

TOWN OF SUPERIOR MASTER PARK PLAN

INTRODUCTION:

Parks, recreation programs and facilities, and trails are community amenities that contribute greatly to the quality of life enjoyed by Superior area residents.

Parks, recreation programs and facilities, and trails contribute to the quality of life in many ways, including:

- Engaging Citizens in their Community
- Improving Public Health
- Promote Tourism by providing sites for special events, sports, festivals, etc
- Creating safer neighborhoods
- Economic Development

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN:

In general, this plan provides a framework for integrating existing facilities and programs and further developing a system of parks, recreation facilities and programs, and trails. Specifically, this plan will be used to:

- Establish Town policies regarding parks, recreation, and trails
- Evaluate development proposals
- Evaluate and provide a basis for grant applications
- Evaluate and prioritize the expenditure of public funds for land acquisition, development, and maintenance for
- Determine the siting of new parks, recreation facilities and/or trails

MISSION

To enhance the quality of life of the Town's citizens through the provision of high-quality parks, recreation facilities and programs, and trails.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Provide recreational opportunities that are accessible and affordable to all members of the community.
- Use public places to create a sense of community and foster social interaction.
- Strengthen relationships through shared recreation and play.
- Promote an active and healthy citizenry.
- Support and enhance the community's economy.
- Protect and enhance the beauty of the community.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ADOPTED PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The Growth Policy for Mineral County and the Towns of Alberton and Superior was adopted June 13, 2016. The growth policy contains background and technical information, goals, objectives, and implementation policies, including parks and recreation.

The Subdivision Regulations for Mineral County and the Towns of Alberton and Superior were adopted June 13, 2011. Developers must dedicate parkland or pay cash in lieu of parkland for when developing subdivisions.

The Town of Superior Capital Improvement Plan. The CIP contains departmental information and prioritizes the needs of the town. The CIP includes parks and recreation.

The above documents are available to the Public for review. The documents are periodically reviewed and amended to adapt to the needs of the Town.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Town of Superior conducted a Community Needs Assessment Survey in 2021, which included Parks and Recreation. 403 surveys were mailed to residents of Superior. There were 130 surveys returned, a response rate of 32%. That survey is attached as Appendix A.

The survey indicated public concern, interest and support of the parks and recreation facilities.

The 2021 survey indicated that the Town should maintain and make improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities. The responses also indicated that the majority would support public and private grants and special fundraising campaigns for improvements and/or additional facilities. The responses did not favor any funding that would require an increase in property taxes, bond issues, or user fees.

The information gathered from the 2021 survey will be important for planning for improvements and/or additions to the existing parks and facilities.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area is the incorporated area of the Town of Superior.

PROCESS TO AMEND THE PLAN

The Park Plan should be reviewed at least every two years. The review should update current conditions and recommendations. Public participation and input are very important to be able to meet the recreational needs of the community. The Town Council may appoint a committee to review and give recommendations for parks, recreation programs and facilities, and trails.

Any amendments should be consistent with the growth policy, subdivision regulations and the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Town Council may review and amend the park plan. The Town Council will make the final decision regarding parks and recreation issues.

1. Prepare a proposal to amend the park plan(s)
 - a) Description of amendment
 - b) Reasons for amendment
 - c) Recommendation of Park Department
2. Schedule the proposal for Council consideration as a regular Agenda item.
3. After the proposal is approved or conditionally approved by the Council the Clerk will prepare the amended plans.
4. The Clerk will prepare a resolution formally adopting the new or amended park plan and schedule the item on the agenda.

TYPES OF PARKS

Mini Parks. Mini Parks are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.

Neighborhood Park. Neighborhood parks focus on informal recreation for all age groups.

Community Park. Community Parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting recreational needs of the entire community.

Special Use Park. Special Use parks are oriented toward a single purpose or specialized use. Such as sports complexes, skate parks, indoor facilities.

Natural Areas/Open Lands. Natural resource areas are land set aside of preservation of natural resources, open space, and buffering. Land unsuitable for development or protected lands (wetlands, riparian areas, ponds).

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES EXISTING CONDITIONS

Introduction

The Town of Superior has 3 Parks, Eva Horning, James and Timberman consisting of approximately 12 acres. The Town has plans for River Front Park, which would be located near the bridge, allowing access to the Clark Fork River.

Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Name	Acres	Access	Developed	Baseball/Softball	Irrigation	Multiuse Field	Parking lot	Picnic Table	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Restrooms	Soccer	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	Trails	Other activity	Basketball	Skatepark	Comments
Eva Horning	4.5	Pub	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	
Timberman	6.74	Pub	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√				√			
James Park	.64	Pub	√		√			√		√							√		

EVA HORNING PARK

Eva Horning Park is located on 5th Avenue East. The 4.5 acres of land was purchased March 28, 1952. The park has a picnic area, playground, baseball field, volleyball court, tennis court, swimming pool, restroom and maintenance building, and parking. There are trees and shrubs throughout the park.

Picnic

The picnic area is well maintained. The picnic tables are steel with a protective coating. Groups may bring in propane Bar-b-ques. The picnic shelter is constructed of wood, metal roofing and cement floor. The picnic shelter has space for one picnic table. The picnic shelter was rebuilt in 2021.

Playground

The Playground has slides, climbers, swings, cross-bars, teeter-totter, tires, and play stations with various activities. The triple slide, climbers, bouncers, new swings, spinners etc. were installed in 2016. The original swings and cross-bars were installed in 1978. The original Play station with various activities was installed in three phases 1990, 1994 and 1996. The original teeter-totter was installed in 1990. The tires are heavy equipment tires placed in various positions for jumping and climbing, which were installed in 1978. The equipment is in good condition. The equipment is inspected regularly for repair and replacement.

Baseball Field

The Baseball Field is used by various groups, kids playing, tournaments, family gatherings etc. The backstop and dugouts are in good condition. The dugouts were rebuilt in 2000. The construction is chain link, wood and metal roofs. The back stop is chain link.

Tennis Court

The Tennis Court was built in 1978. The base is asphalt. The surface is a specialized surface. The fence is chain link. The asphalt base was overlaid and the specialized

surface was replaced in 2002. The specialized surface needs replacement every 4-5 years. The asphalt base is starting to crack. The entire base would need to be removed and replaced. The Tennis Court is inspected regularly for maintenance and repairs. The Tennis Court is in moderate to good condition.

Swimming Pool and Building

Closed in 2018. A local group-Superior Swims is working on fundraising, grants, etc. to replace the swimming pool and building.

Restroom and Maintenance Building

The Restroom and Maintenance building was built in 1975. The building was constructed with concrete blocks. The Roof is metal. Restrooms are located on one side of the building and the Park Maintenance Shop is located on the other. The building is in good condition. Restrooms were remodeled in 2022.

Trash Receptacles

10 plastic containers with lids are located at various locations around the park. The containers are in ok condition.

Lighting

Four lights are in various locations in the park. The lights are in good condition.

Irrigation system and well

The well and underground sprinkler system were installed in Eva Horning Park in 1984. The system consist of 65 sprinkler heads and runs on a timer.

Trees and Shrubs

There are a variety of trees and shrubs in Eva Horning Park. The trees and shrubs are regularly inspected for maintenance. As the trees and shrubs die, they are removed and new are planted.

Parking

Parking for Eva Horning Park is near 5th Avenue and Pike Drive. There is also a small parking lot near the Swimming Pool. The Parking lot is asphalt but needs to be repaved.

Utilities

Eva Horning Park has both water and sewer connections. There are no plans to upgrade these services.

TIMBERMAN MEMORIAL PARK

Timberman Memorial Park is located on Riverside Avenue West. The 6.74 acres of land was purchased October 8, 1974. The park has a picnic shelter, baseball fields, restroom and concession building, and parking. There are trees and shrubs on the edges of the park. Timberman Memorial Park is a multi-use park. Youth Soccer sets up several soccer fields to practice and play games.

Picnic Shelter

The picnic shelter has a cement floor, wooden posts with a metal roof. There is space for 4 picnic tables. The picnic shelter is in good condition.

Baseball fields

There are two baseball fields in Timberman Park. The backstops, fencing and dugouts are chain link. The dugouts have metal roofing. Aluminum bleachers were purchased in 1991 and 1997. The baseball fields are in good condition.

Restroom/Concession Building

The Restroom/Concession building was built in 1983. The building is cinder block construction with Metal roofing. There is also a storage area in the building. The building is in good condition. Restrooms are scheduled to be remodeled in 2023.

Trash Receptacles

4 steel and plastic containers with lids are located at various locations around the park. The containers and holders are in ok condition.

Lighting

One light is located in the park. The light is in good condition.

Irrigation system and well

The well and underground sprinkler system were installed in Timberman Park in 1987. The system consist of 100 sprinkler heads and runs on a timer.

Trees and Shrubs

There are a variety of trees and shrubs along the outlying edges of Timberman Park, located on Riverside Avenue and 7th Street. The trees and shrubs are regularly inspected for maintenance. As the trees and shrubs die, they are removed and new are planted.

Parking

The main parking for Timberman Park is located off street on Riverside Avenue. The parking is grass.

Utilities

Timberman Park has both water and sewer connections. There are no plans to upgrade these services.

FRANK JAMES PARK

Frank James Park is located on 2nd Avenue West. The 0.64 acres of land was purchased November 22, 1954. The park has a picnic table, basketball court, and playground equipment.

Picnic

There is one picnic table located in Frank James Park. The picnic table is in good condition. A picnic shelter will be built in 2022-2023.

Playground

The Playground has a play structure, spiral slide, swings, a small swing, monkey bars, cross-bars, teeter-totter, tires, a merry-go-round, and spring toys. The play structure and spiral slide were installed in 2018. The swings were installed in 1959. The spring toy was installed in 1990. The tires are heavy equipment tires placed in various positions for jumping and climbing, which were installed in 1978. The equipment is in fair to good condition. The equipment is inspected regularly for repair and replacement.

Trees and Shrubs

There are a few trees and shrubs in Frank James Park. The trees and shrubs are regularly inspected for maintenance. As the trees and shrubs die, they are removed and new are planted.

Trash Receptacles

2 steel containers with lids are located at various locations around the park. The containers are in slatted wooden holders. The containers and holders are in good condition.

Lighting

One light is located in the park. The light is in good condition.

Parking

Parking is limited to the edge of the street on 2nd Ave East.

Utilities

Frank James Park has water service. There are no plans to upgrade these services

Irrigation system

The underground sprinkler system was installed and connected to the Timberman Park sprinkler system in 2004. The system consist of 20 sprinkler heads and runs on a timer.

NON-TOWN RECREATION FACILITIES

School District #3

The School District's land holding and facilities—specifically their playing fields and playground—provide important recreation amenities within the Town. Some School facilities may be used during school hours and most may be used during non-school hours. The School District has a Facilities Use Agreement for organizations or individuals wishing to use any school facility.

State of Montana

State of Montana, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division, has several fishing access sites near the Town of Superior. These provide recreational amenities for people fishing, picnicking, and floating the Clark Fork River.

US Forest Service

Forest lands surround the Town of Superior providing many recreational activities, hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, and more. The US Forest Service manage the forest lands surrounding the town. There are campgrounds, trails and roads available to the public to access the recreational opportunities.

The Superior Vista Trail is located on the North side of Superior. The trailhead is located at the North end of River Street behind the NAPA store. Limited parking is available.

LAND ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE ACQUISITION

The Town is able to acquire land for parks and recreational facilities through a variety of means. The first method is provision for land through the land development process. The procedures and requirements for providing land for parks and recreational facilities through land development are outlined in “*The Subdivision Regulations for Mineral County and the Towns of Alberton and Superior*”. The development review process provides a predictable and equitable, although somewhat piecemeal, means of acquiring new land for recreational uses where the demand is met by those creating the demand. Land acquired through land development is dedicated to the Town.

The Town may also acquire land for park and recreational uses by purchasing the land or by donation of the land. Land can be purchased using a variety of funding sources, including cash-in-lieu fees, grant monies, private donations, and land swaps, etc. The Town could also acquire land for park and recreational use by obtaining authority over lands owned by other public entities, where the Town would lease, operate and maintain the property.

The Town owns the parks and recreation facilities in the Town of Superior.

Trails and Walking Paths

The acquisition of land for trail development can occur in three basic ways. 1. The land is dedicated as parkland; 2. Public trail easements across private lands are purchased or donated and 3. Trails are placed within the public right-of-way.

DEVELOPMENT

The Town makes improvements to parks and recreational facilities as part of the capital improvements program. Also, variety of groups also help to improve Town parks including: User groups, service organizations and clubs.

Development is accomplished with a variety of funding sources and combinations, including budgeted capital improvement funds, budgeted general funds, cash-in-lieu funds, private donations and grant monies. Improvements are also completed with the used of donated time, labor and materials.

MAINTENANCE

The Town parks are maintained by the Town Maintenance Department. The Parks and Recreation operation and maintenance is budgeted in the general fund.

TOWN OF SUPERIOR PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Town of Superior Park Department is responsible for operating, developing and maintaining Town parks and other Town property. The major objectives include:

- To maintain the Town Parks in a condition of which the Town would be proud
- To continue adding, upgrading, and maintaining safe, quality playground equipment
- To provide maintenance to restrooms, litter control, turf care, and playground equipment, and swimming pool.
- To oversee and coordinate park improvement projects
- To operate, maintain and remodel as necessary the Swimming Pool in order to extend the functional life of the facility as long as possible

OPERATIONS

The operations and maintenance services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, including their level of service standards, are presented in the table below. The Town maintains approximately 12 acres of parks including turf, baseball facilities, playground equipment, buildings, tennis court and skatepark. The Public Works Supervisor and the Public Works Assistant are the only year around employees. The Town hires a Park Laborer for 19 weeks in the Summer who is responsible for mowing and trimming.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

The Parks and Recreation department is budgeted in the General Fund. With some improvement budgeted in the Park Capital Improvement Fund. The Total budget for operations and maintenance of Parks and Recreation is \$48,610. The Town has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mineral County Community Foundation Pool in the Park Group to budget \$50,000 in the general fund and transfer the funds to the Swimming Pool Construction fund each fiscal year for 2018-2019 to 2022-2023. The Town will spend about \$4051 per acre of park maintained by the Town. The Town will spend about \$118.81 per capita on parks in FY 22-23, for Parks and the Swimming Pool CIP.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AND STANDARDS

Operations and Maintenance Services	Level of Service Standards
Mowing	
Timberman Park	One time(s) per week
Eva Horning Park	One time(s) per week
Frank James Park	One time(s) per week
Fertilization	
Timberman Park	One time(s) per year
Eva Horning Park	One time(s) per year
Frank James Park	One time(s) per year
Activate all irrigation systems	By May for all parks
Winterize all irrigation systems	By October for all parks
Rake leaves and pine needles	All parks
Playground inspection 2 playgrounds	One time(s) per week
Playground repairs	Same Day
Weed Control 12 acres	
Roundup	One time(s) per year
Broadleaf	One time(s) per year
Noxious	One time(s) per year
Weed eating	One time(s) per week
Garbage collection--- 16 garbage cans	One time(s) per week
Police all grounds	Five time(s) per week
Building Maintenance & repairs 2 Buildings	Same Day
Restrooms cleaned and maintained	Five time(s) per week
Tennis Court inspection	Daily
Tennis Court Maintenance & Repair	As needed
Picnic Shelter inspection	One time(s) per week
Picnic Shelter maintenance and repair	As needed
Skatepark	Clean & Remove Debris Daily
Skatepark	1-2 years Seal concrete

USER GROUPS

PARKS

The Town issues Park permits to various user groups for the use of Town Parks to ensure the proper use and care of Town lands, and to protect against liability issues. A copy of the Use permit is attached in Appendix B. Resolutions 210 and 304 establish policies in reviewing and granting applications of individuals and groups desiring to use park facilities. A copy of the resolutions is attached in Appendix B

The Town requires Special events insurance is required for certain events in the Parks. The Council has approved a list of special events that either require or not require for special events. A copy of the list is attached in Appendix B.

The Town has user agreements with the Superior School District and the Youth Soccer Association.

The Permit and User Agreements contain:

- Date(s) of Use
- Name of User or Group
- Required Fees
- Responsible parties (For maintenance, repairs, etc.)
- Liability insurance requirements
- A hold harmless statement

SWIMMING POOL

The swimming pool was closed in 2018. The swimming pool and building were demolished in 2020.

The Town has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mineral County Community Foundation Pool in the Park Group to budget \$50,000 in the general fund and transfer the funds to the Swimming Pool Construction fund each year through fiscal year 2022-2023.

The Pool in the Park group is writing grants and fundraising for the construction of a new swimming pool.

TENNIS COURT

The Tennis Court is open from daylight to dark. The Superior School District uses the tennis court for practice and games in the Spring.

SKATEPARK

The skatepark was constructed in 2021. The skatepark is used by local citizens and tourists of all ages.

TRAILS AND WALKING PATHS

Trails provide a wealth of community-enhancing benefits, including:

- Facilitating exercise
- Providing safe transportation
- Providing an opportunity to experience nature and enjoy the outdoors
- Can enhance property values and contribute to the community's tourism economy

At this time, the Town does not have any designated trails or walking paths owned by the Town.

The Superior Vista Trail is a Forest Service Trail that starts at the North end of River Street. The trail is used by the public regularly. There are benches along the trail.

The public uses the old Milwaukee Railroad bed on the North side of Town from River Street to the Big Eddy fishing access as a walking path. The property is privately owned.

GUIDELINES FOR SITE SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The following design guidelines apply to the acquisition and/or development of parks within each park classification. Each park classification includes a description of the park type, site selection and development guidelines, features to consider, and features to avoid.

MINI PARKS

Mini parks may provide recreation opportunities where high property costs or a shortage of available land interfere with the acquisition of larger parks. Mini Parks are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.

The typical mini park user:

- Comes from within a quarter mile or half mile of the park.
- Arrives on foot or by bicycle.
- Visits the park on a short time basis.

Site Selection and Development Guidelines:

- Typical size is 1 to 2 acres. The Town may give consideration to developing mini parks where opportunities for land acquisition within proposed service areas do not provide enough property to meet neighborhood park needs.
- Access to the site should be provided via a local street preferably with sidewalks.
- The site should have 100-150 feet of street frontage.
- Parking Requirements: On-street parking should be provided as street frontage allows.

Features and Amenities to Consider:

- Open turf area for unstructured play
- General landscape improvements (including tree plantings)
- Children's playground or tot-lot
- Picnic tables and/or small picnic shelter

Features to Avoid:

- Permanent restrooms
- Horticultural or annual plantings, unless sponsored and maintained by a neighborhood or community group
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Wading pools and similar types of amenities that require staff supervision or highly specialized maintenance
- Tennis or basketball courts

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks provide nearby residents with access to basic recreation opportunities. These parks should be designed to enhance neighborhood identity, preserve or provide neighborhood open space, and improve the quality of life of nearby residents. They are designed for passive and unstructured activities.

The typical neighborhood park user:

- Comes from within a half mile of the park.
- Arrives by auto, foot, or bicycle.
- Visits the park on a short time basis.

Site Selection and Development Guidelines:

- Optimum size is 3 to 5 acres, but can vary depending upon the availability of land.
- At least 50% of site should be relatively level and usable, providing space for both active and passive uses.
- The site should have at least 200 feet of street frontage.
- Access to the site should be provided via a local street preferably with sidewalks.
- Parking Requirements: A minimum of three spaces per acre of usable active park area. Generally, if on-street parking is available in front of the park, this guideline can be reduced by one car per 25 feet of street frontage.
- Active and noise producing facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts, should be located at least 100' from nearby homes.

Features and Amenities to Consider:

- Open turf area for unstructured play
- General landscape improvements (including tree plantings)
- Children's playground
- Basketball (full or half) court
- Picnic tables and picnic shelter
- Multi-use fields for practice
- Natural area/greenspace

Features to Avoid:

- Horticultural or annual plantings, unless sponsored and maintained by a neighborhood or community group
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Wading pools and similar types of amenities that require staff supervision or highly specialized maintenance

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks provide visitors with active and passive recreation opportunities. These parks often accommodate large group activities and include major recreation facilities, such as sports fields. Community parks should be designed to enhance neighborhood and community identity, preserve open space, and enhance the quality of life of community residents.

Typical community park users:

- Comes from within a one mile of the park.
- Arrives by auto, foot, or bicycle.
- Visit the park for 1 to 3 hours.

Site Selection and Development Guidelines:

- Minimum site size should be 15 acres with the optimum at 20-30 acres.
- Due to their size requirements, the acquisition of community park sites should occur far in advance of need. Park development should occur when the area it serves becomes 50% developed.
- At least two-thirds of the site should be available for active recreation use. Adequate buffers or natural open space areas should separate active recreation areas from nearby homes.
- The site should be visible from adjoining streets and have a minimum of 400' of street frontage.
- Parking Requirements: Dependent upon facilities provided. Generally, 50 off-street spaces per ballfield are required, plus 5 spaces per acre of active use areas.
- Permanent restrooms are appropriate for this type of park.

Facilities and Amenities to Consider:

- Tot and youth playground
- Designated sports fields for baseball, softball, and soccer. Fields may be in a complex within the park
- Open turf area for unstructured play
- General landscape improvements
- Picnic shelters, including one able to accommodate groups of 25 to 50 people
- Permanent restrooms
- Volleyball courts, Tennis courts, Basketball courts
- Horseshoe pits
- Other sporting facilities (lawn bowling, croquet, bocce court)
- Community scale skate park
- Concessions or vendor space
- Natural area/greenspace

SPECIAL USE AREAS

Special use areas are unique sites often occupied by a specialized facility. Some uses that fall into this category include waterfront parks, boat ramps, botanical gardens, memorials, community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, or sites occupied by buildings.

Typical users of special use areas:

- May come from throughout the Town or beyond.
- Arrives by auto, foot, or bicycle.
- Visit the park for one hour to more than three hours.

Site Selection and Development Guidelines:

- Siting criteria depend on the type of facility proposed.
- Prior to the development of any specialized recreation facility, such as a pool, recreation center, sports complex, etc., the Town should prepare a detailed cost/benefit analysis and maintenance impact statement.
- Size will depend upon the facilities provided.
- Site should front on a public street.
- Parking Requirements: Depends on facilities provided.

Facilities and Amenities to Consider:

- Facilities and amenities will depend on the proposed activities and site use.

NATURAL OPEN SPACE/GREENWAYS

Natural open space/greenways are publicly owned or controlled natural resources that are managed for conservation, environmental education, and passive recreational use, such as walking and nature viewing. This type of land may include wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces.

Typical open space/greenway users:

- Come from throughout the Town
- Arrives by auto, foot, or bicycle.
- Visit the park for one or more hours.

Site Selection and Development Guidelines:

- Site size should be based on natural resource needs. Acreage should be sufficient to preserve or protect the resource. Stream setback and Floodplain rules apply.
- The Town should consider alternative ways of preserving natural open space besides outright purchase, such as acquiring conservation easements, encouraging donations of land, land trades, etc.
- Emphasis for acquisition should be on lands offering unique features or have the potential to be lost to development.
- Areas difficult or impossible to develop are a lower priority for acquisition.
- An analysis should be made to determine if unique qualities and conditions exist to warrant acquisition.
- Development and site improvements should be kept to a minimum, with the natural environment, interpretive and educational features emphasized.
- Parking and site use should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate while still retaining its natural character and the intended level of solitude.

Facilities and Amenities to Consider:

- Interpretive signage
- Off-street parking if a trail is located within the site
- Picnic shelters
- Picnic areas
- Trail and pathway system
- Trailhead or entry/ kiosk
- Viewpoints or viewing blinds
- Interpretive or educational facilities

Facilities and Amenities to Avoid:

- Turf areas
- Ornamental plantings
- Active use areas

RECREATION PATHWAYS AND TRAILS

Recreation pathways and trails, as described here, provide off-street bicycle and pedestrian travel, with recreation emphasized. Guidelines are not presented for on-street bikeways or access-ways intended mainly for transportation.

Typical pathway users:

- May come from throughout the Town (depends on site).
- Arrives by auto, foot, or bicycle.

Site Selection:

- The primary purpose of pathways and trails is to provide a recreation experience.
- Recreation pathways and trails should be located outside street rights-of-ways.
- Paths that are within street rights-of-way should be designed, when possible, along continuous features so that they do not pose hazards when crossing driveways and intersections.
- Advanced detailed trail planning for developing areas is essential.

Facilities and Amenities to Consider:

- Staging areas for trail access
- Picnic sites and Seating areas.
- Trailhead or entry/ kiosk
- Interpretive signage and Orientation and information signage.
- Amenities should be site specific

Additional Trail Guidelines:

- Trail alignments should take into account soil conditions, steep slopes, surface drainage and other physical limitations that could increase construction and/or maintenance costs.
- Trail alignments should avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wetlands, riparian vegetation, large trees, etc.
- Trails should be planned, sized, and designed for non-motorized multiple uses, except for dedicated nature trails, and/or areas that cannot be developed to the standard necessary to minimize potential user conflicts.
- Centralized and effective staging areas should be provided for trail access. Trailheads should include parking, orientation and information, and any necessary specialized unloading features.
- Recreation trails should be interesting to the user and maximize the number and diversity of enjoyable viewing opportunities.
- Trails should be located and designed to provide a diversity of challenges. Enhance accessibility wherever possible.
- Linkages and trail location and orientation should encourage users to walk or bicycle to the trail, depending upon the expected and desired level of use.

FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTING IMPROVEMENTS

This chapter provides a financing and implementation strategy for improvements recommended in the Plan. It needs to be emphasized that developing new park and recreation facilities will have an impact on future maintenance costs. It is with this in mind that this chapter also forecasts what these additional costs will be and recommends new funding sources to cover the potential shortfall.

CAPITAL FINANCING STRATEGY

Existing Park Improvements: While it is popular to construct new facilities, upgrading Superior's existing park system should have a high priority. Deferred maintenance, which can result in complete facility replacement. These types of projects include replacement of the demolished swimming pool and building in Eva Horning Park, tennis court resurfacing; and many less-expensive but necessary repairs at Timberman and Frank James Parks.

Land Acquisition: An important part of the park plan is land acquisition for land to meet the needs of the public. At this time the Town is not considering the acquisition of land for new parks. The Town Council will review any proposals for land acquisitions or land donations for parks.

Park Development: New Park development is of a lesser importance, but will be needed to meet the demand for future facilities.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR ALL IMPROVEMENTS

The following sources are that may be use to finance programs and projects. Funding Sources can include federal, state, town and private alternatives. The following describes various funding sources available.

General Fund: The General Fund provides revenue for most major Town functions like, administration, streets, public safety, parks and recreation. Revenues for the fund are generated through the general fund mill levy on real and personal property; licenses and permits; state and federal intergovernmental revenues; and charges for services. The Parks and recreation facilities are almost entirely funded through the General Fund. Capital projects may be financed through the General Fund, typically in conjunction with other financing resources.

Trees: The Town of Superior has sought and obtained Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Arbor Day Grants for tree planting. It is recommended that pursuit of these grants continue, as well as pursuit of other grants offered through the Montana DNRC, such as the Urban and Community Forestry. This aids in the replacement of aging or dying trees.

Recreation Trails Program: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks administers a Recreational Trails Program to encourage the acquisition, construction and maintenance of local trails. Grants from this source could assist in the construction of trails. Grant applications can include federal, state, municipal, or private partners. Recreational Trails Program funds may not exceed 80 percent of the total of an individual project. This is a reimbursement program.

Land and Water Conservation Funds: The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program is administered by Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Superior has benefited from Land and Water Conservation Funding through Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in the past. While funding has been limited in recent years, applications for general improvements should continue to be submitted. A 50 percent match is required from the Town.

Safe Routes to Schools: The Safe Routes to Schools sidewalks can be funded through the Federal Highway Transportation Alternative Grant Program. Local governments are eligible applicants.

Appropriations: The Town is able from time to time to obtain appropriations for special projects by working with Montana's congressional delegation. However, the Town still needs to apply for funds from the relevant agency (EPA, Dept of Interior, Housing and Urban Development, etc.).

Donations: The donations of labor, land, or cash by service agencies, private groups, or individuals are a popular way to raise money for specific projects. Service agencies, such as Lions, Youth Clubs, often fund small projects within the community (e.g., playground improvements). Superior does not regularly receive donations for the parks, they cannot be definitively planned for.

Foundations: There are private foundations that make grants for recreational facilities. Researching grant possibilities is an on-going program. It is recommended that the Town continue to seek grants for park projects.

Impact Fees – Impact fees are imposed on new development because of its impact upon Town infrastructure. The Town does not currently impose impact fees for parks and recreation. The establishment of Impact fees could be reevaluated in future years.

General Obligation Bond: These are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money may only be used for capital improvements, such as land acquisition or development. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a 66% majority approval by voters. Disadvantages of this funding option are the high approval requirement and the high interest costs. However, it has been determined that a general obligation bond is the part of the funding methods possible to fund the high costs of park land acquisition, construction of a swimming pool and building.

Park Maintenance District: Montana law allows for the passage of a Park Maintenance District by Town Council without voter approval, but the Town Charter requires voter approval for new taxes or assessments. Such a district could be used to levee funds for additional maintenance. The boundaries of this maintenance district would be limited to and grow with the Superior Town limits.

Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland: State Law requires that developers provide dedicated parkland, or cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication to provide for the recreational needs of the residents of the development. The Subdivision Regulations for Mineral County and the Towns of Alberton and Superior include Parkland Dedication-Cash-in-Lieu—Waivers—Administration 6.17 Section attached as Appendix C.

A Park Fund for capital improvements has been established to account for funds received.

The Town has established the following procedure for the expenditure of cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication funds:

1. The Council shall use the dedicated Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland money for development, acquisition, or maintenance of parks. Must be within reasonably close proximity to the subdivision from which the funds were received.
2. Prior to the expenditure of cash-in-lieu funds, projects must be presented to the Council for review.
3. Proposals must include project description, estimated cost, and any other supporting documentation necessary to allow a thorough review by the Council.
4. The Council decision must be noted in the Minutes of a regular meeting.
5. The Council may not use more than 50% of the money for park maintenance. (76-3-621(5)(c).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The statement of goals and objectives provides a framework for determining the Town’s recreational needs, and formulating recommendations and implementation policies for addressing the recreational needs. Goals are the desired achievement. Objectives are more detailed desirable outcomes.

COMMUNITY

- Objective---Use recreation as a tool to combat negative social activity such as graffiti and vandalism.
- Objective---Use Park facilities as forums for community involvement and interaction.
- Objective---Ensure that public park and recreational facility usage is affordable for all.
- Objective---Provide parks, trails, recreation facilities that meet the needs of all Residents in an equitable manner.

PLANNING

- Objective---Prepare individual park master plans for all new, and existing parks, and amend existing plans as needed.
- Objective---Monitor the changing needs and demands of the community through Surveys, etc. and adapt as needed.
- Objective---Review the park master plan and amend as needed.
- Objective---Review and ensure that new parks and recreation facilities are properly located, sized, and the land is suitable for to support the intended activities and functions of the proposed park and/or facility.
- Objective---Consider maintenance costs in acquisition and design of new parks and in major renovations of existing facilities.
- Objective---Ensure that adequate amounts of parkland or cash-in-lieu of parkland are provided through the development process to meet the recreational needs of the community now and into the future.
- Objective---Develop and provide minimum requirements for improvements to newly dedicated parkland. Also, development and provide standards for additional improvements to dedicated parkland.
- Objective---Ensure that parks, trails and recreational facilities comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards to the greatest extent possible.
- Objective---Develop and provide standards for trail construction and maintenance.

SERVICE

- Objective---Provide a high level of service for the maintenance and safety of parks and recreational facilities.
- Objective---Support public sport and team play programs currently provided by user groups.
- Objective---Work with user groups, service organizations and other relevant Entities to develop new and enhance existing parks, trails and recreational facilities.
- Objective---Coordinate with the School District to achieve mutually beneficial recreational opportunities.
- Objective---Educate the public regarding park and recreational facilities rules and Regulations.
- Objective---Educate residents about the availability of parks and recreation programs.

SAFETY

- Objective---Ensure that public parks and recreational facilities are maintained and signed to ensure usability and safety.
- Objective---Develop standards for safety.

FUNDING

- Objective---Establish regular and sufficient funding sources to acquire, develop, and maintain public parks, trails and recreational facilities.
- Objective---Upgrade and enhance existing park facilities, such as restrooms and playground equipment, as financial resources permit.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Because minimal funding is available to implement the Plan, a creative approach will be needed for a park development program, and to leverage the funds available.

Recommendation

Maintain the Comprehensive and Individual Park Plans to guide the development of the Town's parkland.

Implementation Strategies

- Keep copies of the individual plans with the Comprehensive Park Plan.
- Make the plans available to the public.
- Review, Revise and update the plans as needed.

Recommendation

Maintain existing parks and facilities to ensure they remain operational as long as possible

Implementation Strategies

- Establish Park maintenance and inspection standards and review the standards from time to time and identify areas for improvement.
- Install planned park amenities as funding becomes available or opportunities arise.
- Upgrade existing playground equipment as needed and funding is available.
- Add playground equipment to existing parks as funding is available and opportunities arise.
- Evaluate existing facilities for structural stability and renovation options.
- Fund needed renovations.

Recommendation

Require that any improvements to Town Parks and facilities be made in conformance with the Individual Park plans.

Implementation Strategies

- Make the plans available to the public, service groups, etc.
- Make sure staff, user groups, service organizations, etc are familiar with the process for preparation and amendment of the park plans.

Recommendation

Evaluate all plans for new parks to ensure that new parks are constructed in conformance with

Implementation Strategies

- Advise developers about the park construction requirements during the development review process.
- Conduct preconstruction meetings and on-site inspections to ensure that parks are being properly developed.
- Require developers to install water and sewer stubs for park facilities requiring water and sewer services, such as restrooms, etc. in compliance with the park plan.
- Ensure adequate parking for new parks.
- When evaluating new park plans include playgrounds in all appropriate locations.
- Evaluate new park plans for appropriateness for baseball and soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, etc.
- Evaluate new park plans for the construction of picnic shelters
- Evaluate funding sources for construction of sports fields, sports courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds, restrooms, etc. and implement the funding options as opportunities arise.

Recommendation

Consider maintenance costs in acquisition/design of new parks and facilities and major renovations of existing parks and facilities.

Implementation Strategies

- Conduct a maintenance impact analysis for each new site acquired and developed.
- Conduct a maintenance impact analysis for each major renovation project.
- Include projected costs for maintenance in proposals.
- Involve maintenance staff in all park and facility designs.

Recommendation

Provide opportunities for public involvement to ensure needs are being met.

Implementation Strategies

- Make all park plans available to the public
- Continue to use the Town’s quarterly newsletter to inform the public about recreational programs, needed renovations, etc.
- Continue to use and provide the Park brochure.
- From time-to-time conduct needs assessment surveys.
- Be responsive to the surveys.
- Monitor demographic change in the community, such as population growth, changes in household composition, population aging, etc.
- Encourage public involvement in park design process, which encourages Public investment in parks.

Recommendation

Work on establishing a trail system in the Town in a logical, convenient, and safe manner as opportunities arise.

Implementation Strategies

- Work with property owners to secure trail easements as opportunities arise.
- Continue the Town’s sidewalk installation, repair and replacement program.
- Acquire land for trails as opportunities and funding arise.
- Review other planning documents when evaluating the proposed location of a trail.
- Fund maintenance and weed control for trail when constructed.
- Establish trail maintenance standards

Recommendation

Ensure that Town parks, facilities, and trails are accessible to the greatest extent possible.

Implementation Strategies

- Evaluate existing Town parks and facilities for compliance with accessibility standards, and make recommendations for facilities lacking in compliance.
- Allocate funds to make upgrades and improvements to existing facilities to achieve greater accessibility.
- Review the plans for all new parks, facilities and trails for compliance with accessibility requirements.

Recommendation

Address vandalism in Town parks.

Implementation Strategies

- Increase police patrols of Town parks
- Increase public awareness

Recommendation

Address issues relate to dogs in Town parks.

Implementation Strategies

- Enforce Town ordinances related to dogs.
- Inform the public of dog ordinances and licensing requirements through the Town's quarterly newsletter and the animal control brochure.

Recommendation

Continue to provide support for community partners (users groups, service organizations, etc) offering recreational and educational opportunities.

Implementation Strategies

- Continue to serve as a source of information for recreational opportunities in the community.
- Continue facility scheduling, etc to support recreation groups, etc.

TOP CAPITAL FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the top capital facilities and/or capital improvements for the parks and recreation department. The list is not presented in order by priority.

- **New outdoor swimming pool and building**

Estimated Cost: \$ 2-3 million

Possible funding source: General obligation bond, donations, grants, capital improvement funds.

Pool in the Park and Mineral County Community Foundation are currently fundraising, etc. to construct a swimming pool and building.

- **Tennis Court replacement**

Possible funding source: Capital improvement funds, general fund, LWCF grant.

- **Playground Equipment (Replacement or Additional)**

Possible funding source: Capital improvement funds, general fund, donations, grants.

- **Walking Path—Perimeter of Eva Horning Park and Timberman Park**

Possible funding source: Capital improvement funds, general fund, donations, grants.

- **Restroom—Frank James Park**

Possible funding source: Capital improvement funds, general fund, donations, grants.

- **Remodel restroom and concession—Timberman Park**

Scheduled for 2023

Possible funding source: Capital improvement funds, general fund, donations, grants.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are improvements for the parks and recreation department. The list is not presented in order by priority.

- Additional picnic tables in all parks.
- Additional benches in all parks.
- Additional trash cans.
- Drinking fountain in each park.
- Additional BBQ's and Ash containers.
- Outdoor exercise equipment.

TOP NON- FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the top non- facility recommendations for the parks and recreation department. The list is not presented in order by priority.

- Evaluate and implement new methods of developing and improving parkland
- Review individual park master plans for all Town parks--- 2 years for updates.
- Review design guidelines for Town parks--- 2 years for updates.
- Review parks maintenance standards--- 2 years for updates.

DEFINITIONS

AMENITY. Aesthetic or other characteristics of a development that increase its desirability to a community or its marketability to the public.

AS-BUILT PLAN. Construction plans prepared after the completion of construction in such a manner as to accurately identify and depict the location of on-site improvements.

ACCESSIBILITY. Extent to which all persons are able to approach and utilize the City's Park and recreation facilities and programs.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT. Any building or infrastructure project that will be owned by a governmental unit and purchased or built with direct appropriations from the governmental unit, or with bonds backed by its full faith and credit, or, in whole or in part, with federal or public funds, or in any combination thereof.

CASH-IN-LIEU OF DEDICATION. Cash payments which may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land or physical improvements.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT. The grant of a property right or interest from the property owner to the public or a nonprofit conservation organization stipulating that the described land shall remain in perpetuity in its natural and open state, precluding future or additional development (with the exception of any allowable structures or facilities).

DEDICATION. The deliberate appropriation of land by an owner for any general and public use, reserving no rights which are incompatible with the full exercise and enjoyment of the public use to which the property has been devoted.

DONATION. A voluntary gift for which no valuable consideration is given in exchange.

EASEMENT. A grant by a property owner to the public, a specific person or persons, other than the owner, for a right to use land for a specific purpose or purposes.

FACILITY. A place where an activity occurs.

FAIR MARKET VALUE. The price of a building or land that would be agreed upon voluntarily in fair negotiations between a knowledgeable owner willing, but not forced, to sell and a knowledgeable buyer willing, but not forced, to buy.

FRONTAGE. That part of a park abutting on a street or way; except that the ends of incomplete streets, or streets without an approved cul-de-sac, shall not be considered frontage.

GREEN. An open space available for unstructured recreation, with landscaping consisting of maintained grassy areas, trees and other vegetation.

GREENWAY. Any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage.

HABITAT. The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place that is occupied by an organism, a population or a community.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD. A measure of the relationship between service capacity and service demand for public facilities.

PARK. An area that is developed and maintained for recreation, and is provided for the use and enjoyment of the public.

PARKLAND. An area that is dedicated to the Town and is suitable for recreational purposes; does not include watercourse setbacks or detention/retention ponds, utilities, municipal infrastructure and other similar facilities.

PATHWAY. A facility that accommodates the recreational and/or transportation needs of pedestrians and bicyclists including sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-use paths and trails.

PLAYGROUND. A publicly owned area for recreational use primarily by children.

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION. A community association which is organized within a development in which individual owners share common interests and responsibilities for open space, landscaping or facilities.

PUBLIC ACCESS. The ability and right of the general public to physically reach, enter or use recreational sites and facilities.

RECREATION. The pursuit of leisure-time activities. The recreational activity may be active, such as swimming or playing ball, or passive, such as wildlife viewing or picnicking.

RIVER. A free-flowing body of water from that point at which it provides drainage for a watershed of 25 square miles to its mouth.

TRAIL. A way designed for and used by pedestrians, cyclists and other similar uses.

USABLE. In the context of parks, land that is suitable for the intended recreational use in terms of physical characteristics such as grade, vegetation, location, access, etc.