings, shelters, or gathering areas) shall be ADA compliant.
- Siting of structures shall comply with all state and local requirements regarding setback of on-site wastewater systems from open water, drinking water, and handpump water wells. For all buildings, ensure structure location is outside of the 100-year floodplain and wetland areas.
- Structure siting and orientation shall consider environmental factors including prevailing winds, solar exposure, and snow/freeze areas to increase user experience and reduce potential safety hazards.
- In natural areas, structures shall be located to blend with the existing environment and not compete with the landscape.
- Structures shall incorporate sustainable characteristics in site development, water savings, energy efficiency, and materials selection, as feasible.
- Structures with architectural elements shall consider quality, form, and material consistent with those of the character of Winter Park. ***Refer to the Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines for additional recommendations on architectural elements.***

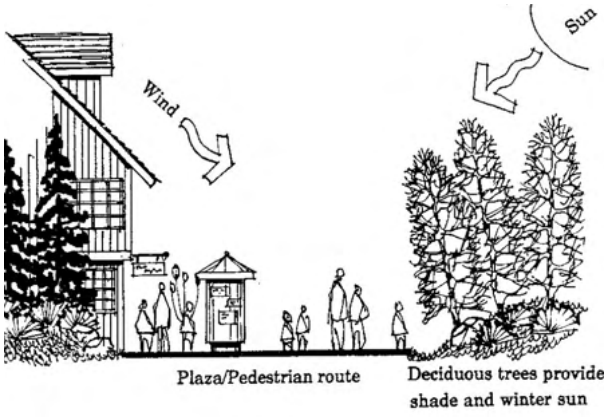


FIGURE 6–25. The illustration above shows advantages of properly sited buildings and structures. Image courtesy of the *1997 Winter Park Landscape Design Regulations and Guidelines*.

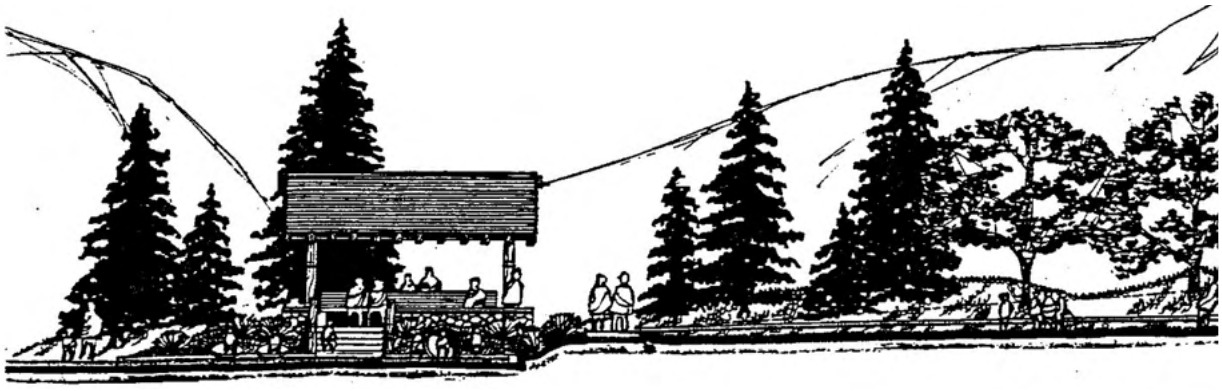


FIGURE 6–26. Structures in natural areas shall not compete with the landscape. Image courtesy of the *1997 Winter Park Landscape Design Regulations and Guidelines*.

5.2 Buildings

Site buildings typically refer to restroom facilities found at parks, trailheads, and campgrounds. Some parks within the Town may provide maintenance facilities which are integrated with restrooms or separate buildings. Flush toilet facilities shall be considered at parks within the Town. At trailheads and open space, consider vault toilets which minimize footprint within natural areas. The following standards promote visual continuity across all outdoor recreation areas.

- Provide accessible parking adjacent or in close proximity to all buildings associated with outdoor recreation areas. Provide an accessible pathway leading from accessible parking to the building.
- Building materials shall convey a high design quality and visual interest. Incorporate stone, wood, stucco, and masonry whereever possible. Materials shall be durable to weather natural elements and reflect what is readily available in the region. Refer to the acceptable building materials on the following page.
- Roof pitch shall be designed to shed snow in appropriate areas. Incorporate snow guards and protected entries to allow for safe access to and from the building.
- Acceptable roofing materials for all buildings include stone and slate shingles, standing seam metal, asphalt shingles, terne standing seam metal, metal shingles (non-reflective) and concrete shingles.
- Exterior utilities associated with new buildings shall be screened by vegetation or fencing to reduce visual impacts.
- Interior facilities for public buildings shall be industrial-grade quality furnishings (i.e. toilets, sinks) for sustained use and longevity and reduced maintenance. All furnishings shall be approved by Town staff.
- Consider incorporating automated public toilets near trailheads and recreation areas, where feasible. Mountain towns including Fruita and Palisade have worked with a company called UrbenBlu to successfully implement these and have seen a decrease in maintenance on staff. These "smart toilets" are self-cleaning, auto-lock outside of events, and synced with WiFi so they can alert appropriate staff if they need additional maintenance.

FIGURE 6–27. The public restroom at Hideaway Park provides a rustic appearance with the use of stone and wood materials.

FIGURE 6–28. In the Town of Fruita, this modern, self-cleaning public toilet by UrbenBlu, a Candadian-based company, has proven to be an excellent solution for parks and trailheads.

FIGURE 6–29. The facade materials of the Rendezvous Event Center is consistent with those of the restroom across the park.

Permitted Building Materials

The following materials are acceptable for use of exterior building finish per the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 (2022)* and the *Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines (2021)*:

- Brick (D-C zone district)
- Metals
- Wooden Materials
- Glass
- Natural Stone (i.e. river rock, fieldstone)
- Cement board siding
- Detailed/ synthetic stucco (Portland cement plaster) w/ (3) coats of metal or wire fabric lath
- Board-formed concrete
- Detailed concrete
- Concrete masonry unit (CMU) w/ architectural finish

Wood and Similar Synthetics

Vertical / horizontal board and batten

Shake shingles

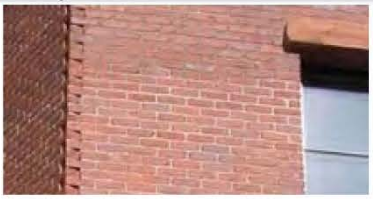
Horizontal lap

Metals

Corten

Non-reflective metal

Masonry Units



Brick, genuine (D-C District only)

River rock and other native rock

Stone

Concrete Units

Cement board siding

Detailed concrete

Board-formed concrete

Stucco and Masonry Units

Detailed stucco

Synthetic stucco

Concrete masonry unit (CMU)

Vault Toilets:

- Place vault toilets at least 100 feet away from water supply and five feet above the water table. Ensure vehicular access within 100 feet in distance for maintenance.
- Locate wall vent on the side of the building facing prevailing wind.
- Create a critical air movement zone of 20-feet in all directions from dense vegetation/ forest to reduce odor smells.
- Trees within the critical air movement zone to remain shall be selectively pruned 2-3-feet above the vent stack to assure uninterrupted flow of air.
- Consider prefabricated vault toilet buildings which use concrete or masonry for ease of installation and maintenance.

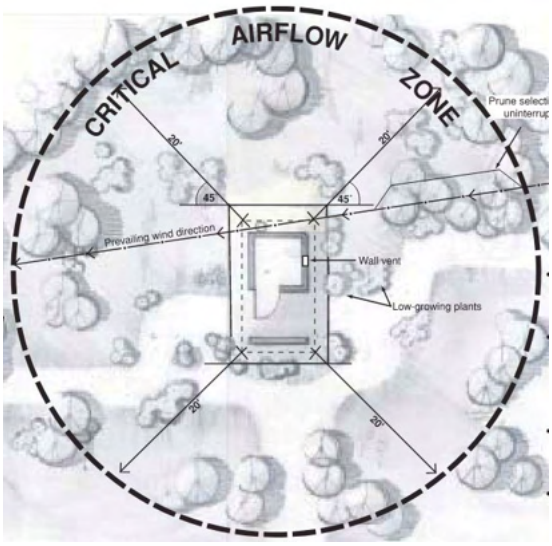


FIGURE 6–30. The critical airflow zone around a vault toilet is vital to reducing odor smells and increasing visitor use. Image courtesy of *2021 National Park Service Campground Design Guidelines.*

FIGURE 6–31. The vault toilet at St. Louis Creek Campground in the Fraser Valley uses natural materials to match the surrounding aesthetic.

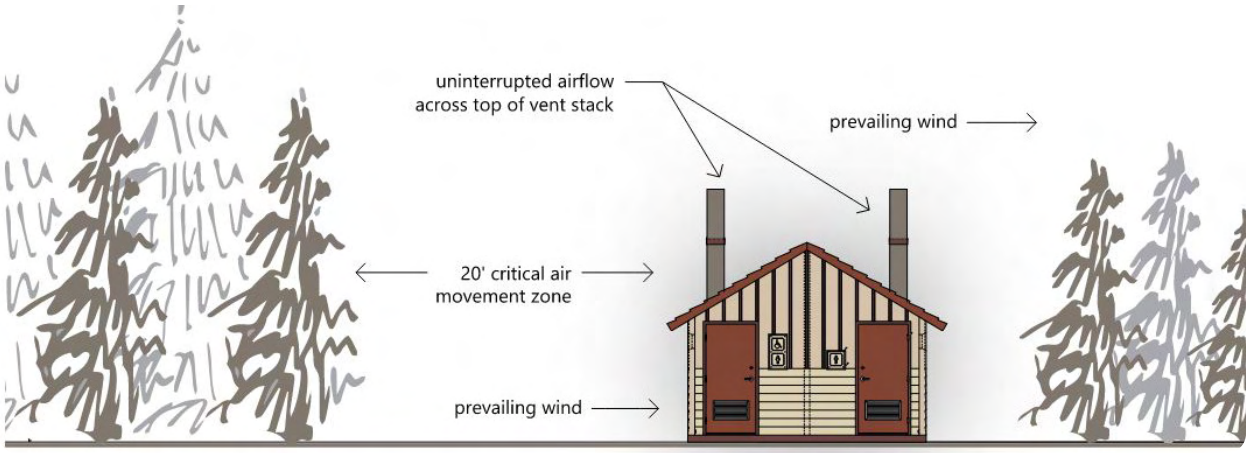


FIGURE 6–32. Vault toilet site placement shall consider prevailing winds, solar orientation and vehicular access. Image courtesy of *2021 National Park Service Campground Design Guidelines.*

5.3 Shade Shelters

Shade structures provide spaces for gathering and protection from the elements. The recommendations below promote shelter design which are compatible with adjacent structures and encourage year round use.

- Accessibility requirements for new shelters: If more than one shade shelter exists on site, a minimum of (1) shelter shall be accessible and provide an accessible pathway.
- Shelter mass and scale should reflect the feeling and character of each site. In urban areas, sizing may be larger to accommodate larger user groups. In natural/remote areas, consider smaller structures which do not compete with the landscape.

FIGURE 6–33. The shelters at Hideaway Park are consistent in material and scale with the adjacent public restroom.

Permanent Shade:

- Shelter design shall consider deep eaves, overhangs, and canopies to provide protection from harsh weather, reduce snow buildup at foundations, and provide shade in the summer months.
- Roof pitch shall be designed to shed snow in appropriate areas. Incorporate snow guards and protected entries to allow for safe access to and from the building.
- Flat roof shelters shall be avoided in favor of sloped roofs for snow shedding.
- Building materials shall convey a high design quality and visual interest. Materials shall reflect aesthetic themes found within the Town.
  - Rustic/natural aesthetic shall rely on stone, wood, and masonry wherever possible. When using stone masonry, use full depth stone rather than thin veneers. Materials shall be durable to weather natural elements and reflect what is readily available in the region.
  - Modern aesthetic includes metal fabrication using oxidized metal, weathering metal (e.g. corten) and/or non-reflective metals.

FIGURE 6–34. The shade shelter reflects the rustic aesthetic found in the area using a combination of wood and stone.

FIGURE 6–35. A modern shade structure provides a contemporary alternative to the rustic aesthetic and allows for snow shed. Image courtesy of Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation, 2024.

Temporary Shade:

- Temporary shade may be considered during summer months without the risk of snow hazard. Structures may use removable/retractable fabric materials which can provide flexibility and accommodate high wind speeds.

5.4 Bridges and Boardwalks

Bridges and boardwalks extend pedestrian access between parks, trails, open spaces, and campgrounds. In some instances these structures increase access to natural areas for both residents and visitors to Winter Park.

- Bridge and boardwalk structures shall be constructed to maintain accessible compliance. Gaps and spaces between wood panels or other materials shall be no larger than 1/2".
- Bridges and boardwalks shall be slip-resistant wood decking material compatible with park aesthetics. Consider natural wood options that are non-stained, rough-cut lumber. Avoid composite decking that tends to develop a slippery surface.
- Structures with adjacent grade change of more than 30" in height shall include a guardrail of 42" height for safety.
  - At fishing piers, the maximum height of the guardrail at a dedicated fishing spot shall be 34". This rail shall extend for a minimum of 30" in length.
- Bridge structures anticipated to be maintained/used during winter months shall be a minimum of eight feet (8') wide to accommodate plowing equipment. Edge materials on structures shall be at a visible height to reduce damage during plowing.
  - Provide moveable bollards at structures wide enough for vehicles to restrict access to maintenance vehicles only.

FIGURE 6–36. A retractable fabric shade structure encourages seasonal use and provides flexibility. Image courtesy of Canvas Works, 2023.

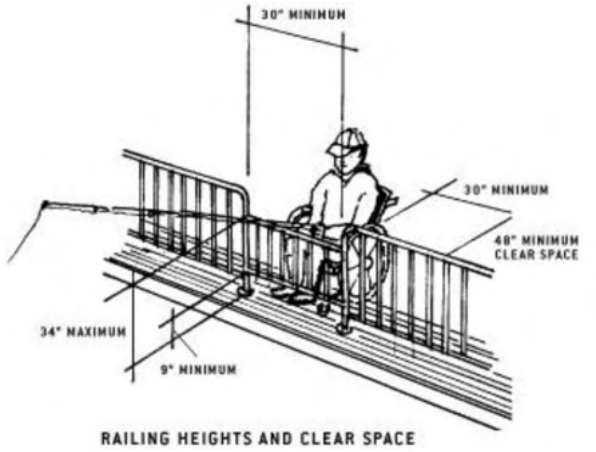


FIGURE 6–37. The railing heights and clear spaces for accessible fishing pier use are shown above. Image courtesy of the U.S. Access Board, 2024.

FIGURE 6–38. The bridge at Confluence Park provides access to the fishing pier on Vasquez Creek.

5.5 Retaining Walls

Retaining walls are a necessary component of many design projects which provide positive drainage, level pedestrian areas, and opportunities for seating.

- Retaining walls shall be designed to minimize impacts to the natural character of the site. Use naturally appearing materials such as stone that are compatible with overall site development.
  - Walls shall be finished with timbers, native rock, finished masonry, architectural concrete, or split-faced concrete masonry units (CMU).
  - Walls shall include earthtone colors consistent with the surrounding area.
- Vary design elements, patterns, or textures of retaining walls to enhance visual interest and provide a sense of scale.
- Retaining walls shall be limited to three (3) tiers with a maximum height of four feet (4') pier tier. Tiers shall be staggered a minimum of four to six feet (4'-6') apart.
- At urban or more highly used sites, consider retaining wall height and width which can be used for seating.

For additional retaining wall specifications, guidelines, and requirements, refer to the latest version of *Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction*

FIGURE 6–39. Retaining walls at Hideaway Park have visually dynamic patterns and textures and are spaced appropriately to allow for intermitted plantings.

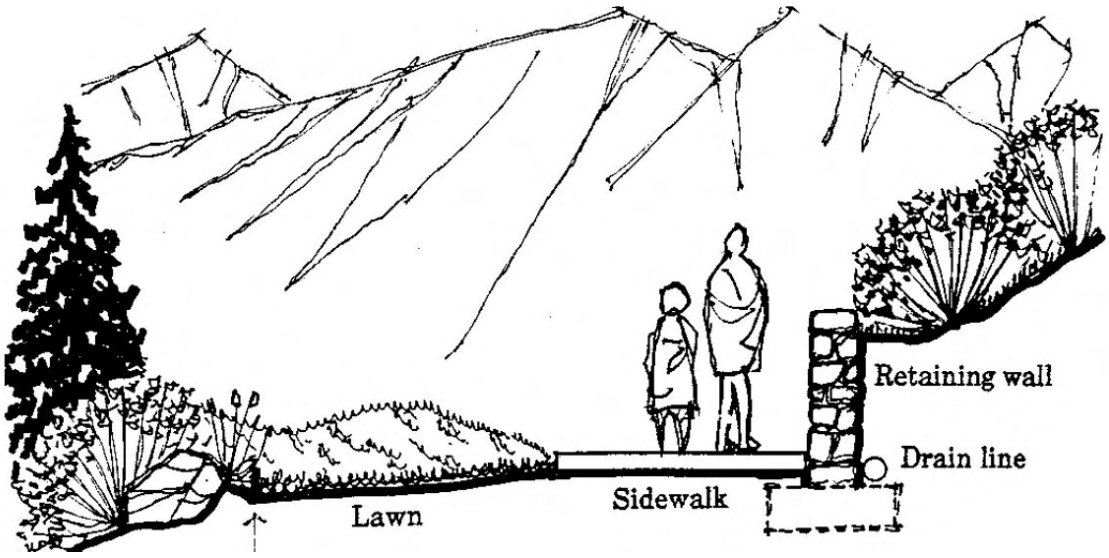


FIGURE 6–40. Retaining wall material shall match the surrounding landscape when possible. Image courtesy of *1997 Winter Park Landscape Design Regulations and Guidelines.*

6.0 Program Spaces

Program spaces are the individual features which combine to create a defined user space or experience. These spaces provide recreational opportunities, leisure, and enjoyment. Examples found within the Town include trails and trailheads, skateparks, playgrounds, athletic fields and courts, and dog parks.

For additional requirements for each program space, refer to the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 (2022).* Each subsection of program spaces includes additional reference materials with agency standards and guidelines which shall be followed

6.1 Trails

Trails are a vital recreational feature in the Town and within the larger Fraser Valley. Trails primarily include any circulation path used for recreation and enjoyment. Grand County includes motorized and non-motorized trails intended for pedestrians. Hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding are the most common trail uses with markers indicating which uses are permissible. The following bullets provide general recommendations for new trail installation, existing trail improvements, and maintenance guidelines.

- All proposed trails, trailheads, and trail connections to be approved by Town staff and/ or Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA).
- Consider removal of relocatable easements from all development review patterns as this creates a fragmented trail experience.
- Promote diversity of user experience with proposed trail access in different locations (i.e. elevation, proximity to Town, ecological zones).
- Consider realignment/future coordination with Fraser Valley/ the Town's public transit lines to increase access to trails throughout the county.
- Encourage environmental protection of natural resources and wildlife habitat/migration routes. Proposed trails shall consider forest habitat effectiveness, distance to travelways, terrain (slope %), and vegetation types.
- Avoid using sidewalks as trail connections/ extensions as snow operations produce spray onto walks.
- Provide accessible trails where feasible.
- Promote innovative drainage features for trail which meet current standards.
- Avoid crossings at grade at streets and avoid frequent/diagonal crossings.
- Ensure clear line of sight and increased visibility

Current Trail Management Organizations within the Town of Winter Park

Town of Winter Park

Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA)

United States Forest Service (USFS)

Winter Park Resort

FIGURE 6–41. A typical trail at Confluence Park with a two-to-three foot (2-3') wide gravel path.

at trail intersections.

- In areas with safety concerns (i.e. steep drop off, adjacent creek), consider guardrails where drop-offs exceed 30".
- Consider additional wayfinding and art opportunities at Berthoud Pass for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Trailheads:

- Establish a hierarchy of trailheads within the Fraser Valley based on anticipated use.
- Consider additional infrastructure — parking, information kiosks, vault toilets, lighting — at existing and future trailheads.
- All trailheads shall include a minimum of one (1) bear-resistant trash receptacle. ***Refer to section 7.6 Trash Receptacles in this chapter for additional information.***

Trails Reference Materials

- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities*
- IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) *Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience, Mountain Bike Trail Guidelines (2018)*
- United States Forest Service (USFS) *Standard Specifications for Construction of Trails and Trail Bridges on Forest Service Projects (2014)*
- Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA) *Strategic Trails Plan (2019)*
- Town of Winter Park and Fraser *Community Trails Plan (2014)*
- Grand County *Non-motorized Trails Master Plan (2011)*
- United States Forest Service (USFS) *Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan (2009)*
- United States Forest Service (USFS) *Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Trailhead Design Guidelines*

Trail Typologies			
Type	**Example**	**Typical Width**	**Notes/ Reference**
Sidewalks	Within town, along major roads	10'-0"	Surface/Grade: concrete, conforms to all ADA standards Refer to Standards and Specifications for Design and Construction (2012)
Major Trails	Vasquez Creek Trail	8'-10'	Surface: gravel/ asphalt Grade: 8% max, 5% over sustained distance
Neighborhood Trails	Leland Creek Trail/ Alpine Trail	5'-0"	Surface: gravel Grade: 15% max, 10% over sustained distance
Singletrack Trails	Akima's Way	2'-0"	Refer to IMBA Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience, Mountain Bike Trail Guidelines (2018)
Snow Groomed Winter Trail	Fraser River Trail	12' minimum	Require width for grooming equipment

6.2 Skateparks

Skateparks continue to grow in popularity throughout the United States, leading to a higher demand within local communities like the Fraser Valley.

- All skateparks shall be designed and constructed by an experienced, professional, full-service skatepark design team approved by Town staff.
- Skateparks shall include both clearly defined activity and spectator areas.
  - Activity areas are dedicated to riding skateboards, in-line skates, roller skates, bicycles, and razor scooters.
  - Spectator areas are non-riding areas reserved for those viewing skate activities, typically thirty feet (30') or less from the outer edge of skate activity areas.
- All skateparks shall connect to adjacent parks or other public areas by a hard surface pathway.
- Irrigation from adjacent parks or properties shall not overspray into the skatepark.

Skatepark Reference Materials

- The Skatepark Project
- The Public Skatepark Development Guide
- What's Goodpush?
- SPAI (Skate Park Association International)
- Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association's *Guidelines for Public Skateboard Facilities (2008)*

FIGURE 6–42. The skatepark at Hideaway Park is a popular destination within the Town.

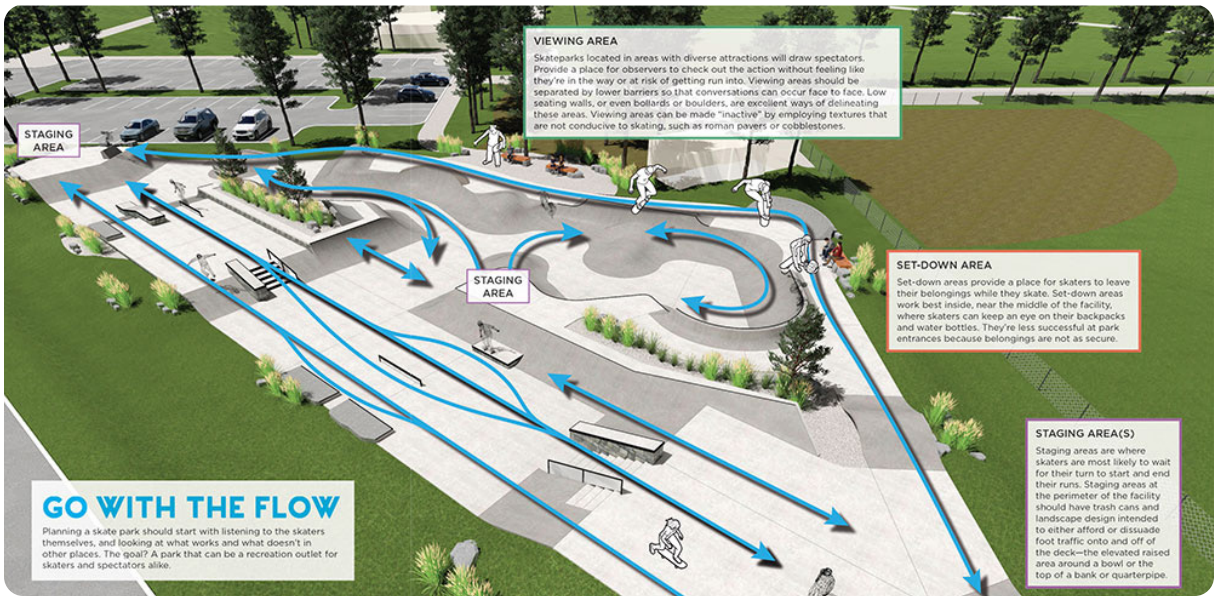


FIGURE 6–43. Skatepark design should consider circulation routes, separation between spectator and user spaces, an different structure sizes for skill levels. Image courtesy of Newline Skateparks, 2024.

6.3 Playgrounds

Playgrounds in the Town should be designed to provide physical, social, and mental developmental opportunities for children. Playgrounds and equipment shall meet all the current requirements found in the reference materials in the right column. Additional best practice guidelines are below.

- All playgrounds shall conform with accessibility standards (note: some areas may not meet accessibility compliance as approved by Town staff).
- Playgrounds shall be sited away from busy roads and non-compatible adjacent properties (e.g. industrial sites). Provide parking areas adjacent to playgrounds. Consider enclosure with fencing or plantings in areas of high traffic for ingress/egress control.
- Playground surfacing shall be resilient surfacing such as poured in place (PIP) rubber, interlocking rubber tiles, or artificial turf with cushioning. Avoid loose fill play material (engineered wood fiber (EWF), crusher fines, recycled rubber) which provides additional maintenance.
- All playground equipment colors shall be approved by Town staff prior to installation. Avoid primary colors which do not fit the context of a mountain town like Winter Park. Avoid colors which may get excessively hot during summer months.
- Play areas shall include designated age areas and provide appropriate activities for each.
- Create sight lines which provide high visibility for adults. Provide seating areas and shade in close proximity.
- Avoid plantings in play areas that are toxic, have thorns, or attract bees.
- A post-construction audit by a NRPA/NPSI Certified Playground Safety Inspector shall be required prior to final approval.
- Establish a regular maintenance schedule for each playground and play area.

Playground Reference Materials

- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)
- ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials), Sections F-1487, F-1292, F-1951
- CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- NPSI (National Playground Safety Institute)
- CPSO (Certified Playground Safety Inspector)
- IPEMA (International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association)
- For additional recommendations and requirements for public playgrounds, refer to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's *Public Playground Safety Handbook (2015)*

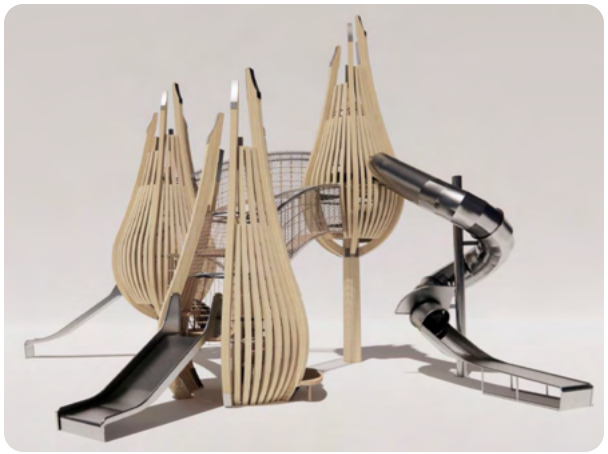


FIGURE 6–44. Consider playground structures with reflect the natural environment of the Town with natural colors and nature-inspired forms. Images courtesy of Earthscapes, 2024.

6.4 Athletic Fields/Courts

Athletic fields and courts include both hard and soft surface playing field such as basketball courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, baseball and softball diamonds, and soccer fields. In many applications, space constraints and site topography may require adaptations to field and court sizes for practicality and use.

- In general, athletic fields and courts shall be considered for high use parks within the Town. Field and court requirements for each project shall be approved by Town staff.
- For full-sized recreation fields, maintain a thirty foot (30') minimum Active Recreation Setback (ASR). Note, fenced tennis and basketball courts are excluded. Do not allow walkways, tree canopy, or other use areas to impede within this setback.
- To the greatest extent feasible, soccer, tennis, football, basketball, and volleyball facilities shall be oriented with the longest length north to south to reduce solar glare. Orient baseball and softball fields from home plate to center field at an east/northeast orientation.
- Consider lighting for sports fields/courts which receive the highest amount of use to extend hours of operation. Lighting shall aim for 20 to 35 footcandles of even distribution across the playing field. Note, not all fields require lighting.
- Synthetic turf should be considered at athletic field complexes only. When using synthetic turf for athletic fields, ensure an adequate underdrain system with off-field drainage which connects to a stormwater drain.
- Coordinate field sizes with local schools and sports organizations, such as Fraser Valley Recreation, to determine the optimal use of fields for practice spaces.

Fields & Courts Reference Materials

- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)
- ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials)
- American Sports Builders Association
- Time-Saver Standards for Landscape Architecture
- American Athletic Track and Turf

Court and Field Recommended Materials	
Tennis/ Pickleball/ Basketball Courts	
Base material	Post-tension concrete
Soccer/Football Fields	
Base material	Irrigated natural turf or synthetic turf
Baseball/Softball Fields	
Base material	Irrigated natural turf or synthetic turf combined with gravel stabilizer

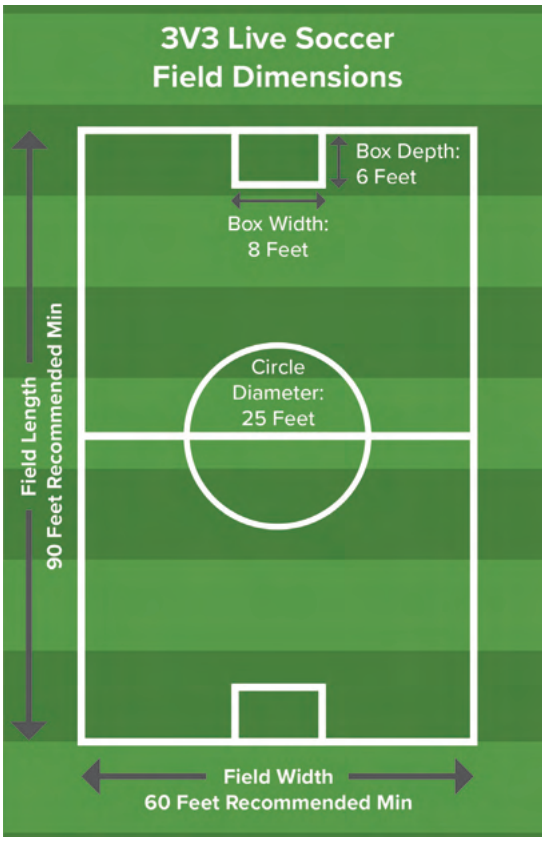


FIGURE 6–45. The recommended field size for 3V3 soccer is shown above, as coordinated with the Town of Winter Park. Image courtesy of DHM Design, 2024.

6.5 Dog Parks

Off-leash dog parks are an important consideration for the outdoor recreation areas in Winter Park. Currently, the closest dedicated off leash dog park is twenty miles away in Granby. As visitation and development grow within the Town, dedicated off-leash areas should be established.

Siting:

- Potential dog parks shall be located in areas which minimize disturbance to wildlife habitat, bodies of water, and other critical natural areas. Sites with previous toxic/ environmental hazardous conditions shall not be considered.
- Dog parks shall maintain clear separation between other park uses/amenities such as picnic areas, athletic fields, or regional trails. Separation may include fencing, vegetation, distance between areas and times of use.
- Provide close parking proximity to newly established off-leash dog areas.
- Dog parks shall maintain a distance of 100 feet minimum from playgrounds.

Design:

- The minimum off-leash dog park size shall be one acre.
- Include two double gated entrances with concrete surfacing at the entrances Consider extending concrete beyond gate to reduce water pooling and mud conditions at high use areas.
- Provide screening elements such as fencing or vegetation. Fencing shall be five to six feet (5'-6') in height. Consider fencing materials such as three rail post and dowel with two by four inch (2x4") welded wire.
- Consider alternative and variations in surfacing such as native vegetation, sand-based soil, or others. Avoid large rocks and surfacing which may become hot.
- Provide essential amenities such as rules and regulations and a minimum of two (2) doggie clean up stations.
- Consider additional amenities for high volume dog parks such as shade, benches, tables, and water filling stations.

Dog Park Reference Materials

- Denver Parks & Recreation *Dog Park Master Plan Technical Update (2019)*
- NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association)
- American Kennel Club
- Seattle Parks and Recreation *People, Dogs & Parks Plan (2017)*
- Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation *Recommendations and Guidelines for Dog Park Site Selection, Design, Operations and Maintenance (2014)*

FIGURE 6–46. Beaver Ranch Park in Conifer, CO provides a dog park in mountainous terrain similar to Winter Park.

FIGURE 6–47. Dog parks should consider appropriate fencing materials, variation of softscape (gravel, dirt) and shade elements.

7.0 Furnishings

Site furnishings refer to the features which enhance visitor experience in outdoor recreational areas. Benches, tables, grills, bike racks, and trash receptacles are common examples found in the Town. Furnishings should consider visual appeal, durability, and maintenance when selected. As the Town continues to grow with new parks, trails, open spaces, and campgrounds, it is important for furnishings to provide a common and compatible aesthetic which reflects their use as a public amenity.

The following subsections provide general recommendations for furnishings, categorized by each amenity. Each furnishing provides a recommended manufacturer and specific product. Products shall be considered the standard unless approved by Town staff.

7.1 General Design Considerations

- Site furnishings shall be manufacturer warranted, readily available products from approved manufacturers. Avoid custom site furnishings which are costly and difficult to replace.
- Product materials, colors, and decorative appearance shall reflect the overall character of the Town and be approved by Town staff. Consider elements which reflect the following themes: mountain modern, rustic, natural, nature, earthtones.
- Site furnishings shall be selected to withstand a high elevation mountain environment. Products will consider harsh weather conditions (i.e. snow loads, freeze), wildlife, and impacts from high tourism.
- Trash and recycling receptacles shall be bear-resistant products in all outdoor recreation areas. For large events, temporary receptacles may be used which are not bear-resistant.
- Consider public art/sculpture installations in outdoor recreation areas within downtown corridor. All public art to be approved by Town staff.

For full site furnishing specifications, refer to manufacturer information. For additional information related to design and layout, refer to the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 and Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines (Appendix) 2022)*

Recommended Manufacturers

The following are the recommended manufacturers for site furnishings in outdoor recreation areas. Each furnishing type has an alternative manufacturer which may be considered if approved by Town staff. Non-listed manufacturers require final approval from Town staff.

- **Benches** - Anova
  Alternative: DuMor
- **Picnic Tables** - Anova
  Alternative: DuMor
- **Grills** - Pilot Rock
  Alternative: Jamestown Products
- **Bike Racks** - Landscape Forms
  Alternative: Forms+Surfaces
- **Trash Receptacles** - Bear Guardian
  Alternative: BearSaver

FIGURE 6–48. Art and sculptural elements can be considered in the downtown area for beautification. Image courtesy of Gallas Architectural Metalworks, 2024.

7.2 Benches

General

- Landscape boulder seating may be used in all outdoor recreation settings as deemed appropriate by the Town. Boulders shall be from a local quarry which matches the color and type of the surrounding landscape. Boulder seat height shall not exceed 18".
- Repurposed ski lift seating may be considered for benches in the Town's parks, as approved by Town staff.

Downtown Benches

- ***Model (with back):***
  Anova Tandem 6' Contour Bench, Mountain Range or approved equal. Perforated steel and cast aluminum, powder coated, surface mounted, color: Textured Bronze, Charcoal, Silver, Sandstone, or Sage.
- ***Model (backless):***
  Anova Element 6' Flat Bench or approved equal. Perforated steel and cast aluminum, powder coated, surface mounted, color: Textured Bronze, Charcoal, Silver, Sandstone, or Sage.
- ***Accessibility:***
  Benches located along primary walkways shall provide an area for accessible seating. In total, a minimum of 20% of benches shall include an accessible seating area.
- ***Location:***
  Used primarily in Town parks. Benches shall not impede on circulation paths, provide resting opportunities on long pathways, and typically located on a concrete pad.

Natural Area Benches

- ***Model (backless):***
  Anova Infinity Linear Thermory Flat Bench or approved equal. Thermory hardwood planks and steel frame, powder coated, surface mounted, color: Thermory (if untreated, will naturally age to silver/gray), Frame color: Textured Silver.
- ***Location:***
  Used in natural areas in parks, open spaces, trails, and campgrounds. Benches shall be located adjacent to circulation routes. Consider orientation towards scenic views or natural resources.

FIGURE 6–49. The Anova Tandem Contour Bench, Mountain Range shown in textured bronze. Image courtesy of Anova, 2024.

FIGURE 6–50. The Anova Element Flat Bench, shown in textured bronze. Image courtesy of Anova, 2024.

FIGURE 6–51. The Anova Infinity powdercoated linear thermory flat bench, show in thermory, can be used for natural areas. Image courtesy of Anova, 2024.

7.3 Picnic Tables

Downtown Picnic Tables

- *Model (standard):*
  Anova 6' rectangular recycled plastic table or approved equal. 95% recycled tabletop and seatplanks, powdercoated steel frame, surface mounted or moveable, color: Mahogany or Cedar. Frame color: Textured Silver.
- *Model (accessible):*
  Anova 8' recycled plastic ADA table or approved equal. 95% recycled tabletop and seatplanks, powdercoated steel frame, surface mounted or moveable, color: Mahogany or Cedar. Frame color: Textured Silver.
- *Accessibility:*
  Picnic tables shall be located along accessible pathways and gathering spaces. In total, a minimum of 20% of picnic tables shall be accessible.
- *Location:*
  Used in parks, campgrounds, and some opens spaces. Consider close proximity to parking areas and primary circulation pathways. Grouping tables in a gathering area or at a shade shelter is typical.

Natural Area Picnic Tables

- *Model:*
  Anova 6' rectangular recycled plastic table or approved equal. 95% recycled tabletop and seatplanks, surface mounted or moveable, color: Cedar. Frame color: Black.
- *Location:*
  Used in natural areas in parks, open spaces, trails, and campgrounds. Picnic tables shall be located adjacent to circulation routes or in dedicated gather spaces.

7.4 Grills

- *Model:*
  Pilot Rock Accessible Park Grill, Model ASW-24 B2, or approved equal. Steel firebox plate and post, surface mounted or with concrete footer, optional swivel shelf may be considered, color: black.
- *Accessibility:*
  Consider accessible charcoal grill model for all applications. In total, a minimum of 20% of charcoal grills shall provide full accessibility with an accessible flat surface and connected by an accessible route.

FIGURE 6–52. The 6' rectangular recycled plastic picnic table, shown in Mahogany. Image courtesy of Anova, 2024.

FIGURE 6–53. The ADA compliant 8' rectangular recycled plastic picnic table, shown in Mahogany. Image courtesy of Anova, 2024.

FIGURE 6–54. The 6' rectangular recycled plastic picnic table can be used in more natural areas such as trailheads and open space. Image courtesy of Anova, 2024.

FIGURE 6–55. The accessible park grill from Pilot Rock. Image courtesy of Pilot Rock, 2024.

- *Location:*
  Used in approved parks and campgrounds. Grills shall be located near adjacent amenities such as parking areas and picnic tables. Accessible Grills shall provide unobstructed, minimum clear ground space per U.S. Access Board ADA standards.

7.5 Bike Racks

- *Model:*
  Landscape Forms Metro40 Collection Ride Bike Rack or approved equal. Stainless steel with cover plate, surface mounted.
- *Accessibility:*
  Provide sufficient space between rack with attached bikes and the accessible paths of travel.
- *Location:*
  Used in parks and some opens space/trailheads. Consider proximity to parking areas and primary circulation pathways and intersections/ connection points. Provide adequate spacing between racks for multiple bicycles and maneuverability.

7.6 Trash Receptacles

- *Model (Trash only):*
  Bear Guardian Bitterroot Series, Model B100S with slats, recycled steel, epoxy primer and TGIC polyester coating, gravity latch at top, color: Black with tan slats. On the Interagency Grizzle Bear Committee (IGBC) approved bear-resistant products list.
- *Model (Trash and Recycling):*
  Bear Guardian Bitterroot Series, Model B200S with slats, recycled steel, epoxy primer and TGIC polyester coating, gravity latch at top, color: Black with tan slats. On the Interagency Grizzle Bear Committee (IGBC) approved bear-resistant products list.
- *Accessibility:*
  The bear-resistant receptacles do not meet accessibility due to latch and swing operation. Receptacles shall maintain clear ground space on the front side per U. S. Access Board ADA guidelines.
- *Location:*
  Used in all outdoor recreation areas. Receptacles shall be considered at trailheads, picnic/gathering areas, restrooms, and spaced appropriately throughout trails and pathways.

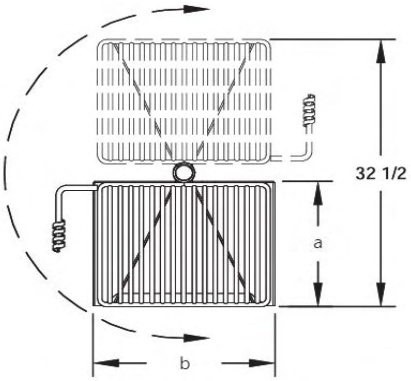


FIGURE 6–56. The accessible park grill from Pilot Rock. Image courtesy of Pilot Rock, 2024.

FIGURE 6–57. The Landscape Forms Ride bike rack. Image courtesy of Landscape Forms, 2024.

FIGURE 6–58. The Bear Guardian bear proof trash and recycling receptacles. Image courtesy of Bear Guardian, 2024.

8.0 Signage

Signage plays an important role in the navigation, movement, and information received by visitors and residents throughout the Town. As the Town continues to develop existing and proposed outdoor recreation areas, a consistent signage approach should be implemented to identify public spaces and amenities.

Town signage falls into four different categories: Informational, wayfinding, interpretive, and regulatory.

8.1 General Design Considerations

- Incorporate the Town's logo and color palette in outdoor recreation area signage to promote public amenity spaces. Refer to the 2017 Brand Standards and approved color palette below for additional requirements and guidelines.
- Accessibility signage shall conform to U.S. Access Board Guide to the ADA Accessibility Standards.
- Signage shall be implemented to harmonize with the surrounding landscape. Consider location, scale and material particularly in natural areas.
- Signage material shall be long-lasting, low maintenance products which are readily available for future replacement. Material selection shall consider the harsh climatic conditions typically found in the Fraser Valley.
- In areas with different sign types, cluster or consolidate signage appropriately to reduce visual impacts to the landscape.
- Signage which differs from the Town's standards, such as donation-based or in-memorial, shall be reviewed and approved by Town staff.
- Signage for specific features shall be located in close proximity which indicates a obvious relationship to the amenity. Ensure signage does not interfere or visually impair the feature.

For full signage requirements and standards, refer to the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 and Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines (Appendix) (2022)*

TOWN OF winter park

PRIMARY LOGO

FIGURE 6–59. The Town of Winter Park logo provides a visual que for public spaces, including outdoor recreation areas. Image courtesy of the Town of Winter Park, 2024.

Town of Winter Park
Approved Signage Color Palette

Pantone 390 CP
#BDC700

Pantone 368 CP
#00B5D7

Pantone 007 CP
#007

Pantone 1665 CP
#DE5126

8.2 Informational Signage

Informational signage includes park, campground, natural space and open area signage which identifies a outdoor recreation space. Signage for facilities (i.e. shade structures and buildings) falls under this category.

- Provide a park identifier sign at each Town park property. Signs shall match style, color, and material of existing park signs.
  - Locate park identifier signs at major entries, along primary circulation routes or highly visible locations.
  - Consider development of a secondary, smaller park identifier sign which fits the scaling of a neighborhood or pocket park.
- Coordinate campground signage with partnering organizations (i.e. Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests) to maintain visual continuity across sites.
- Develop a identifier signage type for the Town's natural areas and open space which is different and compatible with park identifier signs. Signage to be reviewed and approved by Town staff.
- Consider signage for facilities which complements building type (material, size, style) and does not visually deter.

For informational signage requirements and standards, refer to the *Winter Park Unified Development Code, Title 7 and Town of Winter Park, Update to Design Guidelines (Appendix) (2022)*

FIGURE 6–60. The Wolf Park sign is consistent with other sign in the Town, creating visual continuity.

FIGURE 6–61. Informational signage like this bus schedule at the perimeter of Hideaway Park orients visitors.

8.3 Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding signage helps orient users towards select destinations and highlights the different circulation routes that can be taken to get there. Signage examples range from wood posts (Figure 1-63) to regional or local maps (Figure 1-64).

For wayfinding trail signage requirements and standards, refer to the *Headwaters Trails Alliance Strategic Trails Plan (2019)* and the *Grand County Trails Master Plan (2011)*

In-town Wayfinding Signage

- Coordinate all in-town trail signage with the *2019 HTA Strategic Trails Plan.*

Trail and Trailhead Signage

- All wayfinding trail signage shall be reviewed and approved by Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA). Signage includes trailhead kiosks, trailhead signs, and directional signage and will conform with the 2019 HTA Strategic Trails Plan for a cohesive signage system.
- Ensure trailhead signage includes large signs with a complete map and description of all nearby trails, facilities, local regulations, emergency contact information, and educational messages.
  - Trailhead signage overall scale shall consider the level of facility development and use at each individual trailhead.
  - Consider a bulletin board space which allows for users and regulatory agencies (i.e. rangers) to post messages.
- Signage along trails shall be focused at trail intersections. Signage shall provide clear, concise directions on how to stay on the trail or return to the trailhead. Makers shall be wood, fiberglass, or corten steel and typically 60-84" above ground.
  - Consider "confidence" signage on longer trail intervals which provide waymarking for users.
  - Confidence markers shall be used at locations where social trails exist and may cause confusion.
- Consider responsible use signage at trailheads to provide guidance on trail etiquette, preparedness, and good stewardship of resources.

FIGURE 6–62. The wood post trail signage provides orientation for hikers and mountain bikers in the summer months and snow users in the winter.

FIGURE 6–63. The trail map wayfinding signage at Wolf Park uses the Strategic Trails Plan template developed by HTA, the Towns of Winter Park and Fraser, and Grand County.

8.4 Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signs are signs which provide educational opportunities in the landscape. Signage may include information on trails, historic or cultural uses, natural resources, scenic views, or artistic expression to name a few.

- Ensure a portion of interpretive signage meets accessibility compliance. Total number of accessible signs to be reviewed and approved by Town staff for each project.
- Consider durable materials of all future interpretive signs such as metal, fiberglass, or corten steel. Avoid wood materials which require a higher frequency of replacement.

For interpretive signage requirements and standards, refer to the *National Park Service's Interpretive Development Program (IDP).*

FIGURE 6–64. The interpretive sign along the Alpine Trail at Wolf Park shows information on the visible mountain peaks from this location.

8.5 Regulatory Signage

Regulatory signage refers to signage for traffic control and management, including both pedestrian and vehicular. Signage which lists permitted activities in program spaces is also considered regulatory signage.

- All regulatory signage along state highways and within the right-of-way shall confirm with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines.
- Regulatory and rules signage at program spaces (i.e. playgrounds, skateparks) shall follow the Town's standard sign template, as seen in Figure 1-66.

FIGURE 6–65. Rules and regulation signage at Hideaway Park.

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