Durango Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan
Community Forum – September 11, 2017

What are the strengths of the Durango Parks and Recreation system?

- The variety of activities
- Connectivity of open space, trails and parks in town
- Easy access
- Organic Parks
- Well maintained system
- Recreation Center – breadth of facilities
- Parks add beauty
- There is a lot of wildlife
- Involved community
- Variety of trails
- Equity of special interests opportunity
- Year round assets
- Parks and trails enhance real estate value
- Good partners, such as Trails 2000
- Animas River
- Flexibility and adaptability to community needs
- Low cost to get into the Recreation Center
- Willingness to support Parks and Recreation with tax dollars; dedicated sales tax
- Staff
- Resourcefulness of City to access grants
- Vision for the future
- BMX track: 1 of 14 in the state and only 1 of 10 open to the public
- Youth programs
- Connection and collaboration between Durango schools, Fort Lewis College and the City
- The variety and quality of events
- Organized activities for a variety of users and spaces to host them
- Philanthropic citizens and volunteer support
- Dog friendly community
- Coordinated land use planning
What are the opportunities for improvement?

- Enlarge the Recreation Center or build another facility at an alternate site
  - Larger aerobics room in the Recreation Center
- Outdoor pool/sauna/stretching area addition
- Add a Green connection from Downtown to the river
- More connections overall
  - Connect trail to Three Springs; Complete Animas River Trail
- Do not close Recreation Center for a week for maintenance - keep it open year round
- Walking and running track adjacent to the Animas River Trail
- Enforcement of leash laws; Train dog owners
- Partnership with 9R School District and City to clarify who maintains tennis courts on school property;
- More Sport Courts
  - Provide covered tennis courts and repair lighting on existing tennis courts
  - Replace tennis courts that are being removed at Needham Elementary School
  - Build 8 dedicated lighted, outdoor pickleball courts
  - Do not mix pickleball and tennis - Create dedicated courts for each
  - Sand volleyball courts
  - Outdoor basketball courts
  - Squash courts
- Year round ice rink
- Accelerate park development
  - Accelerated development for the Durango Mesa Park
  - Buildout 75 acre Community Park at Three Springs
- Additional organic parks and reduced pesticide use
- More options when closing the pool; Coordinate with other pool facilities for community use
- Provide access to Lake Nighthorse
  - Access to trails around Lake Nighthorse
  - Transit services
  - Keep it motor free
  - Provide a boathouse
- Identify redundant roadways for greenways/trails
- Include renewable energy in development projects
- Maintain parks to ADA and safety standards
- Improve process for improvements in existing parks
- Maintain and plant tree canopy in the park system
- Aminas River Trail Improvements
  - Improve safety
  - Improve lighting on parts trail
  - Bear proof trash cans at parks and along Animas River Trail
  - Upgrade restrooms
  - More green space
- Animas River riverfront land is precious and must be used wisely
• Greater Connectivity
  o Connect Central Business District to the Animas River Trail
  o Connect hard surface trails to natural surface trails
  o Connect Overend Mountain Park trails to Twin Buttes
• Colorado Trail terminus improvements
• Build river put-ins as designed
• Increase education on river use
• Protect wildlife habitat
• Water fountains in parks; Bike racks in parks
• Better noxious weed control
• Plant more edible vegetation/landscape
• Protect viewsheds
• Develop parks around the communities for local residents that use them
• Archery practice park, similar to Pueblo, Colorado

What is the single most important priority that you would like to see addressed in this Master Plan?

• Represent diverse community in this process
• Large multi-use community park with varied activities
• A new or expanded Recreation Center
• Must be a member at the Recreation Center to have access to other facilities using technology
• Dedicated yoga room at the Recreation Center – a no sweat, no stink room
• More Pickleball at the Recreation Center
• Multi-use indoor facility with regulation size ice rink
• Develop Cundiff Park as a Community Park; Improve water quality
• Open Lake Nighthorse and make it accessible
• More variety in the trail system
• More trail connections
• Complete Animas River Trail
• Improve Animas River Trail uses, safety and surface upgrading
• Complete Animas River Trail and SMART 160 Trail
• Complete the SMART 160 Trail to connect to Three Springs Park
• Incorporate natural elements in parks; nature preschools
• High level athletes on trails; focus on improving national level trail training facility
• Develop trail access across north Main to the Animas River Trail
• Pedestrian underpass at Camino del Rio
• Outdoor dedicated Pickleball courts with lights; Multi-use parks with Pickleball
• Youth baseball fields
• Archery Park to develop youth sports/Junior Olympics
• Joint City/County development of Bike/BMX Park at Durango Mesa Park and host national and international trail events; Develop Ewing Mesa (Durango Mesa Park) as multi-use, world class international destination training facility
• Address homeless population – trash clean-up (Schneider Park/Overend Mountain Park)
• Expansion and stewardship of natural resources (open space)
• Increase non-developed open space
• Acquire more Open Space
• Safe and reliable river access
• Maintain all 5 open space values identified by the City: recreation, wildlife, viewshed, historic and environmental
• City could exchange half cent tax funding with the county for the fairground and develop Ewing Mesa (Durango Mesa Park)
• Include in design and development the impact of global warming and climate change
• 6 – 8 more dedicated tennis courts, lighted and some covered
• Clarify maintenance of 9R School District tennis courts between City and School District
• Tear down the Mason Center and add more courts at this location
• Balance how the City spends money for projects
• Identify community priorities and project prioritization
• Multi-generational activities at Durango Mesa Park, like cross country running trails; low impact activities; bike facility, equestrian trails
• Preserve and enhance winter sports
• Human powered recreation at Lake Nighthorse
• Study and improve Animas River landscape and water fowl
• Bike and pedestrian safety
• Expansion of chemical free parks at playgrounds and school sites
• Permanent outdoor structure for the performing arts