



## FACTS AT A GLANCE

### Parks Division

#### 2004 Existing Parkland

- Cheyenne has 1,012 acres of public parkland, including the Greater Cheyenne Greenway and golf courses.
- Cheyenne has 411 acres of functional park area dedicated to community, neighborhood parks, and sports complex.
- The City has an inventory of 212 acres of undeveloped park sites, including 7.5 acres of neighborhood parkland and 205 acres of community park and sports complex site.

#### Existing Parklands, City of Cheyenne

Park Class	Total Acres	Undeveloped Parkland (ac)	Developed Parkland (ac)	Number of Sites
Golf Courses	235	0	235	2
Sports Complex	136	11	100	5
Community	428	194	234	7
Neighborhood	96	7	70	18
Special Purpose	7	0	7	1
Natural Area	111	0	111	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>38</b>

Source: Existing Parks & Trails Map, EDAW Inc, January 2006.

### Current Level of Service

As with some other municipal services, such as fire and police protection, standards have been defined to guide the provision of an adequate level of service for parks. These standards are usually expressed as acres of parkland provided for each 1,000 residents.

- The existing neighborhood park level of service is approximately 1.2 acres for every 1,000 people within city limits, based on a current population of approximately 57,381. Neighborhood parks are the smaller parks that serve nearby homes and neighborhoods.
- The existing community park level of service is approximately 2.1 acres per 1,000 people. Community parks, such as Lions Park, are larger parks intended to serve community-wide needs. A desirable level of service is approximately 4 acres per 1,000 population.
- More detailed information is located in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Snapshot. (See page 6-2.)



### TRENDS AND KEY ISSUES

- Several neighborhoods of Cheyenne are not within walking distance of a park, including some older neighborhoods in the central city as well as newer neighborhoods in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the City.
- Large lot rural residential growth outside of the city creates additional demands on City services, including parks.
- Although the city has a popular greenway and several regional natural areas (e.g., Belvoir and U.S.D.A grasslands), it does not have close-in, protected open space to maintain scenic views, rural landscapes, and important natural features.
- Developed neighborhood and community park acreage in Cheyenne is lower than the average when compared to other cities (including Loveland, CO, Greeley, CO, Casper, WY, Bellingham, WA and Missoula, MT).



## Greater Cheyenne Greenway

A grassroots group called the Crow Creek Greenway Committee, formed in 1990, was the driving force behind the planning and development of the Greater Cheyenne Greenway. The community has constructed approximately 15.9 miles of the Greenway with the involvement of government agencies, private businesses, volunteers, and schools. As approved by the voters in 2003, approximately five additional miles of trail will be constructed in the near future. Additional needs include completing a link between the Dry Creek and Crow Creek segments of the greenway in East Cheyenne and then tying together the originally conceived loop around the city with a north/south corridor in west Cheyenne.



Dry Creek Greenway

## Recreation Division

The City of Cheyenne offers a variety of youth and adult sports, instructional activities, and special events that take place at City-owned, privately-owned, and Laramie County School District #1 facilities. Programs include tennis, ice skating, gymnastics, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball and martial arts. There are also a number of private sports programs that use City-owned facilities. The most popular programs are listed below.

Activity	No. of Participants (2004)
Coed Softball	10,150
Youth Gymnastics	8,225
Men's Softball	7,904
Recreation Camp	7,314
Youth Basketball	5,418
Adult Basketball	5,060
Dance (Adult/Youth)	4,020
Tae Kwon Do (Adult/Youth)	2,293
Women's Softball	1,904
Yoga	1,760
Superday	15,000
Goblin Walk	1,500



Dutcher Field Ballfields

## Aquatics Division

The City offers a number of youth swimming activities for youth and adults that take place at City-owned pools. Recent usage is shown below.

Activity	No. of Participants (2004)
Swimming Lessons	1,094
Water Exercise	745
Recreational Swim	25,009
Lap Swim	12,094
Youth Swim Team	134

## Golf Division

The city manages 235 acres of golf course land. The Golf Division has 6 full-time employees and approximately 11 seasonal employees and is responsible for all aspects of course maintenance and new construction for the two city-operated courses, Airport and Kingham Prairie View, which had 36,954 and 22,274 participants in 2004, respectively.

## TRENDS AND KEY ISSUES

### Maintenance and Staffing Needs:

As in many communities, the availability of adequate funding for maintenance of parks and recreation facilities is an on-going challenge. The Department is exploring ways to improve maintenance efficiency, instituting maintenance checklists, and developing additional funding mechanisms that will allow the Department to maintain parks and other areas more consistently. Additional staffing needs have also been identified, including for the Cemetery, Forestry, Recreation, and Aquatics Divisions, with a particular need for more full-time staff. Similar needs have been identified for the Botanic Garden.

### Recreation Facilities Needed

Needs cited by the division include:

- Multi-purpose, multi-generational recreation center.
- 8-lane competition pool with spectator seating.
- Girl's softball fields.
- Practice ballfields.
- Master Plan for Pioneer Park.

### Other Facilities Needed:

Needs cited by the division include:

- Accessible neighborhood parks (central and south)
- More trails, natural open space areas, performance areas in parks, and gymnasiums.

### Sources:

Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Cheyenne MPO

See Maps in the Parks and Recreation Master Parks, Open Space, and Trails Considerations Neighborhood & Community Parks Service Areas

## Botanic Gardens Division

The Botanic Gardens Division oversees the operation of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in Lions Park. The gardens exhibit a diverse collection of plants, provide opportunities for senior, at-risk-youth and handicapped volunteers, and provide educational and therapeutic outreach to the community in the form of lectures, demonstrations, and special events. Recent visitation is shown in the list below. Additionally, Botanic Gardens Staff design, plant and maintain about 50 community sites with approximately 50,000 bedding plants annually.



Discovery Pond in the Botanic Gardens.

More than 30,000 people visit the gardens annually from all over the world.

## Forestry Division

The Forestry Division is responsible for the development and maintenance of over 13,000 trees, plus shrubs, vines, hedges, and ornamental plantings on all public properties. The Division is responsible for testing, licensing and regulating the work of commercial arborists and pesticide applicators within the City of Cheyenne, and provides educational opportunities to private citizens as well as tree care professionals.

## Cemetery Division

The Cemetery Division manages and maintains the City of Cheyenne cemetery complex (59 acres) jointly with the City Clerk's office. The cemetery complex consists of the following city-owned and managed cemeteries: Lakeview, Beth El and the International Order of Odd Fellows



Lakeview Cemetery

(I.O.O.F.). In addition to these cemeteries, the Cemetery Division staff provides grounds and operations services and maintain the records via contract for the following privately-owned cemeteries within the complex: Mount Olivet) and Mount Sinai (Jewish Cemetery). The cemeteries are full enough to consider construction of columbariums and a potential new future site.



17,000 Belvoir Ranch southeast of city

## Open Space – Belvoir Ranch

The City has acquired 17,000 acres of rangeland 10 minutes from downtown Cheyenne that will be used to address open space and numerous other community recreational needs in the future. Preliminary planning for public use of this 17,000 acre ranch is underway.

## Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Survey Key Findings (Dec. 2004)

- Three-quarters (75%) of the respondents rated parks closest to their homes as excellent or good (maintenance, cleanliness, walking trails, and the landscape design).
- Lions Park and Holliday Park are Cheyenne's residents' favorite parks because of walking trails, water, Botanic Gardens, a range of available activities, and size.
- Top Activities in Cheyenne--Adults: 1) walking or bicycling, 2) attending concerts and festivals, 3) participating in unorganized sports such as skating or jogging, 4) enrolling in classes or other programs and 5) taking part in team sports.
- Top Activities—Children: 1) swimming, 2) using playground equipment, and 3) fish. Children's participation is lowest for in-line skating, skateboarding, tennis and hockey.
- The principal reasons people do not use Cheyenne parks or use them more frequently is because they feel: the parks lack the facilities they would like to see, the parks are too far from their homes and that other park visitors behave in a rowdy manner.
- The top facilities lacking in Cheyenne's parks are: 1) walking trails, 2) open space, 3) natural areas within urban parks, and 4) areas for events such as concerts. Parks have enough facilities for hockey, soccer, arts and crafts, baseball, and softball.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  of Cheyenne residents are satisfied with Cheyenne's parks and programs. However, people are roughly split regarding the need for a centralized recreation center and for planning for land uses at Belvoir Ranch.
- Residents are against an increase in taxes or fees by about a 3:2 margin.
- Open Space: People are most interested in "water bodies, including creeks, lakes and ponds" and "areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features."



*This page blank*

