CHAPTER 12

PARKS & RECREATION

INTRODUCTION
Adequate amounts of approximately located recreation facilities and permanently committed open spaces are becoming more necessary and important as the City develops. The usage of the parks and recreation areas in the City will increase as gasoline costs rise and as picnic areas within the outlying open spaces in the National Forest become more saturated.

Recreation areas should be considered as part of a system, not as unrelated areas. Each portion of the system plays a definite role in the entire plan. It has been stated many times that recreation in Teton County is critically important to the economy, but is also a sensitive and contentious issue. It has been noted that there are mixed feelings among the local population regarding results of expanded recreation user numbers, with the associated economic advantages, as compared with the quiet enjoyment of the life style which has predominated the valley in the past.

The natural beauty of the valley, assets for fishing and hunting, prime snow conditions, and proximity to popular National Forests and National Parks, contribute to making the recreation based activities within Teton County and the City of Victor highly attractive. As the population in counties adjacent to Teton County has increased, the recreational use of Teton County’s Federal and State lands has also increased. Outdoor enthusiasts on a national, as well as an international basis also enjoy summer and winter recreational activities available in Teton County.

Water-based recreational activities in Teton County are mainly limited to fishing. Land based activities include, but are not limited to: camping, hiking, mountain biking, birding, hunting, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, snowboarding, downhill and cross county skiing. Grand Targhee Ski Area is located in adjacent Teton County, Wyoming, and hosts numerous skiers during winter months.

The City of Victor's residents consider parks and recreation facilities to be significant factors contributing to the overall quality of life within the City. By providing open space, constructive leisure opportunities and recreational experiences and programs, the City hopes to contribute to the total health of the individual which benefits the entire community. Population projections anticipate continuing growth, further necessitating parks, park improvements and recreation facilities. Finally, a proper planned system of open space and recreation lands can help reduce the impacts of urbanization.

Providing park and recreation facilities includes the acquisition and development of land and funding the ongoing operation and maintenance of developed facilities. Existing funding sources are limited and will be stretched to meet the demand of hundreds of new residents by the year 2020. Park acquisition, development and maintenance are funded primarily through property tax revenue and user fees. These revenues are not always stable and these activities must compete with other basic City services for funding.

In the City of Victor area, quasi-public and private organizations (e.g. service and church organizations) play an important part in providing open space and recreation resources.

PARKLAND CATEGORIES
Different parks provide different recreational opportunities and services. As identified below, parks can be classified into one of six general categories: playground, neighborhood, community, specialty, linear and regional.

**Playground** (mini-park) provides for young children. Structures such as swings, merry-go-rounds and the like are located here. This park's primary function is to provide an active area for the preschool to early grade-school-aged children of the neighborhood. These parks are usually two acres in size or smaller and are within five minutes walking time.

**Neighborhood Parks** provide a combination of active and passive recreation opportunities for all age groups in a defined neighborhood. The park should be centrally located and provide some forms of passive recreation, such as picnic areas, shade trees or walking areas. They range in size from two to five acres and are within 1/2-mile maximum walking distance.

**Community Parks** provide a wide range of passive and active recreational opportunities for an entire community. An important asset for a community park is a focal point to attract users and to provide a special identity to the park. Community parks are more intensely developed offering facilities to satisfy the needs of all age groups. Good auto access and parking must be provided. The park should be developed and maintained for intensive use. Often these parks are in conjunction with a school facility and range from five to ten acres and are within 1/2 mile from the primary Neighborhoods.

The City of Victor has approximately 28 acres located on the southern edge of the City that are used continuously during the summer months for all manner of recreational activities. This area also contains picnic shelters; a playground area with swings and rides for children, three ball diamonds for Babe Ruth, Little League and softball players.

The Victor City Park is located on Main Street in Victor. This park has restroom facilities, playground equipment and wonderful picnic areas. It host several Community event throughout the year and has the geographical advantage of being right in Victor's Downtown central business district.

Ideally, every neighborhood in the City would have a park with a playground and a playfield. Where possible, future parks should be clustered with schools to maximize their use and reduce operating expenses. This also improves the opportunity for supervision of activities. The City of Victor encourages parkland development. These lands are currently acquired through donations, or purchases. Victor is exploring the need for new neighborhood parks and is aggressively developing facilities at Pioneer Park.

**Specialty Parks** provide a special type of recreational opportunity. Examples are golf courses, historic sites and swimming pools.

**Linear Parks** are corridors of land which provide public access between different locations for recreational or transportation purposes. Improvements can include facilities to aid walking, hiking and bicycling and rest stations. An example of this category would be the development of a Trail Creek Greenbelt. The natural areas of tree growth along Trail Creek and its tributaries should be preserved as natural Green Belts. There has also been a desire expressed to create a public pathway system along this drainage.
Regional Parks are designed to meet the recreational needs of a large, regional area. These parks range in size from 200 to 600 acres and may offer a wide variety of intensive uses. They are typically a distance of 30 miles maximum or 1/2 hour driving time.

FUTURE CONDITIONS
Population forecasts indicate an increased local demand for additional parks, open space and recreation programs. And the Teton River and National Park will continue to attract more tourists to Teton County. Likewise, recreation and fitness trends indicate more time will be devoted to leisure and health.

Therefore it will be necessary to improve and maintain parks and special facilities to locally determined standards. Parks and facilities will require modifications and improvements to meet handicap accessibility. Senior citizens are an important part of the community and their recreational opportunities need to be adequately addressed.

FORECAST NEEDS
National park standards suggest a parklands system of six to ten acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. The City has recently called for studying the need for additional neighborhood and community parks throughout the City of Victor. Specific areas of the City that are targeted for new parks include the northwest and northeast areas of the planning area. New facilities that are needed include sports fields, courts and picnic areas. A community center with a swimming pool is also needed, as is space for Parks and Recreation equipment.

Public access to the Trail Creek Drainage has been identified as a high priority. Opportunities for additional access points along Trail Creek should be considered. Golf needs can be met by both the private and public sectors.

Bicycle popularity for recreation and commuting purposes has increased so that it is second only to the private vehicle as a "form of transportation. An emerging need is developing in Post Falls for a well-designed interconnecting network of bike trails which connects parks and recreation facilities, open space, schools and employment centers.

The comprehensive plan future land use map shows the generalized locations of some future neighborhood parks within the community. Between 1994 and the year 2000, it is
estimated that 90 additional parkland acres will be needed to meet growth demand. This includes future parks, recreational facilities, open space and trail corridors.

Funding sources, such as general obligation bonds, user fees, impact fees or in-lieu of fees should be considered for new park developments.
The City of Victor has been an aggressive partner in development of alternative methods of transportation for our residents. Pathways currently link the Cities of Driggs and Victor and there are plans to link other communities and recreation facilities throughout the valley. There should be a system of trails established throughout the Teton Valley and along the Trail Creek Drainage area. These areas will benefit the City of Victor in accommodating hikers, fisherman and horseback riding.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) states in its "Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities":

Figure 12.2: City of Victor Pathway System
(Map Courtesy of the TVTAP)
"Increasingly transportation officials throughout the United States are recognizing the bicycle as a viable transportation mode. While recreational cycling is still the primary use of bicycles in this country, the number of people using bicycles for commuting and other travel purposes has been increasing since the early 1970s. Nationwide people are recognizing the energy efficiency, cost effectiveness, health benefits and environmental advantages of bicycling."

Bicyclists have the same mobility needs as every other user of the transportation system as their primary means of access to jobs, services and recreational activities. Planning for existing and potential bicycle use should be integrated into the overall transportation planning process.

Successful bikeway and walkway plans are integrated into the overall transportation plan of a City, region, or state. They reflect the mobility and access needs of a community, and are placed in a wider context than simple movement of people and goods. Issues such as land use, energy, the environment and livability are important factors.

Bikeway and walkway planning undertaken apart from planning for other modes can lead to a viewpoint that these facilities are not integral to the transportation plan. If bikeways and walkways are regarded as amenities, bicycling and walking may not receive sufficient consideration in the competition for financial resources and available right-of-way. ODOT proposes a comprehensive vision for establishing bikeway and walkway networks.
ODOT has adopted a comprehensive concept in designing bikeway and walkway systems based on the premise that the public right-of-way should serve all users; people riding bicycles or walking need to use the same facilities that provide access and mobility to motorists (AASHTO).

**GOLF FACILITIES**
There are three golf courses in the area that are accessible by the residents of the City of Victor. These are as follows:

**The Links at Teton Peaks**
Sharman Wilson
P.O. Box 728
Driggs, ID 83422

**Targhee Village Golf Course**
Mona Hipkins & Markida Henley
P. O. Box 707
Driggs, ID 83422

**Teton Springs Resort**
One Teton Springs Parkway
Victor, ID 83455

**SKI FACILITIES**
The City of Victor has access to many fine options for those interested in skiing. These currently are as follows:

**Grand Targhee Resort**
The closest ski resort to Victor is the Grand Targhee Ski Resort. Grand Targhee is a year-round, full-service resort famous for spectacular snow (over 500 inches annually), magnificent scenery and authentic western hospitality. There are several restaurants open daily.

**Snow King Resort**
The Snow King Resort is located in the Town of Jackson at the base of Snow King Mountain. The Jackson Hole Airport is a convenient ten miles away. Teton Village and the Jackson Hole Ski Area are located twelve miles from the resort.

**Jackson Hole Mountain Resort**
This resort is located in Teton Village, fifteen minutes from the town of Jackson. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is twelve miles from the town of Jackson and serviced by the Public Start Bus system.

**TETON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**
This fairground is approximately 10 acres. The various clubs and organizations use the buildings and maintain and pay the electricity bill for the use thereof. This facility is used yearly for fair purposes, and is located in Driggs.
SENIOR CITIZEN FACILITIES
There is a Senior Citizen Center located in Driggs. This center has been active in the Meals on Wheels program and has provided programs and recreational opportunities to the seniors of Teton County. The seniors regularly publish their schedule of activities and are always seeking new participation.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Recreation, Parks and Open Space Goal Statement
To provide parks, recreational and open space opportunities to meet neighborhood and community demands and whose frequent use is encouraged through design and placement.

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<th>PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS</th>
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<td>1. To encourage the preservation of recreational, historical, archeological and architectural landmark areas of the City for the beneficial use of future generations.</td>
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<td>2. Encourage promotion and coordination of the development of the recreational opportunities and facilities.</td>
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<td>3. Encourage the development of adequate parking facilities in conjunction with new park development.</td>
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Policy No. 1 A parks master plans should be developed to assure prioritization of park development and improvement. These plans should be reviewed annually and include trail and pathway systems.

Policy No. 2 The City should prioritize existing park needs so that acquisition and development begins in areas with the greatest deficiency when fiscally possible.

Policy No. 3 The City should encourage the dedication of public parkland through land donations, cash contributions or other compensations.

Policy No. 4 Parks should be designed to provide for multiple uses. These uses should be compatible with adjacent uses and provide recreation opportunities for the disabled and physically challenged.

Policy No. 5 The City should continue to seek federal, state, and private funds and volunteer assistance to keep facility development and program costs as affordable as possible.

Policy No. 6 The City should encourage new development to consider greenways, bicycle paths or pedestrian access to public parks and links between parks, schools and neighborhoods.

Policy No. 7 Land that has been acquired for park purposes should not be used for any other purpose unless the use is temporary and is compatible with park use.

Policy No. 8 The City should encourage pathways in developing areas that will connect with local and regional pathways and open space.
Policy No. 9 The City should consider the potential of all City-owned property for open space and parks before it is declared to be surplus.

Policy No. 10 The City should encourage private initiative to develop open space and recreation opportunities.