

## Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

Parks, trails, and open space enhance Frederick's livability and community character. Other community benefits of parks, trails, and open space include:

- Improve public health.
- Create a high quality of life
- Help reinforce a sense of community
- Provide opportunities for youth to build physical, social, intellectual, and emotional strength
- Increase nearby property values
- Serve as a cost-effective alternative to costly flood protection methods
- Help protect the environment by cleaning the air and water, reducing energy use and stormwater runoff, and by providing wildlife habitat
- Enable citizens to work together to improve their communities by participating in the design and maintenance of parks and trails

It is important to consider the provision of parks, trails, and open space as a community responsibility and to develop shared, multi-purpose facilities that serve a broad range of users. This will enable Frederick to continue to provide for diverse recreational opportunities that enhance the area's quality of life.

**Goal 17– Create an integrated system of parks, trails, and open space that will:**

- **Have a unique character and contribute to Frederick's sense of place.**
- **Enhance Frederick's quality of life.**
- **Include parks with a wide-array of facilities that are available to all residents and offer diverse recreational opportunities for all age groups that foster both individual and family activities.**
- **Provide safe, attractive trail connections between schools, the Carbon Valley Recreation Center, Milavec Lake, residential neighborhoods, parks and commercial areas, and link Old Town Frederick with the new developments.**
- **Enhance important wildlife areas, view corridors and community gateways, and improve the quality of the natural environment.**
- **Provide an opportunity to interpret Frederick's history and the value of its natural resources through diverse educational elements.**

*Policy 17.1: Parks and trails shall be designed and constructed concurrently with new development.*

Strategy 17.1.1: Proposed developments shall locate parks and trails in accordance with the *Town of Frederick Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan*.

Strategy 17.1.2: Whenever possible, locate parks adjacent to public schools and ensure that each school is connected to the community via a safe trail system that utilizes underpasses or overpasses to cross streets as necessary.

Strategy 17.1.3: Regularly evaluate existing recreational demands and facilities available with existing Town parks and trails. Upgrade and add facilities and additional parks and trails to meet the citizens' needs.

*Policy 17.2: Design all parks and trails to be multi-purpose, safe and accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and interests to ensure that every resident has access to a pocket park and neighborhood park (or a community or regional park) within one mile of their home.*<sup>15</sup>

Strategy 17.2.1: Ensure that all new parks and trails comply with the design standards set forth in the *Frederick Land Use Code* and with state and federal rules and regulations.

Strategy 17.2.2: Provide recreational facilities for people to have the opportunity to learn about Frederick's history and its natural environment.

*Policy 17.3: Work with local governments and districts, the land development community, Great Outdoors Colorado, local businesses, the 52-85 trails project group, and government agencies to develop parks, trails, and recreational facilities and to preserve open space.*

Strategy 17.3.1: Cooperate with the St. Vrain Valley School District, Carbon Valley Recreation District, Carbon Valley Library District, and adjacent jurisdictions as appropriate to investigate funding opportunities and to construct shared park and trail facilities.

Strategy 17.3.2: Meet with the St. Vrain Valley School District, Weld County, the Carbon Valley Recreation District, and the public to develop a master list of existing and future

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<sup>15</sup> Refer to Land Use Code Section 4.2 of the Subdivision Regulations.

facilities to ensure that the communities' needs are being met and to allow for joint use of facilities.

Strategy 17.3.3: Emphasize the value of the Boulder Creek corridor and local parks.

*Policy 17.4: Encourage development to integrate open areas, trails and recreational opportunities in their design and construction.<sup>16</sup>*

*Policy 17.5: Develop multi-use trails, pedestrian sidewalks and bike routes that provide safe and enjoyable access throughout Frederick.*

Strategy 17.5.1: Evaluate the potential for adding on-street and off-street bike lanes to existing streets to allow bicycles to be separated from traffic lanes.

Strategy 17.5.2: Evaluate existing sidewalks for maintenance needs, missing connections, and other below-standard issues and prioritize improvements based on available funding and community input.

Strategy 17.5.3: Ensure that all proposed development follows the Town standards for trail linkages to provide an integrated system of trails for the community.<sup>17</sup>

Strategy 17.5.4: Identify missing trail linkages through existing development and work with the landowners to construct these trails.

Strategy 17.5.5: Continue to work with the 52-85 Trails group (Frederick, Firestone, Dacono, Fort Lupton, Brighton, Weld County, and Colorado State Parks) and the Colorado Department of Transportation to create a master trail plan, pursue funding opportunities, and to help construct a continuous multiple-use trail from Brighton to the St. Vrain State Park as part of the statewide Colorado Front Range Trail.

Strategy 17.5.6: Maintain a trail system that will provide safe connections to schools, the Carbon Valley Recreation Center, Milavec Lake, neighborhoods, parks and commercial areas, and will link Old Town Frederick with new developments.

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<sup>16</sup> Refer to Land Use Code Section 2.13 of the Community Design Principles and Development Standards.

<sup>17</sup> Refer to the Town of Frederick Design Standards and Construction Specifications.

*Policy 17.6: Cooperate with private landowners, developers, the St. Vrain Valley School District, utility companies and ditch companies to facilitate trail connections and to acquire funding.*

- Strategy 17.6.1: Coordinate trails design with the design of drainage ways. Carefully consider safety and impacts to wildlife and wetland areas when determining the alignment of trails.
- Strategy 17.6.2: Develop cooperative agreements with ditch companies regarding joint use of ditch rights-of-way for trails. Agreements should address safety, maintenance, and liability issues.
- Strategy 17.6.3: Create greenway trails along the Godding Hollow drainage way, Boulder Creek, Weld County Road 13/Colorado Boulevard, and Highway 52, and include connections to points of interest such as Milavec Lake, Miners' Park, and the Town's neighborhood trail system.
- Strategy 17.6.4: Work with Weld County and neighboring municipalities to determine appropriate locations for trails, to link communities, facilitate land acquisition, pursue funding opportunities and construct trails.
- Strategy 17.6.5: Monitor trails initiatives within the planning area and adjacent communities to maximize potential for connections and cooperative funding.
- Strategy 17.6.6: Cooperate with utility companies and oil and gas companies to allow the joint use of existing utilities, oil and gas easements for trails.

*Policy 17.7: Acquire right-of-way for trails, parkland, and open space through negotiation and consensus.*

- Strategy 17.7.1: Work with landowners/developers at the pre-application meeting and visioning session for a proposed development to determine appropriate locations for parks, trails, and open space on the property.
- Strategy 17.7.2: Notify the public regarding decisions related to park and conceptual trail designs and land acquisitions through a process of public notification, open houses, design charrettes, and other forms of correspondence that

access both the English- and Spanish-speaking populations.

*Policy 17.8: Encourage community participation in park and trail design, development and maintenance.*

Strategy 17.8.1: Host workshops, design charrettes, and meetings with the Carbon Valley Recreation District, St. Vrain Valley School District, Parks and Open Space Commission, teachers, and citizens to integrate educational elements in Town parks and trails.

Strategy 17.8.2: Cooperate with the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps to hire local youth to help build and maintain parks and trails.

Strategy 17.8.3: Utilize Frederick's parks and trails by hosting community events such as community walks/runs, guided nature walks, outdoor movie nights, outdoor concerts and community celebrations.

**Goal 18 – Encourage the expansion of parks, trails and recreation facilities as the town expands west of Interstate 25 to facilitate a balance and help connect the community.**

*Policy 18.1: Explore providing safe east/west pedestrian access across Interstate 25 to link future development located west of Interstate 25 with the portion of the community located east of Interstate 25.*

Strategy 18.1.1: Evaluate the existing Interstate 25/Highway 52 interchange and road intersections, and improve or add additional pedestrian accesses wherever possible.

Strategy 18.1.2: Cooperate with the Colorado Department of Transportation and property owners adjacent to Highway 52 to provide safe, off-street pedestrian access near the highway.

Strategy 18.1.3: Cooperate with the Colorado Department of Transportation to integrate expanded pedestrian crossings into any improvements to the Interstate 25/Highway 52 interchange as well as any future interchange in Frederick.

Strategy 18.1.4: Require new development both east and west of Interstate 25 to incorporate pedestrian trails that will facilitate access to other areas of the community.

Strategy 18.1.5: Continue to work with the City of Dacono, Weld County, and Colorado Department of Transportation to determine options for a pedestrian underpass at the intersection of Highway 52 and Weld County Road 13/Colorado Boulevard.

*Policy 18.2: Seek to provide a major community facility (such as a youth center) on the west side of Interstate 25 as the area develops in the future.*

**Goal 19 – Preserve significant natural, cultural, and agricultural resources within the planning area and maintain the rural character of Frederick.**

*Policy 19.1: Identify and encourage the preservation and enhancement of important natural and cultural resources within the Town's jurisdiction.*

Strategy 19.1.1: Integrate natural areas into Frederick's parks, trails, and open space network.

Strategy 19.1.2: Develop intergovernmental agreements with Weld County and surrounding jurisdictions (Firestone, Dacono, Fort Lupton, Erie, Longmont, and Boulder County) regarding the identification and preservation of unique natural features.

Strategy 19.1.3: Form creative public-private partnerships and cooperate with landowners to preserve, enhance, and/or acquire significant natural, cultural, and agricultural areas within Frederick's Planning Area.

Strategy 19.1.4: Develop a prioritized list of significant open space areas that the Town would like to acquire.

Strategy 19.1.5: Explore funding and acquisition opportunities to acquire open space.

*Policy 19.2: Identify and encourage the preservation of significant agricultural lands, scenic view corridors, and community gateways.*

- Strategy 19.2.1: Encourage and direct development close to the core community to maximize the funds invested in public infrastructure and to preserve open lands, particularly in the peripheries of the Town.
- Strategy 19.2.2: Encourage landowners to utilize the rural subdivision process to cluster homes and preserve open space in the areas specified as rural residential areas on the Land Use Plan.
- Strategy 19.2.3: Encourage the development of rural residential west of Weld County Road 7.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Refer to Land Use Code Section 4.9 of the Subdivision Regulations and Article 3, Zoning Regulations.