



**TOWN OF BAYFIELD
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS &
RECREATION
MASTER PLAN 2017**

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Cover Image: Spring Festival community outreach

SEPTEMBER 2017

TOWN OF BAYFIELD
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

PREPARED FOR:
THE TOWN OF BAYFIELD, COLORADO

PREPARED BY:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8	4.0	NEEDS ASSESSMENT	54
			•	Community Engagement Process	54
2.0	INTRODUCTION	11	•	Needs Assessment Survey Results	57
	• Purpose of the Plan	11	•	Partnerships and Stakeholders	59
	• Project Background	11			
	• Methodology	12	5.0	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS	64
	• Project Area	13		• POSTR Facility Types and Standards	64
3.0	EXISTING CONDITIONS	14		• Design Guidelines and Equipment Standards	66
	• Bayfield History - Parks, Open Space + Trails	14		• POSTR Recommendations - 10 Year Outlook	74
	• Ecology and Climate	15		• 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan	86
	• Population Demographics	16		• Funding Strategies	87
	• Growth and Development	19	6.0	CONCLUSION	89
	• Site Context	20			
	• Relevant Plans and Assessments	21			
	• Facility Inventory and Analysis	22			
	• Program Inventory and Analysis	48			
	• Level of Service and Budget Analysis	52			

LIST OF IMAGES

Cover Image: Spring Festival Community Outreach		
Image 1: Bayfield postcard	6	
Image 2: HD Mountain Range	8	
Image 3: Easter egg hunt during the Bayfield Spring Festival	9	
Image 4: Aerial view of Bayfield	10	
Image 5: Lion's Club Kiddie Train - Eagle Park	11	
Image 6: Playtime at the Middle School Gym	12	
Image 7: Fourth of July Parade in 1933	14	
Image 8: The Pine River	15	
Image 9: Forest Lakes Subdivision	19	
Image 10: View towards Saul's Creek	20	
Image 11: Catching frogs at the Bean Ditch,	22	
Image 12: Aerial view of Eagle Park	24	
Image 13: River view and access	25	
Image 14: Pavilion and parking lot	25	
Image 15: Playground at Eagle Park	25	
Image 16: Horseshoe courts	25	
Image 17: Aerial view of Joe Stephenson Park	26	
Image 18: Looking south across Joe Stephenson Park	27	
Image 19: Modular skate park	27	
Image 20: Baseball facilities	27	
Image 21: Football/track with temporary bandstand	27	
Image 22: Aerial view of Gosney Park	28	
Image 23: Playground at Gosney Park	29	
Image 24: Spinner and climbing structure	29	
Image 25: Slide and climbing wall	29	
Image 26: Path to the Middle school	29	
Image 27: Aerial view Mesa Park	30	
Image 28: Shaded picnic area and Playground	31	
Image 29: Playground	31	
Image 30: Neighborhood context	31	
Image 31: Irrigated lawn	31	
Image 32: Saul's Creek area	32	
Image 33: Aerial view of Little Pine River park	34	
Image 34: Fishing hole at Little Pine River Park	35	
Image 35: Walking loop	35	
Image 36: Wetland habitat	35	
Image 37: River viewing bench		35
Image 38: Aerial view of Roadside Park		36
Image 39: Looking across Roadside Park		37
Image 40: Market space		37
Image 41: Irrigation ditch and fence row		37
Image 42: River access		37
Image 43: Path near the High school		38
Image 44: Path near the Elementary School		38
Image 45: Senior Center entrance/drop-off		40
Image 46: Senior Center kitchen		41
Image 47: Senior Center multi-purpose room		41
Image 48: Main entrance of Town Hall		42
Image 49: Town Board Room		43
Image 50: Mid-School Gym south side		44
Image 51: Mid-school Gym interior		45
Image 52: Interior equipment storage at Maintenance Shop		46
Image 53: View of Maintenance Shop from Joe Stephenson Park		47
Image 54: Easter Egg Scramble 5K at the Spring Festival		48
Image 55: 4th of July Parade on Mill Street		48
Image 56: Community feedback at the Spring Festival		54
Image 57: Interactive map at the Spring Festival		54
Image 58: Pop Up Playground		55
Image 59: Pop Up Playground		55
Image 60: Pop Up Playground		55
Image 61: Interactive display at Town Hall Open House		56
Image 62: Interactive display at 4th of July Celebration		56
Image 63: Hitching posts adjacent to Rodeo Grounds		61
Image 64: Rodeo Grounds within Joe Stephenson Park		61
Image 65: Bean Ditch at Joe Stephenson Park		63
Image 66: Example of existing park signage at Joe Stephenson Park		65
Image 67: Improvised ADA Access at Mesa Park		66
Image 68: Potable water hydrant at Eagle Park		66
Image 69: Informal access under Hwy 160		66
Image 70: Open irrigation collection pond at JSP		67
Image 71: Schroeder Ditch		67
Image 72: SW willow flycatcher habitat on the Pine River		67
Image 73: Trail connection east of Bayfield High School		71
Image 74: Existing site furnishings		74
Image 75: Early scene of Mill Street		88

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: School District Boundaries	12	Figure 30: Proposed Phase I Recreation Center, Joe Stephenson Park Location	78
Figure 2: Project area	13	Figure 31: Proposed Trails and Sidewalks	79
Figure 3: Population Change, Town of Bayfield - 2000-2015	16	Figure 32: Proposed Trails and Sidewalks Phasing Plan	80
Figure 4: Population Change, La Plata County - 2000-2015	16	Figure 33: Proposed property for Town acquisition (south of 160)	82
Figure 5: Population Change, Colorado - 2000-2015	16	Figure 34: Proposed property for Town acquisition (north of 160)	83
Figure 6: Population by age, 2000	17	Figure 35: Proposed Phase II Recreation Center, OMSG Location	84
Figure 7: Population by age, 2010	17	Figure 36: Proposed Phase II Recreation Center, Joe Stephenson Park Location	85
Figure 8: Population by age, 2015	17	Figure 37: 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan	86
Figure 9: Age groups as a percentage of population, 2000	18	Figure 38: Pine River Library Park Plan	89
Figure 10: Age groups as a percentage of population, 2010	18		
Figure 11: Age groups as a percentage of population, 2015	18		
Figure 12: Existing Conditions Overall Plan	23		
Figure 13: Saul's Creek Trail Map	33		
Figure 14: Existing Trails and Sidewalks	39		
Figure 15: Parks and Recreation Program and Event Schedule	49		
Figure 16: Youth Sports Registration	50		
Figure 17: Youth Sports- Annual participants by sport	50		
Figure 18: Adult Sports Registration	51		
Figure 19: Adult Sports- Annual participants by sport	51		
Figure 20: Shared Use Path Typical Section	68		
Figure 21: Asphalt Path Typical Section	69		
Figure 22: Gravel Path Typical Section	69		
Figure 23: Boardwalk Path Typical Section	70		
Figure 24: Preferred Volume and Operating Speed for Paved Shoulders	70		
Figure 25: Paved Shoulders	70		
Figure 26: Connections to Open Space	72		
Figure 27: Composite Master Plan Recommendations	75		
Figure 28: Proposed Joe Stephenson Park Field Reconfiguration	76		
Figure 29: Proposed Phase I Recreation Center, OMSG Location	77		



Image 1: Early view of Bayfield postcard, photo courtesy of Nobel Wells via the Pine River Heritage Society

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation (POSTR) are an integral part of the Town of Bayfield's history, identity, and community health. Residents and visitors alike enjoy and benefit from the bountiful recreational resources within the Town and its surrounding region. In order to support a rapidly growing population of young families and other residents who value active outdoor lifestyles, the Town has completed this 2017 POSTR Master Plan. The 2017 POSTR Master Plan will provide the Town with guidance for responsive, relevant and phased POSTR improvements to support the needs and well being of the Bayfield community.

Through comprehensive inventory and analysis of existing POSTR facilities and programming, this document provides the Town with a record of the condition of current POSTR facilities and programming. Comparison of Bayfield's POSTR facilities, programming, and expenditures with national standards, trends, and departments of similar size in Colorado clearly demonstrates Bayfield's POSTR Level of Service, highlighting success as well as opportunities for improvement. The planning process also included extensive community needs assessment through surveys, stakeholder and staff interviews, presentations, and participation in community events. **Evaluation and synthesis of key findings from these investigations reveals a clear path of prioritized steps the Town can take to further fulfill community POSTR needs while improving operational efficiency and strengthening the Town's recreational character.**

Bayfield's Parks and Recreation Department currently provides types of facilities, services and programming equivalent to the national standards for similar service areas. However, the size and quantity of POSTR facilities, programming, staffing levels and revenue is lower than the per capita average. It is likely that this imbalance is due to a POSTR service area that extends beyond the current Town limits and tax base to support POSTR facilities and programming. **These findings provide a strong case for the Town to consider options for expanding tax base and income from POSTR revenue.** Community survey results showed moderate support for strategies such as creation of a Special POSTR District, a dedicated POSTR sales tax, and General Obligation Bonds to support targeted POSTR improvements.

The results of the community needs assessment process revealed three major priorities for POSTR development within the next ten years:

- Improvements to Existing Park Facilities
- Recreation Center (Indoor Recreation)
- Trail and River Access Expansion

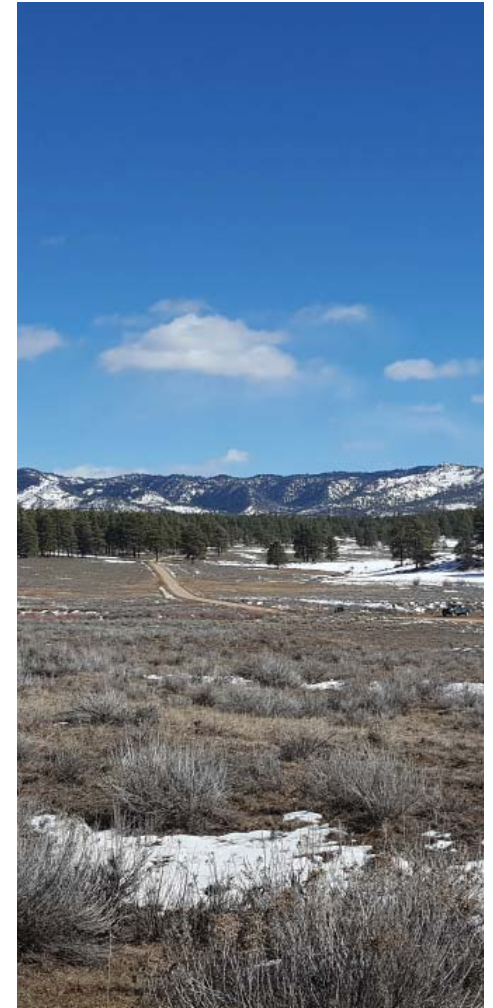


Image 2: View of the HD Mountain Range from the Town of Bayfield.

In response to these priorities, this plan identifies a series of specific and phased projects to address community POSTR needs. **Recommended project development focuses on the creation of a Town-owned indoor recreation facility, renovation and upgrades to existing park facilities, and improving in-Town connectivity through development of trails and river access.** Trail development recommendations include provision for safe pedestrian access across Highway 160, which is currently a significant barrier to access between the northern and southern portions of the Town.

Based on evaluation of community priorities, needs, and assumed time frame for acquisition of property and funds, this plan recommends phased implementation of these projects over ten years in a Capital Improvement Plan. In order to support this development, this plan also recommends the addition of at least one full time employee to the Parks and Recreation Department staff, with further consideration for addition of seasonal employees to support increased activity in the summer months.

POSTR development has great potential to be an effective economic development tool as the Town continues to grow. The geographic layout of Bayfield's most popular parks, Joe Stephenson Park and Eagle Park, directly adjacent to the Pine River and the historic Mill Street provide unique opportunity for Bayfield POSTR amenities to provide robust economic development support for the Town. Improving the quality of access and spectrum of programs and events offered in this central location could increase visitation to Bayfield's lively downtown. By addressing the priorities identified in this plan, through the recommended projects, the Town can meet current community needs, while increasing interest from visitors, developers, and entrepreneurs. For this reason, the projects recommended in this plan support a circulation network that encourages and even requires residents and visitors to travel through Bayfield's downtown in order to access these valued recreational amenities, including Joe Stephenson Park, Pine River trails and access, the existing Senior Center, and proposed indoor recreation center. Recognizing the link between Bayfield's POSTR assets and economic development is a key consideration within this plan.

The Bayfield community includes a number of vibrant partnerships with a high standard of civic engagement and volunteerism. This is clearly demonstrated in POSTR stakeholders' willingness to partner in the shared use of facility maintenance, event planning and implementation, and pursuit of project and program funding. Further Town investment in the improvement and development of POSTR amenities will serve to strengthen these partnerships, building internal support and long term resiliency.



Image 3: Easter egg hunt during the Bayfield Spring Festival. Image Courtesy Pine River Times

TOWN OF BAYFIELD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS & RECREATION PLAN

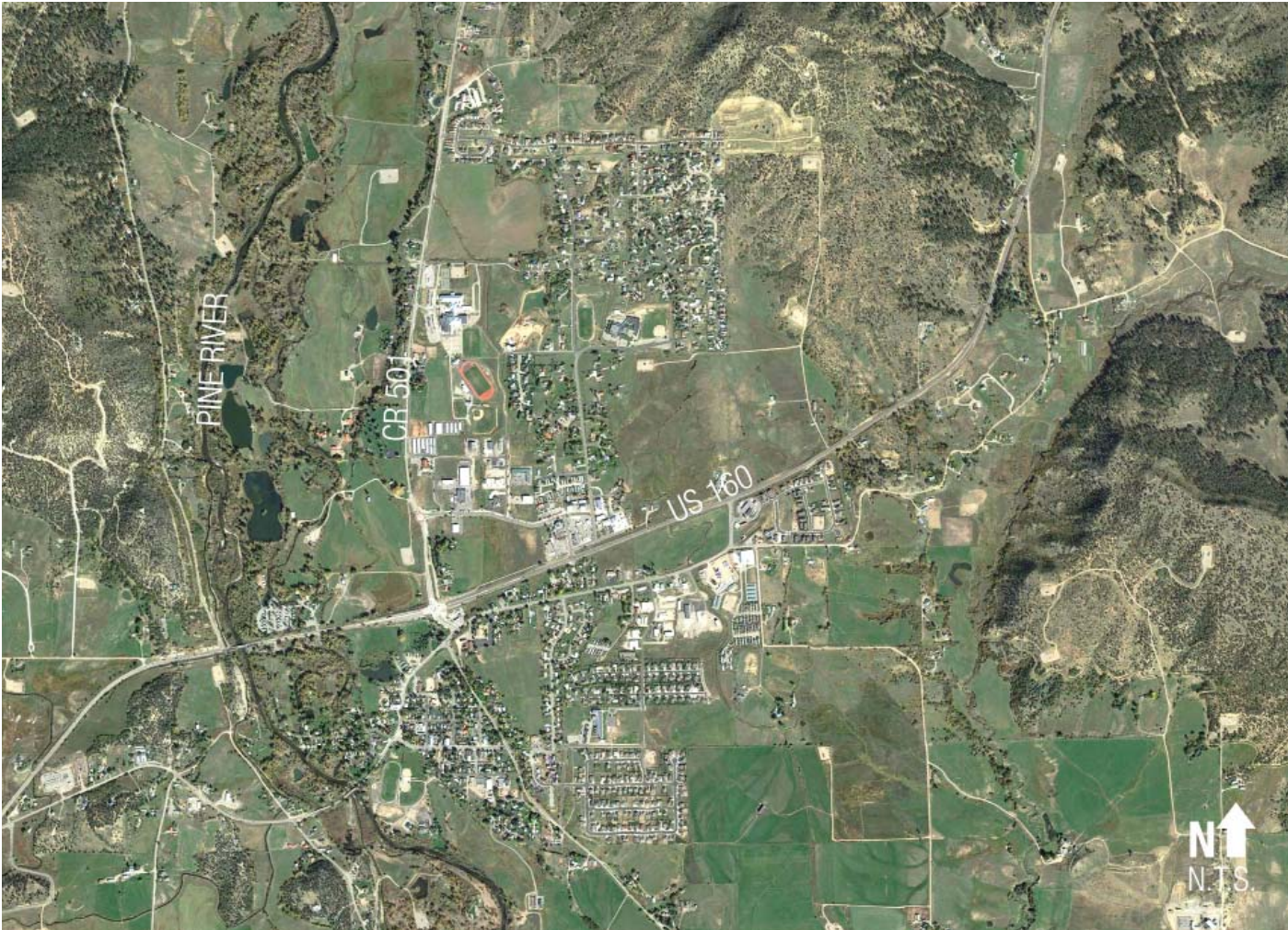


Image 4: Aerial view of Bayfield

INTRODUCTION

This is the first Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation (POSTR) Master Plan for the Town of Bayfield. The Town has determined that a comprehensive POSTR Plan is essential for developing clear goals and objectives that will act as a guiding document for the Parks and Recreation Department and overall town planning. The Town of Bayfield recognizes that additional land and funds may be needed for existing operations as well as future parks, recreation facilities, open space, and trails development. This Plan will help prioritize these needs as well as help guide future land development and budgeting efforts.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The primary goal of this Park, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Plan is to be a long-range planning and implementation guide for the future development of the parks, open space, recreation facilities, and trails within the Town of Bayfield. With this plan, Town leaders and staff will be able to administer resources and understand the community's priorities when annexing property, acquiring park and open space parcels, creating new indoor and outdoor recreation amenities, new trails, preserving and improving existing indoor and outdoor facilities, and providing programs. **This plan will act as a roadmap to enable the Parks and Recreation Department to continue its mission to: "provide all citizens of Bayfield the opportunity to participate in a full range of quality recreational programs and enjoy well-maintained park facilities."**

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Location

The Town of Bayfield is located on the eastern side of La Plata County near the San Juan National Forest and the Weminuche Wilderness. U.S. Highway 160 bisects the town running east-west, connecting it to Durango to the West and Pagosa Springs to the East. Ignacio is the closest town to Bayfield located to the southwest. Bayfield is in the foothills of the HD mountain range, in a river valley with abundant trees, wildlife and natural resources.



Image 5: Lion's Club Kiddie Train - Eagle Park

Image Courtesy Pine River Times

The Pine River (Los Pinos) lies on the western edge of town and flows from north to south. There are abundant tributaries and irrigation ditches that direct water throughout this valley town. Considerations for several endangered species including the southwestern willow fly catcher impact the amount and type of development that can occur in certain areas, particularly the riparian corridor. The proximity of National Forest, BLM land, and wilderness areas is a significant recreational asset. Additionally, the western agricultural and ranching legacy are embedded in the experience of Bayfield and the cultural legacy of the Southern Ute Tribe, Spanish colonialism and westward expansion of Europeans have left a lasting impact on the land and culture within this region.

Growth and Changing Demographics

The Town of Bayfield has experienced a significant population increase beginning in 2000, growing at nearly double the rate of the rest of Colorado. The town's current population of approximately 2,500 is also getting younger, as growing families move in. As the town continues to grow, it is critical the existing parks, open space, trails, and recreation facilities be maintained properly, and that new facilities be built as required to provide the population with sufficient recreational opportunities.

Methodology

The creation of the POSTR Plan included several phases of work:

- **Evaluation, Research & Analysis**

Existing conditions: facilities and programs, as well as documentation of existing service needs and resources, and coordination with existing and ongoing Town and County planning efforts.

- **Community Needs Assessment**

Comprising of a project website, community engagement workshops, events, surveys and stakeholder interviews.

- **Funding / Financing Needs Assessment**

Including present and future budget needs for parks, trails, recreation programs, including capital improvements and operating funds.

- **10-Year Parks, Open Space, Trails & Recreation Master Plan**

Recommendations regarding overall community POSTR goals and priorities and specific project implementation to achieve these goals, including a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.



Image 6: Playtime at the Middle School Gym

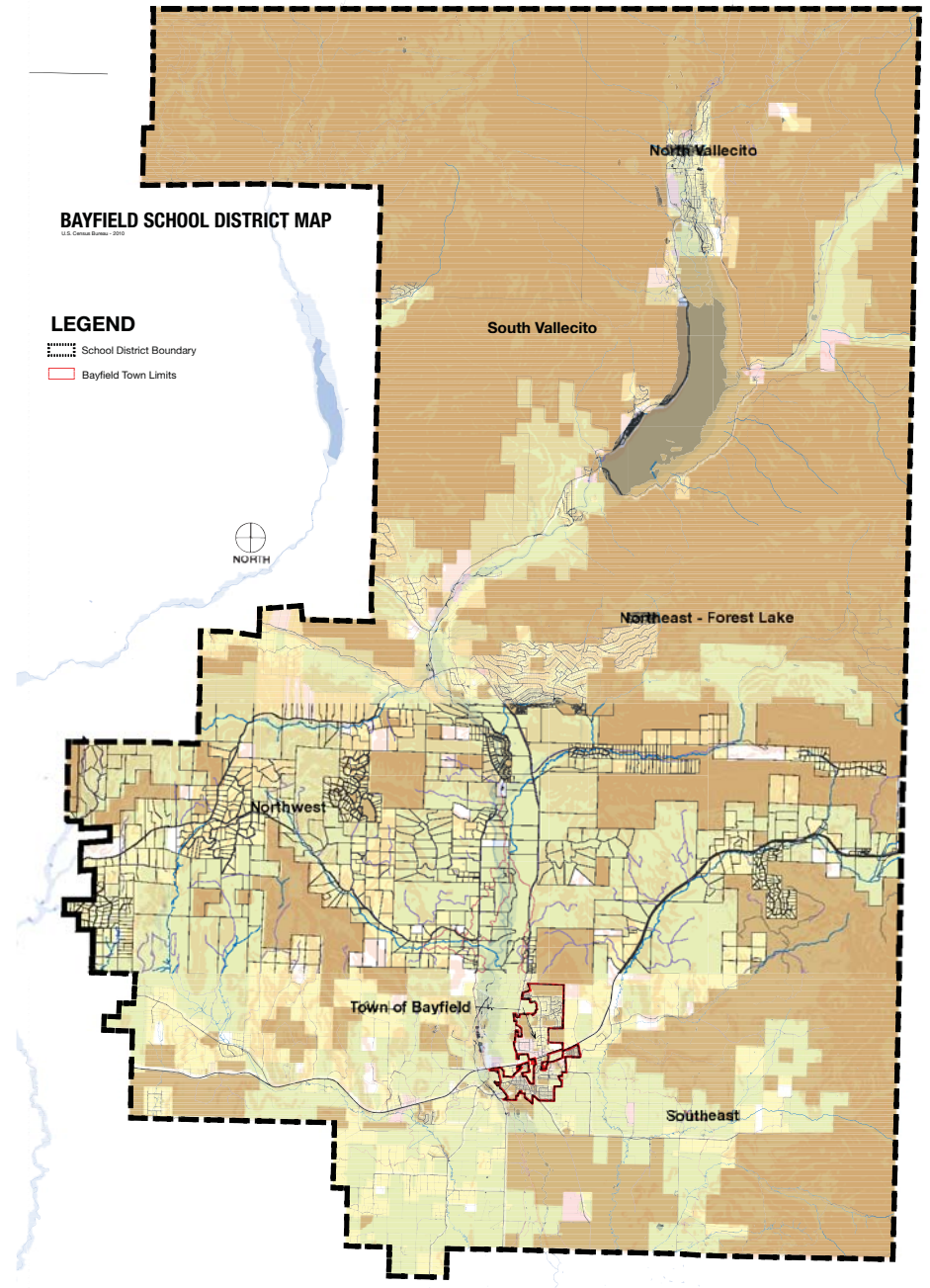


Figure 1: School District Boundaries

PROJECT AREA

The Bayfield Parks and Recreation Department oversees 33+ acres of park lands, open space and trails within the town limits of Bayfield. The Town of Bayfield encompasses a total area of 1.1 square miles (704 acres) of land. The Parks and Recreation service area includes several subdivisions bordering the town proper, and for the purposes of this report, the service boundary is defined as the current Bayfield School District limits (see Figure 1, page 12). The master plan also considers the Town's trails, architectural facilities including the Pine River Senior Center, and potential properties the Town may consider acquiring for recreation and preservation.

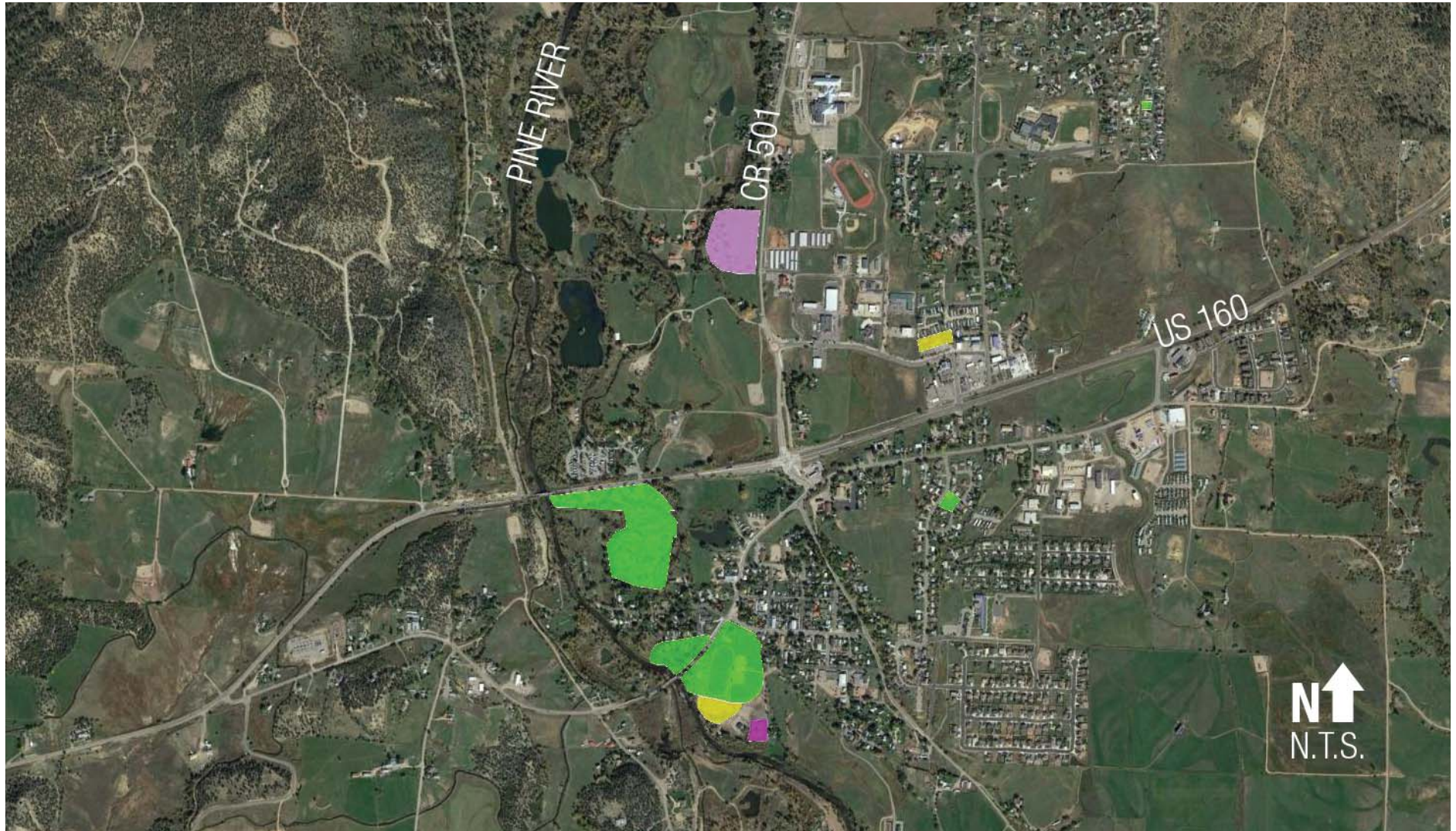


Figure 2: Project area

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Image 7: Fourth of July Parade in 1933, courtesy of the Denver Public Library; History Division via the Pine River Heritage Society

BAYFIELD HISTORY - PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, + RECREATION

Parks and open space are an integral part of the experience of Bayfield. The recreation facilities are currently close to capacity due to growing population and a service area that extends well beyond the Town limits. This situation will only increase with more development and growth. The town is located amongst a wealth of public lands suitable for recreation, including BLM and Forest Service property.

The designation of the San Juan National Forest in 1905 was the beginning of a formal approach to public land use management for recreational purposes. The surrounding area is rich with year-round activities.

As the town began to develop between the 1930s and the 1950s, establishing schools and parks became a priority. Currently there are 27.02 acres of parks within the Town limits.

La Plata Open Space Conservancy was established in 1992 serving southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico. Conservation for open space and riverine habitat was mandated through the Endangered Species Act, which established protection for fragile ecozones and species such as the bald eagle and southwestern willow fly catcher.

ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE

Bayfield is at 6,900 ft. (2,103m) elevation. The ecology is a blend of Montane Forest (5,600-9000 ft.) - consisting of coniferous forest of large fir and ponderosa pines as well as riparian landscape. Residents are likely to see squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, deer, elk, skunks, porcupines, racoons, and approximately 300 species of birds. Larger, more elusive animals may include bighorn sheep, mountain goats, black bear, beaver, river otters, moose or even mountain lions. Some of the plants found here are ponderosa pines, Douglas fir, quaking aspen, limber pine, wax current, mountain maple, kinnikinnik, and fescue. Riparian systems are characterized as being directly in, or adjacent to, bodies of water, generally found in valley basins. The Pine River offers great recreation opportunities, and supports the habitat of beavers, otters, muskrats, mink, western jumping mice, frogs, salamanders, and countless insects and birds. Riparian plants include cottonwoods, willow, cat-tail, salt-grass, river birch, water sedge, horsetail and rushes. Invasive species include tamarisk, Russian olive and bark beetles. Perennial streams and rivers provide habitat for fish and aquatic organisms. (Durango Outdoors Wildlife. N.p. n.d. Web. 13 July 2017)

Federal and state listed endangered species include black-footed ferret, lynx, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, boreal toad and wolverine. Species listed as threatened by state include bald eagle, northern river otter, and western burrowing owl.

The climate boasts moderate temperatures and low humidity year round. Lots of sunshine can make winter days seem mild and comfortable. Most snowfall is from January through March. The climate is ideal for solar-heated buildings and gardeners are able to grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. The Town receives an average of 20 inches of rain and 108 inches of snow a year. On average there are 269 sunny days per year in Bayfield. Because of it's location it has four well defined seasons. The planting hardiness zone is 6b.



Image 8: The Pine River

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Growth

Since 2000, Bayfield has experienced rapid population growth. The rate of population increase between 2000 and 2015 was 51%. By comparison, the rate of population increase for La Plata County and the State of Colorado was 23% and 26%, respectively. Bayfield has grown at nearly double the rate of the county and state. This growth may be attributed to relative affordability of housing for young families working in nearby Durango and Ignacio.

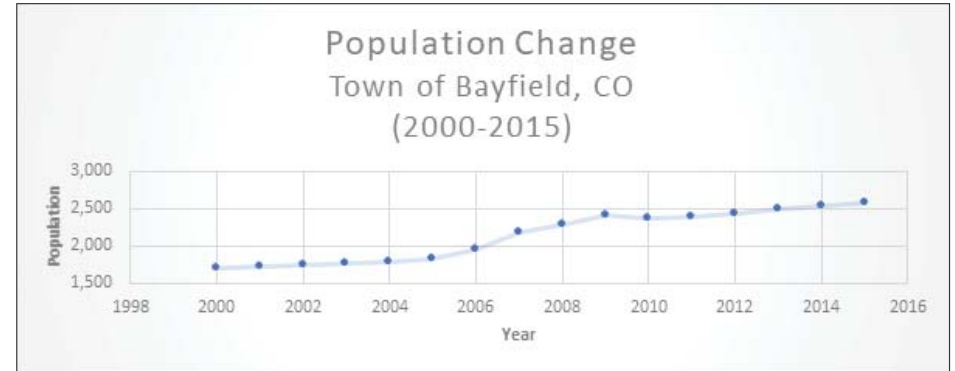


Figure 3 Population Change, Town of Bayfield - 2000-2015. Population in 2000: 1,705. Population in 2015: 2,573.

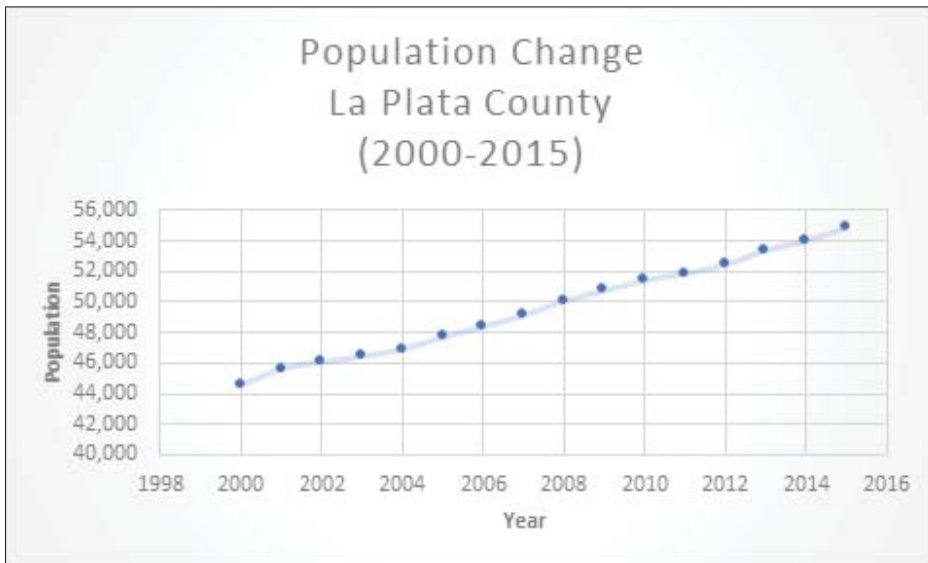


Figure 4: Population Change, La Plata County - 2000-2015. Population in 2000: 44,578. Population in 2015: 54,907.

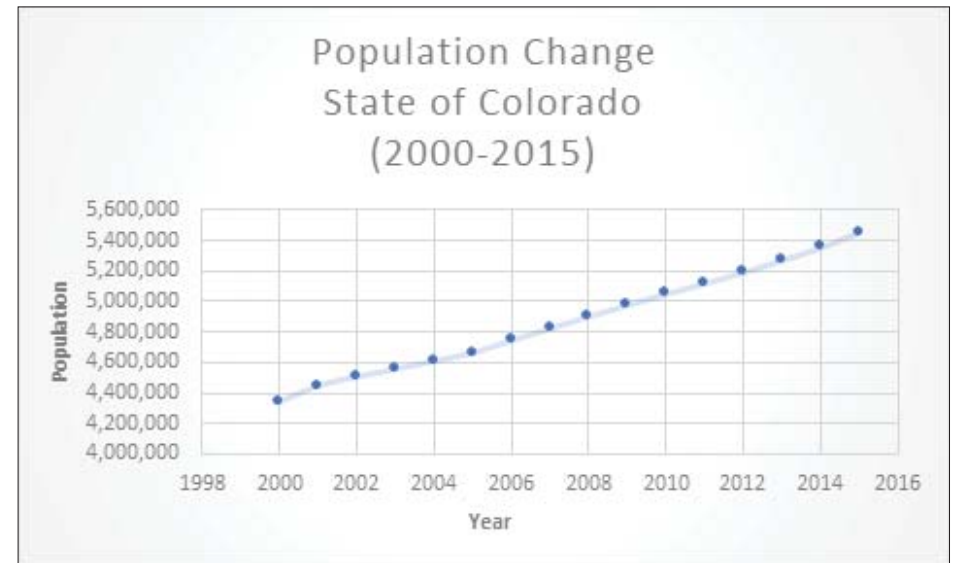


Figure 5: Population Change, Colorado - 2000-2015. Population in 2000: 4,338,831. Population in 2015: 5,456,584.

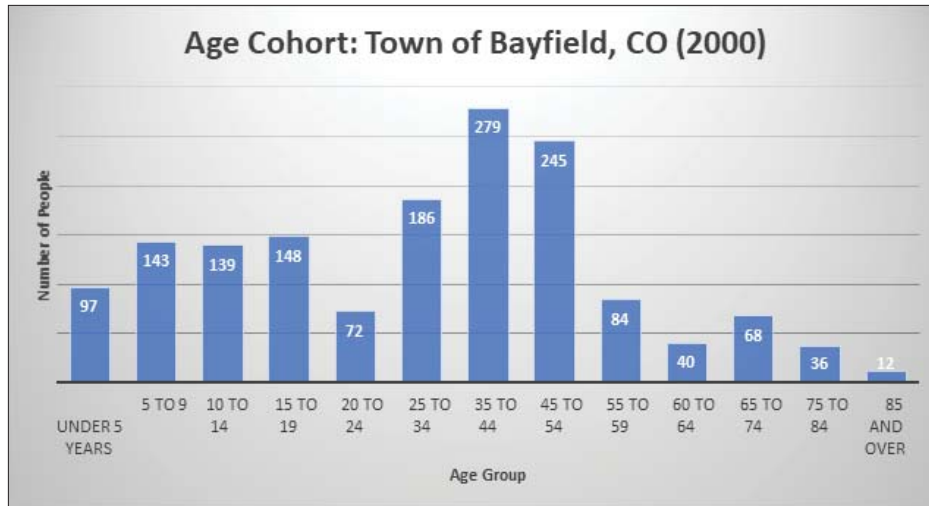


Figure 6: Population by age, 2000

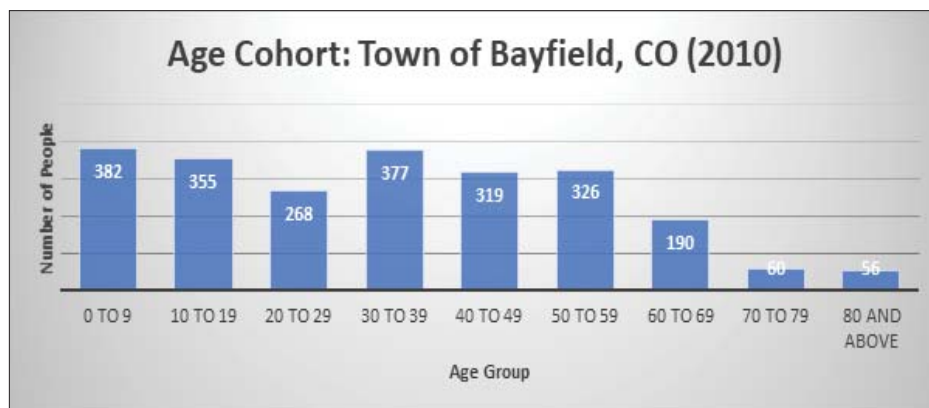


Figure 7: Population by age, 2010

Younger Population

Hand in hand with the increase in population between 2000 and 2015 is a general trend toward a younger population. The data available for analysis is slightly inconsistent. Nonetheless, the charts below clearly reveal an 80% increase in the 0-9 year old age group and a 25% increase in the 10-19 year old age group. This trend is further made clear in the graphs on the opposing page representing the percentage of population each age group makes up.

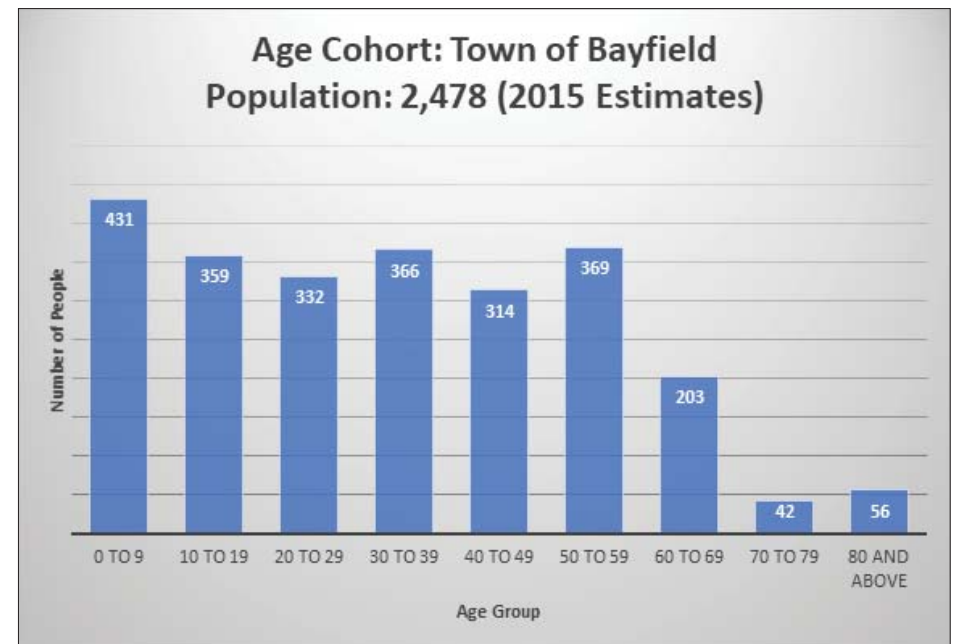


Figure 8: Population by age, 2015

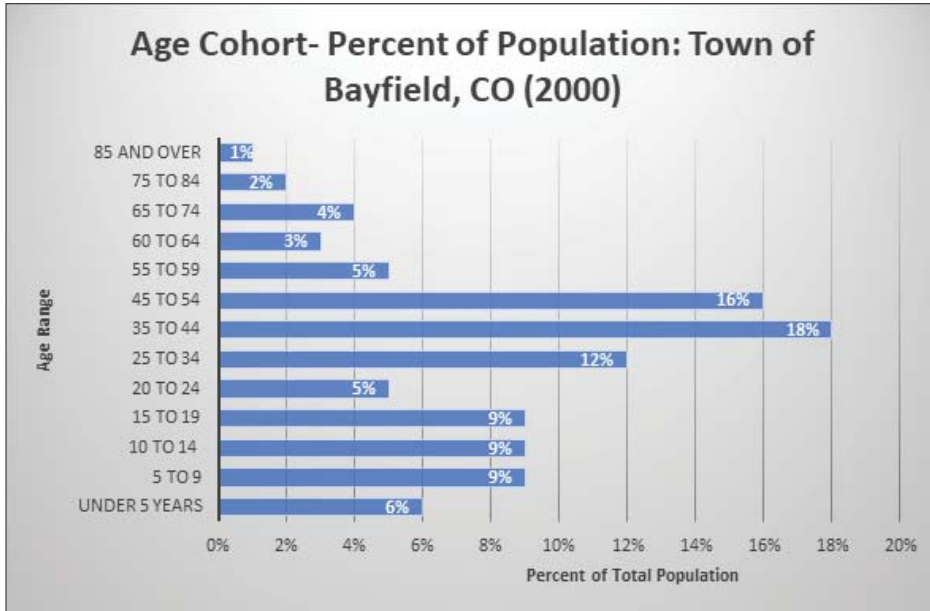


Figure 9: Age groups as a percentage of population, 2000

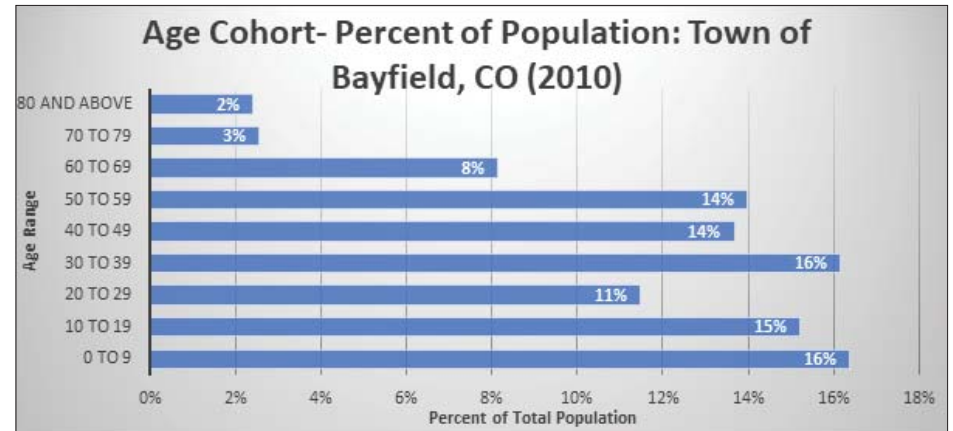


Figure 10: Age groups as a percentage of population, 2010

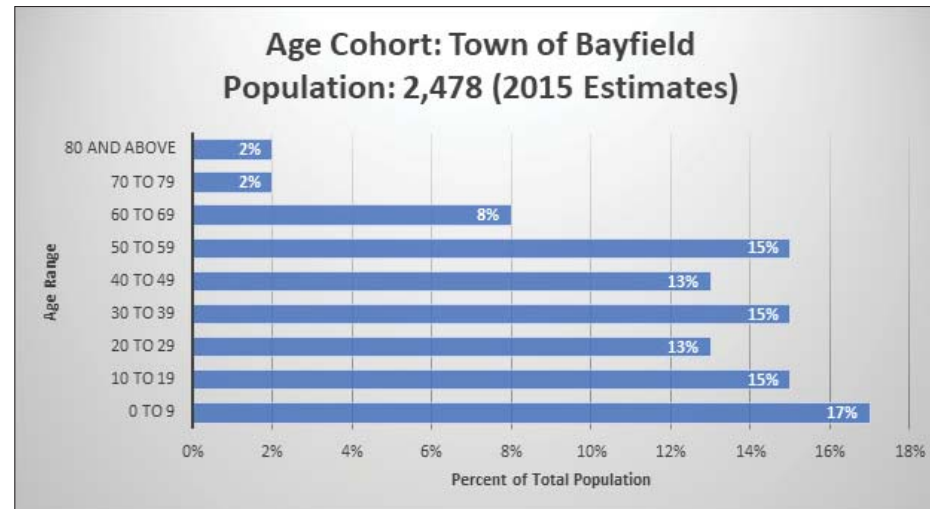


Figure 11: Age groups as a percentage of population, 2015

Growth and Development

In 2001, simultaneous with the beginning of this population increase, the Town agreed to form a special improvement district to build a business park with 38 commercial parcels on 56 acres. There are a number of substantial businesses located in this Business Park including: Lewis True Value, First National Bank of Durango, Mercy Medical and San Juan Regional Clinics, Alert Signs, the Pine River Library, Hongs Garden Grill, Family Dollar, and many others. These businesses provide important services and employment opportunities to the community.

In response to the population growth, and the subsequent increase in demand for housing, the Town has added several new residential subdivisions since 2000.

The Dove Ranch Subdivision, located on the north end of Town off of County Road 501, offers an array of different sized lots ranging from 4,000 square feet near the road to larger two-acre lots farther up in the development. The final build out of this subdivision will be approximately 231 lots according to the Master Plan submitted by the developer, and should include provision for a mid-sized park.

The Mesa Meadows Subdivision is located across the street from the Bayfield Elementary School. It is comprised of 138 Single Family Residential Lots that are approximately 10,000 square feet each.

Fox Farm Village is a Planned Unit Development located off of Mars Avenue near Bayfield Elementary School. It is an affordable housing development and is platted for 50 Multi-Family Dwelling Units and 8 Fair Market Lots.

Comprising 52 lots and located on the east end of town, the Sunrise Estates Subdivision offers both Single Family & Multi Family zoning.

Also located on the east side of town, the Cinnamon Heights Subdivision is a Planned Unit Development platted for 49 Multi-Family Dwelling Units.



Image 9: Entrance to Forest Lakes Subdivision, outside Town limits, yet a significant part of POSTR service area

SITE CONTEXT

In addition to the Parks and Recreational activities that Bayfield provides, there are three towns within 30-45 minutes that offer many indoor and outdoor fitness opportunities. There is a wealth of State and Federal open space areas available for year-round activities, including miles of trails for mountain biking, horseback riding and hiking. Trails 2000 and the State Forestry Service provide free maps for trails close to the town of Bayfield. There are also trails that accommodate all terrain vehicles.

Ignacio: 15-minute drive

Sun Ute Community Center
Navajo Lake State Park

Durango: 30-minute drive

20 parks
Multiple indoor recreation facilities, including a recreation center, gymnastics facility, and ice rink
Animas River activities such as fishing, kayaking, mountain biking and hiking trails

Pagosa Springs: 50-minute drive

Pagosa Springs Recreation Center
Hot springs and spa destinations
Back country horse riding trips

San Juan National Forest

Back packing
Hiking
Mountain biking



Image 10: View towards Saul's Creek

RELEVANT PLANS AND ASSESSMENTS

Existing and current plans and assessments were reviewed as a part of the inventory and analysis phase of this project, to minimize repetition of efforts and improve coordination between plans. Following is a list of previously completed documents as well as efforts ongoing at the time of this plan.

Updates to 2005 Bayfield Comprehensive Plan

The Town's 2005 Comprehensive Plan, with amendments made to the land use map in 2008 and 2010 is currently being updated as part of a separate project concurrent with the POSTR Master Planning process.

Bayfield Wayfinding and Signage Study

This concurrent study proposes options for standardizing Town wayfinding through design and proposed locations for signage.

Ewing Mesa Master Plan

This ongoing master plan addresses 1800 acres south of Durango slated for recreational development to include County fairgrounds and a regional multi-event facility with amenities such as an outdoor music venue, velodrome, BMX biking, and a shooting range.

La Plata County Updates to Land Use and Development Code

Updates are in progress to the Land Use Code utilized as a regulatory tool for implementation of the La Plata County Comprehensive Plan.

2017 Updated La Plata County Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan establishes goals and a policy framework for land use planning in La Plata County.

2016 Bayfield Branding

This recently completed effort resulted in the development of a new logo and brand for the Town, including the slogan "Bayfield: Where the Stars Shine Bright." The Parks and Recreation logo was updated as a part of the rebranding.

2015 Wastewater Collection System Analysis

This analysis was prepared to evaluate the Town's collection system under anticipated future conditions, develop recommended corrections for deficiencies and estimates for capital improvements.

2015 Bayfield Community Assessment

This assessment provides an overview of community assets, conditions, initiatives and values.

Bayfield Historic Walking Tour

Self guided walking tour of Bayfield's historic Mill Street district, coordinated with sidewalk mounted plaques with historic information.

2014 US 160 Traffic Feasibility Study for the Town of Bayfield

A cooperative effort between the Town of Bayfield, La Plata County, and CDOT, this plan evaluates existing traffic conditions with recommendations for roadway network improvements to meet projected capacity and increase safety.

2014 Master Drainage Plan

This report analyzes the Town's existing storm drainage infrastructure and provides recommendations for improvements to meet Town's current Infrastructure Design Standards.

2014 Water Master Plan

This plan is intended to assist in the assessment of existing water system supply, distribution and treatment components and upgrades for future build out to meet projected growth.

FACILITY INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Existing POSTR facilities, including outdoor facilities and buildings, were inventoried using standardized inventory forms, documenting information on access, equipment, and condition. Reference Appendices 1 and 2 for individual facility inventory forms. The map on the following page provides a graphic overview of existing POSTR facilities and major Town features, including current land use.

Inventory Process and Methodology

The information inventory consists of the following phases: preliminary data collection, site visits, data analysis and assembly. Aerial photography and GIS data was used to develop a preliminary inventory of physical features of Bayfield's Parks & Recreation jurisdiction including location, size, access, amenities and service area. The inventory data was collected with a site visit to each parks and recreation facility and through interviews with Parks and Recreation staff.

During the site visits the following information was collected:

- Asset type - Park & Facility Classification
- Location
- Component condition – Amenities and Features
- Site Photos



Image 11: Catching frogs at the Bean Ditch, Joe Stephenson Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS N.T.S.

LEGEND

BAYFIELD TOWN LIMIT
 PARCEL BOUNDARIES

TRANSPORTATION
 AREA ROADS
 U.S. 160
 LA PLATA COUNTY TRAIL
 EXISTING TRAIL + SIDEWALK *

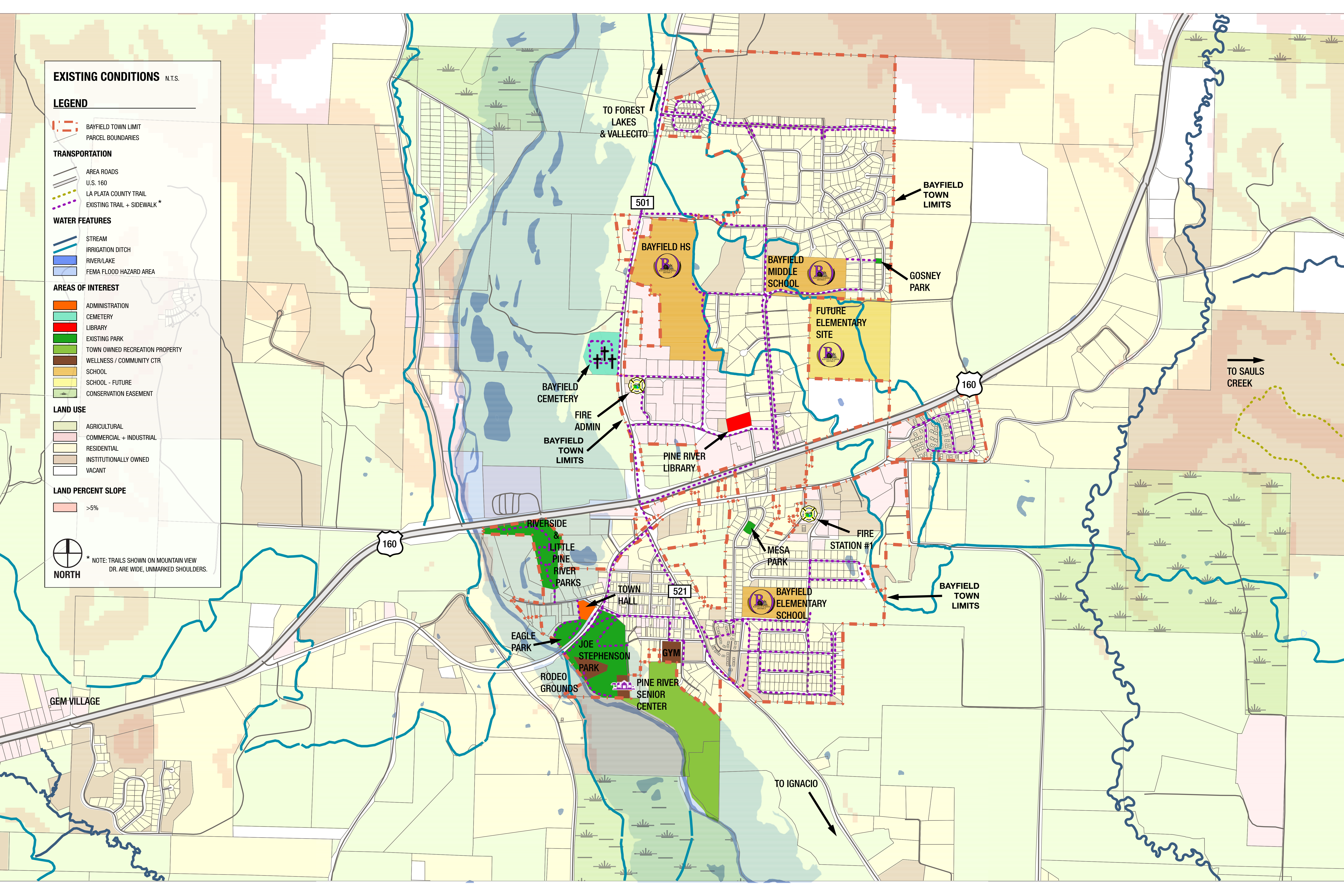
WATER FEATURES
 STREAM
 IRRIGATION DITCH
 RIVER/LAKE
 FEMA FLOOD HAZARD AREA

AREAS OF INTEREST
 ADMINISTRATION
 CEMETERY
 LIBRARY
 EXISTING PARK
 TOWN OWNED RECREATION PROPERTY
 WELLNESS / COMMUNITY CTR
 SCHOOL
 SCHOOL - FUTURE
 CONSERVATION EASEMENT

LAND USE
 AGRICULTURAL
 COMMERCIAL + INDUSTRIAL
 RESIDENTIAL
 INSTITUTIONALLY OWNED
 VACANT

LAND PERCENT SLOPE
 >5%

NORTH
* NOTE: TRAILS SHOWN ON MOUNTAIN VIEW DR. ARE WIDE, UNMARKED SHOULDERS.



EAGLE PARK

COMMUNITY PARK

169,074 SQ FT - 3.79 ACRES

Eagle Park is located at 1169 Bayfield Parkway across from Joe Stephenson Park. Highlights include a wooden pavilion with 55 seat capacity available for rental, a large playground for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds, a public restroom that is open seasonally, a large turf area with bbq pits, a horseshoe court, and river access. There is a parking lot with ADA spaces. Multi modal transportation connections include trails and a transit stop.



Image 12: Aerial view of Eagle Park



Image 13: River view and access



Image 14: Pavilion and parking lot



Image 15: Playground at Eagle Park



Image 16: Horseshoe courts

JOE STEPHENSON PARK

COMMUNITY PARK

550,450 SQ FT - 12.6 ACRES

Joe Stephenson Park is the largest park in Bayfield. Located at the west end of Mill Street, the town's main street. It includes a playground area, two baseball fields with bleachers and dugouts, seasonal restrooms, a modular skate park, and a soccer/football/track and field. This park is used for special community events, such as the Spring Festival, the 4th of July Celebration and the Heritage Days festival. The Bean Ditch on the north side of the park provides informal summer water fun and shaded picnic areas. Irrigation for the fields is a manually operated above ground system that clogs frequently due to sediment from the ditch water.



Image 17: Aerial view of Joe Stephenson Park



Image 18: Looking south across Joe Stephenson Park



Image 19: Modular skate park



Image 20: Baseball facilities



Image 21: Football/track with temporary bandstand

GOSNEY PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

9509 SQ FT - 0.22 ACRES

Gosney Park is a neighborhood park located at 1099 East Oak Drive. It is a small park with a bbq pit and picnic table. It has a new playground that serves 5-12 year olds. ADA access to the park and playground is not currently provided. There are two benches adjacent to the playground. There is an existing ad hoc walking trail between the Middle School and the park. There are no restroom facilities. Parking is on-street.



Image 22: Aerial view of Gosney Park



Image 23 Playground at Gosney Park



Image 24: Spinner and climbing structure



Image 25: Slide and climbing wall



Image 26: Path to the Middle school

MESA PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

30,175 SQ FT - 0.69 ACRES

Mesa Park is located at 98 South Mesa Avenue near the Elementary School. Tucked into a neighborhood, this small park has a well maintained lawn with automatic irrigation and a playground for 5-12 years olds that was added in 2008. Parking is on-street. There is a picnic table and grill. ADA access from parking to the playground is not currently provided.

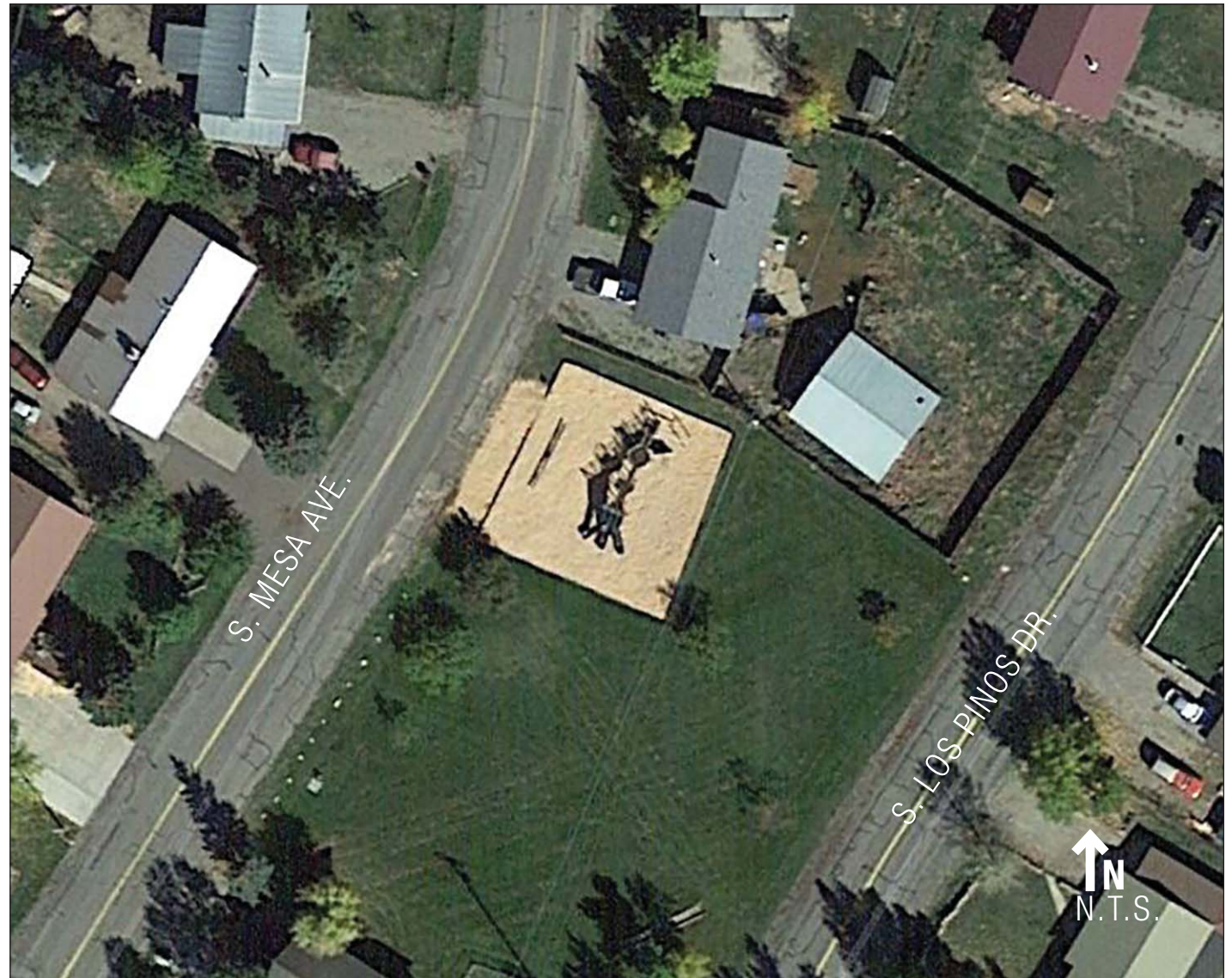


Image 27: Aerial view Mesa Park



Image 28: Shaded picnic area and Playground



Image 29: Playground



Image 30: Neighborhood context



Image 31: Irrigated lawn

PUBLIC LANDS

OPEN SPACE (OUTSIDE TOWN)

The San Juan National Forest Reserve was established in 1905 - the year before the town of Bayfield was incorporated - placing more than 3.7 million acres under conservation programs. This impacted land use decisions by establishing public lands and protecting habitat. The town of Bayfield owns a parcel at Saul's Creek which could be further developed, in partnership with the Forest Service, as trailhead access. Several activities, such as camping, hiking, and horseback riding are permissible within Saul's Creek.

BLM land to the west of Town provides opportunity for hiking, informal camping and mountain biking, but is not currently developed for these uses.

The Columbine USFS District Office is located in downtown Bayfield and provides up to date information on the surrounding National Forests, including hiking maps, and hunting and fishing guidelines.



Image 32: Saul's Creek area

ome
to

SAULS CREEK

Motorized Travel



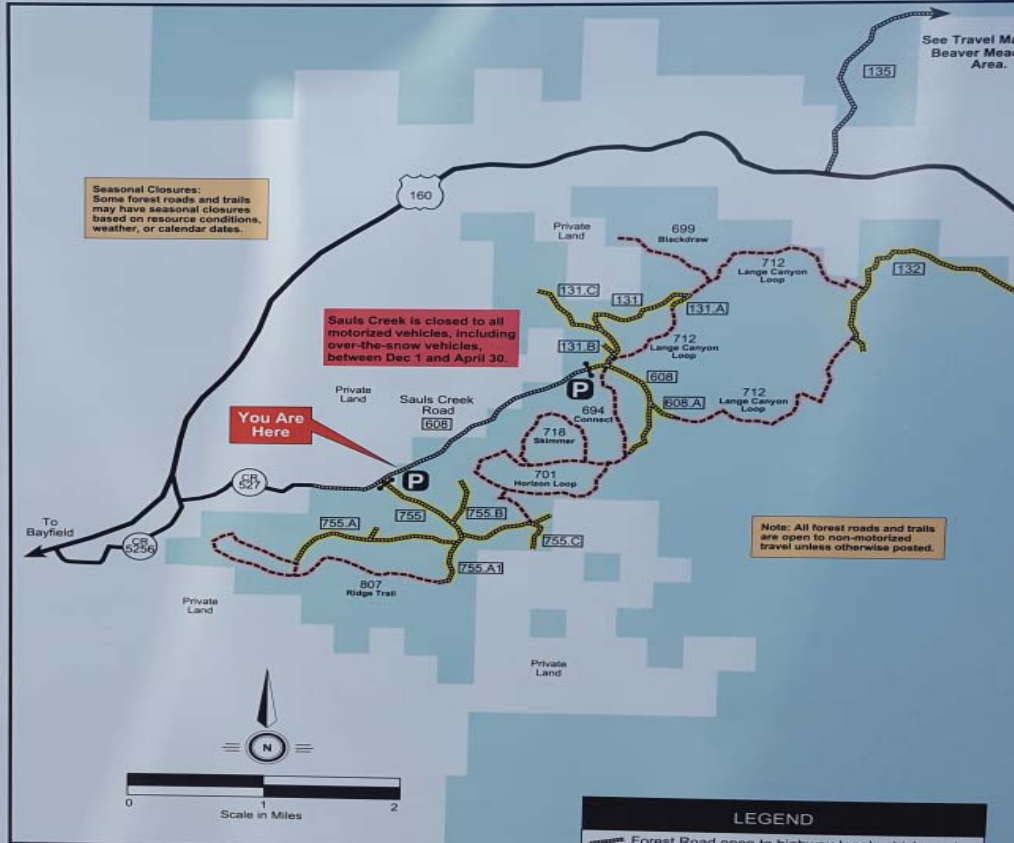
Photo © Chalkboard

Motorized travel is restricted to only those designated roads and trails shown on this map. Cross-country motorized travel is not permitted, including snowmobiles over snow.

Motorized travel is restricted to only those designated roads and trails in Sauls Creek National Monument. Motorized travel is closed to all motorized travel between Dec 1 and April 30 to protect wildlife and riparian life habitat.

- You may drive up to 300 feet from a designated open road to a camp, unless otherwise posted, if your travel does not cause damage to soils or vegetation.
- Many access roads to gas wells are for administrative use only and are closed to motorized use by the public.
- ATVs, unlicensed motorcycles, and unlicensed four-wheel drive vehicles must be registered with the State of Colorado.
- It is your responsibility to know and follow all applicable federal, state, and county regulations.
- Visitors must obey trail signs that display travel restrictions.
- Violators face federal citations.

Thank You for riding responsibly!



Watch for other users on forest roads and trails — Share the Trail.

LEGEND	
	Forest Road open to highway-legal vehicles only
	Forest Road open to all vehicles
	Forest Trail open to vehicles 50 inches wide or less
	Gate
	Parking
	San Juan Public Lands (non-Wilderness)
	Private land (Not all private land is displayed)
For more details, please consult a San Juan National Forest Travel Map or contact the Columbine Ranger District at 970-864-2512.	

Figure 13: Saul's Creek Trail Map

LITTLE PINE RIVER PARK

OPEN SPACE PARK

261,360 SQ FT -6 acres

Little Pine River Park is located at 41746 Highway 160 and is accessible both from Highway 160 and from Roadside Park, and from North Street by foot. Little Pine is an open space park. The major features are walking trails along the Little Pine River (a tributary to the Pine River), fishing and open space with protected habitat for birds and animals.

There are seating areas along the river, and a walking path that is one mile in length, with five benches/rest areas. There are no restrooms. The parking lot is unpaved and unmarked. The walking loop and wetlands are under construction in conjunction with the bridge project. Little Pine is busy in the summer months with informal water play, fishing, and picnicking, and a great chance to see wildlife.



Image 33: Aerial view of Little Pine River park



Image 34: Fishing hole at Little Pine River Park



Image 35: Walking loop, with current construction silt fence



Image 36: Wetland habitat



Image 37: River viewing bench

ROADSIDE PARK

OPEN SPACE PARK

161,986 SQ FT - 3.72 ACRES

Roadside Park can be found directly off of Highway 160 next to Little Pine River Park. It is also an open space park. The large, unpaved parking lot is used as a seasonal farmers market (not coordinated by the Town). The park has access to Little Pine River Park. Amenities include several benches and a bbq grill. Access from Roadside Park under Hwy 160 could be provided with acquisition of property north of highway and coordination with property owner for access easements.



Image 38: Aerial view of Roadside Park



Image 39: Looking across Roadside Park



Image 40: Market space



Image 41: Irrigation ditch and fence row



Image 42: River access

EXISTING TRAILS

TRAILS

Existing trails include approximately 13 miles of paved multi-use trails, connections between schools and playgrounds as well as sidewalks, marked bike paths, and unmarked wide shoulders on some roads. The paved loop around the cemetery is used commonly for walking, but is not maintained by the Town. There is a walking loop in Little Pine River Park, and some river access near Eagle and Joe Stephenson Parks. Given the amount of public lands surrounding Bayfield, there is great potential to improve connectivity between the public lands and Town parks and open spaces. The community engagement process revealed the need for an improved larger network of dedicated bike and pedestrian paths within Town and connecting to outside resources. Ditches, particularly the Schroeder ditch, do not currently serve as trail routes, but provide an opportunity to further link destinations within Town if ditch trails were to be developed.



Image 43: Path near the High school



Image 44: Path near the Elementary School

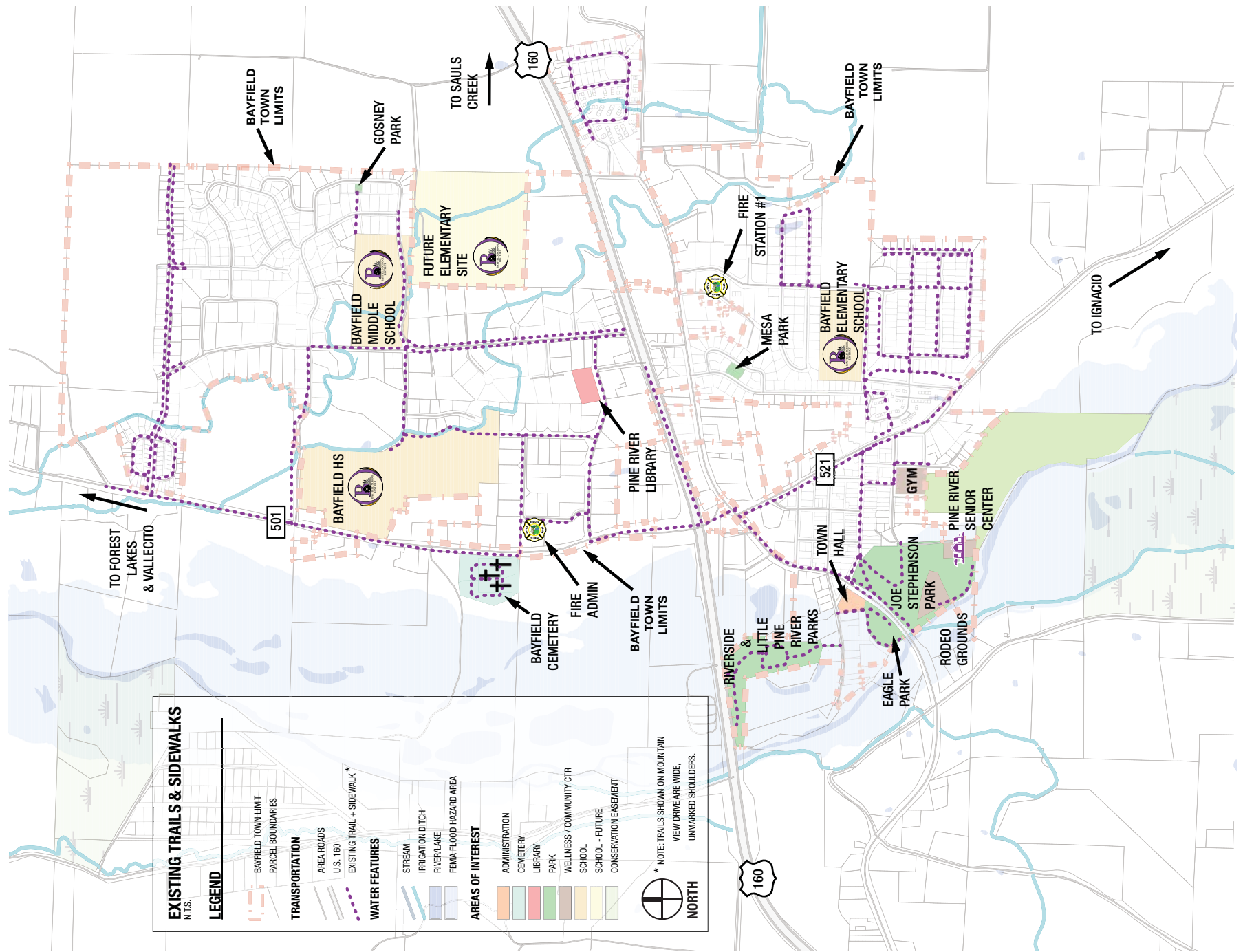


Figure 14: Existing Trails and Sidewalks

SENIOR CENTER

BUILDINGS

The Senior Center was built in 2009. It houses the Town's senior programming and provides valuable facility rental space for events such as weddings, family reunions and birthday parties. Senior programs include a county-provided lunch service Wednesdays and Fridays and a game day and exercise classes on Tuesdays. The building has a full commercial kitchen and a large multi-purpose room with audio-visual capabilities. There is also a large deck area with lighting and barbeque grills. The building is in relatively good condition, but is experiencing some damage due to snow melt. Interior storage areas could benefit from some additional casework to improve storage efficiency and capacity.



Image 45: Senior Center entrance/drop-off



Image 46: Senior Center kitchen

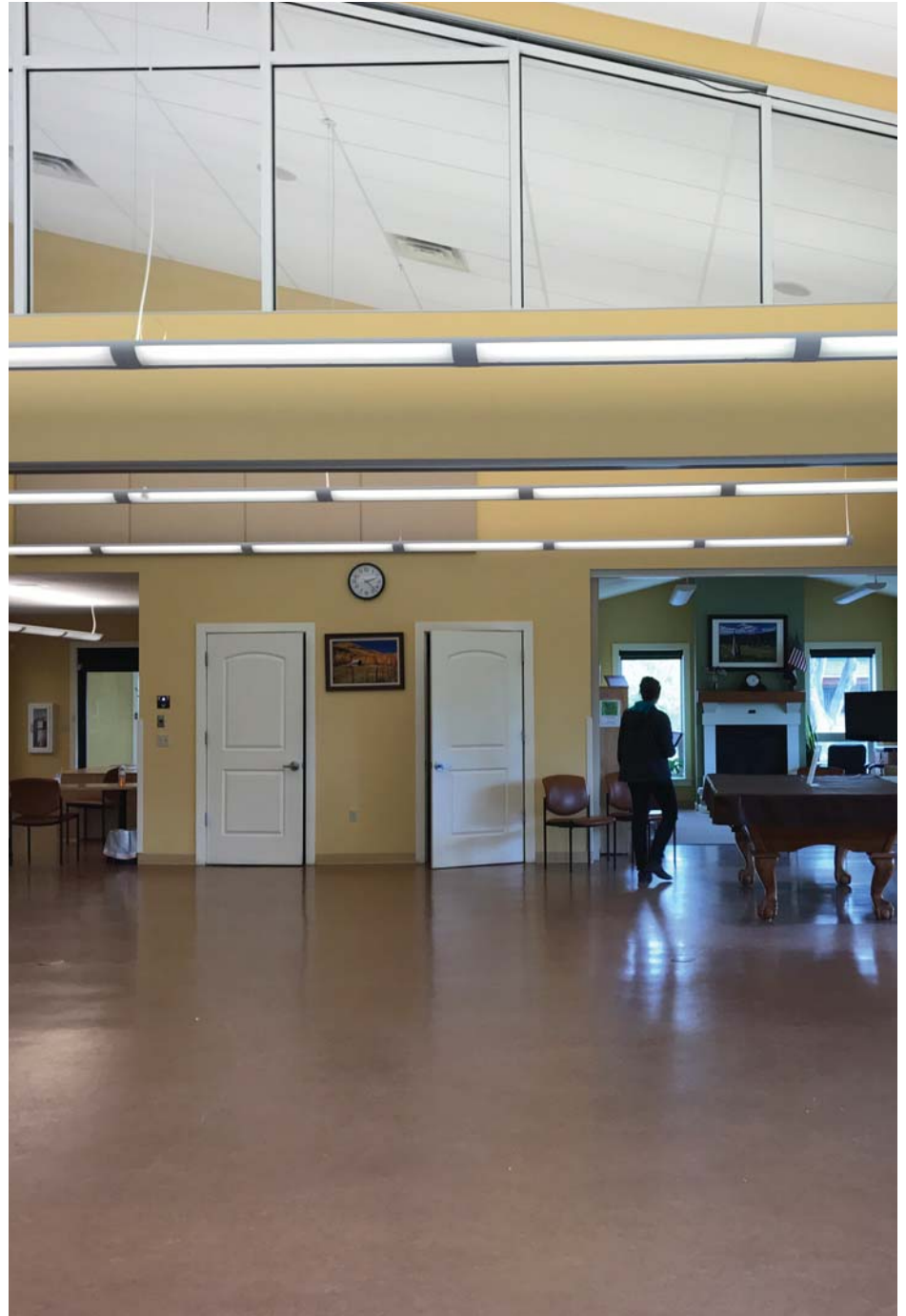


Image 47: Senior Center multi-purpose room

TOWN HALL

BUILDINGS

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently housed in Bayfield Town Hall. Parks and Recreation is responsible for maintenance of Town Hall and its grounds. The building is approximately 10 years old, appears structurally sound and in good condition overall. The roof was recently replaced and is about 2 years old. Landscaping appears to be in good condition, although several trees close to the building may need to be monitored for root interference with utilities and/or foundations.



Image 48: Main entrance of Town Hall



Image 49: Town Board Room

OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM

BUILDINGS

The Old Middle School Gym is not currently owned by the Town, but it is used through a lease agreement with the Bayfield School District for Parks and Recreation programs in the afternoons and evenings. The space is currently overprogrammed and Parks and Recreation indoor recreational programs are limited because of this. As part of the lease agreement, Parks and Recreation assumes a level of responsibility for facility maintenance and upkeep. During site assessment and walk-through it was noted that there is significant cracking in the structural bearing walls. It appears that structural repairs have previously taken place in some areas. It is recommended that a full structural assessment be performed by qualified structural engineer to determine the structural integrity of the building. It was also observed that there is the possibility of asbestos containing material in the facility. It is recommended that asbestos testing be performed to determine the extent of the asbestos containing material. Portions of the attached school building have been determined unsafe for use.



Image 50: Mid-School Gym south side



Image 51: Mid-school Gym interior

PARKS MAINTENANCE SHOP

BUILDINGS

The Maintenance Shop, built in 2016, is located adjacent to the Senior Center at Joe Stephenson Park. The shop is in good condition, provides valuable equipment storage and a heated environment for performing repair and maintenance operations. The shop yard is used for storing equipment and materials. A full parks maintenance large equipment inventory is included in Appendix 3.



Image 52: Interior equipment storage at Maintenance Shop



Image 53: View of Maintenance Shop from Joe Stephenson Park

Program Inventory

RECREATION PROGRAM LISTING

Youth Programs

- Fall Flag Football
- Fall Soccer
- Winter Basketball
- Winter Volleyball
- Spring Soccer

Adult Programs

- Coed Indoor Soccer
- Coed Volleyball
- Coed Softball
- Men's Softball
- Women's Softball

EVENT LISTING

Athletic Events

- Denver Nuggets Skills Challenge
- Colorado Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge
- Punt, Pass, and Kick

Special Events

- Spring Festival
- Block Parties
- 4th of July Celebration
- Heritage Days
- Old Fashion Christmas



Image 54: Easter Egg Scramble 5K at the Spring Festival



Image 55: 4th of July Parade on Mill Street

PROGRAM AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Note: Exact dates dependent on year

PROGRAM	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Winter K-4th Basketball												
Youth Volleyball												
Adult Coed Indoor Soccer												
Denver Nuggets Skills Challenge												
Adult Coed Volleyball												
Spring Festival and Easter Egg Scramble												
Spring Youth Soccer												
Adult Coed Softball												
Colorado Rockies Baseball Skills Challenge												
Annual Fourth of July Celebration												
Block Parties												
Heritage Days												
Youth Flag Football												
Youth Fall Soccer												
Punt, Pass and Kick												
Winter 5th -6th Basketball												
Old Fashion Christmas												

Figure 15: Parks and Recreation Program and Event Schedule

Youth Sports Registration
2012-2017YTD
Number of Participants

Youth Sports	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Basketball K-4th	98	88	0 *	112	126	152
Volleyball	70	68	75	77	81	86
Spring Soccer	253	258	306	351	349	274***
Fall Soccer	215	300	232	278	300	-
Flag Football	87	73	73	111	142	-
Basketball 5th-6th	47	24	80**	37	33	-
Total	770	811	766	966	1,031	512
<i>Growth Rate</i>	NA	5.3%	-5.5%	26.1%	6.7%	NA

Number of participants

*5th - 6th Bball ran twice in 2014
 **No K-4th Bball in 2014
 *** Sun Ute didn't participate in spring soccer (2017)

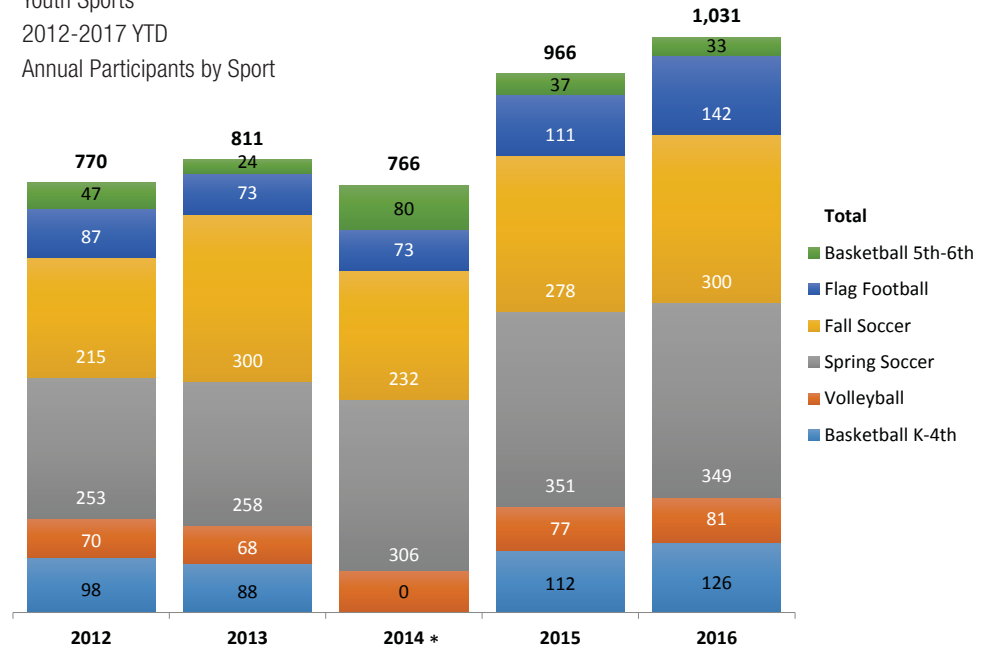
PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Youth Programs

Youth program participation has grown steadily in the last 5 years, with flag football seeing the greatest increase. Currently the most popular program is soccer. Basketball may be able to draw more numbers if additional gym space was provided. Note: participation numbers fluctuate based on Sun Ute participation.

Figure 16: Youth Sports Registration

Youth Sports
2012-2017 YTD
Annual Participants by Sport



*Switched the two basketball leagues. 5th-6th went from Jan to Dec (played twice in 2014) K-4th went from Dec to Jan (didn't play in 2014)

Figure 17: Youth Sports- Annual participants by sport

Adult Sports Registration
2012-2017YTD
Number of Participants

Adult Programs

Adult program participation has maintained relatively consistent registration over the last 5 years. The most popular program is men's softball, and softball is the most popular sport overall. If additional gym space were available, it would be possible to add an adult basketball program.

Adult Sports	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Indoor Soccer	5	4	5	8	10	8
Coed Volleyball	12	9	10	12	7	6
Men's Softball	12	13	12	16	16	18
Coed Softball	9	11	9	12	12	15
Women's Softball	6	5	4	-	-	-
Total	44	42	40	48	45	47
<i>Growth Rate</i>	NA	-4.55%	-4.76%	20.00%	-6.25%	4.44%

Figure 18: Adult Sports Registration

Adult Sports
2012-2017 YTD
Annual Participants by Sport

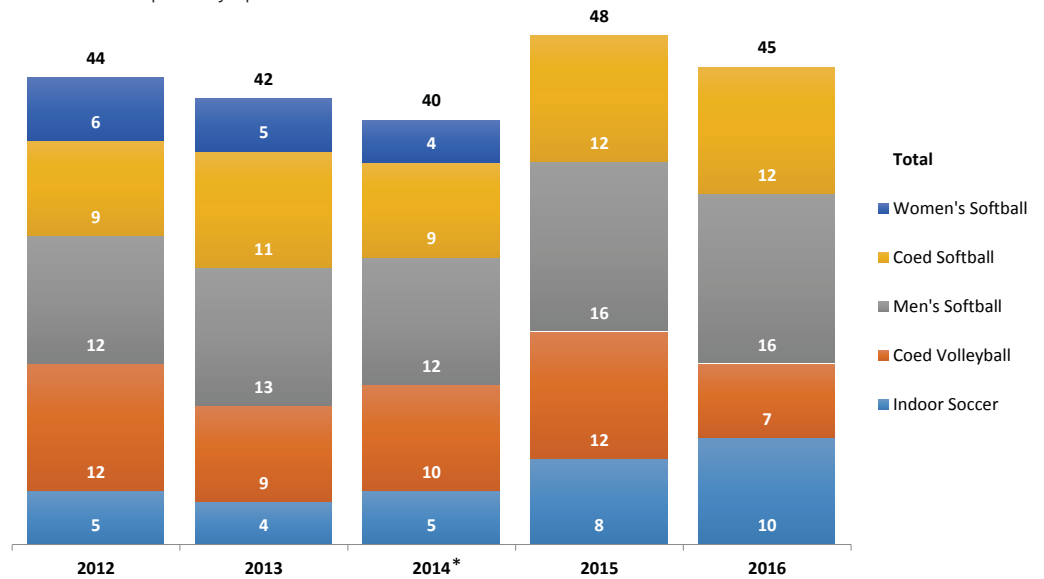


Figure 19: Adult Sports- Annual participants by sport

LEVEL OF SERVICE AND BUDGET ANALYSIS

Methodology

The Level of Service (LOS) analysis was administered to determine how well the Town of Bayfield Parks & Recreation Department is serving the local population. In parks and recreation master plans, LOS is traditionally defined as the minimum amount of a public facility which must be provided to meet that community's basic needs and expectations and measures are usually expressed as ratios of capacity to the number of users. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Standards are centered on the capacity of the system, providing 'X' number of facilities or acreage per 1,000 people. These standards are considered a benchmark for this analysis and this plan provides comparisons for population based components as part of this plan.

Additional factors considered include type of asset, location, condition, quality of services, and expense for maintenance & improvements, in order to define more accurate LOS standards that are implementable and can be measured in relation to the community's needs and goals over time. **The plan considers the parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities as an integrated service providing system, which allows for measurement and quantification of the LOS offered.** The individual components of the system include playgrounds, recreation facilities, multi-purpose fields, and passive open space and wetland areas. The LOS provides a statistical foundation for allocating resources and can be qualified against actual conditions. Through comparing and contrasting the needs assessment survey data with feedback from public workshops and events, an accurate picture of parks and recreation needs can be developed.

Key Findings

The Level of Service and budget analysis revealed several useful results. Following are the key findings from the comparison of Bayfield Parks and Recreation with other Parks and Recreation Departments of similar size nationally and in Colorado. Full results from the analysis are included in Appendix 8.

1. Bayfield Parks and Recreation spends an average amount of operational expenditures on personnel, and obtains a higher than average amount of capital support from the General Fund and grant funds.

Greater than average reliance on grant funding may drive up personnel costs due to the time required to submit applications, administer the grant and provide reporting.

2. Even though fees are charged for 100% of programs, the ratio of Parks and Recreation revenue to total expenditures is low. Parks and Recreation revenue per capita is also significantly lower than the lower quartile. This suggests that **additional sources of revenue should be sought. Fee and facility rental costs could be increased.**

3. Current expenditures per acre of parkland and per capita are significantly lower (less than half) of the state median. Tax expenditures are also lower than average, which suggests that **an increased tax base and/or additional tax initiatives would benefit the Town.**

4. Size of parks, area and quantity of parks per capita and full time employees per capita are low compared to the state median, while level of participation in Parks and Recreation programming per capita is significantly higher. This indicates that **additional expenditures to increase park area and support additional staffing are needed.**

5. The Bayfield Parks and Recreation Department handles the majority of agency responsibilities normally managed by Parks and Recreation Departments in the state, with the sole exception of an indoor swim facility, which as noted in other sections of this report, is provided by the nearby communities of Durango and Ignacio. This indicates that **the Town is providing the Bayfield community with comparable recreational amenities to the rest of the state, and is not lacking in the types of opportunities provided.**

6. **The Bayfield Parks and Recreation Department provides many of the typical program services provided by other Parks and Recreation Departments in the state.** For the services not provided (such as fitness enhancement, safety training, and teen programming), stakeholder partners exist who are currently or could, in the future, provide these additional services (local gym, Fire District, Boys and Girls Club.)

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Website

<https://www.ourbayfieldparks.org/>

A website was created as part of the master planning process to provide a general overview of the project, inform the community of upcoming events and to provide access to Master Plan surveys. The website has been active since early March and may be turned over to the Parks and Recreation Department for their use as a web platform going forward.

Surveys

Community and Youth Needs Assessment surveys were conducted from March 10th to June 30, 2017. Separate surveys were provided for Adult, Seniors, Youth, and Teens. Surveys were available on line through Survey Monkey® and PDF download, and hard copies were made available at Town Hall and the Pine River Library. Staff handed out surveys to the senior center visitors, as well as at local schools, to capture as many participants as possible. Over 300 surveys were returned. Reference Appendix 5 for full survey questionnaires and detailed graphic representation of the results. Key findings from survey results are provided in the next section.

Spring Festival

April 15, 2017 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

The Master Plan team attended the Spring Festival at Joe Stephenson Park. A large-scale map of the town was provided along with stickers and post it notes to elicit conversation and identify needs from the families attending the festival. The morning started with a 5k race and ended with an Easter egg hunt. The Master Plan booth was located adjacent to the Imagination Playground building blocks and this playful setting was a great way to attract and meet parents and children.



Image 56: Community feedback at the Spring Festival



Image 57: Interactive map at the Spring Festival

Pop-up Playground

May 20, 2017 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

The Pop-up Playground (PUP) was a one day, temporary event in which the Bayfield Community had the chance to “dream big” and build a fantasy playground. This event was held at the Pine River Library and had a larger than expected turnout of over 100 participants. Local businesses and organizations sponsored and donated materials and provided volunteer support. Surveys were distributed to participants who had not yet completed them, the project website was advertised, and participants demonstrated their parks and recreational preferences through the play structures that were built. The PUP also served as a groundbreaking event for the new Pine River Library Park, a partnership between the Town and the Pine River Library. The new park will address the current overuse of library grounds for after-school recreation, particularly for middle school students. The Pine River Library Garden Club held a plant sale in conjunction with the PUP.



Image 59: Pop Up Playground



Image 58: Pop Up Playground



Image 60: Pop Up Playground

Town Hall Open House

April 18, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

A large-scale map of the town was provided with post it notes to elicit conversation and identify needs from community members. An information presentation was given to participants, and feedback was solicited regarding potential land acquisition for Parks and Recreation development, community needs, and options for funding expansion. The open house was held in the atrium of Town Hall.

July 4th Celebration

July 4, 2017 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

As part of the vendor booths at the celebration, we presented preliminary findings from the survey, and solicited feedback on the plan's potential recommendations. The day had a packed schedule of events including a pancake breakfast, a 5k run, live music, a pet parade - to name a few and ended with fireworks in the park. The master plan booth was conveniently located next to the Imagination Playground blocks, so we had an excellent cross section of feedback from a wide range of age groups.



Image 61: Interactive display at Town Hall Open House

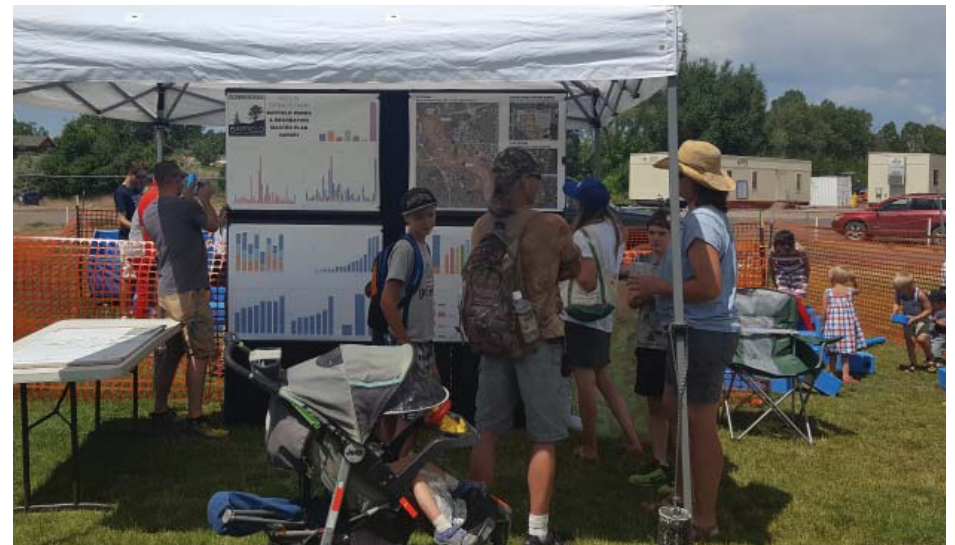


Image 62: Interactive display at 4th of July Celebration

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Statistically-Valid Survey

Methodology

The data required to benchmark the Level of Service for parks and recreation in Bayfield was compiled through a needs assessment survey, which was conducted from February to May 31, 2017, using both online digital and hard copy distribution. Three surveys were developed to measure recreation demand; one for adults & seniors, one for teenagers and one for youth ages 5-12. A website was created for accessing the online surveys through Survey Monkey® and communicating ongoing parks & recreation Master Plan events. The surveys were advertised through the Town of Bayfield Parks & Recreation Facebook page on four separate occasions during the data collection period. Hard copies of the surveys were distributed through the Town of Bayfield schools and to the Pine River Senior Center.

There were 109 completed adult surveys collected, 38 of which were from the senior center with 4 additional questions. There were 145 completed teen surveys and 63 youth surveys collected at the end of the response period. The following margin of error calculations use the school district boundary to calculate population (8250 pop.), as this area better represents the true area of service provided by the Town of Bayfield Parks and Recreation Department. Based upon the sample size of 109 adult responses received, those overall results have a margin of error of approximately +/- 9.35 percentage points. Based upon the sample size of 145 teen responses received, those overall results have a margin of error of approximately +/- 8.1 percentage points. Based upon the sample size of 63 youth responses received, those overall results have a margin of error of approximately +/- 12.35 percentage points.

Economic questions were included in the adult and senior surveys only, in order to determine an accurate representation of the community's perspectives and goals.

Key findings from the surveys are as follows. Full detailed graphic representation of survey results are located in Appendix 6.

Key Findings - Adult Survey

1. The majority of respondents were women between the ages of 30 and 50. This may be a reflection of the Bayfield's current demographic makeup of young families.
2. Survey results show **frequent use of parks and recreation facilities, open space and trails**, with Eagle Park and Joe Stephenson Park as the most popular. Events were the most frequently attended activity, followed by playgrounds and use of open space.
3. Respondents were **generally supportive of increasing tax revenue to support Parks and Recreation funding** (Special District creation, GO bonds, Town-wide Parks and Recreation tax). Responses also demonstrated a desire to increase Parks and Recreation revenue through increased tourism and local fundraising efforts. This reflects a strong volunteer capacity and ethic as well as an understanding of the relationship between parks and recreation facilities, increased visitation, and economic development.
4. Priorities for Parks and Recreation improvements and expenditures include a **new indoor recreation facility, improvements to existing park facilities, trail expansion, and river/fishing access**. Nature and river trails were the demonstrated highest priority for trail expansion.
5. Respondents showed moderately frequent use of area non-motorized trails, with hiking and walking as the most popular use, and some bicycle use.
6. Respondents demonstrated **overall satisfaction with the current value that the Parks and Recreation Department provides**. There was general agreement that Parks and Recreation provides important economic, physical, psychological and environmental benefits.
7. Respondents' families participate most frequently in the **youth soccer programs**.
8. Responses suggest that the most important features of the programs offered are timing and fees, with the most **common reasons for NOT participating include not knowing what is offered, use**

of facilities in adjacent cities, and the desired program not being offered. Strong support was shown for using the Town website and the Parks and Recreation Facebook pages to access information on Parks and Recreation opportunities.

Key Findings - Senior Survey

The senior survey questions were added to the Adult Survey and focused on needs related to the Senior Center specifically. Respondents reported that they value the center primarily for **social interaction, general health and wellness** (exercise classes), and the good food provided by the County meal service. A few showed appreciation for the computer room, arts and crafts classes and the pool table. Some requests were made for an outdoor walking path, more outdoor activities, and cooking classes.

Key Findings - Teen Survey

The teenage and youth population of Bayfield and surrounding areas are some of the largest users of the parks and recreation system. The teen survey focused on use of existing parks and recreation facilities and programs, as well as assessing the needs and desires of the teen and youth population in and around Bayfield.

1. Females made up a slight majority of respondents, who ranged in age from 11-14.
2. Reflecting results from the adult survey, the most frequently visited parks are Joe Stephenson and Eagle Park. Reasons for visiting these park included **social interaction and expansive space to play**. Respondents indicated they would participate in outdoor activities more if additional equipment and more diverse facility and program opportunities were provided closer to home.
3. Responses showed **preference for outdoor activity within Bayfield** (split between respondents' own yards, neighborhood park, school, and park outside of neighborhood). Durango is a more common destination for outdoor recreation than Vallecito.
4. **The most common outdoor activities are balanced between Parks and Recreation facilities and programs (parks, team sports, aquatics), and open space (hiking, biking, fishing).** Swimming in a pool was the most popular, but strong preference was also shown for swimming in a lake, river or stream.

5. **Activities respondents would like to do more often were focused more on open space and passive recreational development** (camping, hiking mountain biking, horseback riding, picnicking, and fishing). Reasons for not participating in outdoor activities were weighted towards being too busy and distance to the activity.

6. Most respondents reported relative freedom in independent mobility, but that generally an adult drives them to their favorite outdoor activity.

7. **Responses showed a positive environmental ethic and desire to spend time outdoors.**

8. **Overall, programs and facilities that support active social interaction (special events, social activities, 4-H, rodeo) were rated as most important.** This is reinforced by the responses regarding a teen friendly environment – with a place to hang out being most popular, followed by physical recreation programming.

9. **Communication with teens is best done through a combination of direct traditional media and social media**, with respondents indicating flyers and posters at school are as effective as communication through email and social sites like Facebook and Instagram.

Key Findings - Youth Survey

1. Survey responses were gender balanced and mostly from ages 6-11.
2. The majority of respondents currently participate in Parks and Recreation programming, with **soccer as the most popular program.**
3. Reflecting results from the adult survey, **the parks most frequently visited by youth are Joe Stephenson and Eagle Park.**
4. **The most popular playground equipment includes climbing equipment, swings, slides, and spinning events.**
5. **Responses showed a positive environmental ethic and desire to spend time outdoors.**

PARTNERSHIPS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Several key stakeholders have been identified through discussions with the Town and interviews with each stakeholder group. **These stakeholders are partners that demonstrate programming overlaps and opportunities for recruiting volunteers and sharing resources.** The stakeholders listed below are identified as those with whom the Parks and Recreation Department should focus energies on strengthening the existing relationship as well as exploring opportunities for further collaboration, as noted below. Reference Appendix 4 for full descriptions of each stakeholder, including contact information, complete meeting notes and dates of interviews.

Key Stakeholders

Pine River Library

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- The library provides space for yoga classes that the Parks and Rec manages and staffs
- A community garden provides 2 out of (24) full raised gardens for the Pine River Seniors, in addition to classes and food needs of the community
- The Library and the Town recently partnered on multiple grant applications to design and build a new park adjacent to the Pine River Library.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- **The Library Board would be open to discussing a combined Special District for the Library and Parks and Recreation.** The Library is currently considering a mill levy increase to support the Library Special District. The addition of Parks and Rec would add to this increase.
- **Future potential grant funding application partner**
- **Shared space for programming** such as literary and/or educational themed recreational events, wellness initiatives, and/or citizen science based activities.

Bayfield School District

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- Coordination of schedules and usage of the Old Middle School Gym (current lease agreement)
- Cross country team uses trails at Saul's Creek and Vallecito.
- The Parks and Recreation Department advertises programming and events by sending home fliers in "Friday Folders" and advertising through school news networks.
- Many school coaches also participate as coaches or referees in Parks and Recreation programs.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- While a traditional facility shared use agreement is unlikely because of the current heavy school use of their facilities, there is a **possibility to work with Parks and Rec and/or local athletic organizations to set them up as temporary school district employees.** This would alleviate some of the cost associated with school facility rental.
- **School District would be supportive of development of a Special Recreation District.**
- When the new elementary school is complete, it will include a new full size gymnasium, which could make the Old Middle School Gym property available for Town purchase.

La Plata County Boys and Girls Club

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- Currently there is limited to no coordination with Parks and Recreation due to lack of facilities in Bayfield. Additional coordination is desired.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Tween Center may be possible through Boys and Girls Club acre lease with School District, at the new elementary site.** Parks and Recreation could coordinate with BGC for use and programming at this facility, and share Bayfield park space for BGC programs.
- **BGC would like to provide outreach during Parks and Recreation adult programming** to engage adult mentors, and/or any other possibilities for engaging the community with the club.

Bayfield Senior Board

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- The Senior Center is managed by the Town Parks and Recreation Department. They advise the Town on matters related to the Senior Center and opportunities for senior activities.
- The Senior Center is a rental facility managed by Parks and Recreation. Rentals are for graduations, weddings, reunions, birthday parties and other family-oriented events. These rentals are currently the largest source of rental revenue for Parks and Recreation.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Senior Board can provide a **valuable source of input for Parks and Recreation improvements** relative to their demographic. For example, they have requested an ADA accessible walkway from the Center to the river, possibly another pavilion for parties, more picnic tables in Joe Stephenson Park, signage about the history of the parks (similar to signage on Mill Street), and signage with maps regarding trails/pathways.
- The Senior Board connects Parks and Recreation to a **pool of potential volunteers who could assist with fundraising, events, educational workshops and activities** that tie parks and recreation to Bayfield's history and tradition.

Upper Pine River Fire District

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- The Pine River Fire District currently assists Parks and Recreation with traffic control and safety during events, and assists with the fireworks during the 4th of July celebration.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Open to discussion regarding shared Special Use District/Rec Center District.** Bond percentage will decrease in next 5 years, which could free up some money to support a shared district approach with no net tax increase for district residents.
- There is an **opportunity to create a shared use wellness center that would support both community recreation needs and the needs of the Fire District staff.** Plans previously developed from a charrette with Oz Architecture show possibility for shared workout rooms, a gymnasium, community meeting space, and other recreational activities space.

La Plata Family Center

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- The Family Center coordinates with Parks and Rec for use of Joe Stephenson Park for events like last summer's "carwash" (youth water play event).
- The Family Center is sharing the Imagination Playground (giant blue blocks) they received from a Kaboom grant with Parks and Recreation for use during their events.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Family Center coordinates regularly with the Boys and Girls Club of La Plata County, which creates a **jumping off point for collaboration between Parks and Recreation and these two entities.**
- **The Family Center would be interested in leasing gymnasium, kitchen, and community room space from Parks and Recreation** and/or the Town if it was available (they currently lease from the School District), generating an additional source of revenue for Parks and Recreation.
- The Center spends a great deal of money on field trips to other facilities and would benefit from a local Bayfield Indoor Recreation Center; thereby keeping funds in the community.

Trails 2000

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- Trails 2000 coordinated with the town to design and build the soft surface trail between the Senior Center and Joe Stephenson park.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Trails 2000 would like to be recognized as a partner to Bayfield Parks and Recreation Dept. and is **willing to assist with grant applications, trail design, and trail construction and maintenance support.**
- **Could assist with advocacy for Smart 160:** Safe Multimodal Aesthetic Regional Transportation - bike route from Durango to Bayfield.
- **Willing to facilitate an audit for Bicycle Friendly Communities** by the League of American Bicyclists.
- **Provision of free maps, trail conditions reporting and training.**

Pine River Arena Association

CURRENT COORDINATION:

- The current Arena location (owned by the Arena Association) is an island within Joe Stephenson Park. Access to arena is through Town property
- Parking areas (Area Association owned) are used by participants in Parks and Rec programming, particularly summer baseball and soccer.
- Parking areas (Town owned) are used by Arena Association members, as needed.
- With the growth and build out of Joe Stephenson, shared parking creates a conflict, particularly if there are events at each facility on the same day.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Arena Association is **willing to discuss a potential land swap to move the Arena elsewhere** within the Town and free up the space within Joe Stephenson Park for Parks and Recreation facility expansion. Parking and water (both potable and for dust control) are important considerations for relocation of the Arena.



Image 63: Hitching posts adjacent to Rodeo Grounds



Image 64: Rodeo Grounds within Joe Stephenson Park

Additional Community Stakeholders

The following stakeholders interact with Parks and Recreation and represent further opportunity for partnership and support, and were interviewed as a part of the Master Planning Process. Following is a brief summary of potential collaboration and considerations associated with each. Reference Appendix 4 for full descriptions of each stakeholder, including contact information, complete meeting notes and dates of interviews.

Pine River Youth Baseball

PRYB uses the Joe Stephenson Park fields and has an agreement with Parks and Recreation to maintain the fields for baseball. They currently need to bring in portable mounds and noted a need for additional baseball facilities and a field for younger children in particular.

Bayfield Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce provides event and volunteer support for special events, particularly the Block Parties. They would be willing to provide additional support in order to improve communication between Parks and Recreation and local businesses. **It would be possible to engage the Chamber to further investigate the relationship between Parks and Recreation and economic development in Bayfield.**

Pine River Rotary Club

The Rotary Club participates in special events like the Block Parties and the 4th of July celebration. Many members are also community members active in other POSTR stakeholder groups.

Bottom Shelf Brewery

The owners were participants in the River Corridor Improvement Committee, which was formed to investigate feasibility of a river park in Bayfield, and submitted a grant application to GOCO for park construction. They can service as **resources for river access development, particularly as it relates to tubing and kayaking**. As a local business, they can provide support for teams, events, and fundraising.

Pine River DNR (Ditch and Water)

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, manages water rights with respect to the Pine River Irrigation District (PRID), which includes the Los Pinos River and irrigation ditches. **Water rights are an important consideration for any irrigation renovation and/or expansion, including any development that would potentially cover/pipe existing ditches.**

Pine River Times

This local newspaper is owned and handled by the Durango Herald. The paper currently does and is willing to continue to promote POSTR events and stories, and would benefit from improved communication with the Parks and Recreation Dept.

Four Corners YAFL

The Four Corners Young America Football League serves 3-6th graders from the end of July to the end of October. They currently coordinate with the School District primarily for advertising and use of facilities, but would be **interested in additional coordination with Parks and Recreation for facilities use and maintenance.**

La Plata County Planning

The Planning Department provides information to the public and explains regulations regarding land use possibilities in the county. The updated comprehensive plan includes a tourism and recreation element which applies to parks and recreation in the county. The county, in general, relies on municipalities to provide recreational amenities and services to residents. **The County would consider partnering with the Town to extend impact area for Bayfield Parks and Recreation impact fees.**

Columbine Ranger District Forest Service

The Forest Service has a station in Bayfield with many resources including maps, town information, and wildlife/hunting resources. Bayfield is surrounded by a large expanse of National Forest – north at Vallecito and east at Saul's Creek. **The Forest Service is willing to be a grant application partner for projects that improve access to public lands, including trail development, signage, and parking area improvements.**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

CO Parks and Wildlife has commented on project proposals in the past, and can **assist with requirements related to wildlife conservation and area closures**. Important wildlife in the Bayfield area includes endangered and protected species such as the southwest willow flycatcher, western jumping mouse, bald eagles, bears, mountain lions, and the rare moose. Wildlife is particularly active along the Pine River corridor, at Saul's Creek, and at the State School Section north of town.

Bayfield Gymnastics

Bayfield Gymnastics is a privately owned Bayfield business, offering gymnastics, dance, and cheer classes. They often have a waiting list and estimate their current gym is only about half as big as needed. The owners participated in a previous effort to develop a special recreational district and would support the development of a Town owned indoor recreation center.



Image 65: Bean Ditch at Joe Stephenson Park

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Through inventory of existing facilities, evaluation of community needs assessment, and comparison with POSTR opportunities in similarly sized communities nationwide, this plan recommends the following facility type designations for POSTR facilities in the Town.

POSTR FACILITY TYPES AND STANDARDS

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically between 1/2 and 4 acres and are meant to serve those residents who live within a 1/2 mile radius and can walk or ride bicycles there. These parks should include a small playground, and larger parcels may contain court facilities, such as basketball or tennis. These parks typically do not provide utilities or restrooms, however site furnishings such as trash receptacles, dog waste stations and benches, picnic tables and/or bbq grills should be provided. They will be fully landscaped with trees, shrubs, turf or ground cover as appropriate. Neighborhood parks provide important recreational facilities and open space in neighborhoods possessing smaller residential lots. They provide an important link on multi-modal trails. Gosney and Mesa Parks are neighborhood parks. The Library Park (currently under construction) also falls under this designation.

Standards Recommendations

- On street parking
- Access to multi-modal transportation networks
- Play equipment that is accessible for 2-5 and 5-12 year olds
- Automatic irrigation
- Fully landscaped with turf and deciduous and evergreen trees
- Furnishings to include: tables, benches, bbq grills, lighting, bike racks, bearproof trash receptacles, dog waste stations
- Signage that includes name and address, hours of operation, rules of conduct and sponsors

Community Parks

Community parks are large parks meant to serve the entire community. These parks can vary in size. They will have utilities such as water and electricity on site. They will contain major permanent recreation facilities such as ball fields, skate parks, public event venues, and other land intensive usages as well as park benches, picnic pavilions and play equipment. These parks will have underground automatic irrigation. Community parks provide dedicated parking, and access to multi-modal transportation networks. They are a critical node to surrounding trail systems. There will be seasonal restrooms available. Joe Stephenson and Eagle Park are currently under this designation.

Standards Recommendations

- Dedicated parking with code compliant ADA spaces and accessible routes
- Access to multi-modal transportation networks
- Access to trails network
- Play equipment that is accessible for 2-5 and 5-12 year olds
- Automatic irrigation
- Fully landscaped with turf, deciduous and evergreen trees
- Large turf areas for formal or informal athletic field programming
- Additional amenities such as a skate park and/or horse shoe courts
- Restrooms
- Shade structure
- Furnishings to include: tables, benches, bbq grills, water fountains, water hydrants, lighting, bike racks, bearproof trash receptacles, dog waste stations
- Hardscaping to include: concrete or gravel walking path or track
- Signage that includes name and address, hours of operation, rules of conduct and sponsors

Open Space Park:

Open space is divided into two forms: passive and active (open space parks). Passive open spaces include riparian corridors, steep slopes (>30%), wetlands, and natural drainage areas. Passive open space is generally not developable and necessarily preserved from all future development using whatever mechanism is appropriate (conservation easements, deed restrictions, and or dedication to the Town of Bayfield). The broad access to this kind of open space in National Forest and BLM land adjacent to the Town makes it less of a priority in terms of acquisition and/or annexation for POSTR development, with the exception of properties along the Pine River corridor adjacent to existing POSTR facilities.

Active open spaces, referred to here as Open Space Parks, will include less intensively developed parkland and trail areas, including developed trails in passive areas. Little Pine River and Roadside Park are open space parks. The acquisition of additional property along the Pine River corridor will improve POSTR connectivity through trail connections, and provide the added benefit of improved river and fishing access.

Standards Recommendations

- On street parking or designated trail head parking
- Access to multi-modal transportation networks
- Maintained trails with consideration for ADA compliant access
- Fishing areas, with at least one ADA compliant option
- Water craft put-in areas
- Interpretive signage in ecologically sensitive areas
- Trail maps with distances and features listed
- Furnishings to include: tables, benches, bbq grills, lighting in the parking lots, bike racks, bearproof trash receptacles, dog waste stations
- Signage that includes name and address, hours of operation, rules of conduct and sponsors



Image 66: Example of existing park signage at Joe Stephenson Park

DESIGN GUIDELINES AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

In general, park, trails and open space construction, renovation and maintenance should comply with the Town of Bayfield Construction Specifications, as adopted by Ordinance No. 408. Additionally, the following issues should be taken into consideration for development of parks and recreational space.

Access

In all cases, compliance with current ADA code should be enforced on all park properties. Beyond code compliance, it is important to consider how residents and visitors access POSTR facilities and make necessary adjustments so that these facilities are convenient to public transit, trail systems, and parking. Directional signage is a critical part of accessibility, and as the Town is currently working on developing Town sign standards, it is recommended that these standards be applied to POSTR facilities as well.

Utilities

For larger parks and open space access points, the Town should consider providing access to potable water for drinking and for maintenance purposes, which could be in the form of a quick coupler, frost proof hydrant, or in more developed locations, a drinking fountain. In all facilities with evening activities, lighting at parking areas and along circulation routes should be provided for visibility and safety. At park locations where large groups or facility rental is anticipated, it is also recommended that lockable power outlets be provided to support audio-visual, food warming, and additional lighting needs.

Grading and Drainage

When possible, POSTR sites should be graded to allow for maximum water retention for landscape irrigation, while minimizing conflict between water retention/detention and use of the facility. Grading in turf areas should be no steeper than 4:1 to allow for ease of mowing, and should comply with ADA code for walkways and circulation routes.



Image 67: Improvised ADA Access at Mesa Park



Image 68: Potable water hydrant at Eagle Park



Image 69: Informal access under Hwy 160 (not maintained)

Safe Interaction with Waterways

Proximity of POSTR facilities to the river and ditches provides added value, but also presents safety concerns. Because several parks provide access to the river and irrigation ditches, the Town should consider consultation with their risk management division in order to mitigate any risk associated with this access. The Town may consider signage addressing the risk of public interaction with these waterways.

404 Permitting

A USACE Nationwide Permit (NWP 39) is required for any Commercial and Institutional Developments impacting wetlands or Waters of the US up to 0.50 acres. Should any of the proposed Bayfield Parks and Recreation facilities impact wetlands or adjacent irrigation facilities, a Nationwide Permit will be necessary. Should any projects impact more than 0.50 acres of Waters of the US, an Individual Permit would be required and the removed wetlands mitigated. Ideally all projects will avoid any impacts to adjacent Waters of the US, but should it become necessary to disturb them, it is recommended that all projects seek to minimize the impacts during the design and planning phase.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Projects funded with Federal Dollars also need to adhere to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which identifies Threatened and Endangered Species and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. These legislative actions provide for the protection of at risk animals throughout the United States. Prior to each project a wildlife survey should be completed to determine if any Threatened and Endangered species are living in and around the project limits. If protected species are present, additional mitigation efforts will be necessary as a part of the project.



Image 70: Open irrigation collection pond at JSP



Image 71: Schroeder Ditch



Image 72: SW willow flycatcher habitat on the Pine River

Trails and Transportation

Provision of multi-modal trail networks connecting Parks and Recreation facilities is a recommended strategy for improving access and increasing use among residents and visitors alike. Recommended Master Plan projects include a comprehensive approach to improving trail connections within the Town limits and to surrounding recreational resources.

Trail construction should respond appropriately to location, but in general, the Shared Use Path section at right should be considered a standard for any trails carrying multiple uses such as pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Some trails within the river corridor may need to be constructed as boardwalks to limit impact in wetland zones. Additionally, trails not anticipated to receive a large amount of traffic may be constructed with asphalt or compacted crusher fines.

As noted in the Stakeholders section of this report, Trails 2000 is an excellent local resource regarding trail development, design, construction, and maintenance.

The Town may consider participating in Bicycle Friendly Communities Program, administered by the League of American Bicyclists. Participation in this program is free, and provides participants with several helpful resources, regardless of whether or not a designation is achieved. Benefits include customized feedback for improving bicycle transit/safety and free technical assistance. Completing the application also positions the Town well for grant applications related to multi-modal transportation, because it demonstrates leadership and initiative on the issue. If given a designation (Honorable Mention, Bronze, Silver, or Gold), you will receive valuable positive PR on the Bicycle Friendly Communities website and the use of an award seal and public report card. This could be helpful for the Town in addressing safety concerns with the 160 crossing, building partnerships to increase success for trail connections outside of town (ie to Vallecito, Durango, Ignacio) and also strengthening bicycle/pedestrian connections within the Town.

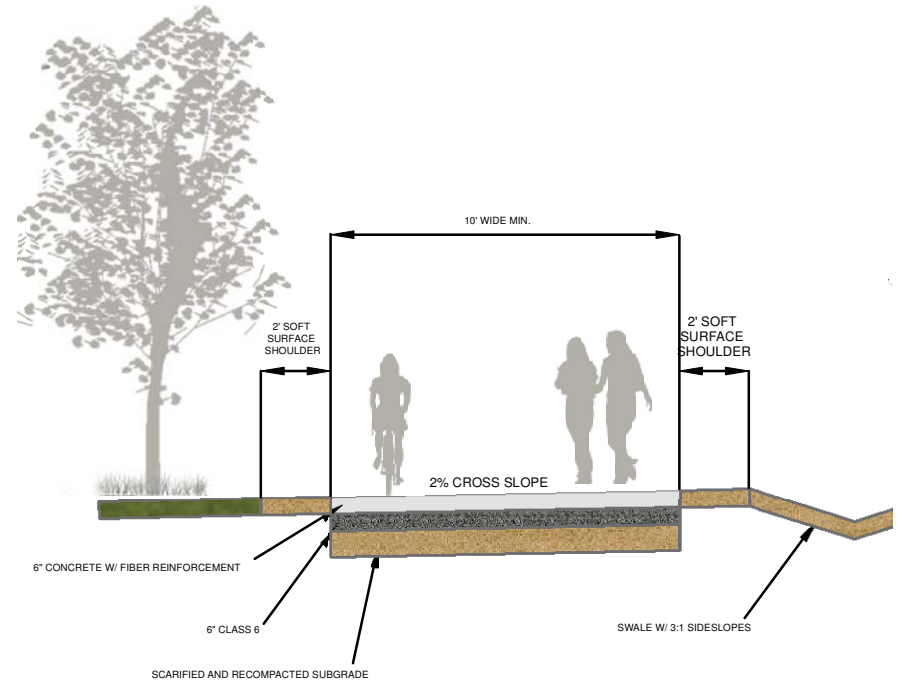


Figure 20: Shared Use Path Typical Section

Shared-Use Path

The above typical section is recommended as a standard for future trail development in Bayfield, for areas of high use and regular, frequent snow plowing in the winter. To allow for two-directional, multi-modal use as well as snow plowing, shared use paths should be a minimum of 10' wide. The path can be adjacent to roadways, in parks, along the river corridor and ditch routes, or in other right of ways. It can be used along roadways as an alternative to providing sidewalk on both sides of the road. The trail should meet guidelines provided by the Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities by AASHTO, utilizing a design speed of 25 mph. Grades flatter than 5% are preferred. Where possible, an adjacent landscape swale can provide a buffer and drainage support.

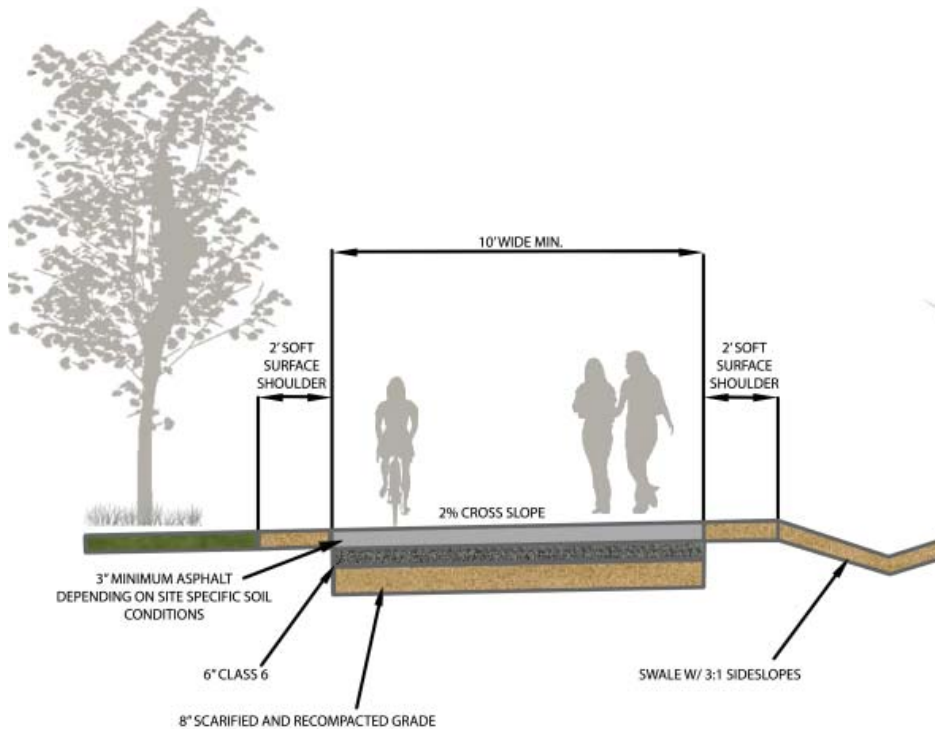


Figure 21: Asphalt Path Typical Section

Asphalt Path

The above typical section is recommended as a standard for asphalt paths, appropriate for trails that receive moderate use, and are intermittently plowed in the winter. A min. 10' width is recommended for maintenance access and multi-modal use. Soft shoulders are optional dependent on space available. The path can be adjacent to roadways, in parks and open space, along the river corridor and ditch routes, or in other right of ways. It can be used along roadways as an alternative to providing sidewalk on both sides of the road. Grades flatter than 5% are preferred. Where possible, an adjacent landscape swale can provide a buffer and drainage support.

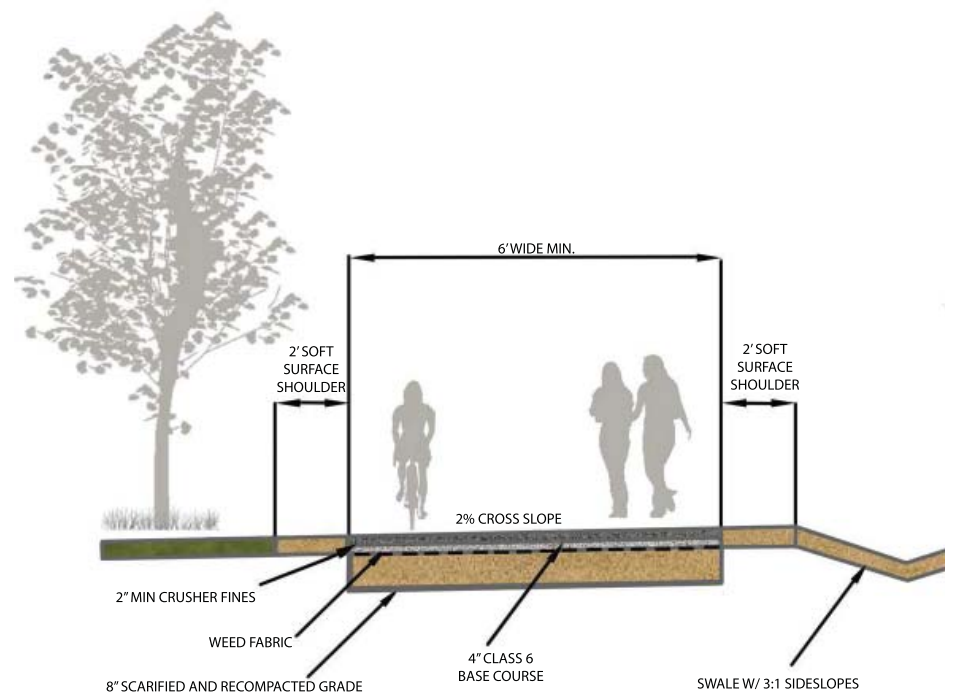


Figure 22: Gravel Path Typical Section

Gravel Path

The above typical gravel path section is recommended as a standard for less formal trails that do not necessarily require ADA access and are not plowed in the winter. A minimum 6' width is recommended, depending on anticipated use. If the path is intended for both bicycles and pedestrians, 10' min. width is recommended. Soft shoulders are optional dependent on space available. Gravel paths are recommended for open space parks, ditch routes and river corridor trails. Grades flatter than 5% are preferred. Where possible, an adjacent landscape swale can provide a buffer and drainage support.

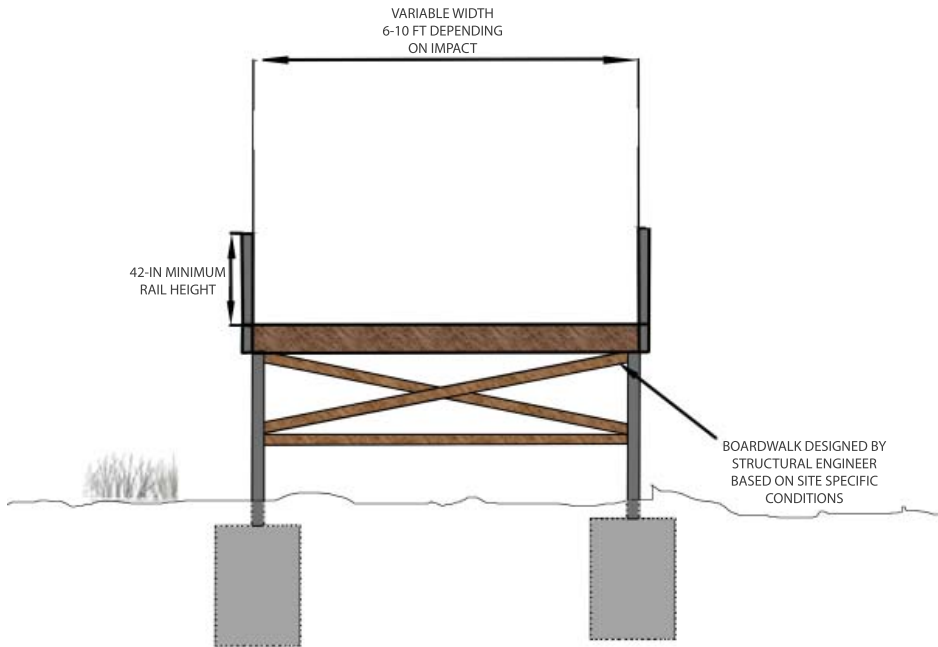


Figure 23: Boardwalk Path Typical Section

Boardwalk

The above boardwalk section is recommended for trails that cross designated wetlands areas where disturbance is limited. Width may vary from 6' to 10' dependent on anticipated level of use. Specific design of boardwalk will depend on site specific conditions, and should be designed and detailed by a licensed structural engineer.

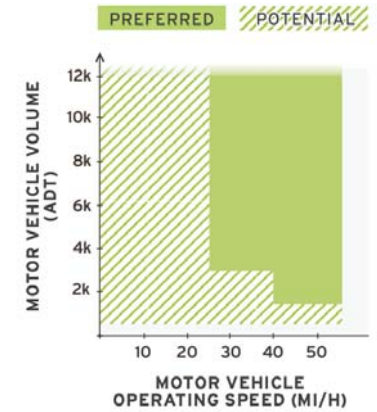


Figure 24: Preferred Volume and Operating Speed for Paved Shoulders, Small Town and Rural Design Guide, ruraldesignguide.com

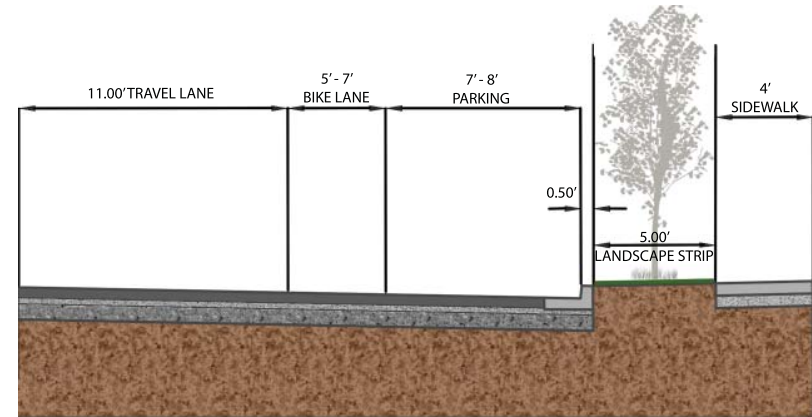


Figure 25: Paved Shoulders

Paved Shoulders

Paved shoulders on the edge of roadways may serve as a functional space for bicyclists and pedestrians, if separated facilities (such as a trail) are not available. As shown in the above typical sections, bike lanes, if provided, should be 5'-7' wide, and on street parking 7-8' wide. If on street parking is not provided, paved shoulders and bike lanes may be a min. 5' wide. Paved shoulders are best used as trails when motor vehicle volume is less than 3000 AADT (Annual Avg. Daily Traffic) on roads with an operating speed of less than 40 mph. The paved shoulders on Mountain View Drive currently serve as this type of space.

Easements

Bayfield is surrounded by a generous amount of public land available for recreational uses including hiking, mountain biking, and camping. Provision of access to open space on public lands is a valuable asset that the Town can provide, particularly as properties are annexed and developed. Based on facility analysis and community needs assessment, the recommendations in this plan focus on trail development within the current Town limits, but requiring public access easements within new developments is an excellent way to improve recreational amenity in Bayfield. The following map demonstrates potential connection points between the Town and adjacent public lands. **It is recommended that any new development encompassing all or part of these potential connections be required to provide a public access easement.**



Image 73: Trail connection east of Bayfield High School

CONNECTIONS TO OPEN SPACE FROM BAYFIELD, COLORADO

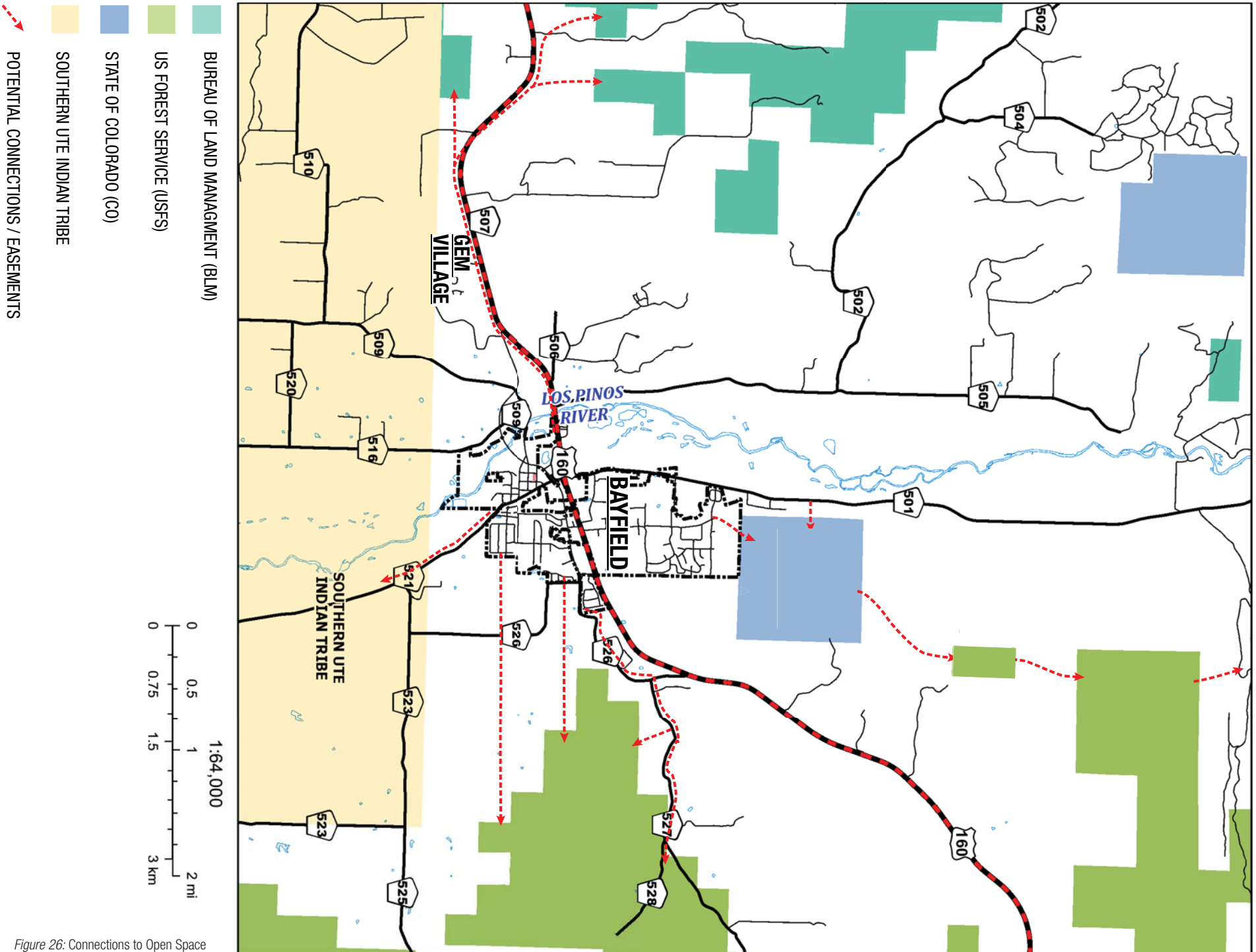


Figure 26: Connections to Open Space

Equipment Standards

In order to streamline equipment maintenance – both in terms of stocking equipment and training maintenance staff, it is recommended that the Town establish standards for equipment types and standard manufacture.

Play Equipment

The Town currently has a well-developed relationship with Summit Recreation, who represents a variety of play equipment and site furnishings options. The two newest neighborhood parks, Mesa and Gosney Parks, house Kompan equipment. The Library Park, which is currently under construction, will also include Kompan equipment and site furnishings represented by Summit. **For replacement or renovation of the equipment in Joe Stephenson Park and Eagle Park, the Town should consider the pros and cons of replacing equipment with play equipment from the same manufacturer.** For ADA compliance and cost-efficiency, engineered wood fiber mulch is the recommended fall surfacing for play areas.

Irrigation Equipment

It is strongly recommended that POSTR facilities requiring irrigation have automatic, underground (hard pipe) systems that maximize water use efficiency. For turf, sprinkler systems with flow metering to provide automatic shut off in case of a leak are recommended. If possible, large irrigation systems should take advantage of any water rights associated with the property, using ditch or river water for irrigation instead of Town (treated) water. For systems that utilize ditch or river water, a settling tank to minimize debris and sediment is recommended. For smaller systems irrigating trees and shrubs, bubbler irrigation is recommended over drip (poly tubing). While the up-front cost for bubbler systems is higher than for drip, the long term maintenance costs are significantly reduced. It is recommended that the Town establish a standard brand for irrigation equipment, as well as irrigation equipment and installation standards. These standards could be added to the Town Specifications.

Site Furnishings

Standardization of site furnishings is an important part of establishing visual continuity across POSTR facilities and increasing ease of maintenance and product replacement. The Town currently has some standard characteristics for site furnishings such as benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and dog waste bag dispensers, but these standards could be further developed for additional continuity. The current standard color for site furnishings is green, materials vary from wood to painted and powder coated steel. Powder coated steel provides the most durability over time, but costs more up front. It is recommended that all trash receptacles be of a bear-resistant variety to minimize bear activity within parks and interaction with park users. Dog waste bag dispensers are currently provided and maintained at all developed park locations, a practice that is recommended to be continued, provided that there are also trash receptacles nearby where the bags can be disposed of. Provision of the dog waste bags is particularly important for park and open space facilities adjacent to the Pine River for water quality purposes.



Image 74: Existing site furnishings

POSTR RECOMMENDATIONS - 10 YEAR OUTLOOK

The results of the community and youth needs assessment, in combination with our interviews with Town staff and community stakeholders demonstrate clear short-term goals for Parks and Recreation in the coming years. **Desire for the development of an indoor recreation facility, trail and river access expansion, and improvements to existing park facilities is evident.**

Goals

1) Improvements to Existing Park Facilities

Responses to surveys prioritized renovation of existing facilities over expansion. This is also supported by current Parks and Recreation staffing capacity and budgetary constraints. Improvements to existing Parks and Recreation facilities, such as the addition of automatic underground irrigation at Joe Stephenson Park, will serve to reduce the maintenance and operations strain, allowing for staff to turn attention to the improvements that have been requested by the community.

2) Recreation Center

Community response overwhelmingly indicates that the current shared use of the Old Middle School Gym is not adequate for programming needs. Evaluation of the existing facility reveals that the current building should be replaced for safety and functionality reasons. Additional requests for community gathering space from multiple stakeholders (who could provide additional revenue through leasing) further supports the development of a Parks and Recreation dedicated indoor recreation facility.

3) Trail and River Access Expansion

Along with the desire for indoor recreation, survey responses demonstrated need for better trail connectivity, trail expansion, and improved river access for fishing and boating. The Town's recent purchase of the 23 acre parcel south of the Old Middle School Gym and property west of the river across from Joe Stephenson and Eagle Park provides a prime opportunity to expand the Town's trail network, connect existing parks, and extend pedestrian access across Hwy 160 under the bridge.

Staffing and Operations

1) Full Time Employees

As demonstrated in the Level of Service and budget analysis, the number of full time POSTR staff per capita within the service area is low. Staff are currently required to perform a wide range of duties, from administration and programming to maintenance, often with weekend and evening hours. In order to provide a more comparable level of service, and to support the improvements recommended in this report, it is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department consider hiring an additional full time employee within the next 3-6 years. In order to logically separate duties and supplement the existing Director and Assistant Director positions, the additional FTE position could be described as a "Program Supervisor," responsible for event registration and programming, with specific responsibilities related to events and programs outside of normal business hours.

2) Seasonal Employees

Due to weather and facility availability, the summer months are generally busier than winter months. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department manages a robust volunteer and paid student program for providing seasonal and event support during the busier months. It is recommended that this effort be continued, as it provides a valuable opportunity for students to obtain some job training skills and for community members to provide civic investment in an important community resource.

COMPOSITE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS N.T.S.

LEGEND

BAYFIELD TOWN LIMIT
 PARCEL BOUNDARIES

TRANSPORTATION

AREA ROADS
 U.S. 160
 LA PLATA COUNTY TRAIL
 EXISTING TRAIL + SIDEWALK *
 PROPOSED TRAIL + SIDEWALK

WATER FEATURES

STREAM
 IRRIGATION DITCH
 RIVER/LAKE
 FEMA FLOOD HAZARD AREA

AREAS OF INTEREST

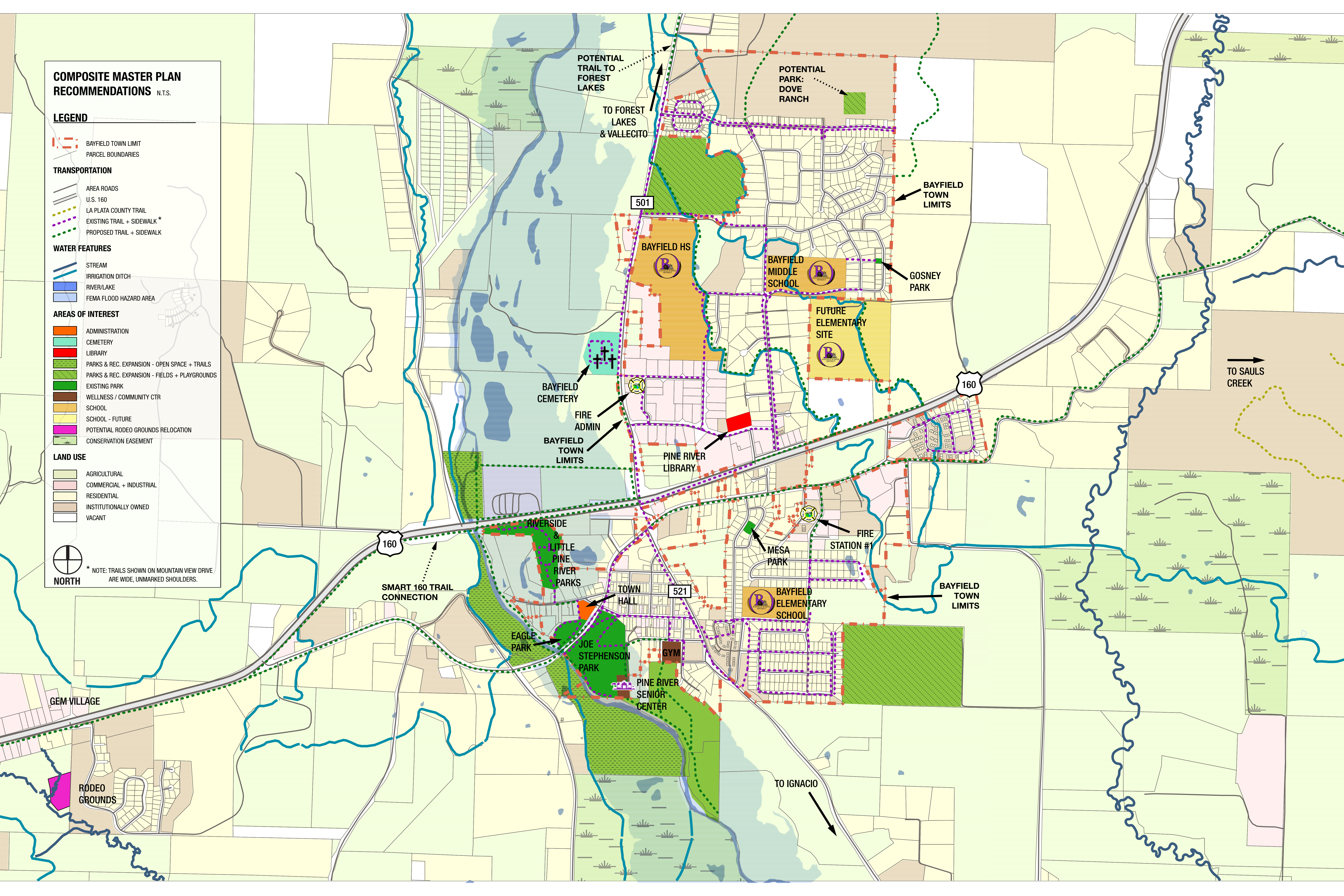
ADMINISTRATION
 CEMETERY
 LIBRARY
 PARKS & REC. EXPANSION - OPEN SPACE + TRAILS
 PARKS & REC. EXPANSION - FIELDS + PLAYGROUNDS
 EXISTING PARK
 WELLNESS / COMMUNITY CTR
 SCHOOL
 SCHOOL - FUTURE
 POTENTIAL RODEO GROUNDS RELOCATION
 CONSERVATION EASEMENT

LAND USE

AGRICULTURAL
 COMMERCIAL + INDUSTRIAL
 RESIDENTIAL
 INSTITUTIONALLY OWNED
 VACANT



* NOTE: TRAILS SHOWN ON MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE ARE WIDE, UNMARKED SHOULDERS.



GEM VILLAGE

RODEO GROUNDS

POTENTIAL TRAIL TO FOREST LAKES

TO FOREST LAKES & VALLECITO

POTENTIAL PARK: DOVE RANCH

BAYFIELD TOWN LIMITS

501

BAYFIELD HS

BAYFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

FUTURE ELEMENTARY SITE

GOSNEY PARK

160

TO SAULS CREEK

BAYFIELD CEMETERY

FIRE ADMIN

BAYFIELD TOWN LIMITS

PINE RIVER LIBRARY

MESA PARK

FIRE STATION #1

BAYFIELD TOWN LIMITS

SMART 160 TRAIL CONNECTION

160

RIVERSIDE & LITTLE PINE RIVER PARKS

TOWN HALL

521

BAYFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EAGLE PARK

JOE STEPHENSON PARK

GYM

PINE RIVER SENIOR CENTER

TO IGNACIO

Projects

ADA Improvements to Playgrounds and Senior Center Grounds

Goals: #1 and #3

Rank Priority: #1

These relatively inexpensive improvements can be done quickly and make a significant impact on accessibility in multiple park locations. The addition of short, concrete walkways and ramps into play areas will provide code compliance and improve accessibility. The addition of an ADA accessible, concrete walkway from the Senior Center to the river, including a recommended platform with railing, will provide valuable visual contact with the river and provide much-requested fishing access for seniors and community members with mobility challenges.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$250,000

Estimated Design Fees: \$20,000

Joe Stephenson Park Field Reconfiguration and Irrigation System

Goal: #1

Rank Priority: #2

The reconfiguration and renovation of the Joe Stephenson Park fields to include a full size soccer field, and additional multipurpose fields addresses the needs expressed through surveys and stakeholder interviews for improved field surfaces and additional playing space. Additionally, the replacement of the existing above-ground, manual irrigation system with an underground automatic system will have a significant impact on staff time spent maintaining the system (note: Parks and Recreation staff estimate irrigation of JSP fields at a FTE time expenditure during the summer). It will also increase water use efficiency and improve the quality of the playing surfaces through more efficient water distribution. This project will require the coordination of a land swap between the Arena Association and the Town, to relocate the current rodeo arena. There are multiple possible locations for the relocated rodeo near Gem Village. Some discussion has been had regarding either extending South Street or connecting Bayfield Parkway directly to the Senior Center to provide additional access. Further study is needed to determine future access requirements and safety/feasibility of these potential roadway additions, including possible improvements to the existing South Street access. Additional access may be needed if the Recreation Center is built at this location and/or as visitation to JSP increases. Future planning efforts should consider that providing a road directly to these amenities could have a detrimental economic effect on Bayfield's downtown due to the ability to bypass Mill Street.

Land Swap Allowance: \$150,000

Estimated Construction Cost: \$2 Million

Estimated Design Fees: \$175,000



Figure 28: Proposed Joe Stephenson Park Field Reconfiguration (Priority #2) and Parking (Priority #6)

Recreation Center Phase I

Goal: #2 **Rank Priority: #3**

The community needs assessment clearly identified the need for indoor recreational space. The proposed wellness center would include a new full size gym, community room space for meetings and fitness programming, and administrative space for Parks and Recreation, should the community decide to pursue a Special Recreation District designation. Two possible locations are proposed for the Recreation Center; the Old Middle School Gym (OMSG) property and Town property adjacent to the existing Senior Center. The OMSG location provides a good opportunity to share parking and access with trail development at the Town-owned 23 acre parcel to the south, but selection of location will be dependent on whether the Town decides to pursue purchase of the OMSG property from the Bayfield School District. The property adjacent to the existing Senior Center also provides opportunity for shared parking and adjacency with Joe Stephenson Park and the Pine River, but it should be noted that this location is within the floodplain, which will likely carry restrictions for building development, such as raising the finish floor of the center to a predetermined elevation.

OMSG Property Acquisition Allowance: \$100,000
Demolition of existing OMSG Building: \$300,000
Estimated Construction Cost: \$10 Million Estimated Design Fees: \$600,000

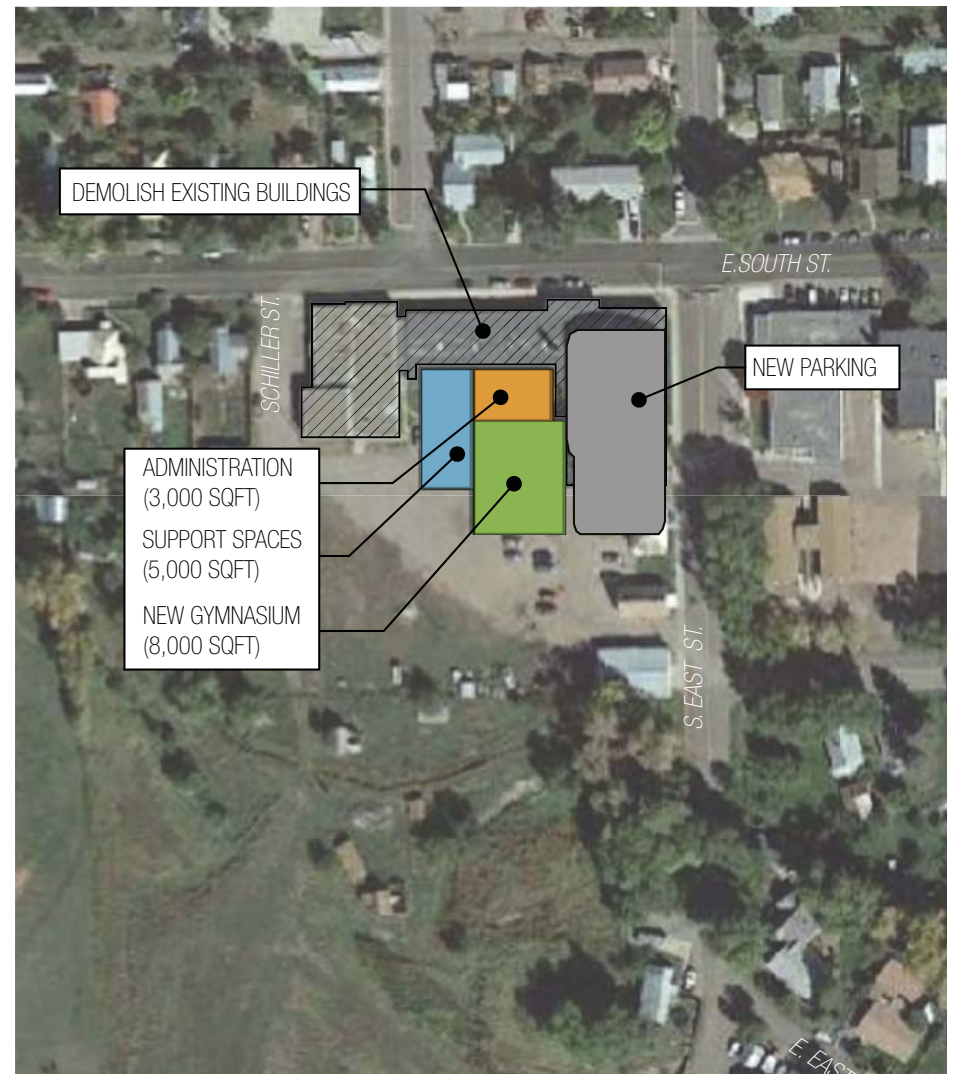


Figure 29: Proposed Phase I Recreation Center, OMSG Location



In-Town Trail Development and Hwy 160 Crossing

Goals: #1 and #3

Rank Priority: #4

As shown in the proposed trails plan, up to 13 miles of additional extensions and connections should be made to the existing trails system to significantly improve the connectivity within Bayfield. These improvements should include development of additional sidewalks, paved trails, boardwalks (if necessary for crossing wetlands), and less developed, graded trails. The Schroeder Ditch in particular presents an opportunity to extend the trail system and connect schools, residences, local businesses and Parks and Recreation amenities across the north side of Town. This project will include provision for a trail extending under Highway 160, as well as acquisition of land or easement designation for trails across private property and can be completed in multiple phases over several years.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$3.5 Million Estimated Design Fees: \$245,000

23 Acre Parcel Trail Development and River Access

Goal: #1

Rank Priority: #5

This parcel provides a valuable connection between the proposed Wellness Center, the river, the Senior Center, and Joe Stephenson Park. The development of trails, boardwalks, and platforms for river access will respond directly to the community's request for this kind of recreational opportunity. This parcel was evaluated for field expansion potential, but the majority of the property is designated as wetland, making it a perfect fit for improving the recreational quality of the Pine River corridor in Bayfield. The project should include trail and river access development, enhancement of wetlands habitat, roadway improvements and parking. Reference the Appendix for the wetland field study completed for the School District by SME in 2014, for this property.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$1.5 Million

Estimated Design Fees: \$135,000

Figure 30: Proposed Phase I Recreation Center, Joe Stephenson Park Location

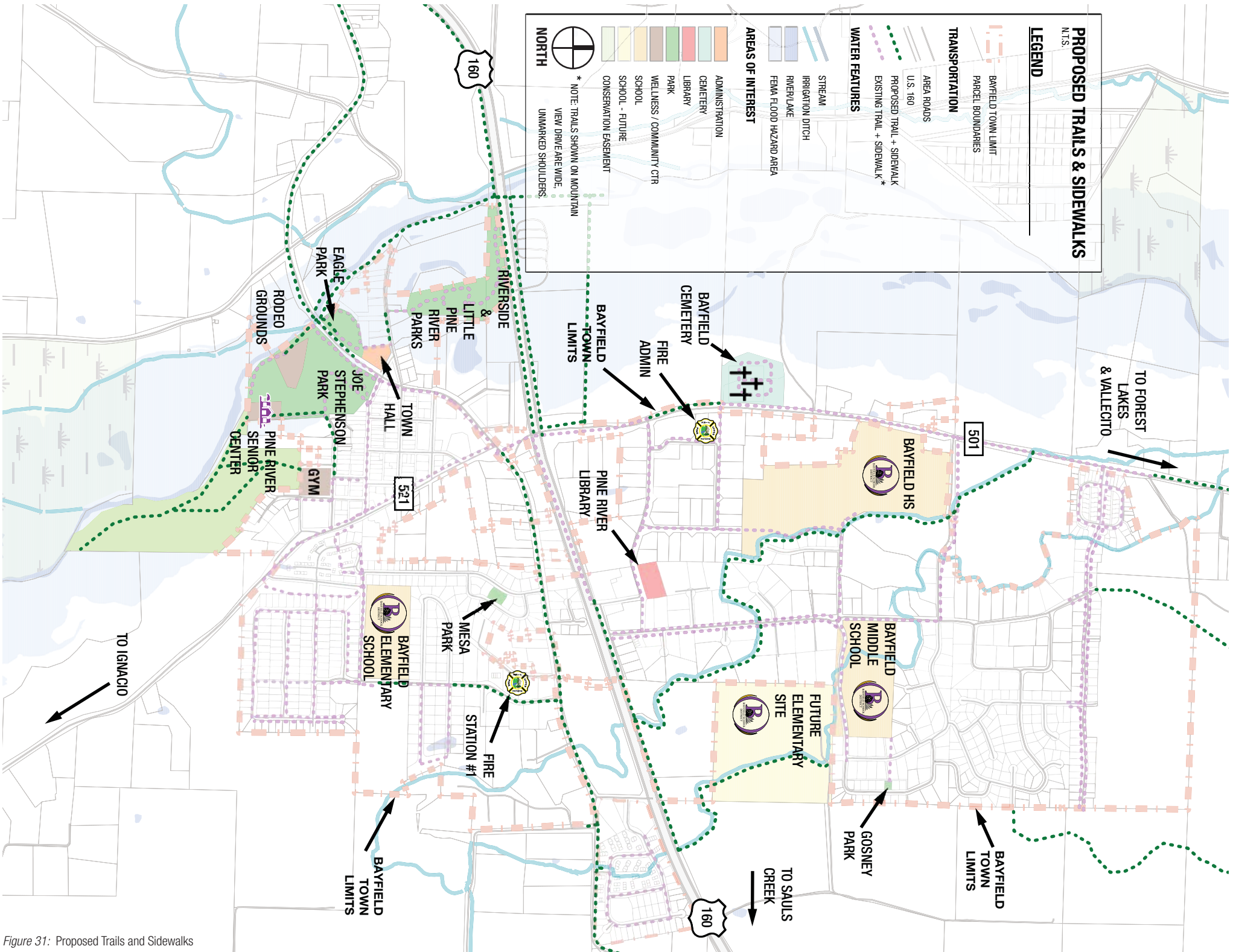
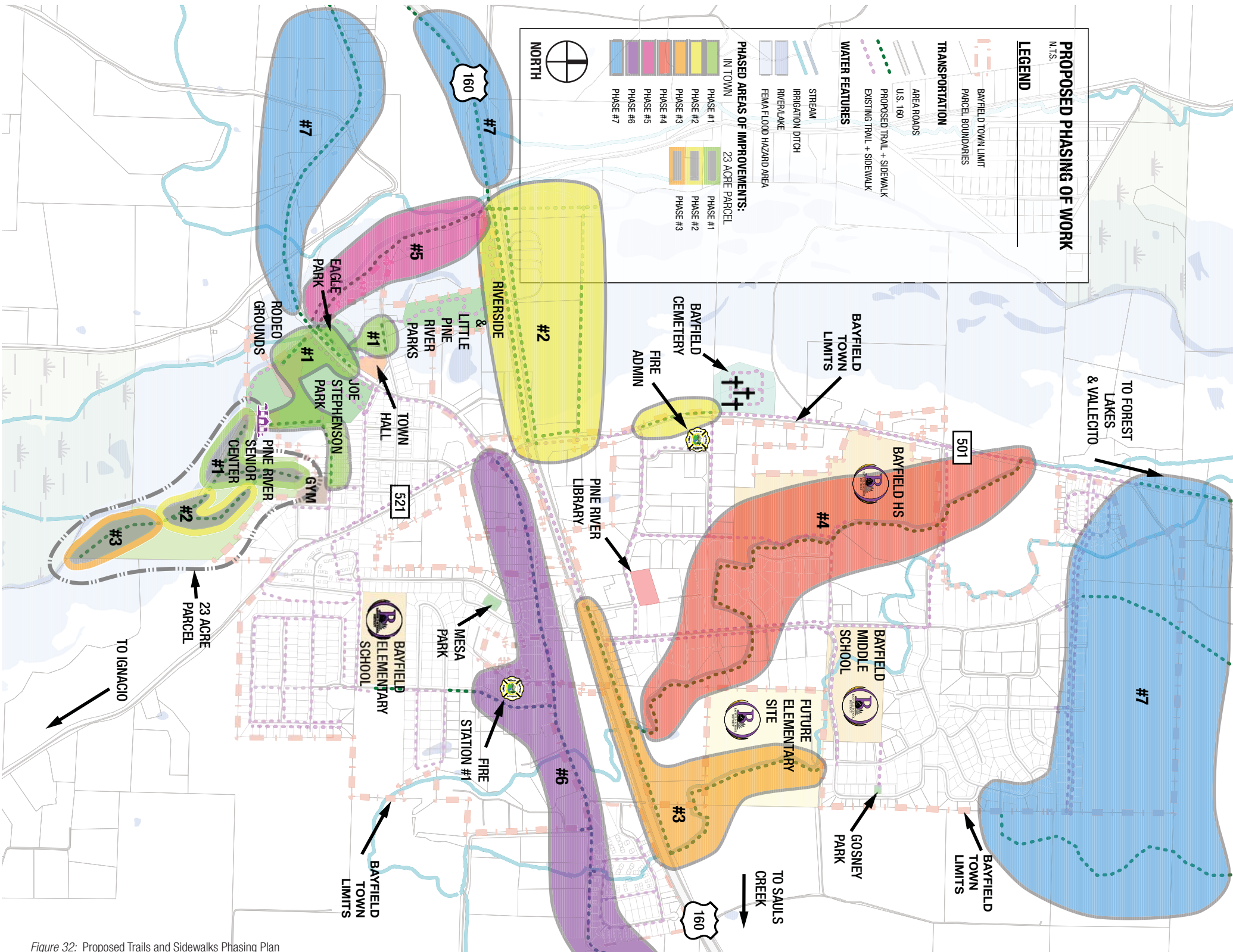


Figure 31: Proposed Trails and Sidewalks



PROPOSED PHASING OF WORK

LEGEND

TRANSPORTATION

- BAYFIELD TOWN LIMIT
- PARCEL BOUNDARIES
- AREA ROADS
- U.S. 160
- PROPOSED TRAIL + SIDEWALK
- EXISTING TRAIL + SIDEWALK

WATER FEATURES

- STREAM
- IRRIGATION DITCH
- RIVER/LAKE
- FEMA FLOOD HAZARD AREA

PHASED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENTS:

IN TOWN	23 ACRE PARCEL
PHASE #1	PHASE #1
PHASE #2	PHASE #2
PHASE #3	PHASE #3
PHASE #4	
PHASE #5	
PHASE #6	
PHASE #7	

Other Symbols:

- North Arrow
- Bayfield Town Limits
- Bayfield Cemetery
- Fire Admin
- Bayfield HS
- Bayfield Middle School
- Future Elementary Site
- Gosney Park
- Bayfield Elementary School
- Mesa Park
- Fire Station #1
- Pine River Library
- U.S. 160
- U.S. 501
- U.S. 521

Figure 32: Proposed Trails and Sidewalks Phasing Plan

Joe Stephenson Park Parking Lot Renovation

Goal: #1 **Rank Priority: #6**

This improvement would formalize parking at Joe Stephenson Park, improving safety and access to the park, particularly during special events (see page 76). The project would include asphalt parking and drive aisle pavement, concrete curb and gutter, and landscape islands. Striping to indicate preferred pedestrian routes of travel, and possible speed bumps or other traffic calming measures are recommended.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$250,000

Estimated Design Fees: \$22,500

Playground Replacement at Eagle and Joe Stephenson Parks

Goal: #1 **Rank Priority: #7**

To comply with multiple recommendations provided in this plan and to keep the play equipment in these parks up to date and code compliant, the equipment in Eagle Park and Joe Stephenson Park should be fully replaced within the next 7-8 years. Equipment should be provided for both 2-5 and 5-12 year olds and should comply with current ADA code.

Estimated Cost: \$400,000

Estimated Design Fees: \$28,000

Land Acquisition for Future Athletic Field Expansion

Goal: Recommended based on Demographic Analysis **Rank Priority: #8**

Topographic, land use, and adjacencies analysis through GIS revealed two potential properties suitable for future athletic field expansion. While this is not explicitly part of the goals identified through the needs assessment, the growth Bayfield is currently experiencing suggests that athletic field and facility expansion may become necessary as population increases in the next 10 years. The plans on the following pages identify the property locations, access, parking and potential field expansion opportunities at each site. The field expansion shown is NOT part of the Master Plan recommendations for the next 10 years. This expansion is for consideration within a 11-20 year outlook. This Master Plan recommends consideration of property acquisition only.

Estimated Cost: \$1.3 Million (based on current agricultural property sales data)



Figure 33: Proposed property for Town acquisition - potential field layout (south of 160)

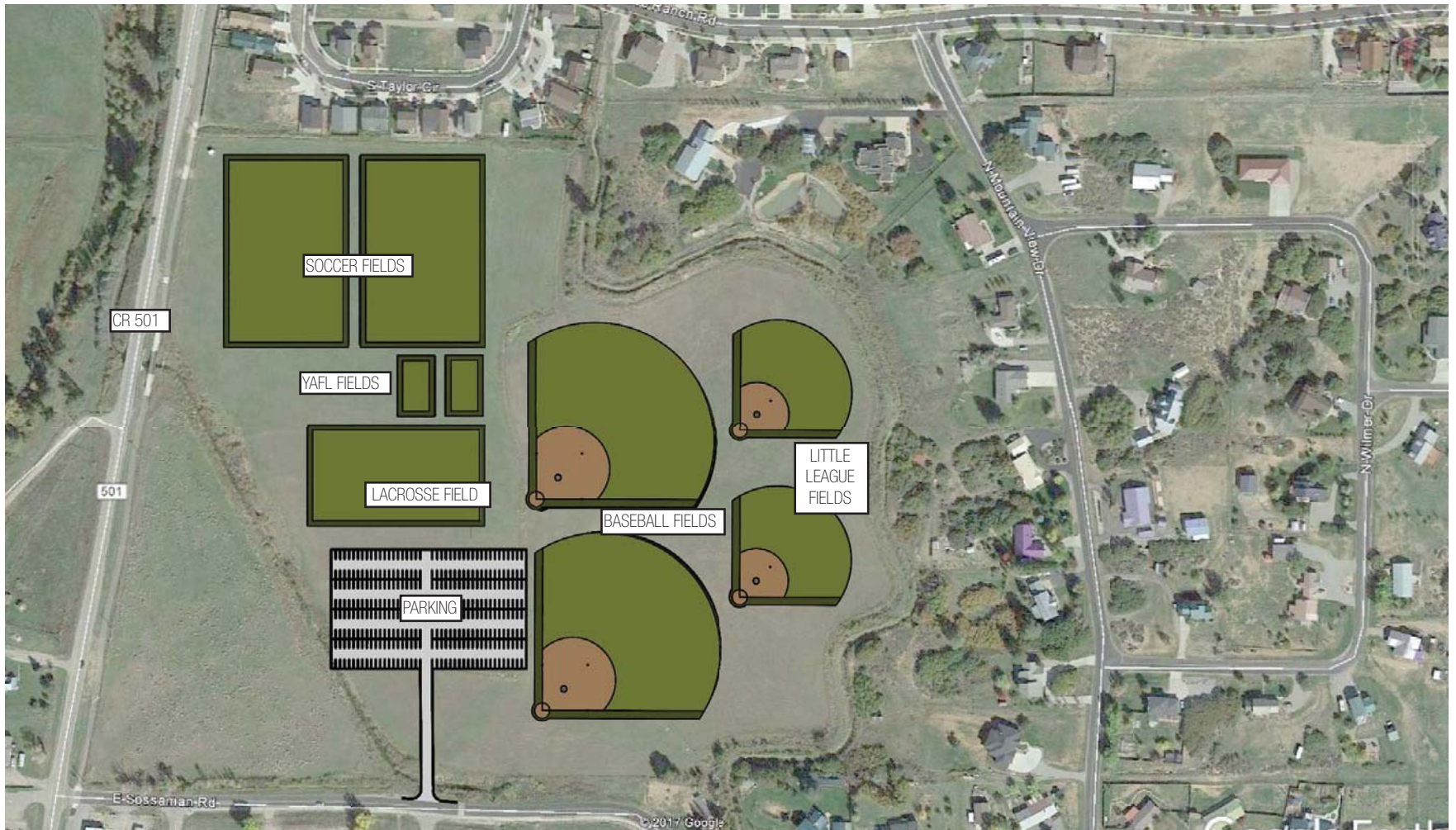


Figure 34: Proposed property for Town acquisition - potential field layout (north of 160)

Recreation Center Phase 2 Expansion

Goal: #2 **Rank Priority: #8**

The second phase of the Recreation Center would include additional building space for a workout/exercise room, kitchen facilities, and additional community space for games and social interaction. The development of this second phase of the Recreation Center might support transfer of the Senior Center functions to the Recreation Center location, allowing for the current Senior Center to be reframed as a more full-time event center, bringing in additional revenue. As with Phase I, two potential locations are identified for the Recreation Center, at the Old Middle School Gym location and at Joe Stephenson Park. Because of existing kitchen facilities at the Senior Center, this additional programming could be omitted from Phase II if the JSP location is selected.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$2 Million

Estimated Design Fees: \$140,000.00



Figure 35: Proposed Phase II Recreation Center, OMSG Location



Figure 36: Proposed Phase II Recreation Center, Joe Stephenson Park Location

10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This Capital Improvement Plan allocates recommended funding on an annual basis over a ten year period. Estimated project costs include design fees, property acquisition allowances and other soft costs that may be associated with the recommended improvements. Project costs were estimated using current construction costs, with a percentage contingency for cost increase over the ten year period. Design fees are estimated at 9% of construction costs and are typically included in the year prior to assumed allocation of construction cost. Additional cost estimating information is included in Appendix 7.

FY2018 - FY2028 SUMMARY

Rank Priority	Project Title	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total Project Cost
1	ADA improvements to parks and Senior Center	\$270,000											\$270,000
2	JSP Irrigation and Field Reconfiguration		\$325,000	\$2,000,000									\$2,325,000
3	Recreation Center			\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000							\$11,000,000
4	In-Town Trail Development, 160 Crossing		\$535,000	\$535,000	\$535,000	\$535,000	\$535,000	\$535,000	\$535,000				\$3,745,000
5	23 Acre Parcel Trail Development and River Access		\$135,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000							\$1,635,000
6	JSP Parking Renovation						\$272,500						\$272,500
7	Playground Replacement at Eagle and JS Parks							\$214,000	\$214,000				\$428,000
8	Field Expansion Land Acquisition								\$500,000	\$800,000			\$1,300,000
9	Recreation Center Expansion										\$140,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,140,000
TOTALS		\$270,000	\$995,000	\$4,035,000	\$6,035,000	\$6,035,000	\$807,500	\$749,000	\$1,249,000	\$800,000	\$140,000	\$2,000,000	\$23,115,500

Figure 37: 10-Year capital improvement plan

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Current funding for the Bayfield Parks and Recreation system comes from 6 main areas: 1) General Fund, 2) Capital Improvement Fund, 3) Parks and Recreation Impact Fees, 4) In Lieu of Parks Fee, 5) Revenue from program and facility rental fees, 6) Conservation Trust Fund and 7) Successful grant applications. The Transportation and Street Funds are not currently directed toward Parks and Recreation per se, but could be utilized in part for sidewalk expansion and trail improvements. Following are some additional funding strategies the Town may consider to reach community goals.

Special District Formation

Special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need. Inadequate tax bases and competing demands for existing taxes make it hard for cities and counties to provide all the services their citizens desire. The formation of a Special Recreation District, or combined district (possible partners include the Library and the Fire Districts) would increase the tax base for Parks and Recreation to a level that is better aligned with the Department's service area. The formation of a Special District would require determination of service area, service plan, and mill amount for County Commission approval. Upon County approval, the plan would go to public vote to approve the mill increase. A third party (non-Town) would need to be identified to lead this effort.

GO Bonds

General Obligation Bonds can be used to fund infrastructure, property and building acquisition and rehabilitation, public improvements and community facilities pending voter approval in an election. Bond projects are most often approved when they represent an additional phase of an already successful project. The Town may consider passing a percentage sales tax initiative for the purpose of funding phased development of the wellness center, after successful completion of successful smaller renovation and/or trail projects.

USDA Rural Development Programs

The USDA provides assistance to address community facilities and utilities, rural businesses, and rural housing. Assistance includes loan programs such as the B&I Loan and grant programs.

Grant Funding

The Town has been very successful in the past receiving grant funding for Parks and Recreation improvements, including Dept. of Local Affairs and Great Outdoors Colorado assistance, and CO grant programs will continue to be an important source of funding for Bayfield's POSTR system. In order to benefit from this resource, it is important to plan for any required matching funds and allow for staff time to track, apply, and manage grant programs. The grant program matrix that is part of the Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides the most current information on state grants, and is a tool that should continue to be used by the Town. The stakeholders listing portion of this plan provides recommendations regarding potential partners for funding applications.

Program and Rental Fee Increase

While facility rental and program fees do not account for a significant portion of revenue, the Town may consider increasing fees, particularly for non-residents, to boost annual income and support the operations budgeting required to support programming and facility maintenance.

Sponsorship and Naming Rights

The Town may consider creating and adopting a sponsorship policy that would allow the targeting of individuals, groups, or companies who may have an interest in sponsoring the wellness center or river access/trail expansion in the future. Naming rights to particular park elements, such as benches, pavers, or trees could be an additional source of revenue. The policy would lay out all sponsorship opportunities and would include provision for cancellation if deemed unsuitable.

Partnerships

Partnerships are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies - this can include government agencies, non-profits, and/or private businesses. The partners develop revenue producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths of each partner. A recent partnership example is the development of the Library Park, in which the Town and the Library share responsibilities.

Dedicated Sales Tax

Community survey results demonstrated willingness to consider a sales tax increase to support Parks and Recreation in Bayfield. The Town may consider a dedicated sales tax be proposed as a ballot measure, particularly for a project that would gain strong support, such as the development of an indoor recreation/wellness center. As an example, Durango passed a half-cent sales tax in 1999 to fund their Community Recreation Center and expand the Animas River Trail. Expenditures from tax funds should be subject to review and recommendation through a public process to promote accountability and equity.

Impact Fees Expansion

While the Town already benefits from Impact Fees associated with new development, it would be possible to partner with La Plata County to expand the impact area. The County indicated willingness to work with the Town to redraw the impact area to include county land and better represent the Bayfield Parks and Recreation service area.

Property Dedication

Dedication of property is a donation to a government for a public purpose. While this is not necessarily a funding strategy, it is a method through which the Town may save funds by acquiring property that would otherwise need to be purchased. The Town may consider generating an ordinance that requires property dedication for POSTR expansion and development as part of subdivision approval conditions. The ordinance may also require the developer to fund the improvements to the park and/or recreational facility proposed for that location. Property dedication may be provided to developers as an alternative to the existing In Lieu of Parks fee.



Image 75: Early scene of Mill Street, looking east. Photo courtesy of Barb Fierstad via the Pine River Heritage Society

CONCLUSION

SUMMARY

The population served by the Town of Bayfield Parks and Recreation Department greatly values their access to quality parks, recreation, open space and trails. Bayfield area residents are, in a large majority, young families that enjoy being outdoors, and this demographic is growing.

The Town of Bayfield Parks and Recreation Department provides a robust offering of programs, services, and facilities given relatively limited resources to operations and development. In order to meet the growing recreational needs of the Town and surrounding area, the Town can take some important steps to increase efficiency, provide targeted improvements to existing facilities, and implement intelligent expansion.

The results of the community needs assessment clearly indicate three major goals for Parks and Recreation, which are all achievable within the 10 year scope of this plan.

- Improvements to Existing Park Facilities
- Recreation Center (Indoor)
- Trail and River Access Expansion

The completion of the proposed projects will result in a more efficient and complete POSTR system that capitalizes on Bayfield's prime location along the Pine River. Trail and river access improvements will support community health and well being, while also serving as a draw for visitation and economic development. Improvements to existing facilities build on a strong foundation to improve efficiency, access, and functionality. The Parks and Recreation Department upholds a high level of maintenance standards, which will allow long-term enjoyment of these amenities through targeted renovations. The addition of an indoor recreation center is a critical need that should be addressed within the next 2-4 years, provided appropriate funding sources are acquired. The replacement of the Old Middle School Gym will create an invaluable community resource, located either in the heart of Bayfield's downtown or adjacent to the existing amenities at the Senior Center and Joe Stephenson Park. **These valuable adjacencies will help to encourage visitation to Bayfield's historic Mill Street, which can serve as a boost to downtown economic development.**

The Bayfield community expresses a vibrant volunteer ethic, exemplified in high levels of support and participation in community special events, local organization boards and committees, and Parks and Recreation programming. Continued cultivation of this ethic within the community will be an important part of a POSTR system that will thrive in the long term.

Many of the recommendations included in this plan are currently being implemented as part of the Pine River Library Park design-build project. **This project is a clear example of the Town's ability to listen and respond to community need, enact valuable partnerships to obtain funding and operational support, and execute projects in a timely fashion.** As the Library Park is constructed this fall, it can serve as a valuable model for future Parks and Recreation development.



Figure 38: Pine River Library Park Plan