

2017 Lake County Recreation Master Plan

Introduction

On September, 2016 the Lake County Recreation Advisory Board conducted its annual retreat at the Elks Lodge. Representatives from each of the initiatives listed in the 2016 Master Plan provided a synopsis of progress over the past year; indicated whether the project is finished or still ongoing; described goals, plans and timelines for the coming year; and discussed what sort of financial, in-kind, or alternative County support the project may need in 2017 or beyond.

As with previous annual plans, the 2017 Plan combines current community input with previously detailed recommendations to present a balanced, realistic, diverse and compelling path forward. The overall goal of this Plan is to plot a course that sets clear priorities and tasks, increases efficiency, establishes a strategic plan for expenditure of Conservation Trust funds, leverages outside funding, and guides the deployment of personnel and equipment. At the same time, the Plan is designed to remain flexible to unforeseen opportunities and expenses that inevitably will arise.

Because the Lake County Recreation Advisory Board (LCRAB) does not have a formal advisory relationship with the Leadville City Council, the Lake County School District, Colorado Mountain College, or any governing agency other than the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, the priorities that follow focus primarily on County property, projects and personnel. It should be noted, however, that the LCRAB believes strongly that all governing agencies and community groups must work collaboratively in order for recreation to make the greatest impact on the health and prosperity of our community. The LCRAB will strive toward including updates from key partners and stakeholders so that information is readily shared, and projects do not move forward in a vacuum. The following priorities are not listed in any particular order.

In order to make sure that the 2017 Plan remains viable and reflective of community interests and needs, during its bimonthly meetings the Board will continuously assess progress related to the plan, and will identify ways to continue gathering community input regarding the plan and its stated priorities. The Board will also help establish and track project benchmarks and timelines, and provide immediate assessment and/or intervention if a project begins to miss these benchmarks or timelines.

This document and the projects it prioritizes are driven by community involvement, feedback, and participation. Members of the community are encouraged to become involved in this process. The Board holds open public meetings the third Thursday of odd numbered months at 6:30 pm in the County Court House. The Recreation Department office is open weekdays in Room 105 of the County Court House, and can be reached at 719-486-7484.

Priorities and Initiatives of the 2017 Recreation Master Plan

West Park Playground (Kerri Quinlan, Sarah Mudge)
Complete Streets (Sarah Mudge)
Huck Finn Park Project (Smokey Burgess)
Winter Trails Committee (Alex Lee)
Lake County Dog Park (Stephen Whittington)
Public Shooting Range (Dolores Semsack)
Single Track Mountain Bike Trails Project (Paul Anderson)
Aquatic Center Repairs and Upgrades (Amber Magee)
Inventory and Integration of Recreational Resources (Kevin Linebarger, Alex Lee)
Mt. Massive Golf Club (MMGC) (Craig Stuller)
GOL! Community Hub (LCBAG)

West Park Playground

The playground is built and is currently open to the public. Education is happening to help teachers and other WP staff understand Nature Play. Further additions to the playground may occur. *Lead contacts: Kerri Quinlan, Christina Reiff: Kquinlan@lakecountyschools.net, creiff@hminet.org*

Complete Streets

The Safe Routes to Schools Action Team, a project of Lake County Build a Generation and LiveWell Leadville has been advocating for Safe Routes to Schools to raise awareness about the need for more bike-able and walk-able streets, particularly around schools and other key institutions that many citizens walk to. **The 2017 Recreation Master Plan** calls for the advancement of this initiative and ongoing development of plans to improve walkability and bikeability in Leadville and Lake County. *Lead contact: Sarah Mudge samudge@gmail.com*

Huck Finn Park Project

Since 2010 the Huck Finn Park Project seeks to revitalize an existing park in Leadville for the enjoyment of all Lake County citizens and visitors alike. Through public meetings, community polling and the continual engagement of citizen volunteers, it was decided that the Huck Finn Park area should be revitalized by upgrading the following amenities and infrastructure as a top priority: Skatepark- 21,000 square foot multi-use concrete skate plaza/park (completed July 2014), will provide a safe place for skaters be appropriate for all ages and will also offer recreation for bikers, scooters and spectators. Tennis Courts-complete, positive feedback has been received from community members, but they are cracking due to lack of site preparation before they were installed due to time constraint to spend funds. Ice Rink Facility-The warming hut is complete and has received positive feedback from the community. Shade management: cost is substantial, but there is a possibility of resurfacing with lighter concrete and to correct drainage issues. Brian Feddema and Smokey Burgess will help make ice again this coming year. Rink will be flooded more often to help keep water line in parking lot from freezing. Over a million dollars has been raised for these three components through grant writing and local fundraising efforts. For more information, visit www.skateleadville.wordpress.com. *Lead contact: Smokey Burgess (smokeyburgess90@hotmail.com).*

Lake County Winter Trails.

The Lake County Recreation Advisory Board's Winter Trails Committee has established as its purpose to develop, maintain, and improve a winter trails system in Lake County, where affordable and reasonable to do so. As part of the **LCRAB 2017 Master Plan**, the Winter Trails Committee and High Riders Snowmobile Association will work to figure out plans and operations to continue in the spirit of Clay Stewart's vision for winter trails. They will also continue to improve signage, regular grooming, trail expansion and better parking at trailheads. Father Dyer: This race is anticipated to be more significant in its upcoming second year. They would like to use proceeds for a 5-year plan/proposal that would eventually be presented to LCRAB.

The LCRAB Winter Trails Committee established this purpose and these priorities for these reasons: Lake County has six months of snow, abundant sunshine during the winter, tremendous outdoor scenic beauty, lots of outdoor mining history, an abundance of potential trails left over from old mining roads, and numerous local and tourist user groups such as walkers and hikers, dog walkers, snow shoeing, Nordic skiing, skate skiing, backcountry skiing, winter fat tire mountain biking, dog sledding, snowmobiling, hybrid snowmobiling- skiing, and trail grooming. It is expected that this project will be a continuing, ongoing process. *Lead contact: Alex Lee* alexanderlee10@gmail.com

Lake County Dog Park

The dog park is seeing year-round use with a lot of winter use and parking has become an issue, but with increased/improved signage the issues seem to be alleviated. A new parking lot was created below the park, but cannot be plowed during the winter. Funds remain in the PLCR account and will be used in the future to build a second double-gate entry enclosure near the southeastern corner of the park. There are no anticipated funding needs for the 2017 year, but year-round waste collection from the park's trash container is still a need. The **2017 Recreation Master Plan** calls for continued support of the community dog park. *Lead contact: Stephen Whittington* (whittisl@gmail.com).

Public Shooting Range

The shooting range is almost complete and they anticipate to be done with grant seeking soon. The group anticipates wanting to explore a creating a free archery range in the vicinity to complement the shooting range. **The 2017 Recreation Master Plan** calls for continued work on this initiative with the hopes of building an archery range. *Lead contact: Dolores Semsack* (dsemsack@co.lake.co.us)

Single Track Mountain Bike Trail Project

In 2010, the Cloud City Wheelers, a local volunteer organization, guided the most significant and successful trail expansion project since the completion of that 2002 survey. Since 2010 the Cloud City Wheelers have built more than 10 miles of trail. This planning and construction work will continue in 2017 with the development and maintenance of existing trails. The group has been utilizing a new trail building implement located at CMC. **The 2017 Recreation Master Plan** calls for continued development of the single-track trail network. *Lead contact: Paul Anderson* (Panderson4@lifetimefitness.com)

Aquatic Center Repairs and Upgrades

The Lake County Aquatic Center was built over 40 years ago. It received an upgrade in 2003 after sitting ideal for 6 years. Now, 10 years later, it is again in need of some repairs and upgrades. The hot tub has been replaced. The slide was removed and they anticipate installing a climbing wall in 2017. The diving board has also been replaced along with some lights in the shallow end. **The 2017 Recreation Master Plan** calls for a group to be formed to create a plan for the next round of improvements to be facilitated by the Director of Recreation. *Lead Contact: Amber Magee (amagee@co.lake.co.us)*

Inventory and Integration of Recreation Resources. A significant focus of the LCRAB for 2017 will be maintenance of existing recreation resources. During this year, we will collaborate to continue an inventory of recreation resources within the county in order to strategically plan for needed maintenance and to seek opportunities for integration of recreational resources in order to maximize what currently exists for public benefit. **The 2017 Recreation Master Plan** calls for a detailed inventory of all recreational facilities owned and operated by Lake County. In addition, a committee should be formed to identify grants available for updates and improvements of existing facilities. *Lead Contact: Kevin Linebarger and Roger Lopez*

Mount Massive Golf Course (MMGC).

This addition in 2016 to the master plan is based on the opportunity to develop and utilize 60 of 120 acres that is currently being leased from the county. MMGC would like to hire a consultant to help determine what this could look like. Current ideas might include connecting Nordic trails to Turquoise lake, a Disc golf course.

GOL! Community Hub

An effort through Lake County Build a Generation to construct a hub that will provide gear for local youth at no cost along with education opportunities with the ultimate goal of connecting youth with nature. The proposed location is on county property adjacent to the old warming hut.

2017 Budget Review

Will snowmobile club request funding?

Move \$4k to pool climbing wall and Amber requested \$2k additional for a total of \$6k