

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Town of Poncha Springs, Colorado

December 2011

**TOWN OF PONCHA SPRINGS
RESOLUTION #2011-14
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR
THE TOWN OF PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO
ADOPTING THE 2011 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides an analysis of the current conditions of parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities of the Town and offers recommendations

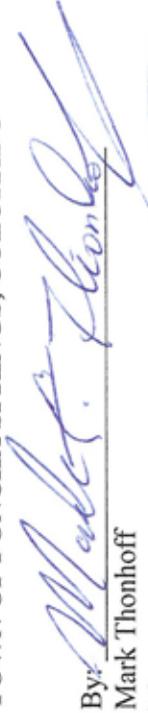
for future parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities opportunities in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an advisory document to be used as a guide for planning decisions in relation to the maintenance of existing facilities and construction of new facilities; and

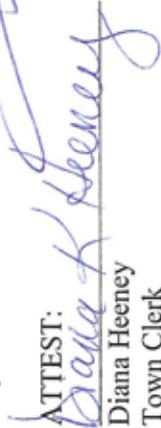
WHEREAS, the Boards of Trustees finds and determines that it would be in the best interest of the Town of Poncha Springs and its residents to approve the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO that the 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit 1, is hereby approved and adopted.

RESOLVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13 day of December, 2011.
TOWN OF PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO

By: 
Mark Thonhoff
Mayor

ATTEST:


Diana Heeney
Town Clerk

APPROVED AS-TO FORM:


Brad Redmiles
Town Attorney



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan would not have been possible without time generously donated by members of the community, Poncha Springs' Board of Trustees, Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff members. The following participants are individually recognized for their participation in this planning process:

Board of Trustees

Mark Thonhoff, Mayor
Aaron Kroschel, Mayor Pro-Tem
Rick Roberts, Trustee
Galen Angelo, Trustee
Darrell Donahoo, Trustee
Ron Slaughter, Trustee
Bret Collyer, Trustee

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Bret Collyer
Becky Massey, Alternate

Town Administrator

Jerry L'Estrange

Staff

Dee Miller, Director of Planning
Diana Heeney, CMC/Treasurer

Greg Smith, Director of Public Works
Wendel Stephen, Public Works Crew
Brian Martinez, Public Works Crew

Brad Redmiles, Town Attorney

Consultant Team

Matt Farrar
soprislanduse@gmail.com

Kelly Zappia
kelly.zappia@ucdenver.edu

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PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO

Poncha Springs, Colorado is a small community of 737 residents. The Town is located in the southern portion of Chaffee County. Situated near the Collegiate Peaks, the Arkansas River and surrounded by BLM and San Isabel National Forest lands, Poncha Springs offers residents and visitors access to a wide-variety of natural resources. The Town and surrounding area provides opportunities for fishing, hiking, camping, whitewater rafting and kayaking, hunting, skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding and more.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan establishes a framework for park, open space, trail and recreation development in Poncha Springs, over the next ten years. The Plan includes an inventory of the Town's existing facilities, an assessment of the parks, open space, trails and recreation needs of the community, and recommendations to help the Town meet the community's needs. If followed diligently, the Plan should have a long lasting and positive impact on the Town and its community.

STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

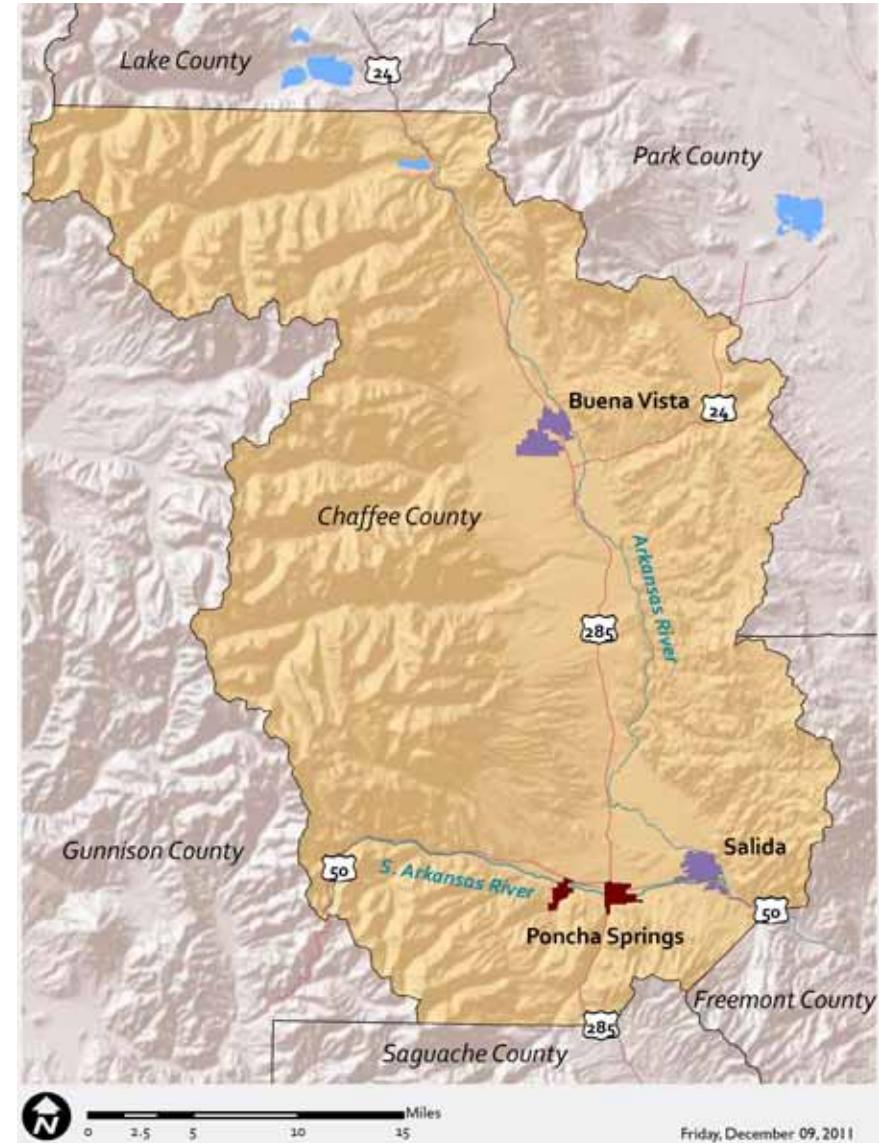
Introduction- A brief description of the Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Community Profile- Statistical information regarding historical and projected trends in Poncha Springs.

Inventory- An inventory of the most current information about Poncha Springs' parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities. This section of the Plan serves as "benchmark" for these services provided by the Town.

Community Needs Assessment- Key findings from the Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation survey.

Recommendations- Goals, Objectives and Strategies, which serve to guide future parks, open space, trails and recreation decisions.



STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN (CONTINUED)

Funding Strategies- A list of grant opportunities which may be used to help accomplish the **Goals, Objectives** and **Strategies** set forth in the Recommendations chapter.

Appendix A- Sample trail and on-street bike lane designs, in addition to design examples for trail, park and open space signs.

Appendix B- A variety of sample documents (ex. Adopt -a-park form, Joint Use Agreement, etc.) that may serve as templates for the Town.

Appendix C- The final report of the 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation survey.

INTEGRATION WITH THE 2011 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to augment the 2011 Poncha Springs Comprehensive Plan. It seeks to refine and elaborate upon the Guiding Principles, Goals & Policies, as well as help to achieve the Community Vision set forth by the Comprehensive Plan. The Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan is designed to expand, specifically, on the Parks, Open Space and Trails chapter of the 2011 Poncha Springs Comprehensive Plan.

COMMUNITY INPUT

The 2011 Poncha Springs Comprehensive Plan was used as the foundation for the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Much of the direction and input for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was derived from the 2011 Comprehensive Plan. Development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan included a Parks and Recreation survey. The survey was mailed directly to members of the community, in addition to being offered online. The survey was available to residents of the community for a month. Of the 400 surveys distributed by mail, 21 completed surveys were returned. The online survey collected 20 responses. The mail-in responses represent a response rate of 5.3%. While this response rate is a small sample, the 41 responses (21 mail-in and 20 online) provide useful insight and direction for this Plan. Due to the short-time frame and limited resources for this project, no public meetings were held in the development of this Plan. In the future, any updates to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should include a more extensive public process.

UPDATES TO THE PLAN

Communities evolve and change over time, and an effective public parks, open space, trails and recreation plan should be modified to stay current with these changes. This plan is intended to be a living document, one that is flexible and fluid, so that as opportunities for land acquisition or easements and park and trail development become available, the Town can capitalize on these opportunities. The Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be reviewed annually and updated as necessary. The periodic updates will serve as an opportunity to re-evaluate and modify the Plan.

POPULATION

The 2000 US Census showed that 466 people resided in Poncha Springs. The 2010 US Census revealed that Poncha Springs' population increased by 271 residents to 737.

Poncha Springs has had an average rate of change of 4.84% over the past decade (2000-2010). If this trend were to continue, the Town could expect a population of roughly 3,000 by 2040. It is unlikely that Poncha Springs will experience a steady rate of change over the next 30 years. Therefore, higher and lower (1.5%, 3% and 5%) rates of change are shown below to depict how different growth rates could impact the Town's population over the next 30 years.

Figure 1: Poncha Springs Population Projections

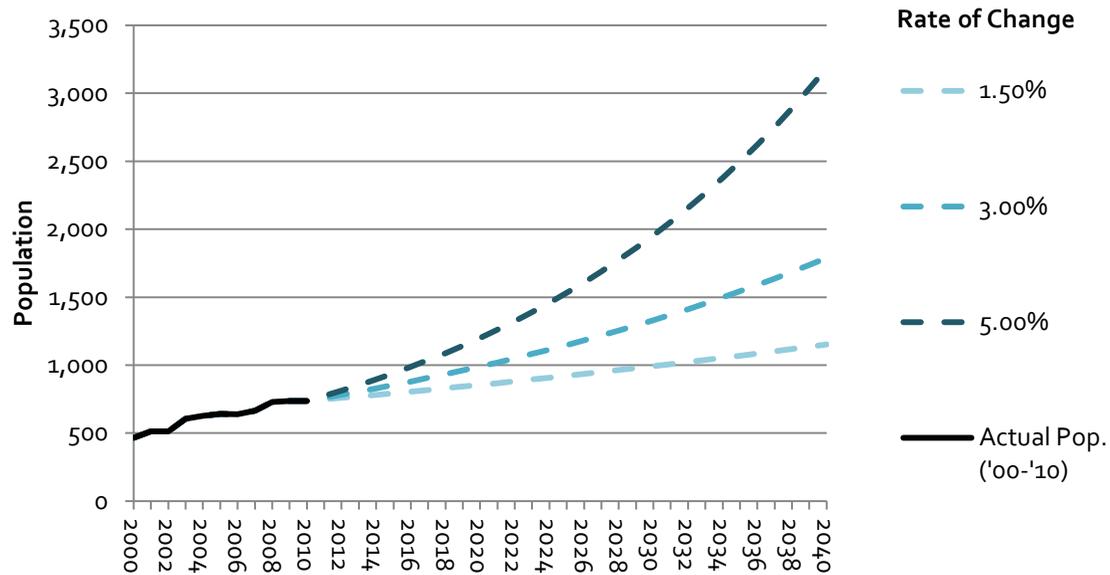
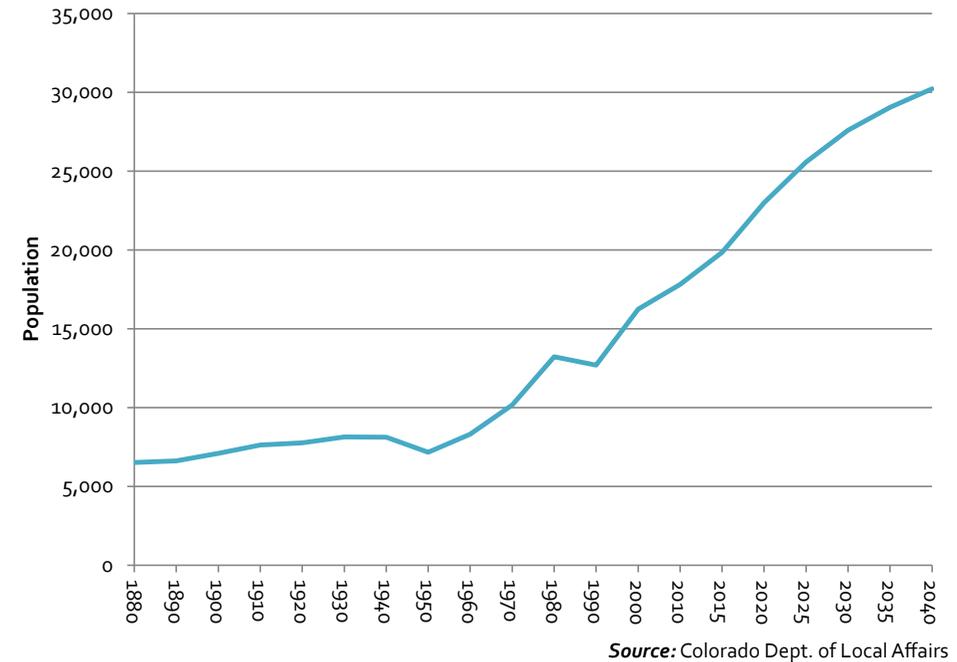


Table 1: Poncha Springs Annual Rate of Change (2000-2010)

	'00-'01	'01-'02	'02-'03	'03-'04	'04-'05	'05-'06	'06-'07	'07-'08	'08-'09	'09-'10
Rate of Change	10.30%	-0.39%	18.36%	3.47%	2.39%	-0.31%	4.06%	9.31%	1.10%	0.14%

Figure 2: Chaffee County Population Projections



The Colorado Department of Local Affairs projects Chaffee County to reach a population of roughly 30,000 by 2040. This would mean the addition of roughly 13,000 residents to the County. Population growth in Chaffee County should be taken into account when planning for the Town's future, as growth in the County will certainly impact Poncha Springs.

Between 2000 and 2010, Poncha Springs had an average annual population growth rate of 4.66%. The table shows the rates of change for the individual years.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The following breakdown is used to separate the population into age sensitive user groups. Population distribution by age for Poncha Springs is shown in Figure 3.

Under 5 years (6.9%): Residents who may benefit from preschool and tot recreation programs and facilities. Often in strollers, this group may be users of trails and parks. They may be future participants in youth activities.

5 - 14 years (12.2%): Residents who may benefit from youth recreation programs, in addition to after school programs, parks, playgrounds and trails.

15 - 24 years (11.9%): Residents who may benefit from teen/young adult recreation programs, in addition to after school programs, parks, playgrounds and trails. Members of this age group may be seekers of seasonal employment.

25 - 34 years (14.5%): Residents who may benefit from adult programs, in addition to parks and trails.

35 - 54 years (26.2%): Residents who may be users of a wide range of adult recreation programs, park facilities, as well as trails. This age group may have children in preschool and youth programs.

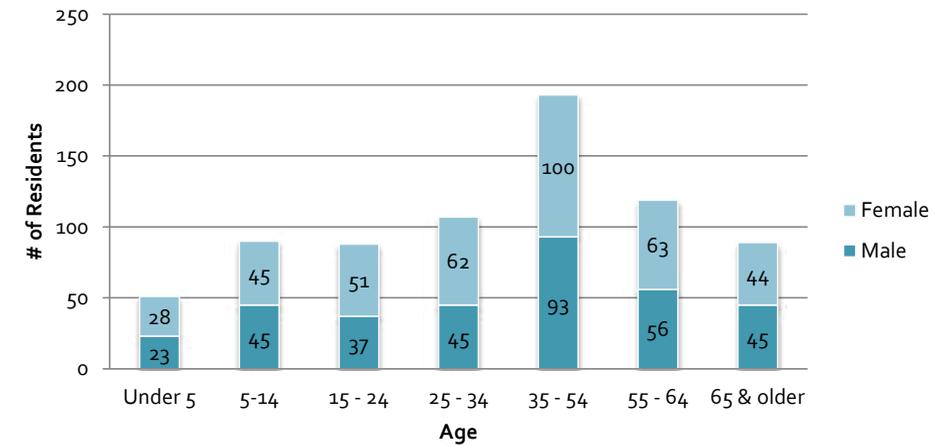
55 - 64 years (16.1%): Residents who may be users of adult and/or senior recreation programs.

65 years and older (12.1%): Nationally, this population will double in the next decade. Recreation centers, senior centers and other senior programs can be a significant link in this group's health-care system. This group may range from very healthy, active folks to less physically active seniors.

MEDIAN AGE

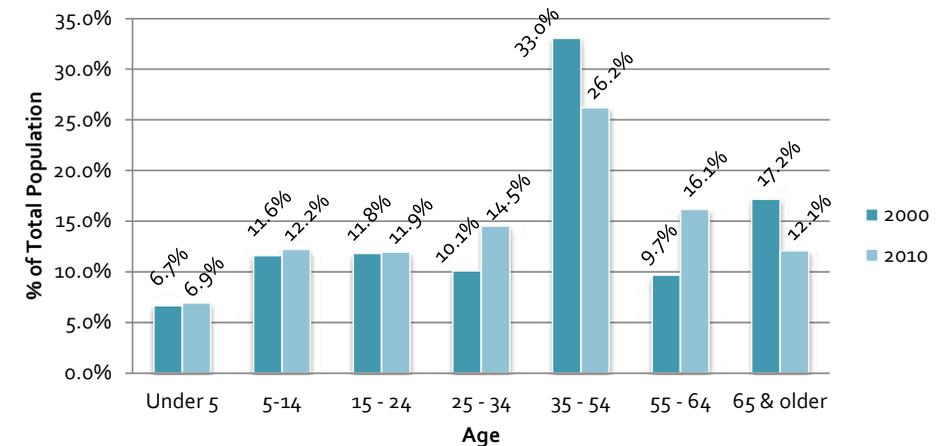
From 2000 to 2010 the median age in Poncha Springs decreased by 1.8 years. Poncha Springs was the only community in Chaffee County that had a drop in median age during this 10-year period. This indicates that there was an increase in the number of younger residents in town.

Figure 3: Age Distribution (2010)



Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 4: Change in Age Distribution (2000-2010)



Source: US Census Bureau

Table 2: Median Age

	Poncha Springs	Salida	Buena Vista	Chaffee County
Median Age (2000)	40.5	42.1	42.2	41.8
Median Age (2010)	38.7	46.2	45	47.4

Source: US Census Bureau

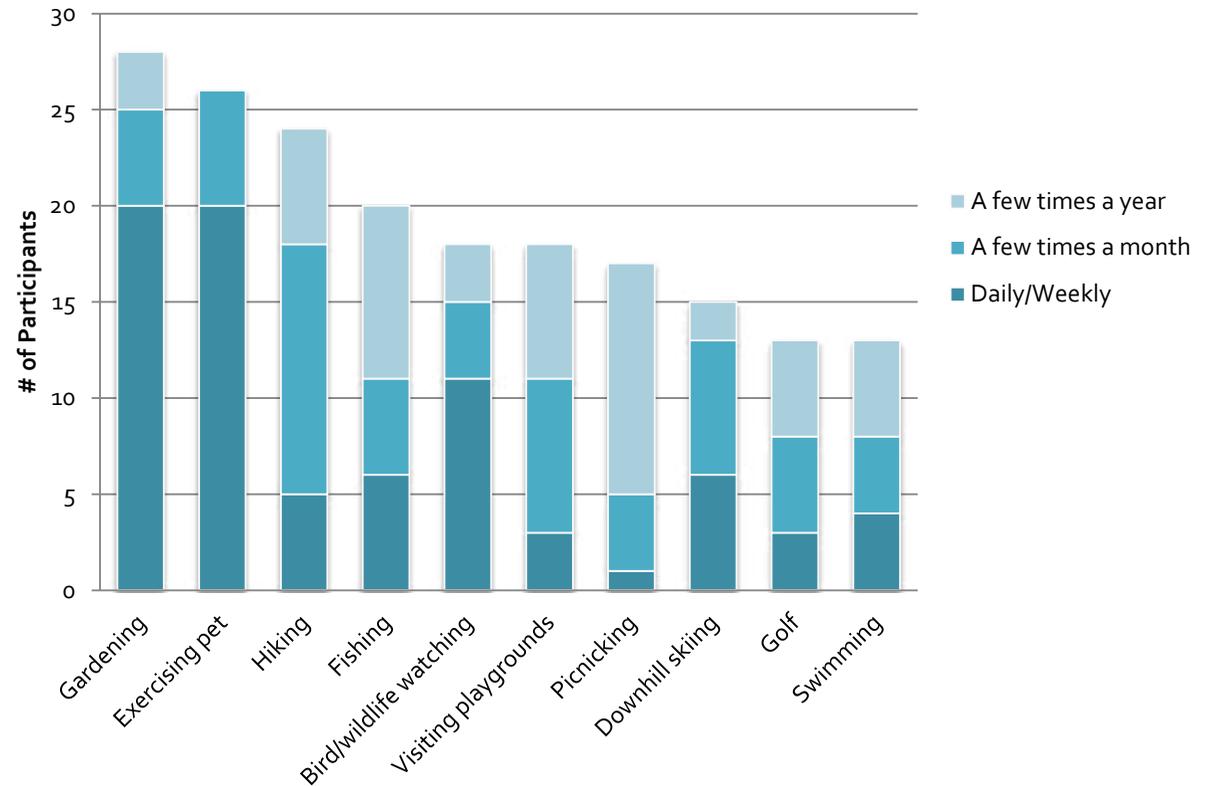
PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE/RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The 2011 Parks and Recreation Survey asked respondents to identify the leisure and recreational activities in which they participate. Survey participants were also asked to indicate the frequency that they participate in those activities. Figure 5 depicts the top ten leisure and recreational activities identified by the respondents. The top five activities included:

1. Gardening
2. Exercising pet (i.e. walking the dog)
3. Hiking
4. Fishing
5. Bird/wildlife watching

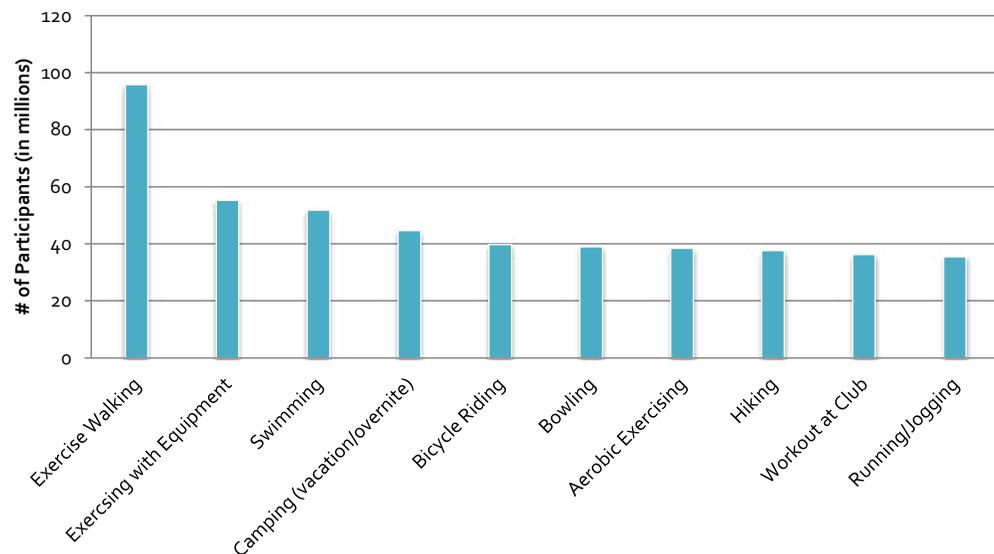
Understanding which leisure and recreational activities residents of Poncha Springs participate in is important when considering or setting priorities for future amenities in town.

Figure 5: Participation in Leisure & Recreational Activities (2010)



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

Figure 6: National Participation in Leisure & Recreational Activities (2010)



Source: National Sporting Goods Association (2010)

Figure 6 shows the number of participants in leisure and recreational activities across the United States. As of 2010, the top five activities were:

1. Exercise walking
2. Exercising with equipment
3. Swimming
4. Camping (vacation/overnite)
5. Bicycle riding

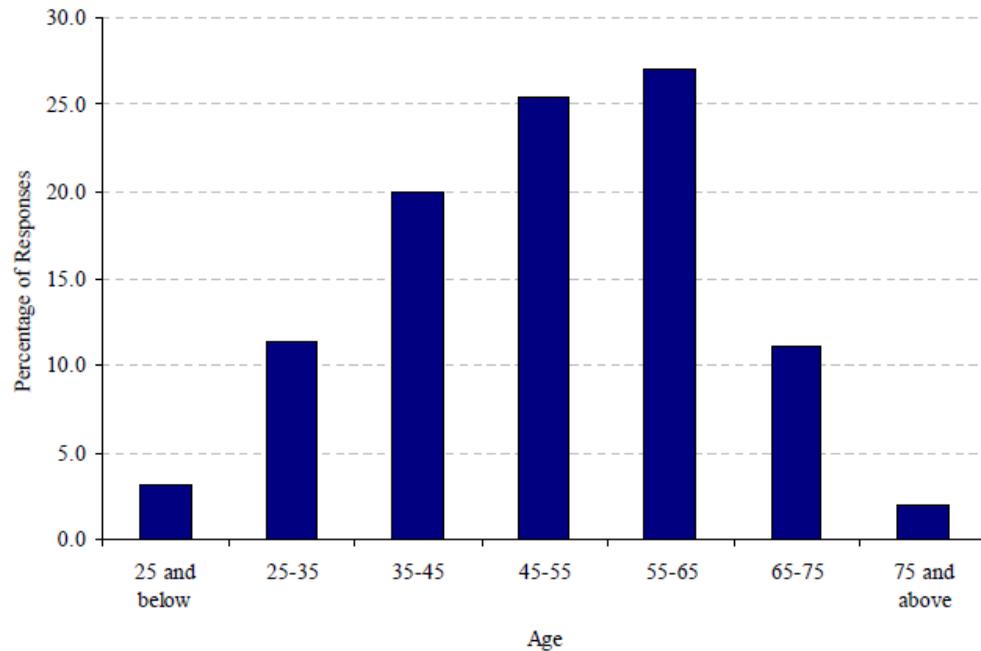
Understanding the national interest in leisure and recreational activities is important as this information may help to identify activities that could become popular in Poncha Springs as new residents move to the Town.

Figure 6 also serves as a useful comparison of Poncha Springs to the rest of the country.

TOURISM IN CHAFFEE COUNTY

In March of 2008, Sarah Cline and Andy Seidl (Graduate research assistant and Associate Professor with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University) published a report on tourism in Chaffee County. Their report, titled "Valuing Chaffee County's Working Landscapes and Water Quality: An Analysis of Summer Tourists," provides some useful information regarding the demographics of visitors to Chaffee County, the activities that visitors to Chaffee County enjoy participating in, the factors that attract visitors to Chaffee County and the type of expenditures that visitors to Chaffee County have. The full report can be found at: <http://dare.colostate.edu/pubs/EDR/EDRo8-05.pdf>. Some of the key findings of Sarah Cline's and Andy Seidl's report are presented below:

Figure 7: Age of Survey Respondents

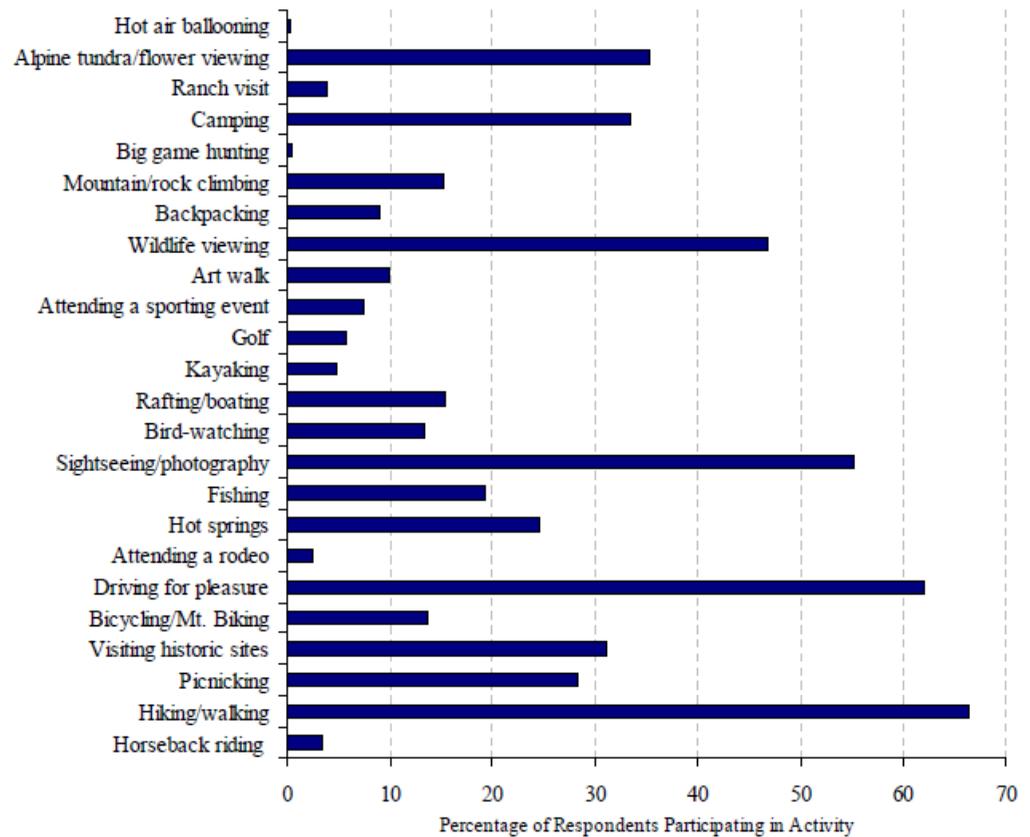


Source: Valuing Chaffee County's Working Landscapes and Water Quality: An Analysis of Summer Tourists

The average age of survey respondents was 52 years. Individuals between 55 and 65 years of age made up the largest age group (27%). Respondents between 45 - 55 and 35- 45 also made up a large portion of the sample; 25% and 20% of the sample, respectively.

Source: Valuing Chaffee County's Working Landscapes and Water Quality: An Analysis of Summer Tourists

Figure 8: Participation in Different Activities by Survey Respondents



Source: Valuing Chaffee County's Working Landscapes and Water Quality: An Analysis of Summer Tourists

The 2008 survey asked respondents to select the activities that they participated in during their most recent trip to Chaffee County. The top five activities were: 1. Hiking/walking; 2. Driving for pleasure; 3. Sightseeing/photography; 4. Wildlife viewing; and 5. Camping.

TOURISM IN CHAFFEE COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Survey respondents were asked to rank natural and human attributes based on how important each attribute was to their decision to visit Chaffee County (see Figure 9). The top five *Very Important* attributes are listed below:

1. Mountain views (78.17%)
2. Viewing forested landscapes (65.12%)
3. Rivers, lakes & wetlands (59.24%)
4. Open Vistas (55.89%)
5. Viewing alpine tundra/flowers (50.14%)

Figure 10 outlines visitor expenditures in Chaffee County. The mean total expenditures per person per trip was found to be \$110.62. The top three per person per day expenditure categories were:

1. Travel expenses
2. Food and Drink
3. Lodging

Figure 10: *Tourist Expenditures in Chaffee County*

Expenditure Category	Per Group Per Trip (Mean Value)	Per Person Per Trip (Mean Value)	Per Person Per Trip Day (Mean Value)
Travel expenses	\$165.64	\$79.99	\$30.15
Lodging	\$182.68	\$86.27	\$19.13
Food and Drink	\$163.67	\$83.58	\$28.39
Outdoor recreation fees	\$63.35	\$25.68	\$7.92
Other retail purchases/gifts	\$131.72	\$64.72	\$17.03
Other	\$88.64	\$45.74	\$8.00
Total (of mean values)	\$795.70	\$385.98	\$110.62

Source: Valuing Chaffee County's Working Landscapes and Water Quality: An Analysis of Summer Tourists

Figure 9: *Importance of Attributes in Decision to Visit Chaffee County*

	Very Important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Unimportant	Irrelevant (Very unimportant)
Rivers, lakes & wetlands	59.24	31.25	8.15	0.54	0.82
Green pastures/irrigated lands	25.76	32.69	30.19	7.20	4.16
Abundant wildlife	48.49	37.81	11.78	1.10	0.82
Viewing alpine tundra/flowers	51.09	35.33	10.87	1.63	1.09
Mountain views	78.17	19.14	2.16	0.00	0.54
Viewing forested landscapes	65.12	27.52	6.27	0.27	0.82
Open vistas	55.89	33.15	9.32	1.10	0.55
Pastoral landscapes (fields, cattle & horses)	27.95	34.52	29.59	6.58	1.37
Valley views	45.92	40.49	11.41	1.63	0.54
Wildlife viewing	50.14	35.77	12.47	1.08	0.54
Friendly people	47.01	37.50	12.23	1.90	1.36
Solitude or lack of crowds	44.38	40.00	13.97	0.55	1.10
Rural lifestyle	29.59	37.53	26.85	4.66	1.37
Working ranches & farms	20.82	30.41	33.42	11.23	4.11
Historic buildings	29.70	36.24	25.89	6.27	1.91
Art museums/activities	13.97	37.53	31.23	12.05	5.21
Nightlife	3.27	13.08	32.15	28.61	22.89
High quality restaurants	13.66	37.43	30.33	13.93	4.64
High quality lodging	8.22	33.42	35.89	14.79	7.67
Affordable lodging	23.90	42.86	19.78	8.24	5.22
General affordability	28.07	52.04	12.53	4.36	3.00
Health care access	16.39	31.97	29.78	12.30	9.56

Source: Valuing Chaffee County's Working Landscapes and Water Quality: An Analysis of Summer Tourists

EXISTING FUNDING

Poncha Springs’ Parks and Recreation program is funded by the General Fund, from sales and property taxes. The Town does not have a separate Parks and Recreation department so general town staff time is allocated for the maintenance of facilities. In addition, the Town utilizes part-time help during the summer months.

Poncha Springs receives sales tax revenues from sales at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds, but the County is responsible for facility maintenance.

While Poncha Springs’ budget does not currently support significant spending on parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities, there are many improvements which are still feasible. This plan is optimistic, while acknowledging financial constraints, that much is possible over the next ten years. This approach is based on the many recent and ongoing successes, including:

- \$2,500 grant from Colorado State Forest Service for fire mitigation in Poncha Springs’ South Park (2010).
- \$3,000 grant to remove hazardous trees from Town parks (2010).
- \$500 grant from Colorado Tree Coalition to plant trees in Town parks.
- The CR120 trail grant for the trail from Salida at CR145 along CR120 to the Visitor’s Center. CDOT combined four grant requests for this project from the Town, Friend Ranch, and Chaffee County together for a total grant of \$725,443.00. The Town is administering this project.

Table 3: Tax Rates (2011)

TAX	RATE
PONCHA SPRINGS SALES TAX	2%
PONCHA SPRINGS PROPERTY TAX	2.271 MILS
FAIRGROUNDS SALES TAX	2%
CHAFFEE COUNTY*	2%

* Farm equipment exempt.

PARKS

*Refer to the *Parks* map for the general location of existing Town park spaces.

Poncha Springs owns, maintains and operates four parks. These parks are Chipeta Park, Hoover Ranch Park, South Park (which includes an 18-hole disc golf course) and a park site in the Little River Ranch subdivision. In addition, the Town owns, operates and maintains a Community Garden.

TYPES OF PARKS

Neighborhood Parks-

Neighborhood parks are typically designed to offer park space for specific neighborhoods. These park provide a focal points for neighborhood identities, gathering places for friends and family, opportunities for informal play and natural settings for quiet reflection. These parks typically are within easy walking and biking distance (1/4-mile) of the neighborhoods they serve.

Active Neighborhood Parks: Designed to offer amenities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. These amenities may include playgrounds, basketball courts and picnic shelters.

Passive Neighborhood Parks: Designed as passive, natural areas. These parks typically do not offer the same amenities (i.e. playgrounds, basketball courts, etc.) that active neighborhood parks do.

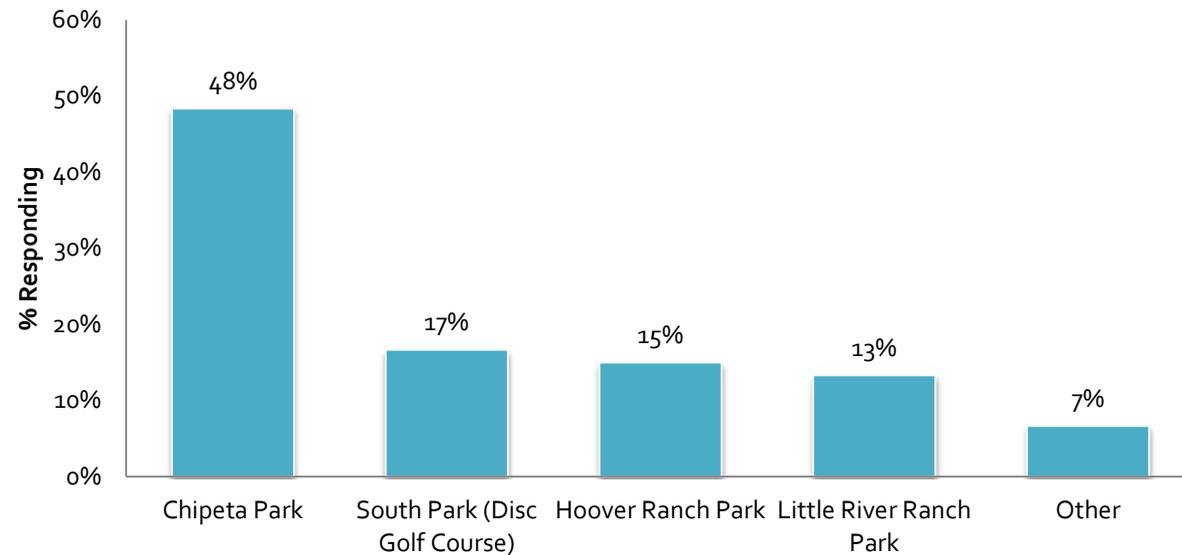
Community Parks-

Community parks are larger, multi-purpose areas that serve the entire community. These parks are generally designed to provide active recreation opportunities for all ages . Community parks may also include opportunities for those who enjoy more passive, leisure-oriented activities.

Special Use Parks-

This category is reserved for Town parks, which have a unique and distinctive use, not defined by the description of Neighborhood or Community Parks.

Figure 11: Which of the following Poncha Spring's parks did you visit?



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

PARK POPULARITY

The 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation survey asked members of the community which of the Town parks they had visited over the past year. The majority respondents indicated that they had visited Chipeta Park (see Figure 11), located near Town Hall.

Table 4: Poncha Springs Parks Inventory Summary

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	ACREAGE
CHIPETA PARK (ACTIVE PARK)	1.4 ACRES
HOOVER RANCH PARK (ACTIVE PARK)	0.69 ACRES
LITTLE RIVER RANCH PARK (PASSIVE PARK)	2.46 ACRES
COMMUNITY PARKS	
SOUTH PARK (W/ 18-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE)	33.2 ACRES
SPECIAL USE PARKS	
COMMUNITY GARDEN	1 ACRES

TOTAL 38.75 ACRES

Source: Town of Poncha Springs

PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE (P-LOS) ANALYSIS:

“Level of Service” (LOS) is a term that is used to measure the quantity of parkland per resident. With a small community, such as Poncha Springs, level of service for quantity of parkland per person is calculated as acres of developed parkland divided by the total population. Larger municipalities will typically present level of service as park acreage per 1,000 residents.

The 2011 park level of service (P-LOS) was established by taking the existing, developed park acreage (approximately 38.75 acres) and dividing it by the total population (737).

2011 P-LOS: .053 acres of parkland/resident

Table 5: Parks Level of Service Comparison

COMMUNITY	POPULATION (2010)*	DEVELOPED PARK ACREAGE**	LEVEL OF SERVICE
SALIDA, CO	5,236	37.61	.007 acres of parkland/resident
BUENA VISTA, CO	2,617	462.61	.18 acres of parkland/resident
GUNNISON, CO	5,854	410.85	.07 acres of parkland/resident
BOULDER, CO	97,385	765	.008 acres of parkland/resident

*Population data from the 2010 Census

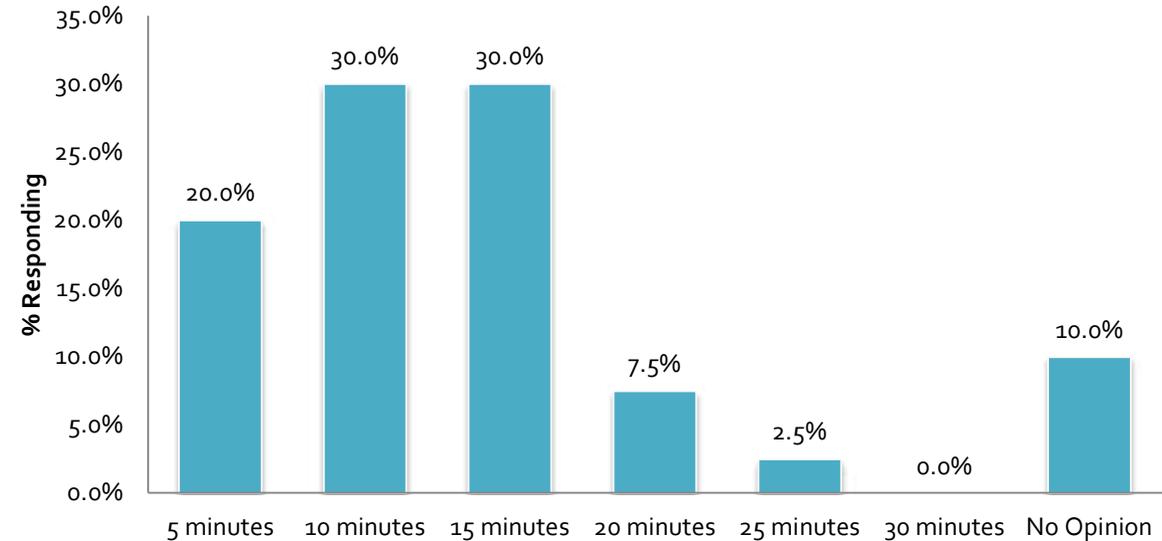
**Park acreage is approximate and was obtained from municipal documents

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS:

Rural Planning Institute-

The Rural Planning Institute (RPI) has developed Park & Recreation Standards for Small Communities in Colorado. According to the standards set forth by RPI, a community with 737 residents should have roughly 5.09 acres of parkland. This equates to roughly .007 acres of parkland/resident.

Figure 12: What is the maximum walking time you feel a small, neighborhood park should be from most residents’ homes?



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

PARKS “WALK-ABILITY” ANALYSIS:

The following maps of the individual town parks and the *Parks Map* (pg. 18) show a 1/4-mile buffer around each existing town park. This 1/4 mile buffer illustrates which areas of town are within a roughly 5-10 minute walk of each existing town park. In addition, the *Parks Map* identifies barriers (i.e. Highway 50 & 285), which prevent easy and convenient pedestrian and/or bicycle access. The 1/4 mile buffers do not extend beyond these barriers, as access becomes more difficult if a pedestrian or bicyclist must navigate one of these barriers. Some residential areas are served by more than one park and therefore have a higher level of service than other locations within the same neighborhood. The map indicates that areas of town such as Friend Ranch, the Retail Park, locations along the South Arkansas River and the eastern portion of Little River Ranch are currently under served by town parks.

CHIPETA PARK
(ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK)

Chipeta Park is within a 1/4-mile (5-10 minute walk) of primarily low density and some medium density residential areas. The following neighborhoods are within a 1/4-mile of Chipeta Park:

- De Anza Vista
- Van Kleeks Addition

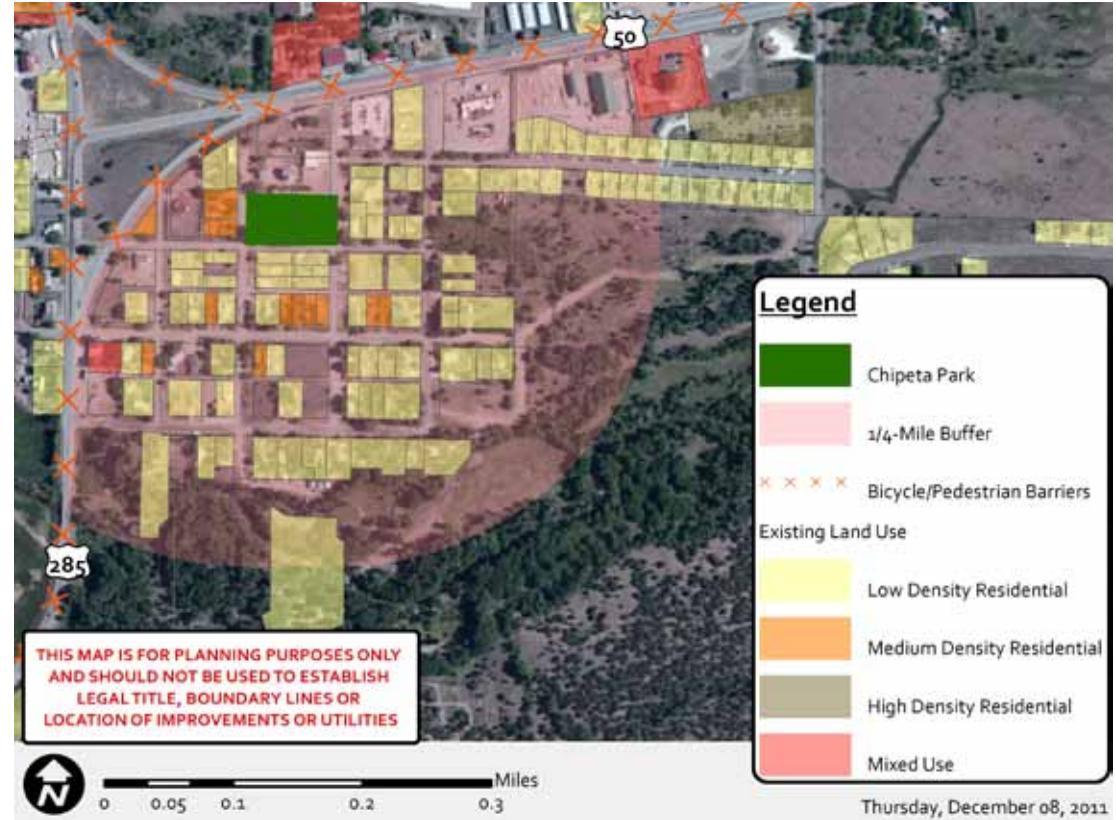
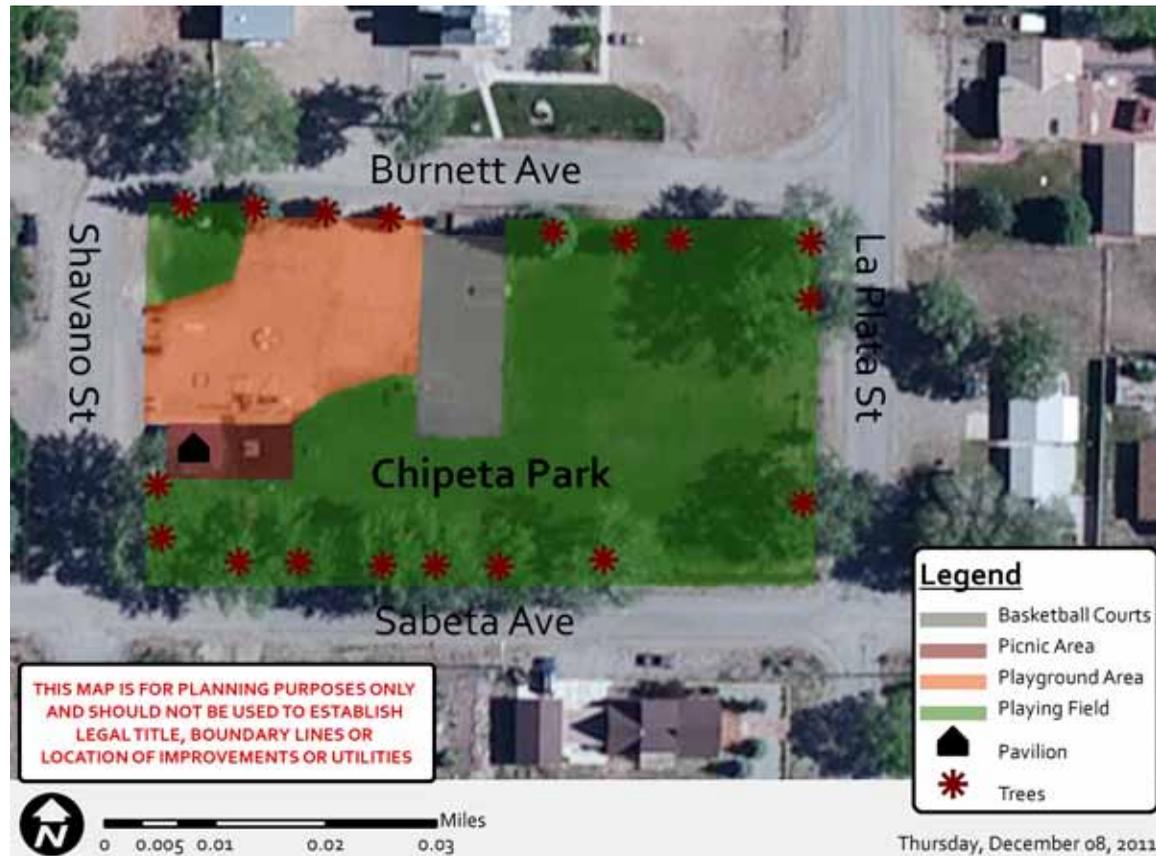


Table 6: *Chipeta Park Inventory*

Location	Amenities	Acreage*
Located across Burnett Avenue from Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball courts • BBQ pits • Benches • Bleachers • Horseshoe pits • Large playing field • On-street parking • Pavilion • Picnic area • Playground • Restrooms • Shade Trees 	<p>Total Park: 1.4 Acres</p> <p><i>Basketball courts: .09 Acres</i></p> <p><i>Picnic area: .037 Acres</i></p> <p><i>Playground area: .24 Acres</i></p> <p><i>Playing field: .93 Acres</i></p>

*Acreages are approximate

HOOVER RANCH PARK
(ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK)

Hoover Ranch Park is within a 1/4-mile (5-10 minute walk) of primarily low density and some medium density residential areas. The following neighborhoods are within a 1/4-mile of Hoover Ranch Park:

- Angelo/Perkins Minor Subdivision
- Burnett's Addition
- DRH Subdivision
- Poncha Vista
- Rio POCO
- Summer's Addition
- Vaupel Minor Subdivision
- Weale Minor Subdivision
- Wold Minor Subdivision

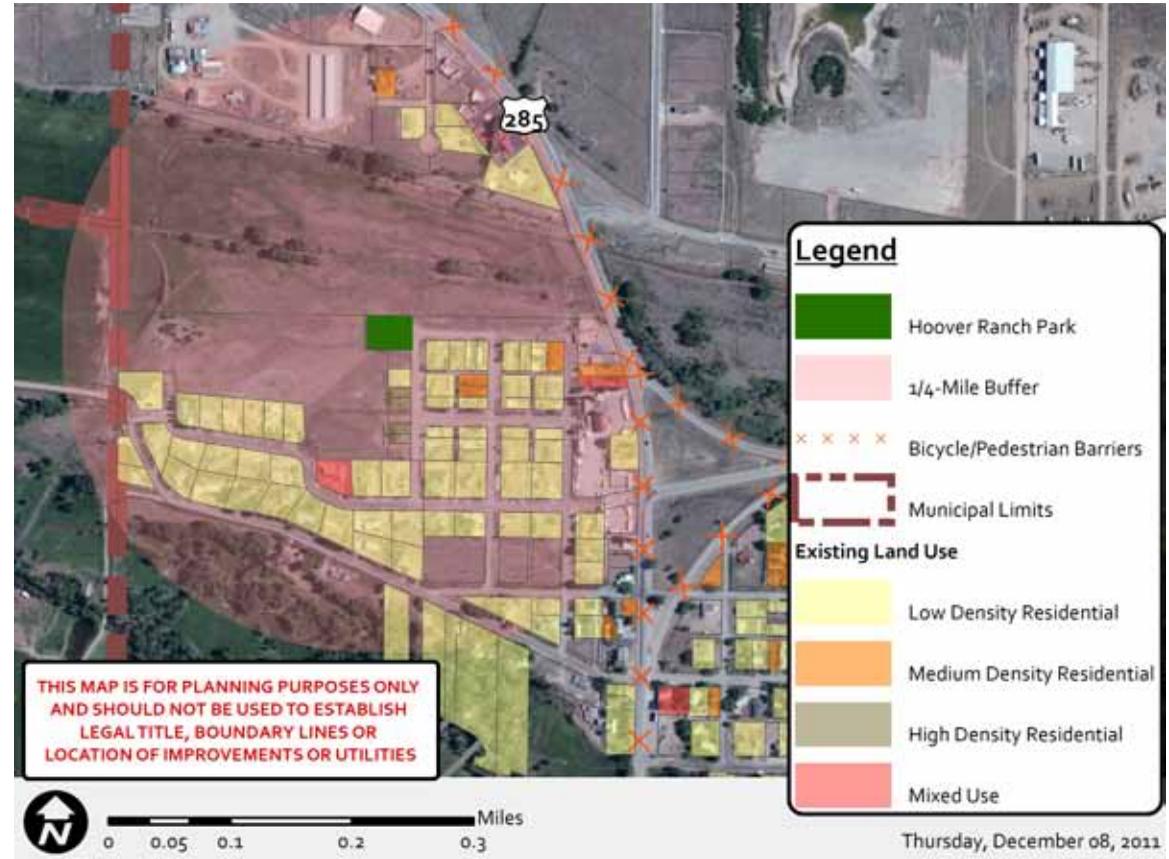
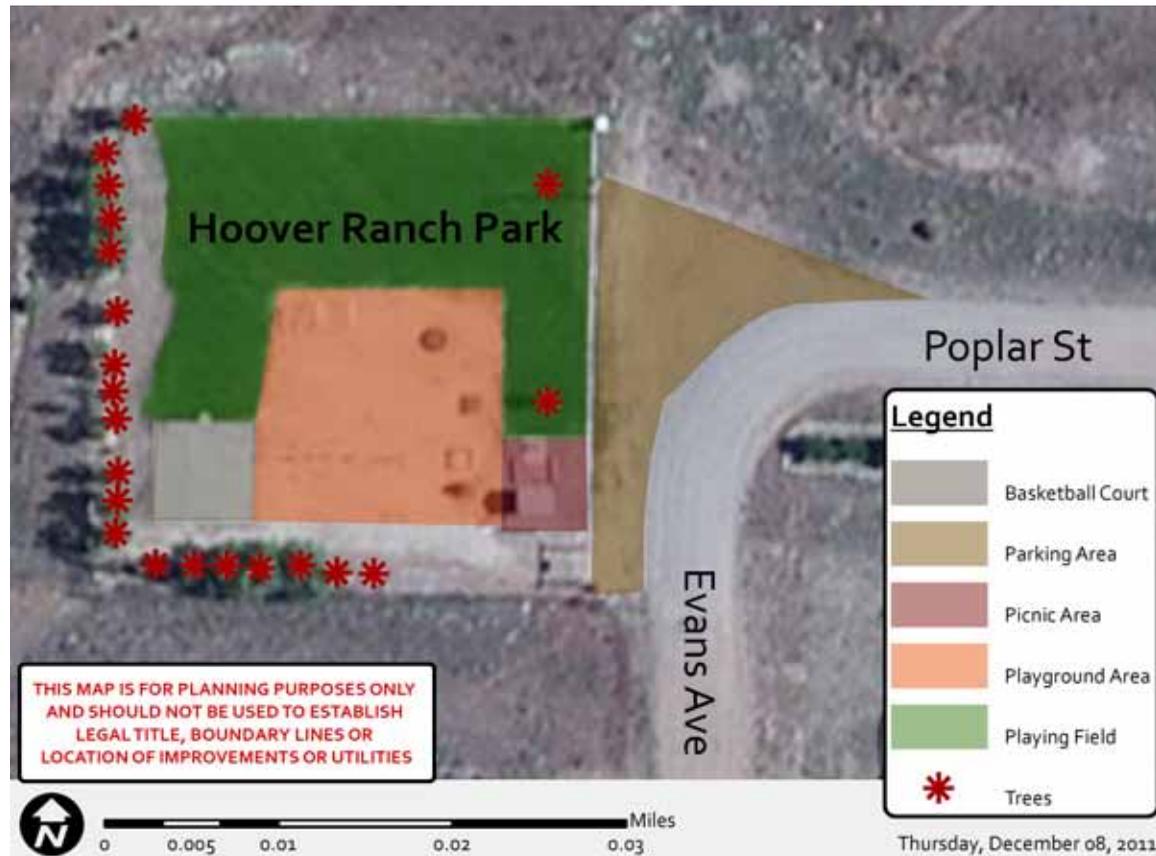


Table 7: Hoover Ranch Park Inventory

Location	Amenities	Acreage*
Corner of Evans Avenue & Poplar Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court • BBQ pits • Dirt parking area • Picnic area • Playing field • Playground 	<p>Total Park: 0.69 Acres</p> <p><i>Basketball Court: .022 Acres</i></p> <p><i>Picnic Area: .017 Acres</i></p> <p><i>Playground Area: .12 Acres</i></p> <p><i>Playing field: .21 Acres</i></p>

*Acreages are approximate

LITTLE RIVER RANCH PARK
(PASSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK)

Little River Ranch Park is within a 1/4-mile (5-10 minute walk) of primarily low density residential areas. The following neighborhoods are within a 1/4-mile of Little River Ranch Park:

- De Anza Vista
- Little River Ranch Subdivision
- Eastern portion of Van Kleek’s Addition

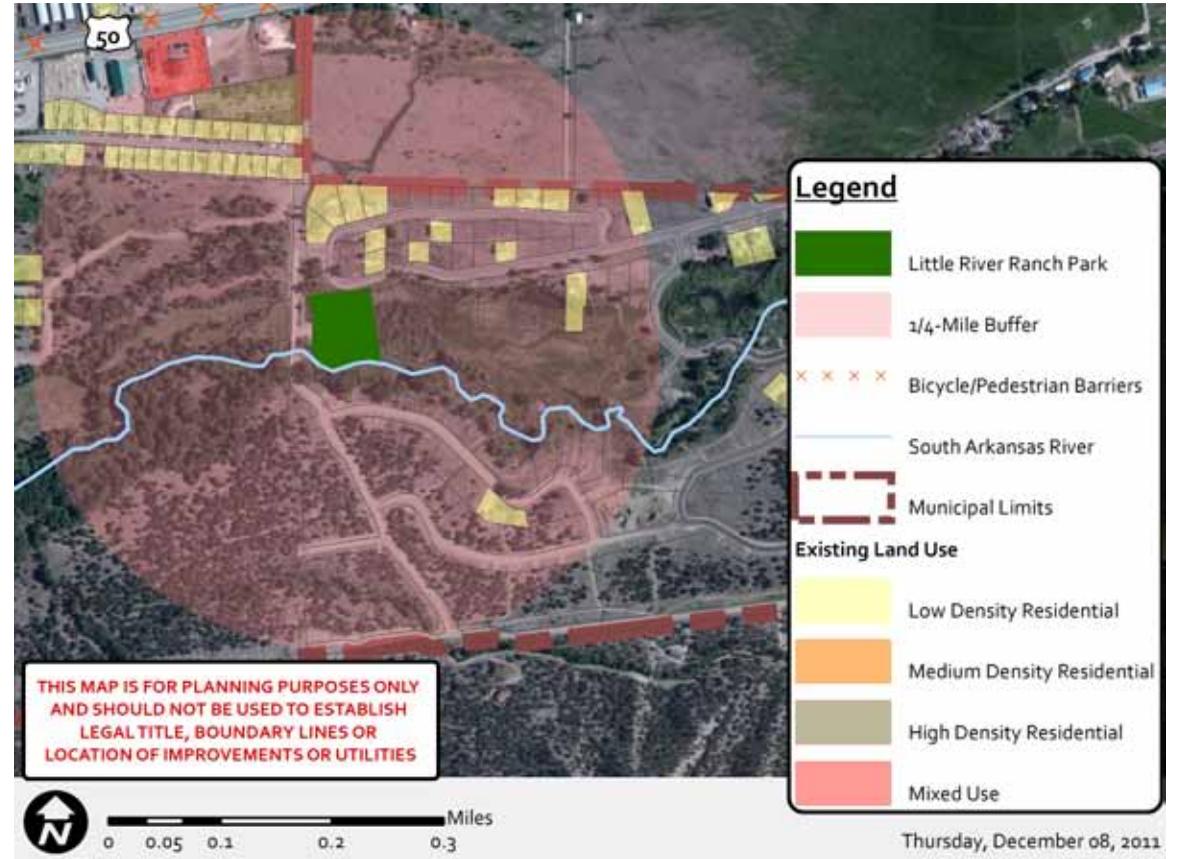


Table 8: Little River Ranch Park Inventory

Location	Amenities	Acreage*
Near the intersection of Poncha Springs Lane & East Ouray Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails (0.37 mi.) • Dirt parking area 	Total Park: 2.46 Acres

*Acreages are approximate

SOUTH PARK
(COMMUNITY PARK)

The southern portion of South Park is within a 1/4-mile (5-10 minute walk) of a few, low density residential lots, in the southern portion of town.

The disc-golf course is beyond a 1/4-mile (5-10 minute walk) from any of the residential areas in town.

Unlike the Town’s neighborhood parks, South Park is a community park. Community parks are intended to serve as a destination for the entire community. It is not as essential for a community park to be within a 1/4-mile of the residential areas of Poncha Springs.

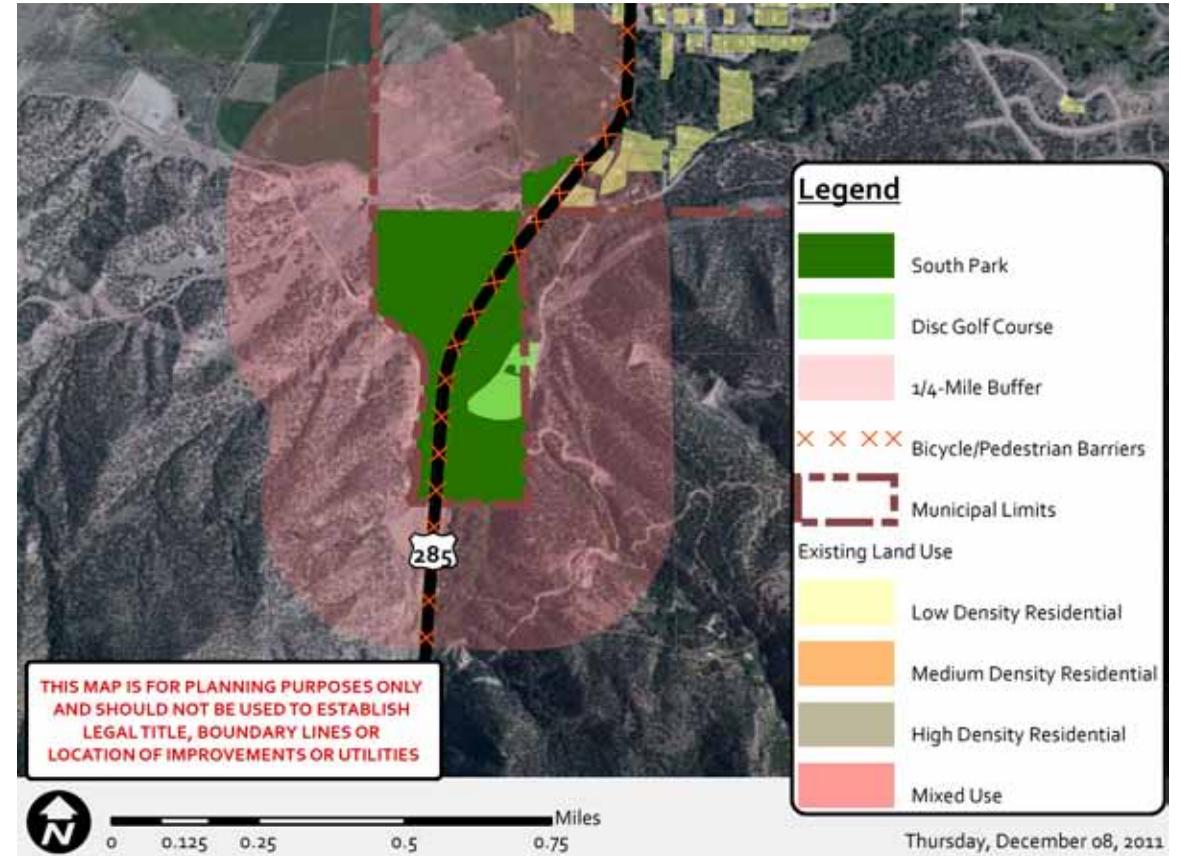


Table 9: South Park Inventory

Location	Amenities	Acreage*
South of town, accessed by County Road 115	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-hole disc golf course • Benches • Dirt parking area • Picnic area • Trails (0.52 mi.) 	<p>Total Park: 33.2 Acres</p> <p><i>18-hole disc golf course:</i> 20 Acres</p>

*Acreages are approximate

COMMUNITY GARDEN
(SPECIAL USE PARK)

The Community Garden is within a 1/4-mile (5-10 minute walk) of primarily low density and some medium density residential areas. The following neighborhoods are within a 1/4-mile of Community Garden:

- Burnett’s Addition
- DRH Subdivision
- Poncha Vista
- Rio Poco
- Weale Minor Subdivision
- Wold Minor Subdivision

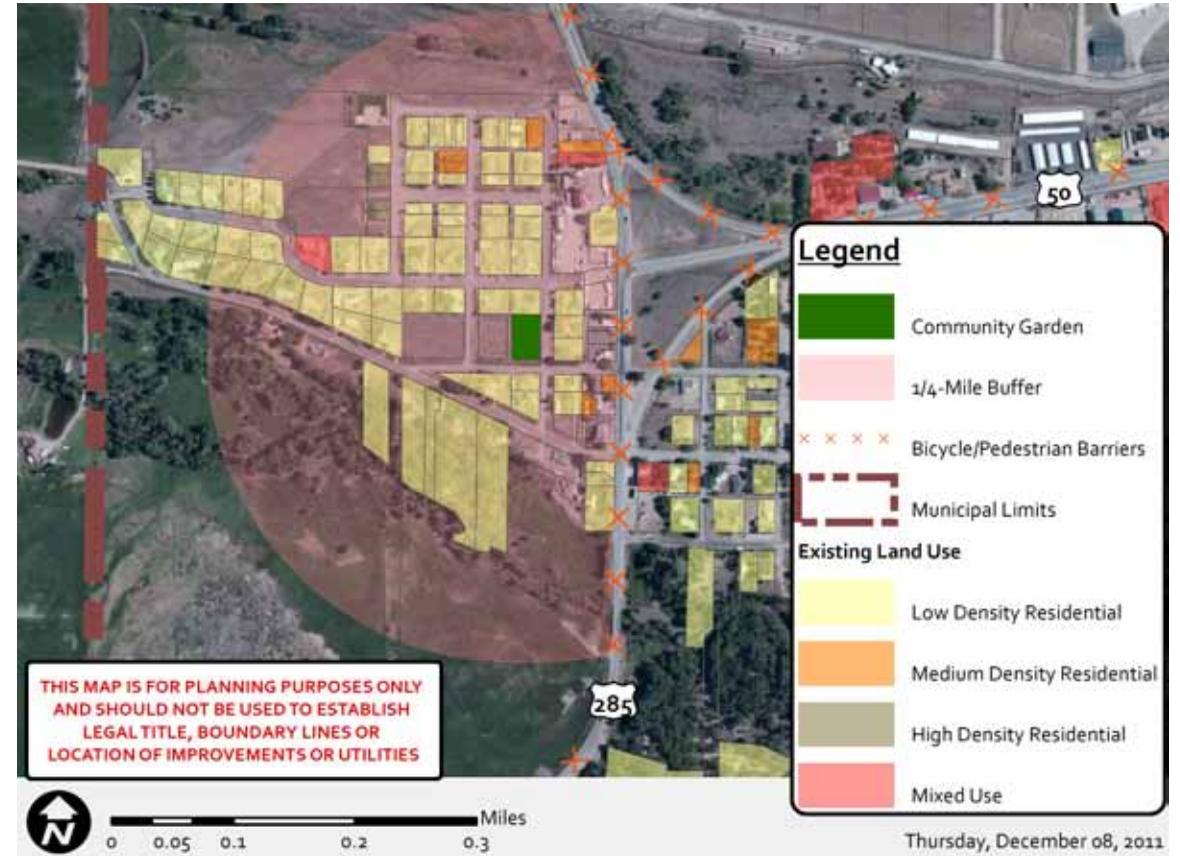


Table 10: *Community Garden Inventory*

Location	Amenities	Acreage*
Corner of Hulbert Avenue & Palmer Avenue	• Fenced garden area	Total Park: 0.57 Acres

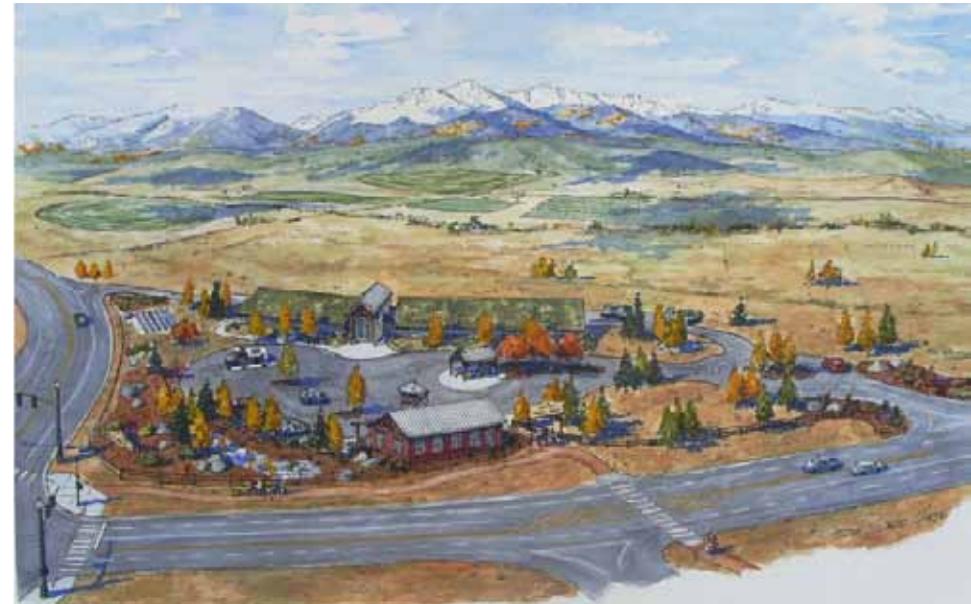
*Acreages are approximate

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

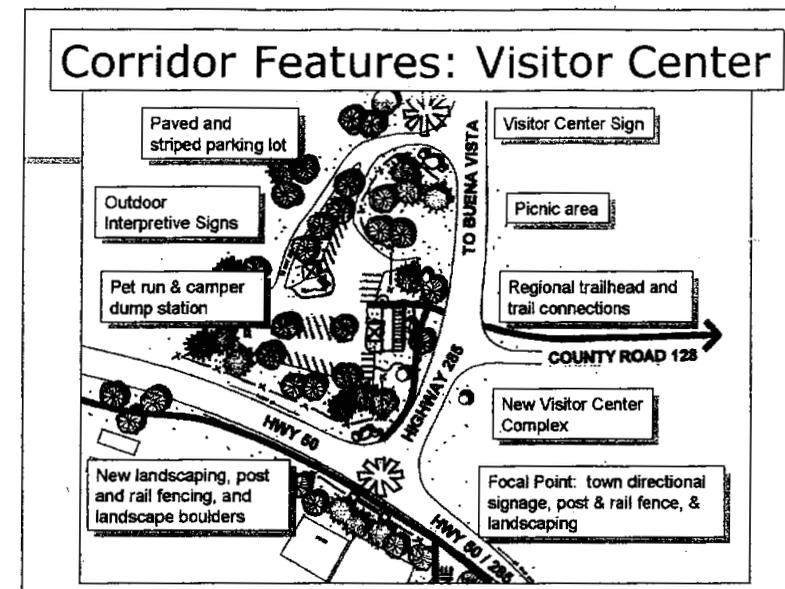
Highway Corridor Master Plan

Visitor Center-

The Poncha Springs Highway Corridor Master Plan proposes redevelopment of the Town's Visitor Center. The Plan proposes to "...upgrade the visitor center to a multiuse traveler center that would potentially include administrative offices for several area public agencies, a cafe, artisan shop, outdoor picnic area, trailhead connection with the regional trail system, a small auditorium, public restrooms, a pet run, trailer dump station, and a paved striped parking lot." *Source: Poncha Springs Highway Corridor Master Plan*



Source: Collaborative Design Group - CDG Team, LLC - J. David Thorpe - Artist



Source: Highway Corridor Master Plan

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

Highway Corridor Master Plan

"The Triangle"-

In addition to the Visitors Center the Poncha Springs Highway Corridor Master Plan discusses the redevelopment of "The Triangle," which is the existing open space area bounded on the north and south sides by the Highway 50 vehicle ramps and to the west by Highway 285.

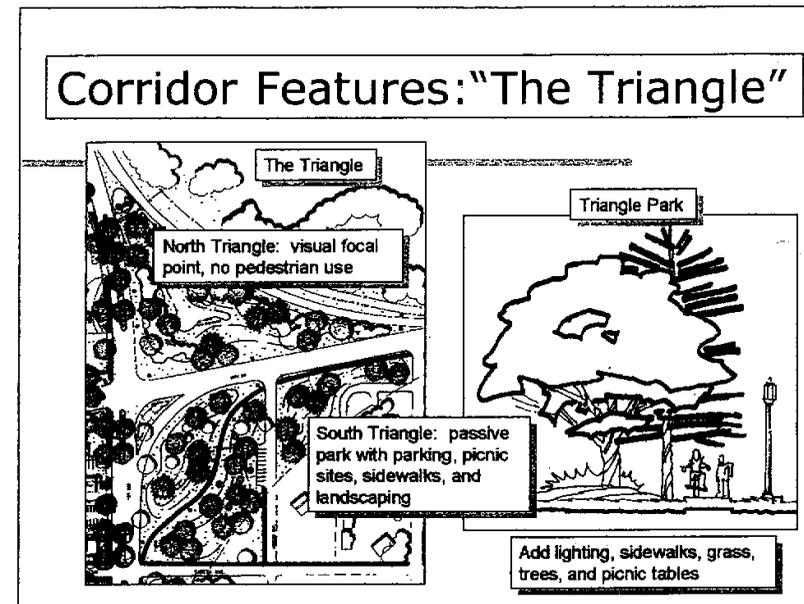


Northern Triangle-

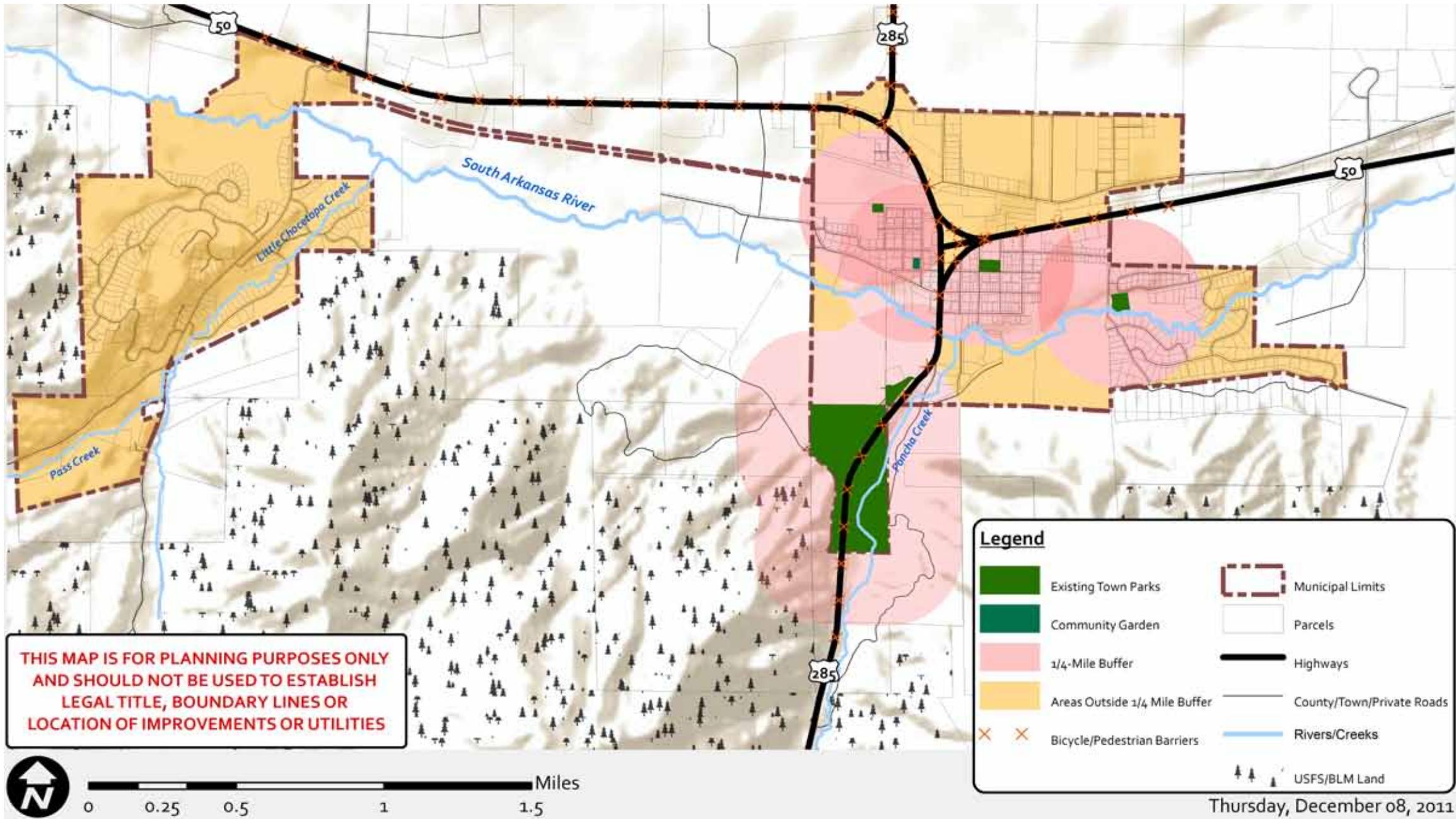
The Master Plan proposes that "The Interior of the north triangle would be landscaped as a central focal point in town. A monument welcome sign, fencing, and flowering plants would welcome visitors to Poncha Springs. The north ramp would remain as is, and the north triangle would not be utilized by pedestrians." *Source: Poncha Springs Highway Corridor Master Plan*

Southern Triangle-

In addition, the Master Plan proposes that "The south triangle would be redeveloped as a passive pedestrian park with parking areas, picnicking, connecting trails, and bermed grass areas with shade trees." *Source: Poncha Springs Highway Corridor Master Plan*



Source: Highway Corridor Master Plan



OPEN SPACE

*Refer to the *Open Space* map for the general location of existing open space areas in Poncha Springs.

The Town of Poncha Springs does not have a dedicated open space program. Over the years, the Town has acquired a variety of open space lands from different land dedications (see Table 9).

Operating and maintaining an open space program is not feasible for a small community, like Poncha Springs, but open space is an issue that the Town should consider as it plans for future community needs.

TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

Natural Areas-

Natural areas are intended to conserve and enhance natural and/or scenic resources. These areas may include opportunities for passive recreation. Generally, natural areas contain minimal improvements with minimal interruptions to native landscapes and terrain.

Wildlife Habitat Areas-

Wildlife Habitat Areas are designed to protect natural and/or wildlife resources and critical habitat. Wildlife Habitat Areas may be designated as “zones” within “natural areas,” or in certain instances may encompass a whole parcel. Typically, these areas contain no developed improvements. To protect resources, these lands may restrict public access.

Cultural Lands-

Cultural lands may contain historic resources. Cultural areas may have controlled public access (e.g., or guided tours), and in some instances may restrict public access.

Agricultural Lands-

Agricultural lands are designed to preserve viable agricultural areas and/or agricultural operations. Conservation easements are one tool that has been used to successfully protect these productive lands.

Trail Corridors/Greenbelts-

Trail corridors and greenbelts are intended to offer linked, non-motorized, multi-use trail systems. They serve to create an alternative transportation network, link major destinations throughout the community and connect to adjacent towns.



Table 11: *Poncha Springs Open Space Inventory Summary*

EXISTING NATURAL AREAS		ACREAGE
HIGHWAY TRIANGLES		8.59 ACRES
RETAIL PARK		0.29 ACRES
OLD RAILROAD CORRIDOR		13.21 ACRES
PROPOSED NATURAL AREAS		
FRIEND RANCH OPEN SPACE		5.04 ACRES
FRIEND RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT		21.85 ACRES
TOTAL		43.94 ACRES

Source: Chaffee County GIS

OPEN SPACE LEVEL OF SERVICE (OS-LOS) ANALYSIS:

“Level of Service” (LOS) is a term that is used to measure the quantity of public open space per resident. With a small community, such as Poncha Springs, level of service for quantity of public open space per resident is calculated by taking the total acreage of public open space and dividing that number by the total population.

The 2011 open space level of service (OS-LOS) was established by taking the existing public, open space acreage (approximately 43.94 acres) and dividing it by the total population (737).

2011 OS-LOS: .06 acres of open space/resident

Table 12: *Open Space Level of Service Comparison*

COMMUNITY	POPULATION (2010)*	OPEN SPACE ACREAGE**	LEVEL OF SERVICE
SALIDA, CO	5,236	Salida does not have any designated open space areas within the city limits.	N/A
BUENA VISTA, CO	2,617	15	.006 acres of open space/resident
GUNNISON, CO	5,854	50	.009 acres of open space/resident
BOULDER, CO	97,385	1,005	.01 acres of open space/resident

*Population data from the 2010 Census

**Open Space acreage is approximate and was obtained from municipal documents

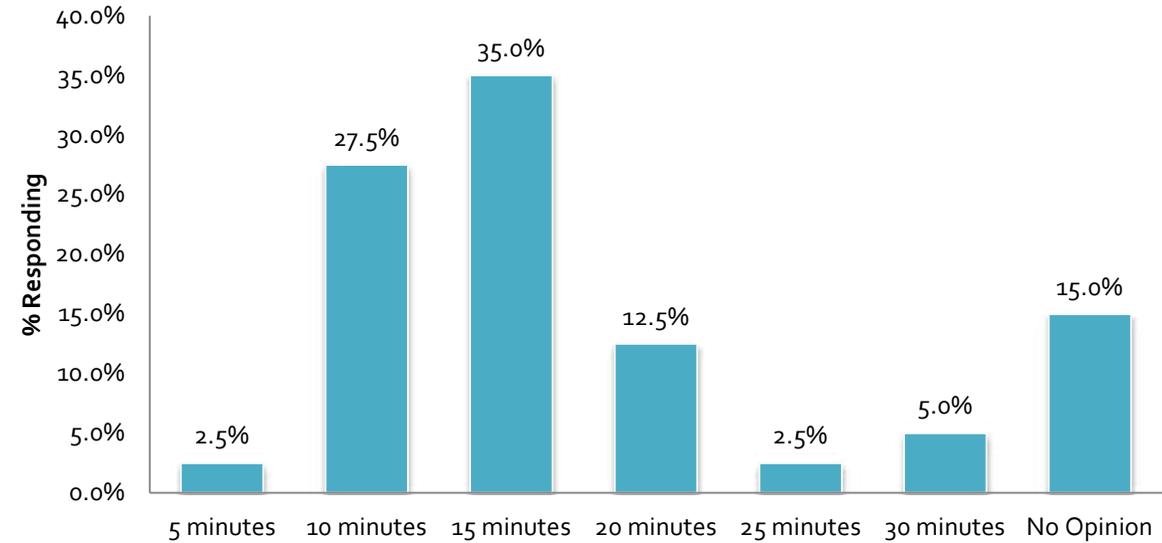
LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS:

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)-

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) level of service standards are historically what municipalities have used to gauge their existing level of service. The 1995 NRPA minimum guidelines are:

10 acres per 1,000 for general open space (.01 acres of general open space/resident)

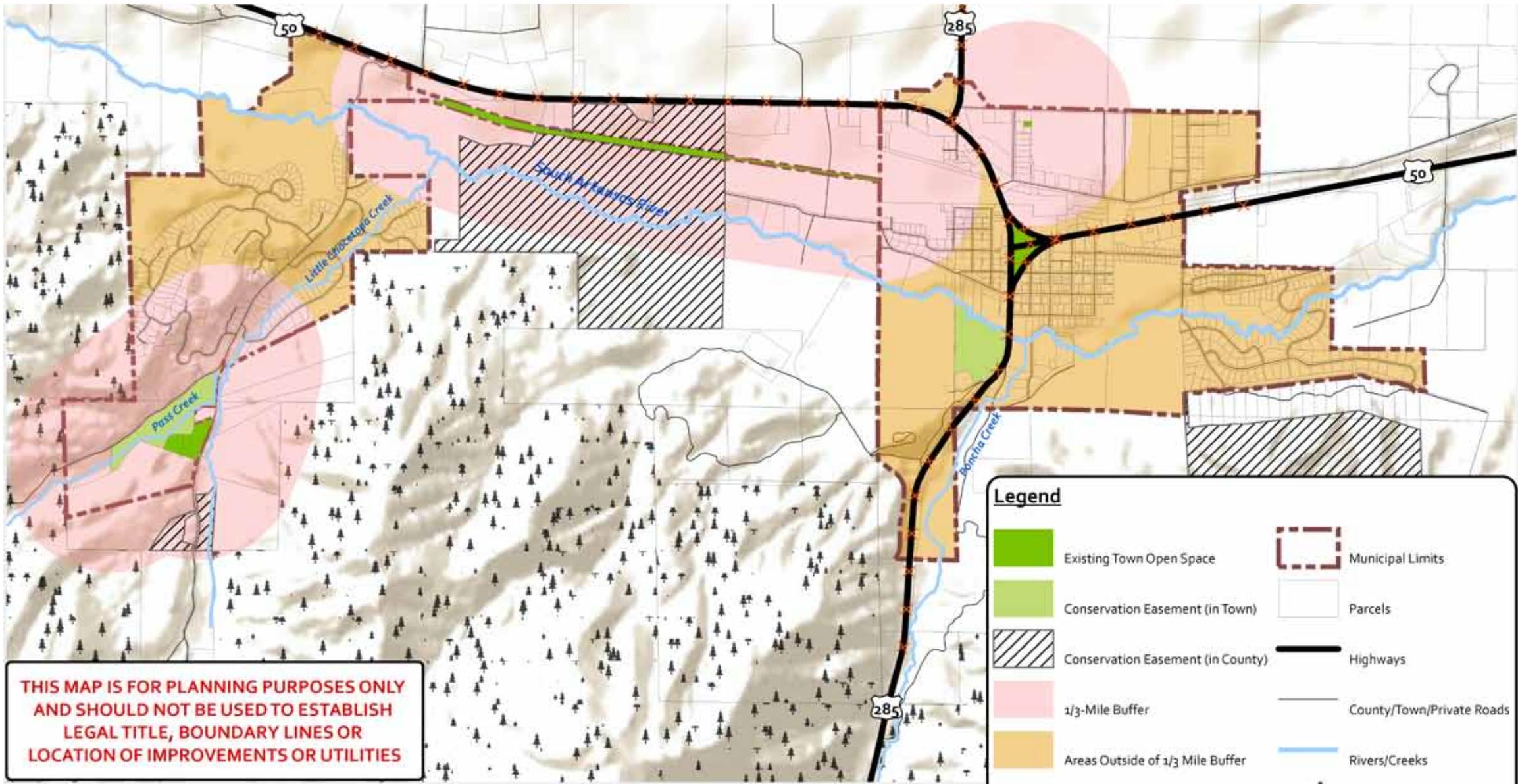
Figure 13: *What is the maximum walking time you feel an open space area should be from most residents' homes?*



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

OPEN SPACE “WALK-ABILITY” ANALYSIS:

The *Open Space Map* (pg. 21) provides a 1/3-mile buffer around the existing public open space areas. This 1/3-mile buffer illustrates which portions of the Town are within a roughly 10-15 minute walk of existing public open space areas. In addition, the *Open Space Map* identifies barriers (i.e. Highway 50 & 285), which prevent easy and convenient pedestrian and/or bicycle access. The 1/3-mile buffers do not extend beyond these barriers, as access becomes more difficult if a pedestrian or bicyclist must navigate one of these barriers. The map shows that the southern portion of Friend Ranch and much of the older part of town is under served by existing, public open space areas.



**THIS MAP IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
AND SHOULD NOT BE USED TO ESTABLISH
LEGAL TITLE, BOUNDARY LINES OR
LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENTS OR UTILITIES**



Legend

	Existing Town Open Space		Municipal Limits
	Conservation Easement (in Town)		Parcels
	Conservation Easement (in County)		Highways
	1/3-Mile Buffer		County/Town/Private Roads
	Areas Outside of 1/3 Mile Buffer		Rivers/Creeks
	Bicycle/Pedestrian Barriers		USFS/BLM Land

Thursday, December 08, 2011

TRAILS

*Refer to the *Trails* map for the general location of existing and proposed trails in and around Poncha Springs.

Trails provide a path for pedestrians, bicyclists and many other types of non motorized circulation. Trails are an important aspect of any municipality’s transportation network because they support non-motorized transit. Trails are also important because they provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

TYPES OF TRAILS

Regional Trails-

These trails serve as non-motorized connections between the different municipalities in Chaffee County.

Primary Trails-

Primary trails serve as the major connectors throughout the community. They are destination trails and typically have a high recreational value for the entire community, including pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users. Primary trails have an emphasis on continuity, are the major conduits for travel within the Town’s trail system and offer connections to regional trail systems.

Secondary Trails-

Secondary trails are lower volume trails that provide connections within residential, commercial or industrial developments, park and open space areas, or serve as connectors to primary trails. Secondary trails encourage safe travel for pedestrians, cyclists, and other users by providing direct, off-street links to destinations in the community.

BIKE ROUTES

*Refer to the *Trails* map for the general location of on-street bike routes in and around Poncha Springs.

Poncha Springs has approximately 2.37 miles of designated, on-street bike routes. These routes are identified by street signs (see photograph). The on-street bike routes are a great resource for local and visiting bicyclists. However, these routes do not offer a safe option for pedestrians, equestrians and other non-motorized modes of transit because of the speed difference between bicyclists and pedestrians, equestrians, etc.



Table 13: *Poncha Springs Trails Inventory Summary*

Existing Regional Trails	Length
Poncha Springs-Salida Trail	1.39 miles
Proposed Regional Trails	
Poncha Springs-Salida Trail	1.8 miles
Proposed Primary Trails	
Poncha Springs-Friend Ranch Trail	1.97 miles
Existing Secondary Trails	
Disc Golf Course Trail	0.52 miles
Little River Ranch Park Trail	0.37 miles
Little River Ranch Subdivision Trail	3.43 miles
Proposed Secondary Trails	
Poncha Springs Trails	6.62 miles
Friend Ranch Trails	4.01 miles
Total	20.11 miles

Source: Town of Poncha Springs & Chaffee County GIS

TRAIL EXAMPLES

REGIONAL TRAILS



A regional trail system is currently under construction along County Road 120. This trail will offer safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian access between Poncha Springs and Salida. The regional trail is currently being surfaced with asphalt.

To date, this regional trail runs from County Road 140, in Salida, to the intersection of County Road 145 and Country Road 120. That amounts to roughly 1.39 miles of trail constructed so far.

SECONDARY TRAILS



The Disc Golf Course, in South Park, offers roughly 0.52 miles (2,729 ft.) of trail. The trails in Disc Golf Course have been surfaced with crusher fines.



Little River Ranch park has roughly 0.39 miles (1,936 ft.) of trail. The trails in Little River Ranch park have been surfaced with crusher fines.

TRAILS LEVEL OF SERVICE (T-LOS) ANALYSIS:

“Level of Service” (LOS) is a term that is used to measure the quantity of trails per resident. With a small community, such as Poncha Springs, level of service for trails is provided as miles of trails per resident. Larger municipalities will typically present trails level of service as trail mileage per 1,000 residents.

The 2011 trails level of service (T-LOS) was established by taking the existing, trail mileage, within the Town limits (approximately 4.32 miles) and dividing it by the total population (737).

2011 T-LOS: .006 miles of trail/resident

Table 14: Trails Level of Service Comparison

COMMUNITY	POPULATION (2010)*	MILES OF TRAILS**	LEVEL OF SERVICE
SALIDA, CO	5,236	8.2	.0016 miles of trails/resident
BUENA VISTA, CO	2,617	8.52	.0033 miles of trails/resident
GUNNISON, CO	5,854	6.87	.0012 miles of trails/resident
BOULDER, CO	97,385	236	.0024 miles of trails/resident

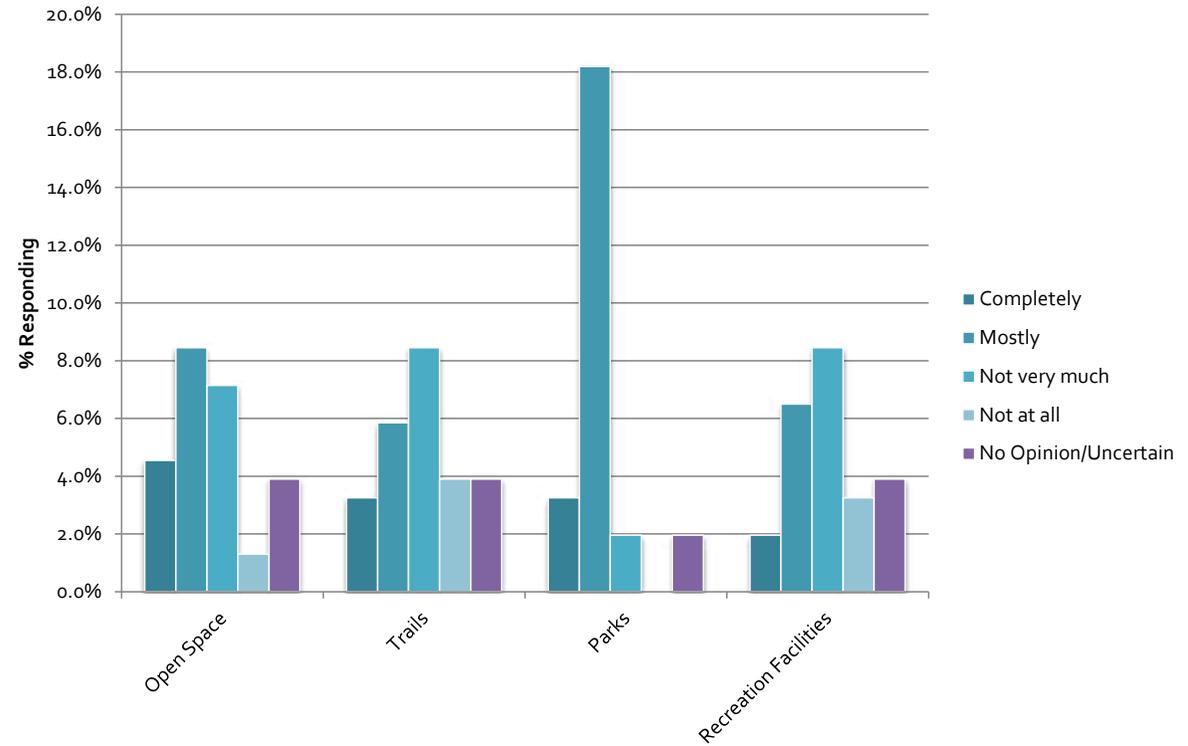
*Population data from the 2010 Census

**Trail mileage is approximate and was obtained from municipal documents

RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SERVICE:

The Rural Planning Institute (RPI) has developed Park & Recreation Standards for Small Communities in Colorado. According to the standards set forth by RPI, a community with 737 residents should have roughly 1.72 miles of dirt/gravel multi-use trail. This translates into roughly .002 miles of trail/resident.

Figure 14: Overall, how well do you think the open space, trails, parks and recreation facilities in Poncha Springs meet the needs of the community?



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

The 2011 Parks and Recreation survey asked participants to indicate how well the existing parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities met the needs of the community. A large percentage of survey respondents indicated that they felt the existing trails in town were not sufficient to meet the needs of the community (see Figure 14).

While the Town seems to have sufficient trail mileage, per the RPI standard for trails level of service, community members do not perceive that the existing trails meet the needs of the community. This opinion of the Town’s trail system may be a result of accessibility to existing trails, inadequate signage or the existing trails do not offer appropriate connections in and around Poncha Springs.

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

Chaffee County Trails Master Plan (2003)

In 2003, Chaffee County developed a trails master plan. The master plan establishes goals and priorities for trail systems within the county, as well as trail systems within Salida, Buena Vista and Poncha Springs. The Master Plan identifies three sections of trail, which were identified in Poncha Springs' Community Trail Plan (adopted 2002); the Master Plan identifies current & future opportunities for trails in the County; and outlines potential corridors for trail connections within the County. The trails identified by the Chaffee County Master Plan, which are relevant to the Town of Poncha Springs, are also listed below:

Poncha Springs Trail Sections

1. The Poncha Loop is a circular trail through residential, park and industrial areas within the Town limits. The Poncha Loop will be the Town's main trail connecting the North/South and East/West portions of Town, which are separated by Highways 50 and 285. Primarily using existing town streets, this 2.9 mile trail will loop from Town Hall and Chipeta Park to the Poncha Springs Industrial Park, to the Visitors Center, to Hoover Park and back to Town Hall.
2. The Mailbox Trail (so named due to its resemblance to an open mailbox) utilizes the abandoned railroad property. This 2.7 mile riparian and industrial area trail, located on the north side of Town, will connect the east and west sides of Poncha Springs.
3. The River Trail, a one mile section along the South Arkansas River within the Town limits and the Power Line Trail, runs through the Town's Southeast corner are portions of long distance trails that pass through the Poncha Springs. These trails have the potential to continue to the east and to the west indefinitely.

Current Opportunity

The following are major arterial roadways within Chaffee County. They connect communities and are major transportation routes in and out of the County. Efforts should be made to widen the shoulders or create separated trails along side these roadways.

- *US Highway 50*
US Highway 50 runs east to west in southern Chaffee County. It enters Chaffee County along the Arkansas River east of Salida, connects to Poncha Springs to the west, and then goes up and over Monarch Pass. (Fremont County to Gunnison County)
- *US Highway 285*
US Highway 285 enters Chaffee County from the south at Poncha Pass, runs north through Poncha Springs and up to Johnson Village, where it turns east to Trout Creek Pass. (Saguache County to Park County)

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS (CONTINUED)

Chaffee County Trails Master Plan (2003)

Future Opportunity

The following natural waterways, railways and utility lines connect the local communities and provide open space opportunities. The County has committed to no condemnation actions, and would instead provide development incentives, purchase opportunities and exchange prospects.

- *South Arkansas River*
The South Arkansas River parallels US Highway 50 running down from Monarch Pass to where it joins the Arkansas River east of Salida.
- *River Tributaries*
Trails along other river tributaries may be considered.
- *D&RG Monarch Spur Abandoned Railroad*
The D&RG Monarch Spur abandoned railroad corridor extends from Salida west to Monarch Pass paralleling US Highway 50 and the South Arkansas River. Within Salida, this rail corridor is part of the Salida Trail System. More trails could be built on other sections of the abandoned railroad right-of-way.
- *Power Line*
The power line, south of Salida, runs east to west across Chaffee County. The overhead towers could allow access for a ground trail.

County Connections

County connections to public lands are the county roads that remain open for public access to public lands. These roadways may also be considered for future trail enhancements. New trails will be within County easements or right-of-ways. The County Connections are divided into four geographic areas. After each county road (CR) number is a reference/access point location name.

- *South/East County Connection (SE) Salida Area*
CR 120 (Salida - Poncha)

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS (CONTINUED)

Chaffee County Trails Master Plan (2003)

County Connections (continued)

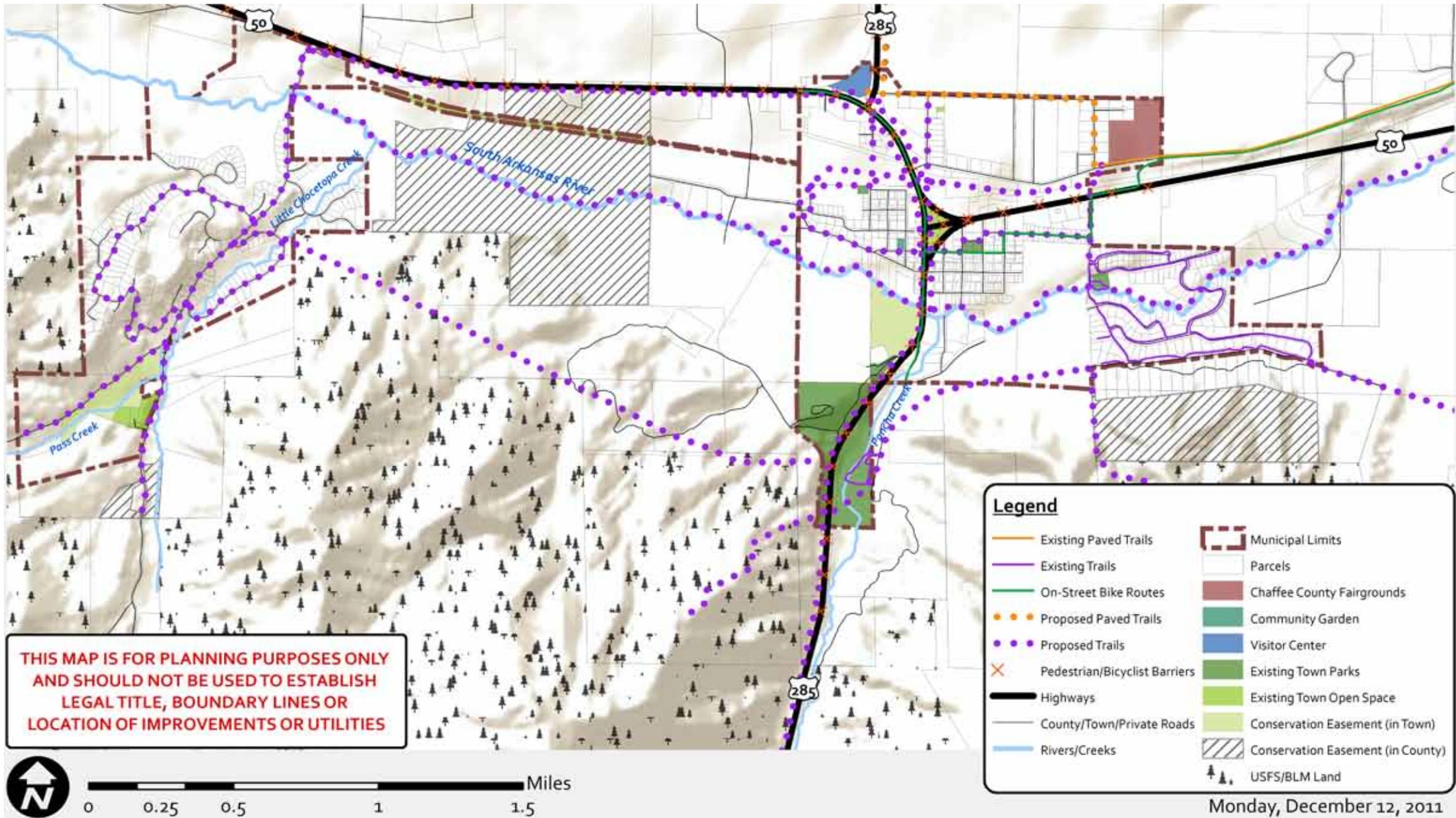
- *South/West Connections (SW) Poncha Springs Area*
 - CR 270 to 272 to 273 (Mt. Antero Trail/Browns Creek)
 - CR 250 (Blanks Cabin/Colorado Trail)
 - CR251-1 (Colorado Trail)
 - CR 240 (North Fork)
 - CR 224 (Colorado Trail)
 - CR 220 to 221 (Green Creek)
 - CR 237 (Old Monarch Pass)
 - CR 210 (Little Cochetopa Creek)
 - CR 210 to 212 (Pass Creek Trail)
 - CR 210 to 214 (USFS access)
 - CR 206 (Poncha Cemetery)
 - CR 200 (Marshall Pass)
 - CR 140 (CR250 to Blanks Cabin)
 - CR 231 (Monarch Park)
 - CR 115 (Hot Springs Road)

Salida Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan (2008)

In 2008, the City of Salida developed a Master Plan for the City's parks, recreation facilities/programs, trails and open sapce. The 20-year vision map, which was developed as a component of Salida's Master Plan, identifies a proposed trail along the South Arkansas River.

Poncha Springs Comprehensive Plan (2011)

In November of 2011, Poncha Springs adopted an update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The update identified an interest in developing a trail system along the South Arkansas River, in addition to a trail system that allows residents to access the BLM lands south of the Town.



RECREATION RESOURCES

Chaffee County Fairgrounds-

The Chaffee County Fairgrounds is a regional amenity located on property owned by the Town. The Fairgrounds are adjacent to County Road 120 and the Poncha Springs Industrial Park. Fairground facilities include a multi-use building and rodeo grounds and are owned and maintained by Chaffee County. The annual Chaffee County Fair is held in late July at the fairgrounds and several other events are scheduled throughout the year.

Monarch Crest Bike Trail-

Poncha Springs serves as a starting point for mountain bikers riding the Monarch Crest Trail (voted the best ride in Chaffee County, in 2001). The shuttle for the Monarch Crest Trail is based out of the High Valley Center Bike Shuttle.

"This is one of the premier shuttle rides in the state and with good reason. With over 30 miles of mostly singletrack trails and all of the best scenery Colorado has to offer, this trail is a must ride." *Source:* Singletracks.com

Monarch Mountain Ski Area-

Poncha Springs is approximately 15-17 miles east of the Monarch Mountain Ski Area. Monarch Mountain offers Poncha Springs residents opportunities to participate in winter sports (i.e. skiing and snowboarding). The Salida Recreation Department provides ski bus service to Monarch Mountain for \$5 (round trip). The bus leaves the Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center at 8:30 am and departs Monarch Mountain at 3:30pm.

South Arkansas River-

The South Arkansas River parallels the southern boundary of Poncha Springs. The South Arkansas provides local anglers excellent fishing opportunities for catching Brook Trout, Cutthroat Trout and Brown Trout. *Source:* Salida.com

Little Choctopa Creek, Pass Creek and Poncha Creek-

These local creeks provide the community with additional fishing opportunities. The following fish species can be found in these creeks: Brook Trout; Brown Trout; Cutthroat Trout, Graylings; and Rainbow Trout. *Source:* Salida.com

Arkansas River-

The Arkansas River is a tremendous natural resource. It offers residents of Poncha Springs with fishing, rafting, stand-up paddleboarding, tubing, kayaking and other water related recreation. The Arkansas River is a major, tourist destination during the spring and summer months.

REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS

There are a number of alternative recreation providers in the Poncha Springs area including federal and local agencies, which provide passive open space activities and active park spaces and sports facilities.

City of Salida-

The City of Salida, located roughly 4-5 miles west of Poncha Springs, gives Poncha residents additional recreational opportunities.

- The Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center offers swimming and fitness opportunities.
- The City of Salida has a variety of recreational programs, which residents of Poncha Springs can use.
- Salida has a whitewater park on the Arkansas River, with kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, tubing and fishing opportunities.
- There is a 9-hole, public golf course (Salida Golf Club) located in Salida.
- Salida has a variety of hiking, running and mountain biking trails.

Town of Buena Vista-

The Town of Buena Vista is located 24 miles north of Poncha Springs. While residents of Poncha Springs may not often utilize the Town of Buena Vista recreational amenities, it should be noted that Buena Vista does offer other recreational outlets.

- Buena Vista has a whitewater park located on the Arkansas River, that provides opportunities for kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, tubing and fishing.
- There is a 9-hole, public golf course (Collegiate Peaks Golf Course) in Buena Vista.
- Buena Vista has a variety of hiking, running and mountain biking trails.

BLM Lands & San Isabel National Forest-

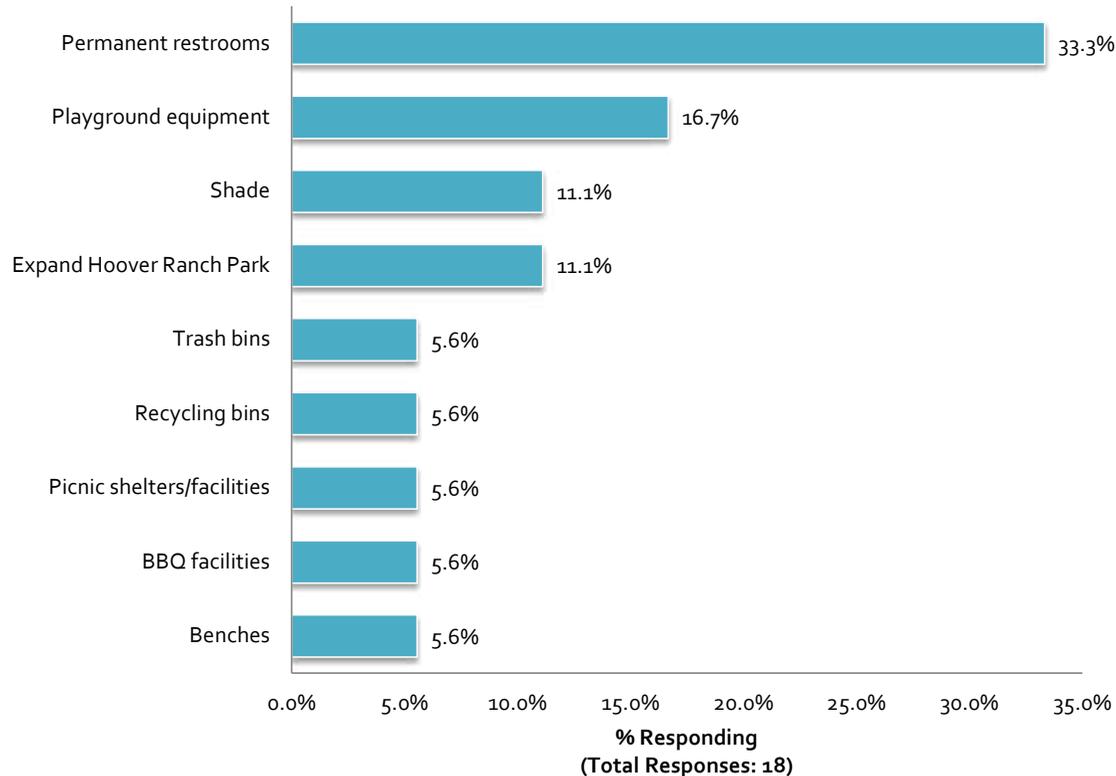
Poncha Springs is surrounded by both BLM Land and San Isabel National Forest. These federally owned lands provide opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, fishing, 4-wheeling and wildlife viewing.

FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The 2011 Parks and Recreation survey asked residents to identify their top three choices for future park improvements in Poncha Springs. They were also asked to select the Town park that they felt would most benefit from the improvements they identified. The majority of respondents felt that Chipeta Park would benefit most from the improvements (see Figure 15). The top three choices for improvements in Chipeta Park were:

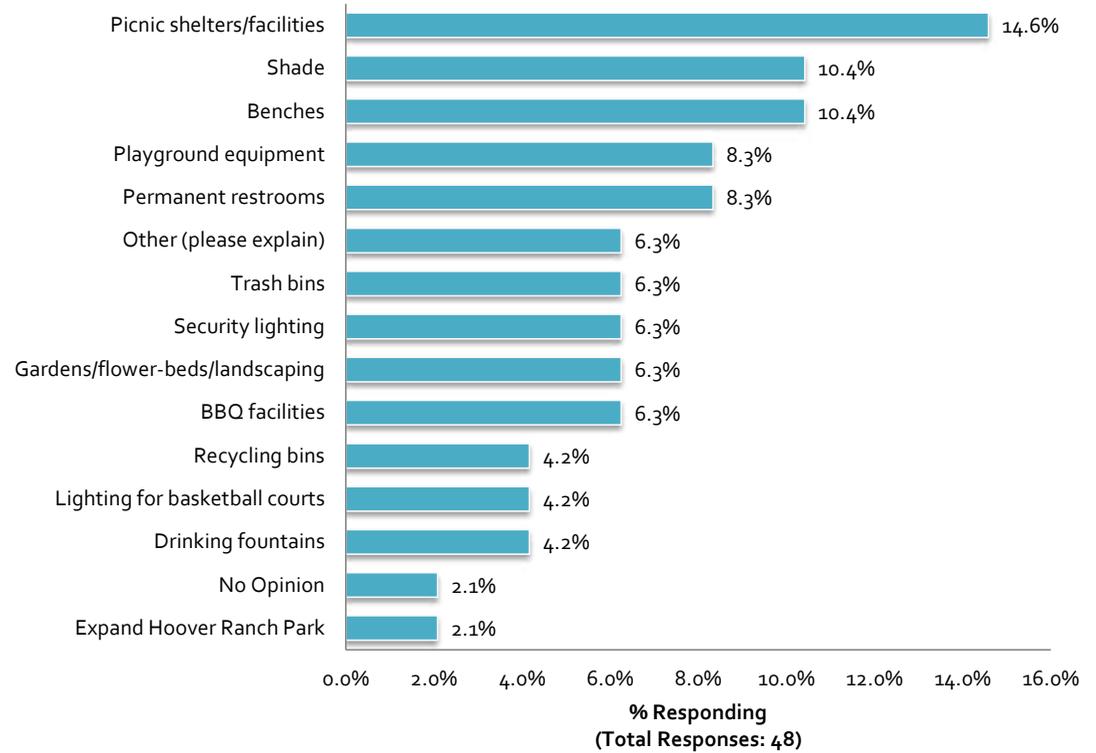
1. Picnic shelters/facilities (14.6%)
2. Shade (10.4%)
3. Benches (10.4%)

Figure 16: Future Improvements (Hoover Ranch Park)



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

Figure 15: Future Improvements (Chipeta Park)



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

Hoover Ranch Park was identified as the second choice for town parks that would benefit from the improvements selected (see Figure 16). The top three choices for improvements in Hoover Ranch Park were:

1. Permanent restrooms (33.3%)
2. Playground equipment (16.7%)
3. Shade (11.1%)
4. Expand Hoover Ranch Park (11.1%)

FUTURE PARK LOCATIONS

The 2011 Parks and Recreation survey asked residents to identify an area of town that they felt would be the most appropriate location for a future park. Many of the survey respondents indicated that they had *no opinion* regarding the location of a future park. Residents may have indicated no opinion because of their overall satisfaction with the current level of service provided by the Town. Of those respondents that did indicate a preference on the Parks and Recreation survey, the top choice for the location of a future park is shown on the map.

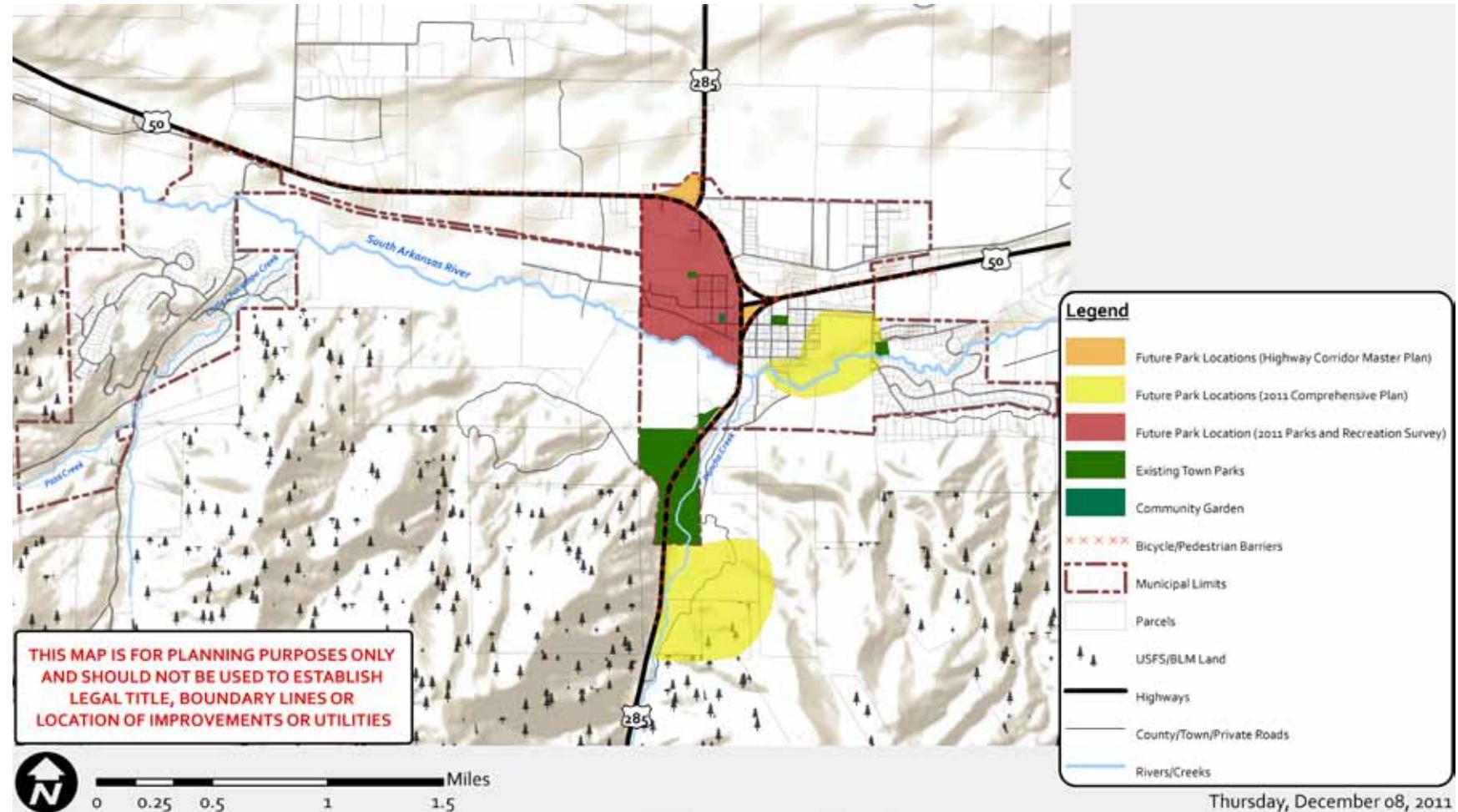
RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

Poncha Springs Comprehensive Plan (2011)

During the planning process for the 2011 Comprehensive Plan, community members identified two areas within town, for future parks. Those locations are identified on the map.

Highway Corridor Master Plan

As previously mentioned, the Highway Corridor Master Plan identifies the Visitor Center and the southern highway “triangle” as locations for future, town parks. Those locations are shown on the map.



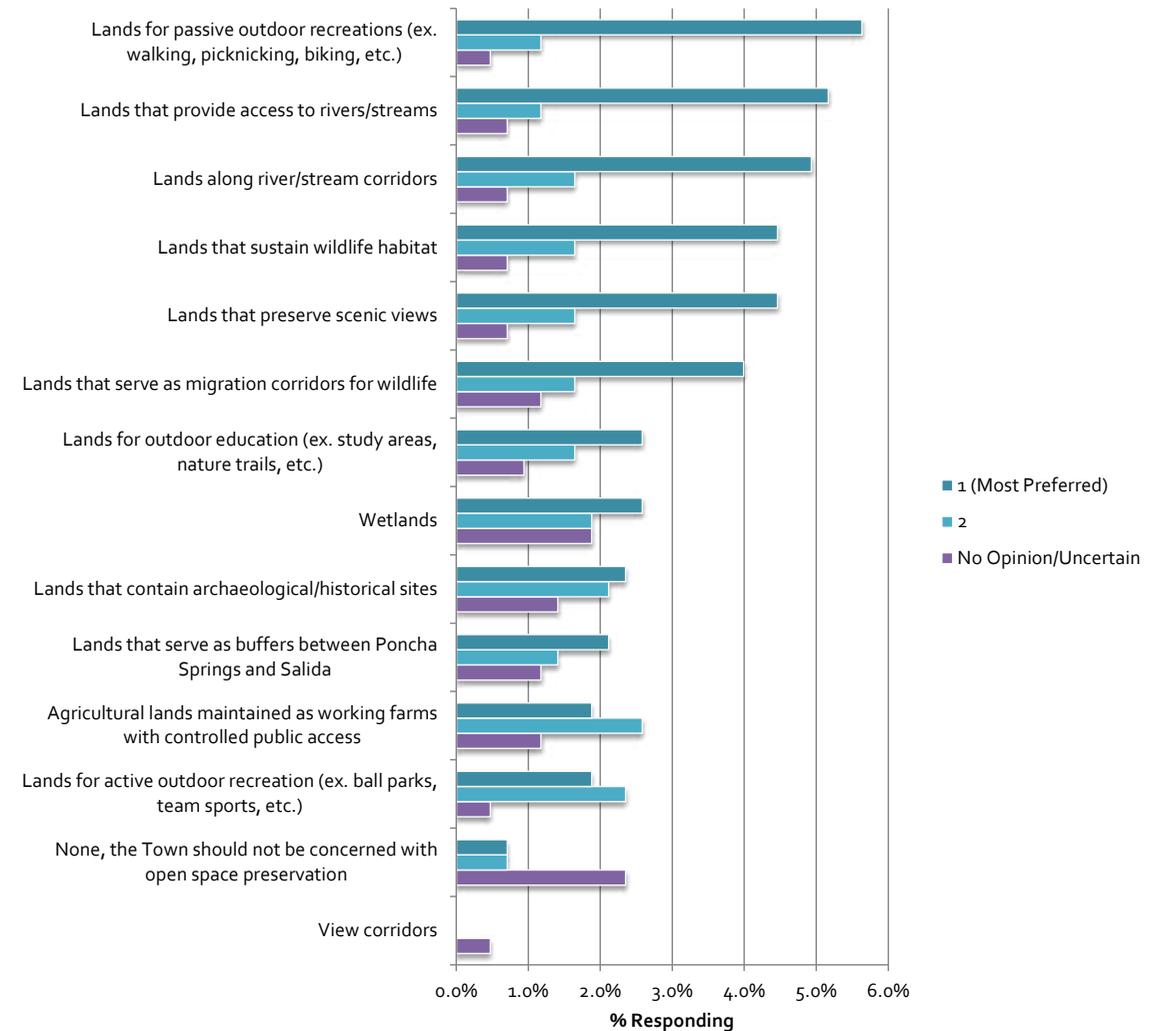
FUTURE OPEN SPACE

The 2011 Parks and Recreation survey asked members of the community to indicate their preference on the type of lands the Town should consider for future open space areas (see Figure 17). The top three choices are listed below:

1. Land for passive outdoor recreation (5.6%)
2. Lands that provide access to rivers/streams (5.2%)
3. Lands along river/stream corridors (4.9%)

The 2011 Parks and Recreation survey asked participants to identify their least preferred options for future open space opportunities in and around Poncha Springs. One of the options provided was for the Town to not be concerned with open space preservation. Survey respondents indicated this was their *least preferred* option.

Figure 17: *Open Space Preference*



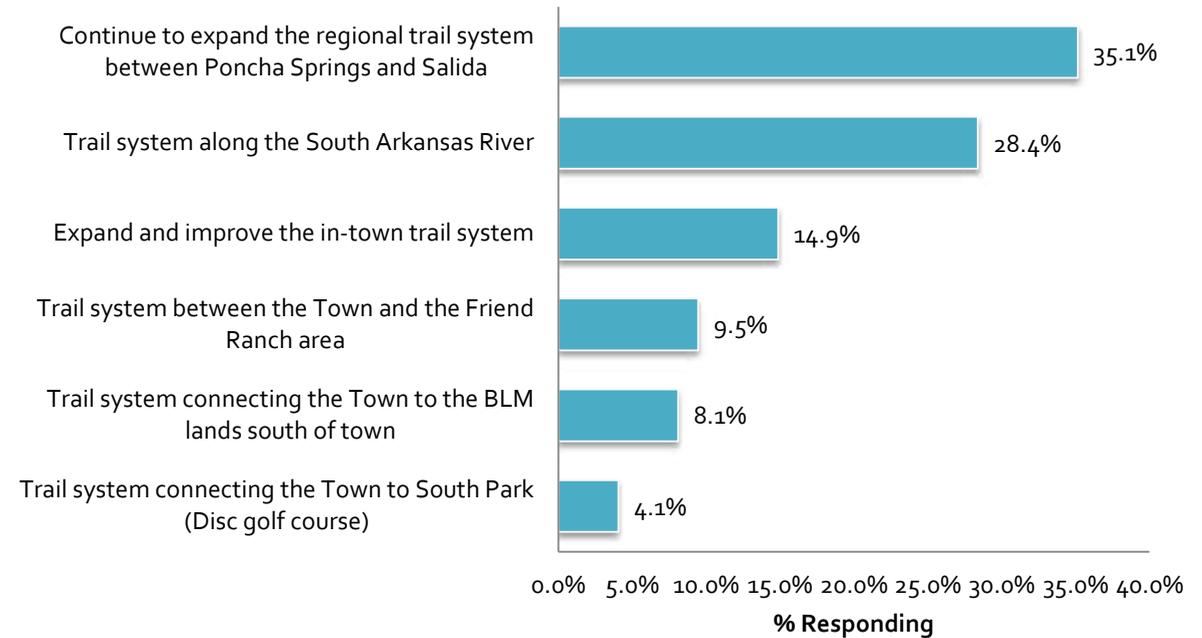
Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

FUTURE TRAIL SYSTEMS

The 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation survey asked community members to identify their top two choices for possible, future trail systems in and around Poncha Springs (see Figure 18). The top two preferences that survey participants identified were:

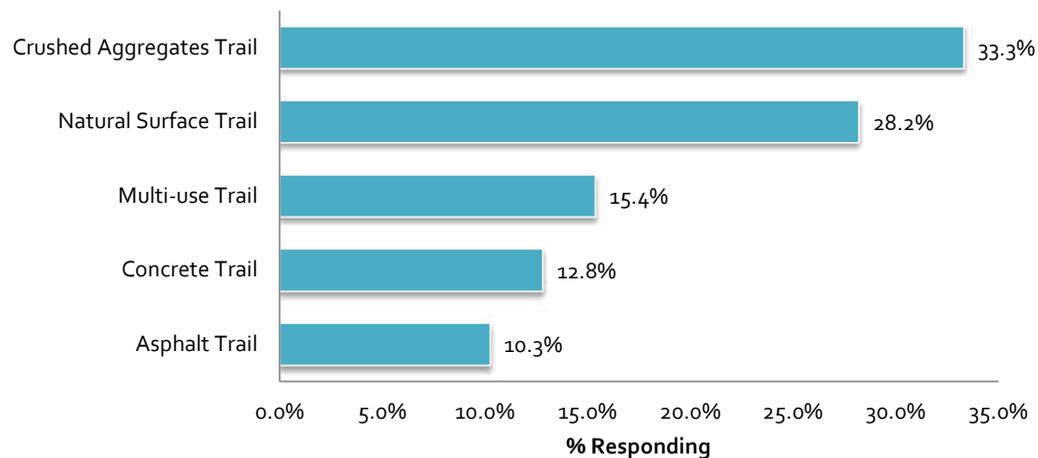
1. Continue to expand the regional trail system between Poncha Springs and Salida (35.1%)
2. Trail system along the South Arkansas River (28.4%)

Figure 18: Please select your top 2 choices for possible, future trail systems in and around Poncha Springs.



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

Figure 19: For trails in Poncha Springs, please select the trail type you believe is best suited for the Town.



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

FUTURE TRAIL SURFACE TYPE

Respondents to the 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation survey were asked to select the trail surface type they felt best suited the Town (see Figure 19). The top two choices were:

1. Crushed Aggregates Trail (33.3%)
2. Natural Surface Trail (28.2%)

FUTURE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

Survey participants were asked to identify their top three choices for future, recreational facilities in Poncha Springs (see Figure 20). The top three choices were:

1. Unpaved walking/biking trails & Hiking/biking trails in the BLM lands south of town (13.0%)
2. Fishing areas along the South Arkansas River (11.1%)
3. Indoor fitness/exercise area (9.3%)
4. Expand Chaffee County Fairground facilities (9.3%)

As the Town plans for recreational improvements, these options should be considered as priorities.

Figure 20: Please select your top 3 choices for possible, future recreation facilities in Poncha Springs.

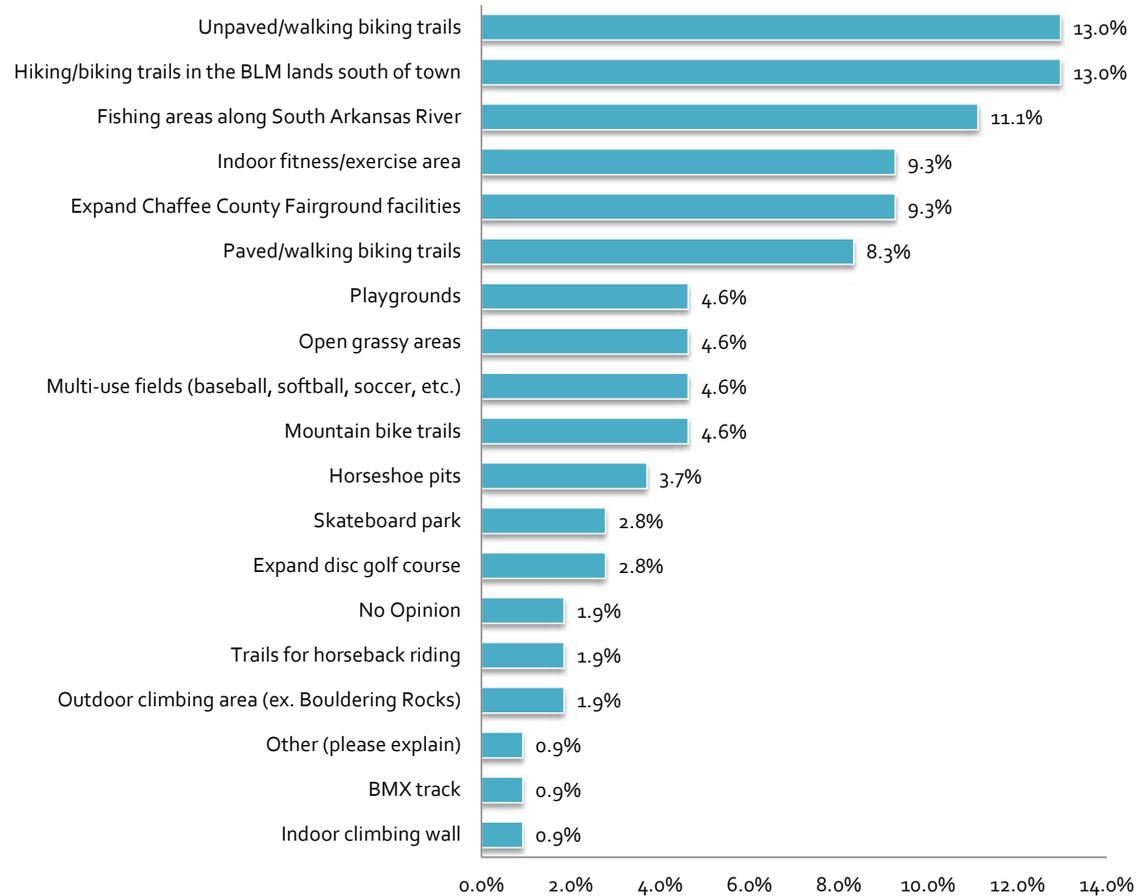
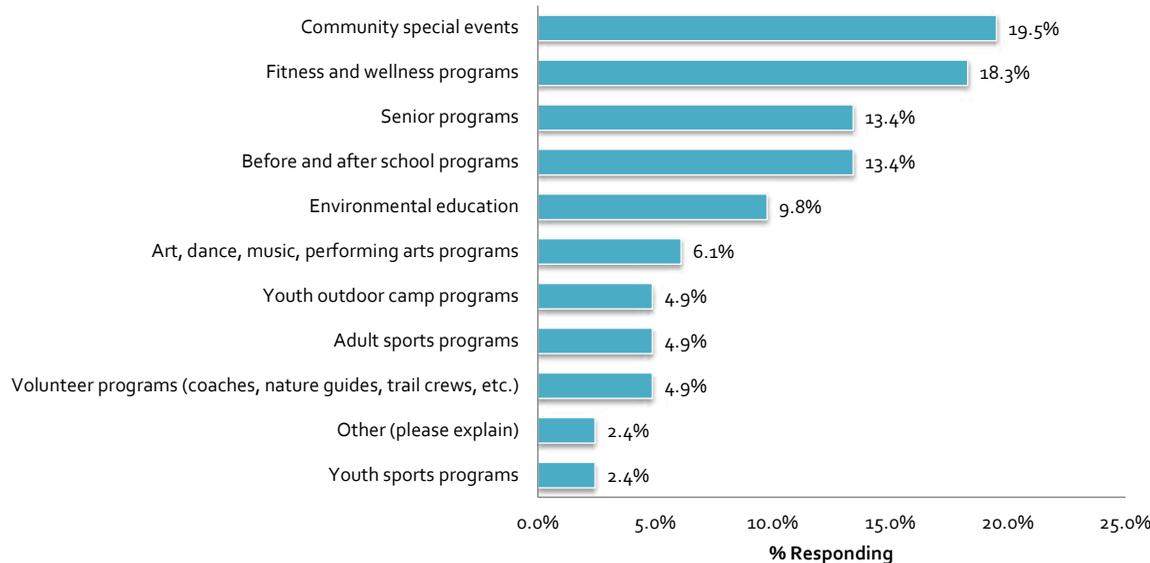


Figure 21: In the future, if the Town were able to provide recreation programs to the community, what types of programs would you like to see offered?



Source: 2011 Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey

FUTURE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Town of Poncha Springs does not offer recreational programs. The Town does not have the financial capacity or the population base to support these programs. The City of Salida offers a wide variety of recreational programs to residents of Poncha Springs. If Poncha Springs had the opportunity to begin offering programs to residents, the programs that should be given priority are (see Figure 21):

1. Community Special Events (19.5%)
2. Fitness and wellness programs (18.3%)

The availability of parks, open space, trails and recreational amenities are tied directly to the “Quality of Life” in communities. The initiatives set forth by this plan should be seen as investments in the long term vitality and economic sustainability of a vibrant, healthy and attractive community.

The following **Goals**, *Objectives*, and **Strategies** provide a framework for the Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The **Goals**, *Objectives*, and **Strategies** have been developed in a fashion, which address feedback from the public, in addition to maintaining concurrency with the Guiding Principles (see Figure 22), Goals and Policies from the 2011 Poncha Springs Comprehensive Plan. These recommendations should serve as a guide for the Town as it plans for the development of future parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities, in addition to planning for improvements to existing facilities.

Figure 22: *Parks, Open Space and Trails Guiding Principles from 2011 Comprehensive Plan*

Guiding Principles

- Promote a pedestrian/bicycle friendly town with good access to parks/open space
- Value and preserve a healthy environment and scenic vistas
- Work to manage growth responsibly and to maintain adequate service levels
- Respect private property rights
- Support voluntary efforts to preserve the agricultural character surrounding town
- Embrace small town character
- Functional; Poncha Springs operates in an organized, orderly and efficient manner
- Encourage intergovernmental cooperation to ensure compatible development outside of town

The action plans, which follow each of the Plan’s **Goals**, provide an outline for who may be responsible for implementation, where funding may come from and the priority for each *Objective* listed below the Plan’s **Goals**.

Priorities:

- Immediate- action should be taken within the next six months
- Short-Term- action should be taken within the next 1 - 2 years
- Mid-Term- action should be taken within the next 3 - 5 years
- Long-Term- action should be taken within 5 years or beyond
- Ongoing- action is already taking place and should continue

GOAL 1: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective 1.1: Develop a vision for the Town's parks, open space, trails and recreation system.

Strategies:

- A vision would enable the town to establish a consistent way to deliver parks, open space, trails and recreation services to the community.
- A vision could help the Town and the community to establish goals for future parks, open space, trails and recreation services and amenities.
- The Parks and Recreation Vision should define:
 1. A Mission Statement
 2. Core Beliefs
 3. Guiding Principles
 4. Mandates
 5. Structure

Objective 1.2: Define core services.

Strategies:

- Staff should meet with the Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, members of the public, community partners and any future advisory boards/commissions to establish and define the Town's core services as they relate to parks, open space, trails and recreation. What needs the Town can satisfy and which ones it can't will be a primary question.
- Given budget constraints and staff limitations, core services should be based around those delivering the greatest community benefit.
- The Town should work to deliver core services, while also developing strategies to assist in the delivery of other, non-core services.

Objective 1.3: Encourage opportunities to establish a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or a Park Friends Group.

Strategies:

- A Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or a Park Friends Group would act in an advisory capacity to Town staff and to a lesser degree to the Board of Trustees on matters dealing with parks and recreation issues.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or Park Friends Group should act as a helpful filter and/or conduit between special interest groups and Town leaders to help prioritize the parks and recreational needs of the community.
- Guidelines for developing a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board can be found at:
http://www.wylietexas.gov/boards_agendas_and_minutes/docs/Resource_Guide___Advisory_Board.pdf.
- Complete information on establishing a Park Friends Group can be found at:
http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/Get_Involved/Be_an_Advocate/NRPA_Handbook-FINAL_Web.pdf

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING	PRIORITY
<i>Objective 1.1:</i> Develop a vision for the Town's Parks and Recreation system.	Staff, Planning Commission, Board of Trustees	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering Organizations, Grants	Short-Term
<i>Objective 1.2:</i> Define core services.	Staff, Planning Commission, Board of Trustees	Taxes, Staff time, Grants	Short-Term, On-Going
<i>Objective 1.3:</i> Encourage opportunities to establish a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or a Park Friends Group.	Staff, Volunteers	Staff time, Partnering Organizations, Grants	Short/Mid-Term

GOAL 2: MAINTAIN ADEQUATE LEVELS OF SERVICE

Objective 2.1: Facilitate the development of a well-balanced system of parks that offers active and passive recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.

Strategies:

- The Town should utilize the 2011 parks level of service (.053 acres of parkland/resident) as a guide for future planning efforts. The Town should work to maintain a level of service equal to or greater than that set forth by the Rural Planning Institute (RPI)¹.
- Locations for new town parks should be determined by an evaluation of factors similar to those listed below:
 1. Distance to the nearest neighborhood or community park
 2. Availability of a suitable park site
 3. Nature and density of the surrounding neighborhood
 4. Access to Open Space and Mountain Parks lands
 5. Availability of private homeowner association parks
 6. Competing community goals for suitable parcels
- Encourage broad public participation when identifying improvements to existing Town parks, in addition to identifying locations and amenities for future Town parks.
- Future development should not create a deficiency in the Town's level of service.
- Maintain a 5-10 minute walking/bicycling distance to neighborhood parks, from the residential areas that they serve.
- Support efforts to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to Town parks.

¹ Rural Planning Institute's (RPI) level of service standards suggest 5.09 acres of parkland for a community with 737 residents (.007 acres of parkland/resident).

GOAL 2: MAINTAIN ADEQUATE LEVELS OF SERVICE (CONTINUED)

Objective 2.2: Ensure that open space is adequate to meet the needs of the community.

Strategies:

- The Town should utilize the 2011 open space level of service (.06 acres of open space/resident) as a guide for future planning efforts.
- The Town may want to consider establishing a written definition and policy regarding the use and purpose of open space. This may help to unify the community as it addresses this issue in the future.
- The Town should continue to support the dedication of conservation easements in and adjacent to Town.
- The Town should support passive recreation activities in public open space areas, as long as these activities do not adversely impact the environmental value of these lands.

Objective 2.3: Work to ensure that the community has adequate opportunities for leisure and recreational activities.

Strategies:

- Pursue opportunities to develop an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Salida and/or the Salida School District to ensure that residents of Poncha Springs continue to have access to the recreational amenities and programs offered by Salida.
- Investigate opportunities to work with the Bureau of Land Management and National Forest Service to explore options that would improve access to these Federal lands, which surround the Town.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING	PRIORITY
<i>Objective 2.1:</i> Facilitate the development of a well-balanced system of parks.	Staff, Planning Commission, Developers	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering Organizations, Grants, Donations	On-Going
<i>Objective 2.2:</i> Ensure that open space is adequate to meet the needs of the community.	Staff, Planning Commission, Developers	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering Organizations, Grants, Donations	On-Going
<i>Objective 2.3:</i> Work to ensure that the community has adequate opportunities for leisure and recreational activities.	Staff, Planning Commission, Board of Trustees	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering Organizations, Grants, Donations	On-Going

GOAL 3: MAINTAIN FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Objective 3.1: Ensure that existing facilities are properly funded.

Strategies:

- Incorporate funding of parks, trails, open space and recreation facilities into the Town's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).
- Ensure that existing facilities have adequate funding before pursuing new projects.

Objective 3.2: Encourage the completion of existing projects before pursuing new projects.

Strategies:

- The Town should support efforts to complete projects that are currently under construction. These projects should be completed before the Town pursues new projects.

Objective 3.3: Ensure that new park, open space, trail and/or recreation development does not create a financial burden for the Town.

Strategies:

- Evaluate the short and long-term implications of proposed projects. This should include an assessment of the initial construction costs, as well as the long-term operation and maintenance costs. The evaluation of projects should demonstrate that the Town will not incur a financial burden.

Objective 3.4: Pursue alternative funding opportunities.

Strategies:

- Encourage public-private partnerships with organizations, businesses and interest groups within the community.
- Explore grant, partnership, sponsorship, volunteer and donation opportunities to help reduce Town expenditures on park and recreation services/facilities.
- Consider developing an Adopt-A-Park, Adopt-A-Trail, Sponsorship Program (see example forms in Appendix B) or other, similar programs that would help to reduce the costs for maintenance of parks and trails, and help to increase community involvement and stewardship.
- Expand and formalize a Volunteer Program. This may include establishing standards for recruiting, training, retaining, and rewarding volunteers.

Objective 3.5: Support investment in programs, facilities and/or events that will generate revenue for the Town.

Strategies:

- Encourage community events, which draw visitors to the Town, generate revenue for the Town, as well as local businesses, and help to enrich the community.
- Support high quality trail systems and park spaces in order to attract visitors to the community.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING	PRIORITY
<i>Objective 3.1:</i> Ensure that existing facilities are properly funded.	Staff, Planning Commission, Board of Trustees	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering Organizations, Grants, Donations	On-Going
<i>Objective 3.2:</i> Encourage the completion of existing projects before pursuing new projects.	Staff, Planning Commission, Board of Trustees	Taxes, Staff Time, Partnering Organizations, Grants, Donations	On-Going
<i>Objective 3.3:</i> Ensure that new park, open space, trail and/or recreation development does not create a financial burden for the Town.	Staff, Planning Commission, Board of Trustees, Developers	Staff Time	On-Going
<i>Objective 3.4:</i> Pursue alternative funding.	Staff, Volunteers	Staff Time, Partnering Organizations, Grants	On-Going
<i>Objective 3.5:</i> Support investment in programs, facilities and/or events that will generate revenue for the Town.	Staff, Planning Commission, Board of Trustees, Community Organizations	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering Organizations, Grants	On-Going

GOAL 4: DEVELOP AN INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAIL SYSTEM

Objective 4.1: Provide a high quality network of trails that includes linkages to key destinations within and around the community.

Strategies:

- Utilize previous planning efforts, in addition to this plan, to identify priorities for new trail systems.
- Encourage broad public participation when identifying priorities for new trail systems.
- Integrate the municipal trail system into the Town’s Transportation Plan.
- Revise standard street sections to provide an option for accommodating bike lanes and/or trails within the street right-of-way (ROW).
- Ensure that the municipal trail network does not result in a financial burden for the Town.
- Pursue grant opportunities to fund trail development and maintenance.
- New development should provide appropriate trail linkages to adjacent neighborhoods, trail systems, parks and/or open space.
- Continue working with the City of Salida, Chaffee County and other related government agencies, on the construction of the County Road 120 trail. This trail system will help to achieve increased accessibility, regional connectivity, and multi-modal transportation options.
- Establish design standards for primary and secondary trails. The following design guidelines may be useful in establishing trail design standards (also see Appendix A):

Trail Design:

- Trail layout should connect shorter sections of trails in order to make longer trips possible, increasing usefulness for commuting and exercise.
- Provide a range of trails to meet needs of all ages and abilities so everyone benefits, including those with disabilities.
- Impacts to private property should be avoided or minimized.
- Trail design should have an emphasis on quality construction and sustainability.

GOAL 4: DEVELOP AN INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAIL SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

Trail Design (continued):

- Trail design should have an emphasis on safety:
 1. Where possible, trails should be separated from vehicle traffic.
 2. Trails should have minimal crossings with roadways.
 3. Trails should have safe sight distances, especially in areas where trails intersect roadways, in narrow sections, hills and curves and otherwise hazardous areas.
 4. If trails co-exist with roadways then trails should follow routes with lower speeds and traffic volume.
- Encourage construction of trails with grades of 10% or less.
- Trail should be designed with a cross-slope no greater than 2%.
- Trailheads should be provided at points where several routes converge, and in places where easy access from arterial streets to a parking area can be created.
- Trails and trail signage should be designed to minimize conflicts between trail users (i.e. bicyclists, pedestrians, equestrians, etc.).
- All trails within the system should be marked with consistent signage to identify the trail, help users find their way along the trail, and provide regulatory information on allowable uses, trail courtesy, etc.
- Trails and trailheads should be designed to be sensitive to wildlife needs, natural areas, human safety, and cultural sites.
- Landscaping along trail corridors should utilize native plant species and involve minimal modification to grading.
- Waysides (i.e. places along trails where travelers can stop to enjoy shade, a pleasant view, or to read an interpretive sign) should be provided at places that offer these characteristics, or at least every ½ mile along a trail.

Objective 4.2: Develop a trail system along the South Arkansas River.

Strategies:

- Partner with the City of Salida, Chaffee County and other related government agencies to develop a South Arkansas River Corridor Plan.
- Encourage broad public participation in the development of a South Arkansas Corridor Plan.
- Explore opportunities to secure trail easements and dedications along the South Arkansas River.
- Provide additional recreational opportunities by integrating fishing sites into the trail system.

Objective 4.3: Connect the Town's trail system to the neighboring BLM and Forest Service lands.

Strategies:

- Partner with the BLM, the Forest Service and other related government agencies to investigate opportunities to connect the Town's trail system to the BLM and Forest Service lands that neighbor Poncha Springs.
- Explore opportunities to develop a system of trails within these Federal lands.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING	PRIORITY
<i>Objective 4.1:</i> Provide a high quality network of trails within Poncha Springs, that provides link-ages to neighboring communities.	Staff, Planning Commission, Town Council, Developers, Volunteers	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering organizations, Grants, Donations	On-Going
<i>Objective 4.2:</i> Develop a trail system along the South Arkansas River.	Staff, Planning Commission, Town Council, Developers, Volunteers	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering organizations, Grants, Donations	Long-Term
<i>Objective 4.3:</i> Connect the Town’s trail system to the neighboring Forest Service and BLM lands.	Staff, Planning Commission, Town Council, Volunteers, BLM and Forest Service Agencies, Volunteers	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering organizations, Grants, Donations	Long-Term

GOAL 5: SUPPORT A WIDE VARIETY OF HIGH QUALITY PARKS, OPEN SPACES, TRAILS AND RECREATION AMENITIES

Objective 5.1: Maintain existing facilities to the highest standard possible.

Strategies:

- Use this plan’s inventory as a benchmark. The Town should continue to inventory the parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities in town to ensure that facilities are properly maintained.
- Encourage citizen participation (ex. Survey, Public forum, etc.) when evaluating the condition and level of service of town parks, open space, trails and recreational facilities.
- Develop criteria that would define the Town’s maintenance standards. Maintenance practices should be described in a Maintenance Guidelines and Procedures Manual.
- Track labor hours and equipment use for park maintenance tasks. It is important to track labor hours and equipment use for maintenance tasks in order to estimate what it takes to keep parks to the standards desired by the Town.
- Address any unsafe conditions in existing facilities.
- Implement environmentally sustainable improvements and maintenance practices to reduce costs while protecting the environment.
- Improve signage at all parks, open spaces, and trail heads.
- Support opportunities to improve park facilities per the findings of the 2011 Parks and Recreation survey.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT A WIDE VARIETY OF HIGH QUALITY PARKS, OPEN SPACES, TRAILS AND RECREATION AMENITIES (CONTINUED)

Objective 5.2: Encourage quality park design to improve appearance, safety, and accessibility.

Strategies:

- Establish design standards for neighborhood and community parks. Parks design standards should be created and adopted to unify the quality, maintenance requirements, and appearance of Poncha Springs’ Parks. The following design guidelines may be useful in establishing park design standards:

Park Design:

- Require the use of materials that can withstand heavy public use in all public restroom facilities. This can include either permanent restroom buildings with plumbing or portable toilets that are housed in permanent enclosures.
- Provide shelters and community gathering spaces in park plans.
- Identify all parks with consistent, identifiable, and appealing signage.
- Use native vegetation and materials in parks. This will strengthen sense of place in parks and reduce maintenance by using materials that are adapted to the local environment.
- Incorporate public art, design, and creativity to make parks special and unique places for both residents and visitors.
- Public agencies should mandate compliance with ADA guidelines for all new construction.
- Ensure adequate access to all park components using ADA guidelines.
- Complete information on ADA guidelines can be found at: <http://www.accessboard.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm>

Objective 5.3: Encourage opportunities to provide access to local streams and rivers.

Strategies:

- Support opportunities to secure land or easements that would provide public access to local streams and rivers.
- Encourage the integration of local stream and river access points into the municipal trail network.
- Ensure that public access to local streams and rivers does not adversely effect water quality, wildlife or vegetation.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	FUNDING	PRIORITY
<i>Objective 5.1:</i> Maintain existing facilities to the highest standard possible.	Staff, Volunteers	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering organizations, Grants, Donations	On-Going
<i>Objective 5.2:</i> Encourage quality park design to improve appearance, safety, and accessibility.	Staff	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering organizations, Grants, Donations	Short/Mid-Term
<i>Objective 5.3:</i> Encourage opportunities to provide access to local streams and rivers.	Staff, Planning Commission, Volunteers, Partnering Organizations	Taxes, Staff time, Partnering organizations, Grants, Donations	Long-Term

GRANT FUNDING

Poncha Springs’ has many qualities as a small town, but this small town character also means a proportionally small tax base to support parks, open space, trails and recreation. Lack of funding is often a challenge in small towns. Limited funding presents an opportunity for creativity, partnerships, and innovation. Grants are an ideal tool for funding Town parks and conservation projects. The goals of this Plan’s funding recommendations are to balance the desire for high quality parks , open space, trails and recreation with the limited fiscal capacity of Poncha Springs to provide those opportunities. With this in mind, the following tables list a variety of grants that may be pursued in order to achieve the Plan’s objectives. The tables have been organized by the **Goals**, which they are most relevant to. It should be noted that these tables are not a comprehensive list of all the grant opportunities that the Town may qualify for.

GOAL 2: MAINTAIN ADEQUATE LEVELS OF SERVICE

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERING GRANT	GRANT	APPROPRIATE TYPES OF PROJECTS	DETAILS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	AWARD RANGE	DEADLINE	WEBSITE
Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)	Open Space and Local Government	Funds community gathering places where people can recreate.	To assist local governments in acquiring, expanding, enhancing and improving parks, outdoor recreation and environmental education facilities.	Municipalities, counties, park and recreation special districts.	No limit. At least 25% of the total project cost in matching funds (cash and in-kind from the applicant and partners). Grantee must provide at least 10% of the total project cost in cash. Match can be waved or reduced if special circumstances exist.	March, August	www.goco.org/GrantPrograms
Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Office of Smart Growth	Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)	Outdoor recreation master plan, construction of parks, trails, and/or riverwalk, open space, or recreation facilities.	Funding is available for acquisition, maintenance, construction, improvements.	Towns, cities, counties and special districts.	Varies (dependent on State Demographer’s population estimates).	Funds are allocated quarterly to each local government in Colorado. For details on how these grants have been allocated thus far, contact your local government agency.	http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/fa/index.html

GOAL 4: DEVELOP AN INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAIL SYSTEM

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERING GRANT	GRANT	APPROPRIATE TYPES OF PROJECTS	DETAILS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	AWARD RANGE	DEADLINE	WEBSITE
Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition Program	Active Community Environment Grants	Data collection for trail plan, identify funding strategies for trail plan, etc.	Supports communities to be more active through community enhancements including design projects, sidewalks, parks, lighting, and other features.	Local government.	Up to \$4,000	August	http://www.cdph.state.co.us/pp/COPAN/grants/index.html

GOAL 4: DEVELOP AN INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAIL SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERING GRANT	GRANT	APPROPRIATE TYPES OF PROJECTS	DETAILS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	AWARD RANGE	DEADLINE	WEBSITE
Colorado State Trails Program	Trail Construction Grants	Trail construction, improvements, urban greenways, backcountry, or urbanized trails.	For trails or trail head construction, maintenance, planning, signage, or trails equipment.	Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, recreation and metro districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible.	Several categories exist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small (up to \$25,000) • Mid-size (up to \$150,000) • Large (up to \$200,000) <p><u>Note:</u> Only one construction and one planning application per agency/organization are permitted annually. Matches range between 25% match for small grants and equal match for mid and large scale.</p>	November	http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/
Colorado State Trails Program	Special Projects Grants	Mapping projects, trail planning, interpretation/planing.	For training in trails design, maintenance and/or construction, building of volunteer organization, mapping project, adopt-a-trail development, trail use education, and/or signage.	Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, recreation and metro districts, school districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible.	Up to \$20,000.	November	http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/
Colorado State Trails Program	Trail Planning Grants	Trail planning.	Projects related to trail planning, feasibility, trail inventory, trail use studies, analysis of existing and proposed trails, etc. for trails on lands open to the public.	Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, recreation and metro districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands are eligible.	Up to \$20,000. 25% match required.	November	http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	Standard Grants, Small Grants	Projects aimed at conserving wetlands.	For acquisition, restoration, or enhancements.	For organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships for wetland protection. Require challenge/matching funds.	\$1,000,000 for acquisitions and \$50,000 for restoration.	Standards July 31, Small October 29	http://www.fws.gov/bird-habitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm

GOAL 4: DEVELOP AN INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAIL SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERING GRANT	GRANT	APPROPRIATE TYPES OF PROJECTS	DETAILS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	AWARD RANGE	DEADLINE	WEBSITE
Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)	Fishing is Fun Grant	Funds fishing and river access, riparian restoration (including tamarisk removal).	Enhances Colorado's fishing resources through river access, habitat improvement, education, etc. and focuses on angler access, habitat development and improvements, and fishing site improvements. Involves local communities in a three-way partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Federal Sport fish Restoration Act monies.	Local governments, park and recreation departments, water districts, individuals, conservation groups and other non-profit organizations.	\$1,000 to \$400,000. Has awarded \$20,000,000 since 1987. Must be matched with non federal cash or in kind services. Funds up to 75% of total expenses.	March	http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/ResourcesTips/FishingsFunProgram/
EPA	Region 8 Wetland Program Development	Projects addressing watershed, riparian, point source, protection, conservation, and creation of watershed.	Preference given to those that monitor and assess wetland protection.	States, tribes, local governments, and interagency governments may apply. Must demonstrate linkage to EPA's Strategic Plan.	\$25,000 - \$100,000	Depends on the grant applying for.	http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/R8rfpo8.pdf
National Park Service	Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program	Programs and projects for conservation and protection of environment or that enhance environmental recreation.	Must have strong community support and involve outreach.	Will not fund project implementation. Support all types of organizations and tribes.	Listed.	March	http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca/contactus/cu_apply.html

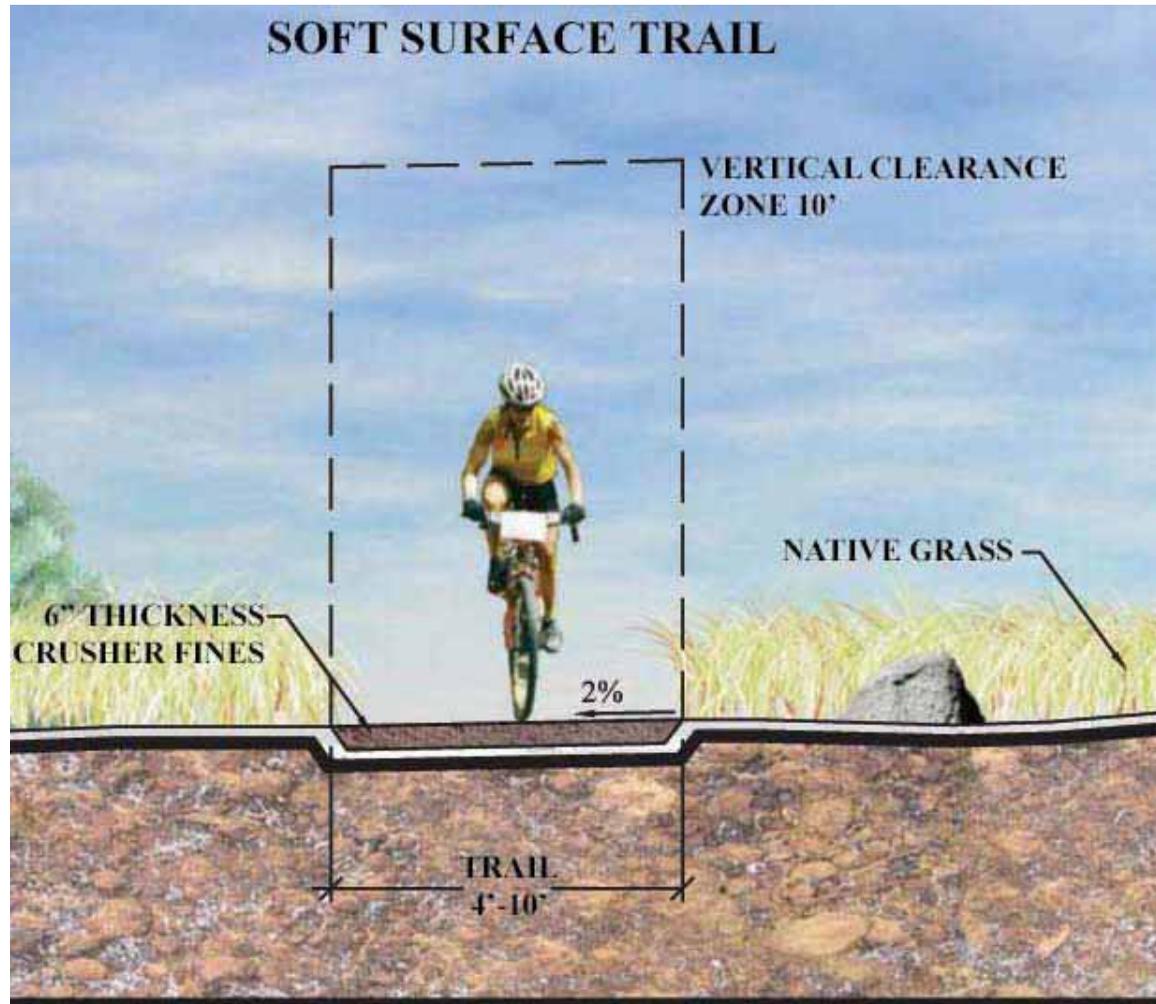
GOAL 5: SUPPORT A WIDE VARIETY OF HIGH QUALITY PARKS, OPEN SPACES, TRAILS AND RECREATION AMENITIES

ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERING GRANT	GRANT	APPROPRIATE TYPES OF PROJECTS	DETAILS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	AWARD RANGE	DEADLINE	WEBSITE
Tree Coalition Grants	Maintenance/Management, Media, Tree Planting, Xcel Utility grants	Projects involving trees that preserve, renew, or enhance community forests, must include an education component and should be on public, community lands.	Must apply within 30 days from project and provide expense documentation. Organizations and communities serving over 10,000 will receive extra points. Funding must be for tree-related projects.	State and local governments, school districts, community and neighborhood organizations, and non-profits.	\$500 - \$1,500	December	Online application at: http://www.coloradotrees.org/ *Applicants can only apply every other year.

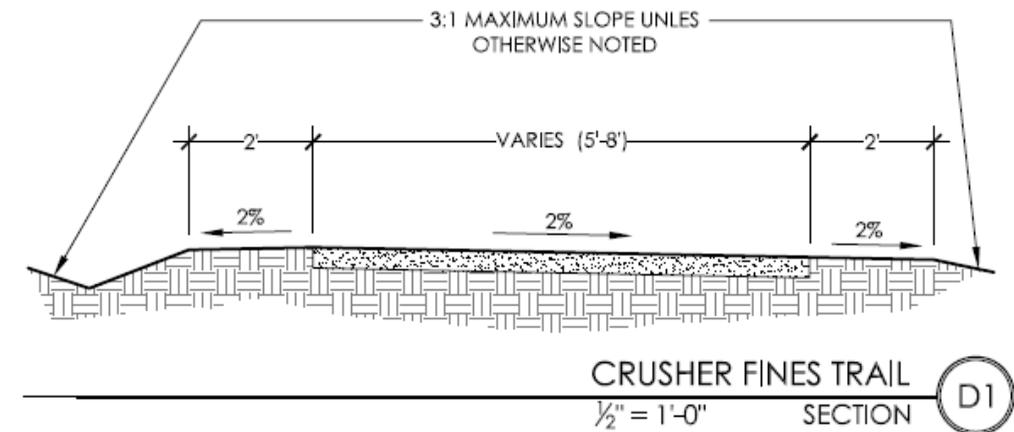
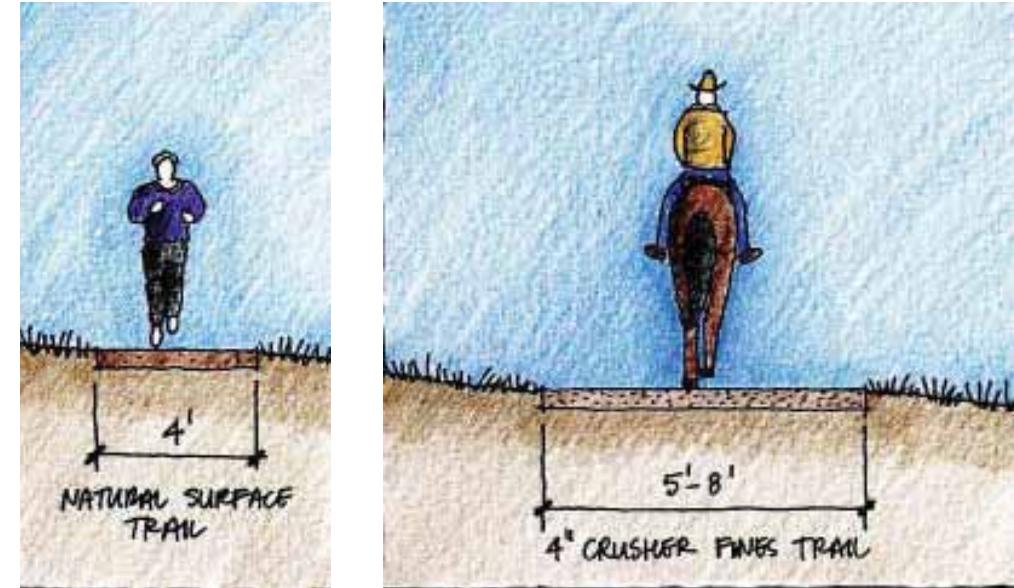
TRAIL DESIGN EXAMPLES

The following are examples of trail designs. The Town may find these examples to be useful in the development of their own design standards for trails.

SOFT SURFACE TRAIL
(SOURCE: NIWOT TRAILS MASTER PLAN)

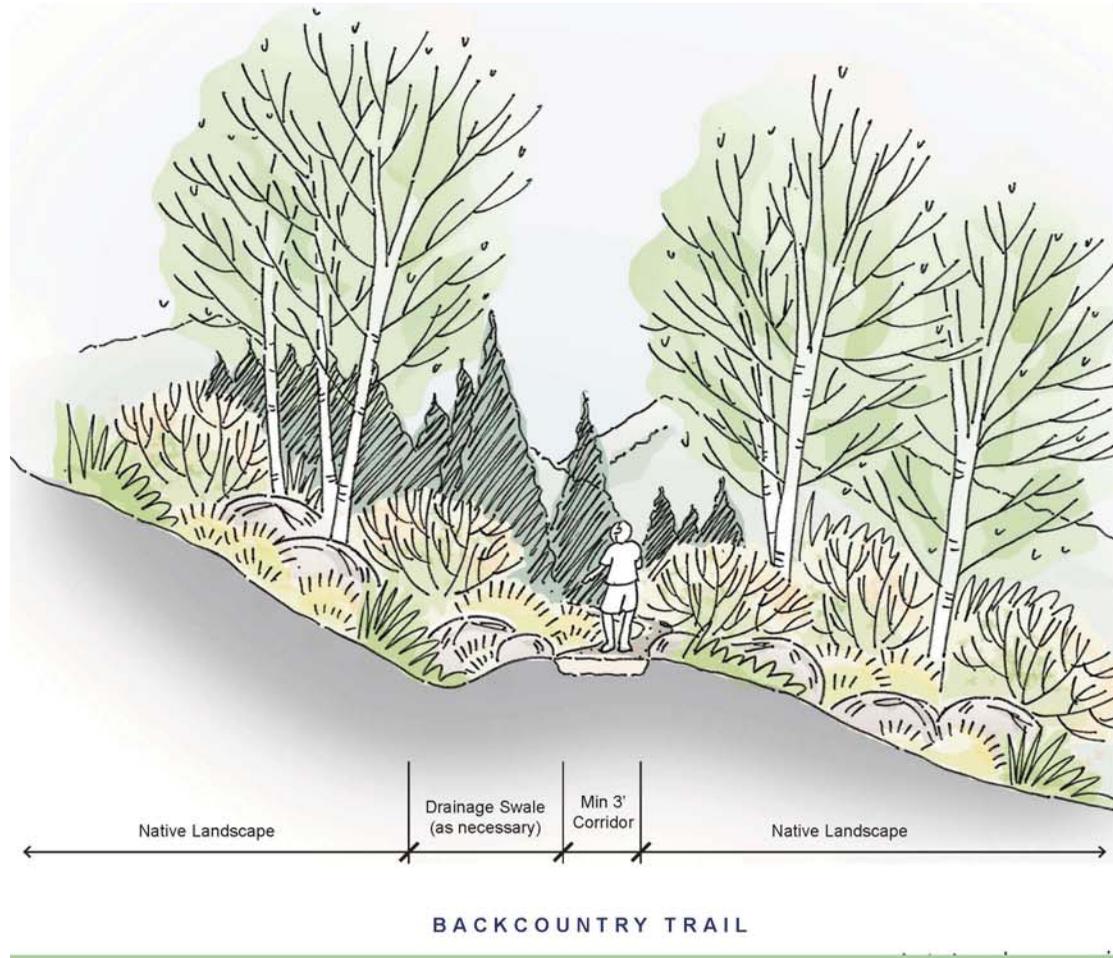


SOFT SURFACE TRAIL
(SOURCE: ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS)



BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL

(SOURCE: STEAMBOAT SPRINGS AREA OPEN SPACE & TRAILS MASTER PLAN)

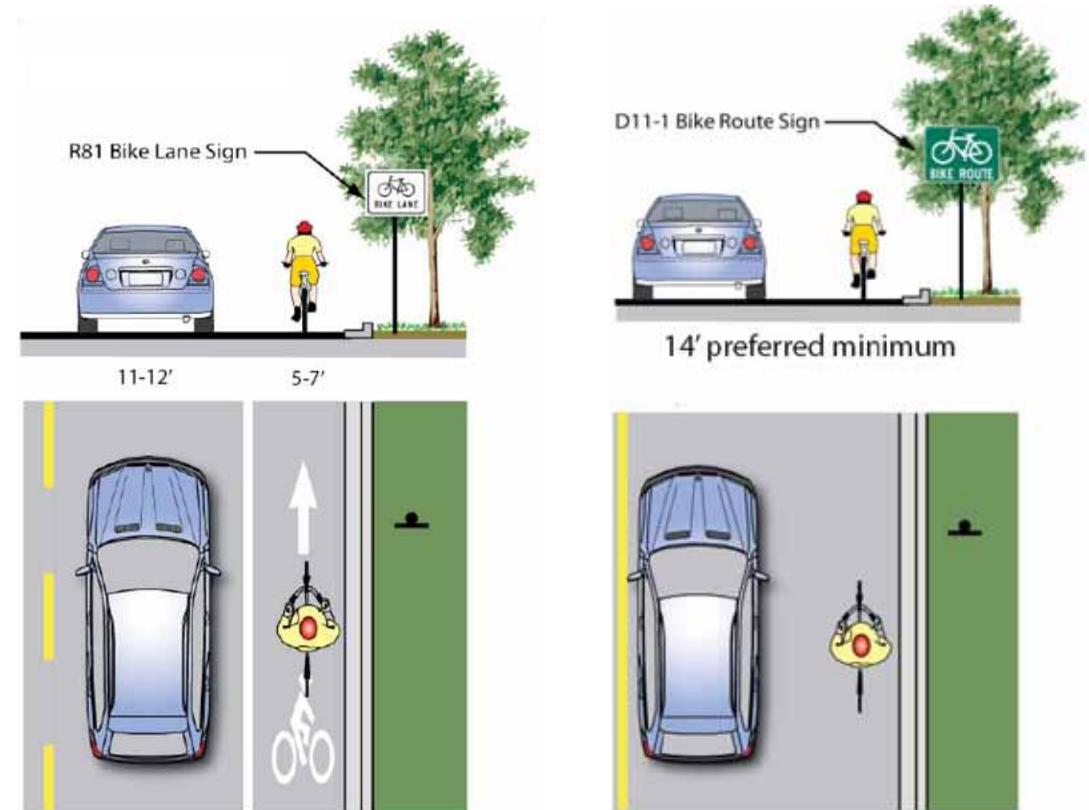


BIKE LANE DESIGN EXAMPLES

The following are examples of bike lane designs. The Town may find these examples to be useful in the development of their own design standards for bike lanes.

ON-STREET BIKE LANES

(SOURCE: CITY OF LOS ANGELES 2010 BICYCLE PLAN, TECHNICAL DESIGN HANDBOOK)



SIGNAGE EXAMPLES

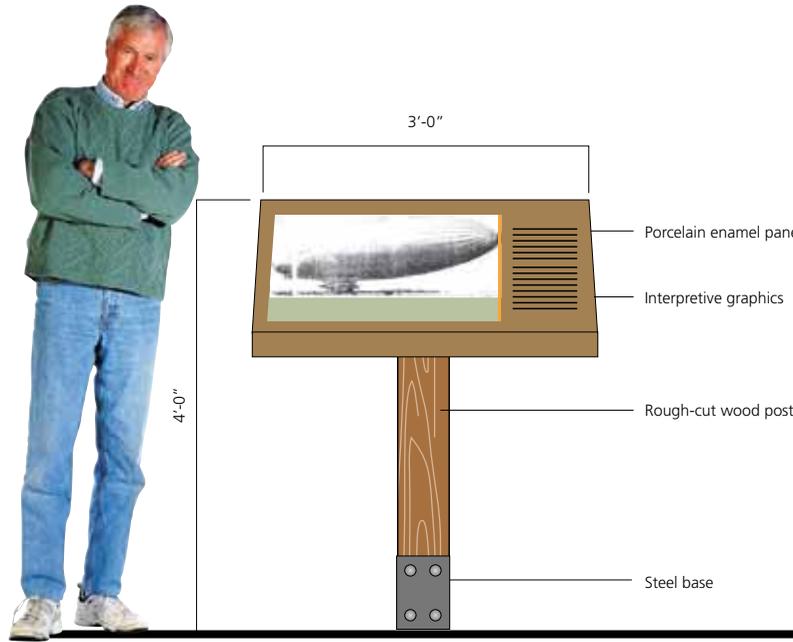
The following are examples of park, open space and trail sign designs. The Town may find these examples to be useful in the development of their own design standards for park, open space and trail signs.

TRAIL SIGNS

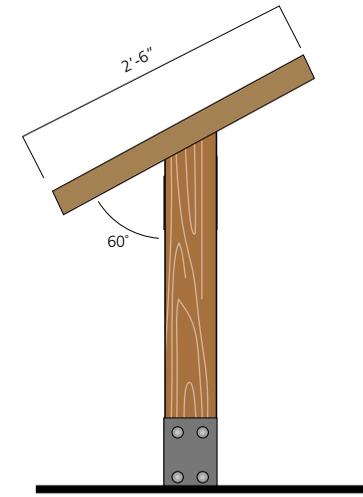
(SOURCE: PORT OF SHELTON - SIGNAGE MASTER PLAN)



1 Trail Marker
Scale: 3/4"=1'-0"



2 Interpretive Display
Scale: 3/4"=1'-0"

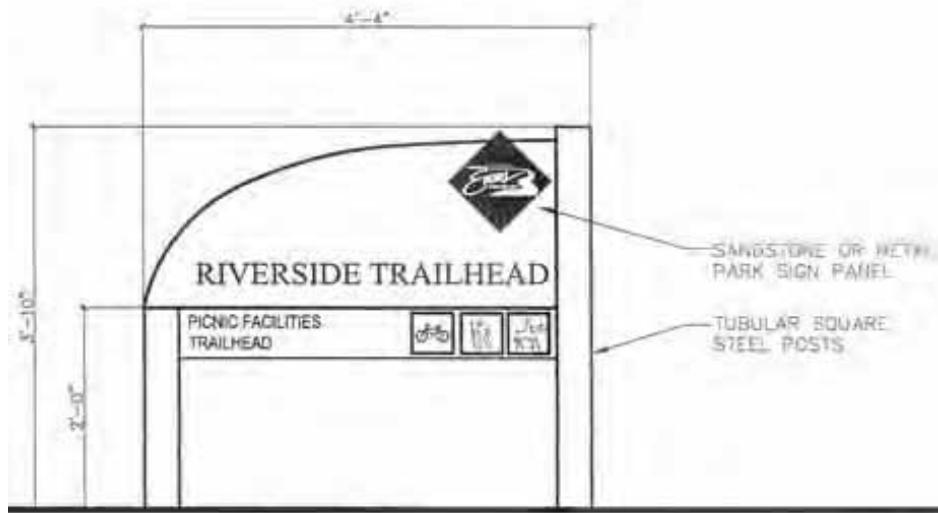


Side View
Scale: 3/4"=1'-0"

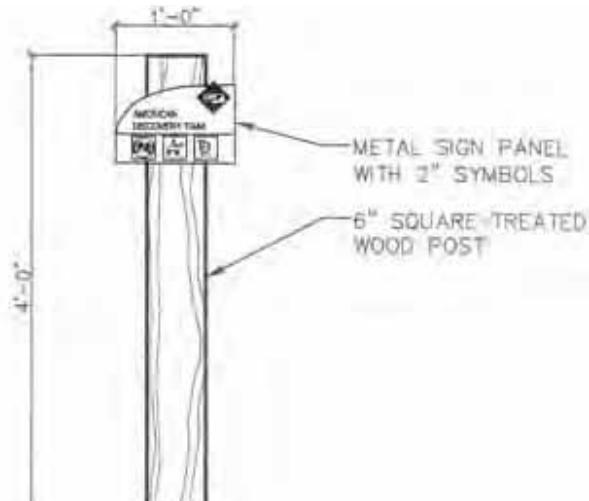
TRAIL SIGNS

(SOURCE: CITY OF SALIDA - Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan)

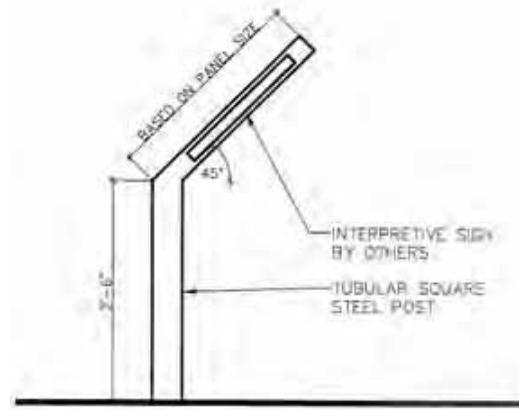
Trailhead



Trail Marker



Interpretive



TRAIL SIGNS

(PHOTOS OF SIGNAGE IN THE CITY OF BOULDER AND BOULDER COUNTY)

Trailhead



Trail Kiosk



Trail Marker

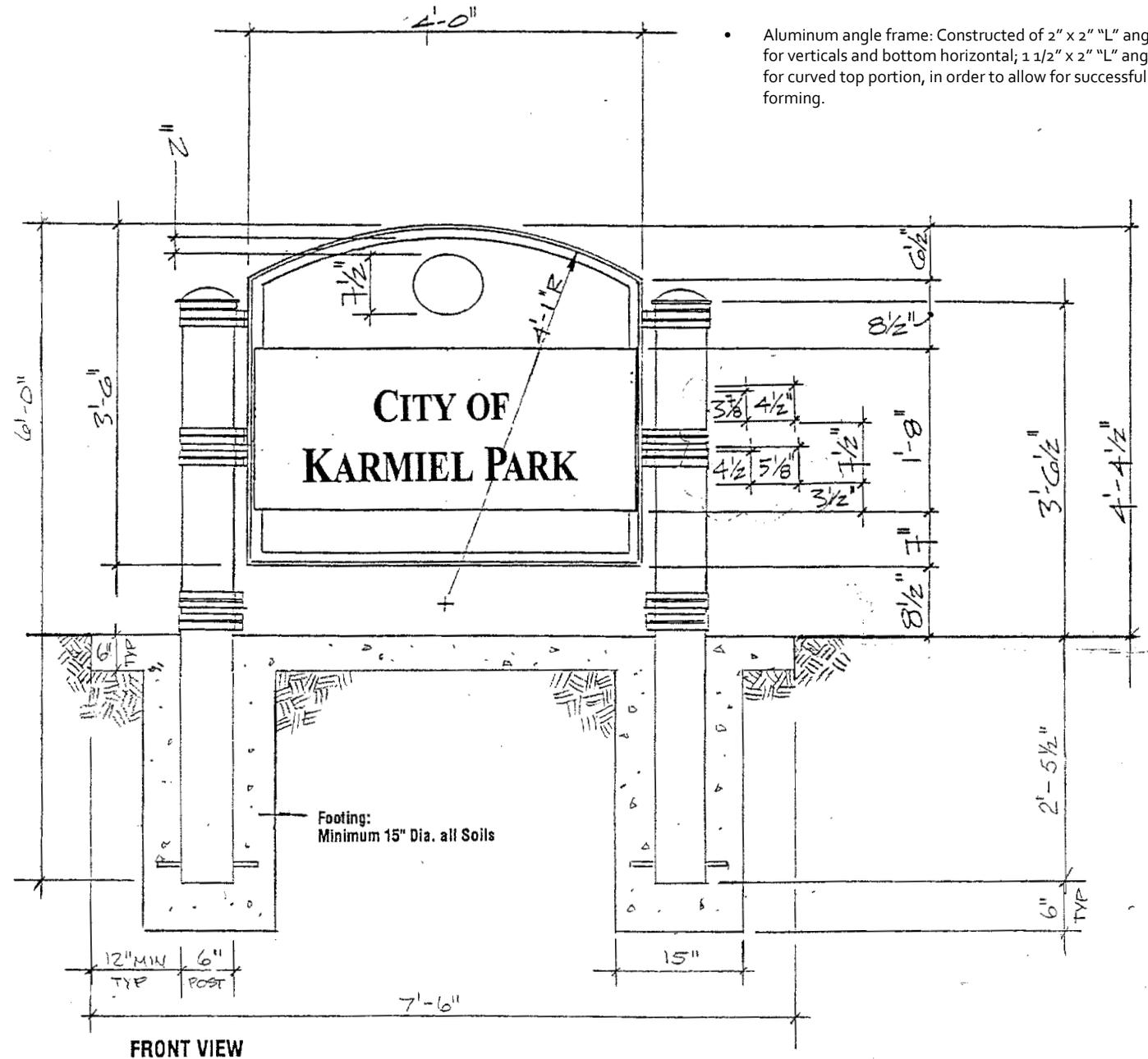


PARK SIGNS

(SOURCE: DENVER PARKS & RECREATION - PLANNING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS)



- Metal finishes:
 - All poles, polecaps, banding, wire fabric, frames, mounting angles and message panels to be powdercoated.
- Powdercoating: to match Federal Green as per approved sample
 - Steel Powdercoating: Iron phosphate dip process
 - Aluminum Powdercoating: chromate conversion process
- Copy:
 - Park name to be times New Roman, condensed 80% Cap/Small Cap- Gerber-cut Scotchcal white 180-10.
 - Logo medallion - 7 1/2" h - screenprinted three colors and white on aluminum edge painted to match Federal Green
- Assembly:
 - All pole caps secured to pole with tamper resistant fasteners into through-holes in pole. Minimum two fasteners per cap. Seal caps to pole with 20 year clear silicone adhesive. Silicone adhesive shall not be visible.
 - All signfaces shown mounted to poles attached using 1" steel beveled fencing bands with threaded holes and through bolt with nylon washers, as required.
 - All fasteners shall be vandal and corrosion resistant. All exposed fasteners to be touched up with paint to match background, after final assembly.



- Aluminum angle frame: Constructed of 2" x 2" "L" angle for verticals and bottom horizontal; 1 1/2" x 2" "L" angle for curved top portion, in order to allow for successful roll forming.

PARK SIGNS

(SOURCE: COLORADO CHAUTAUQUA NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK MASTER SIGNAGE PLAN: WAYFINDING AND INTERPRETIVE)



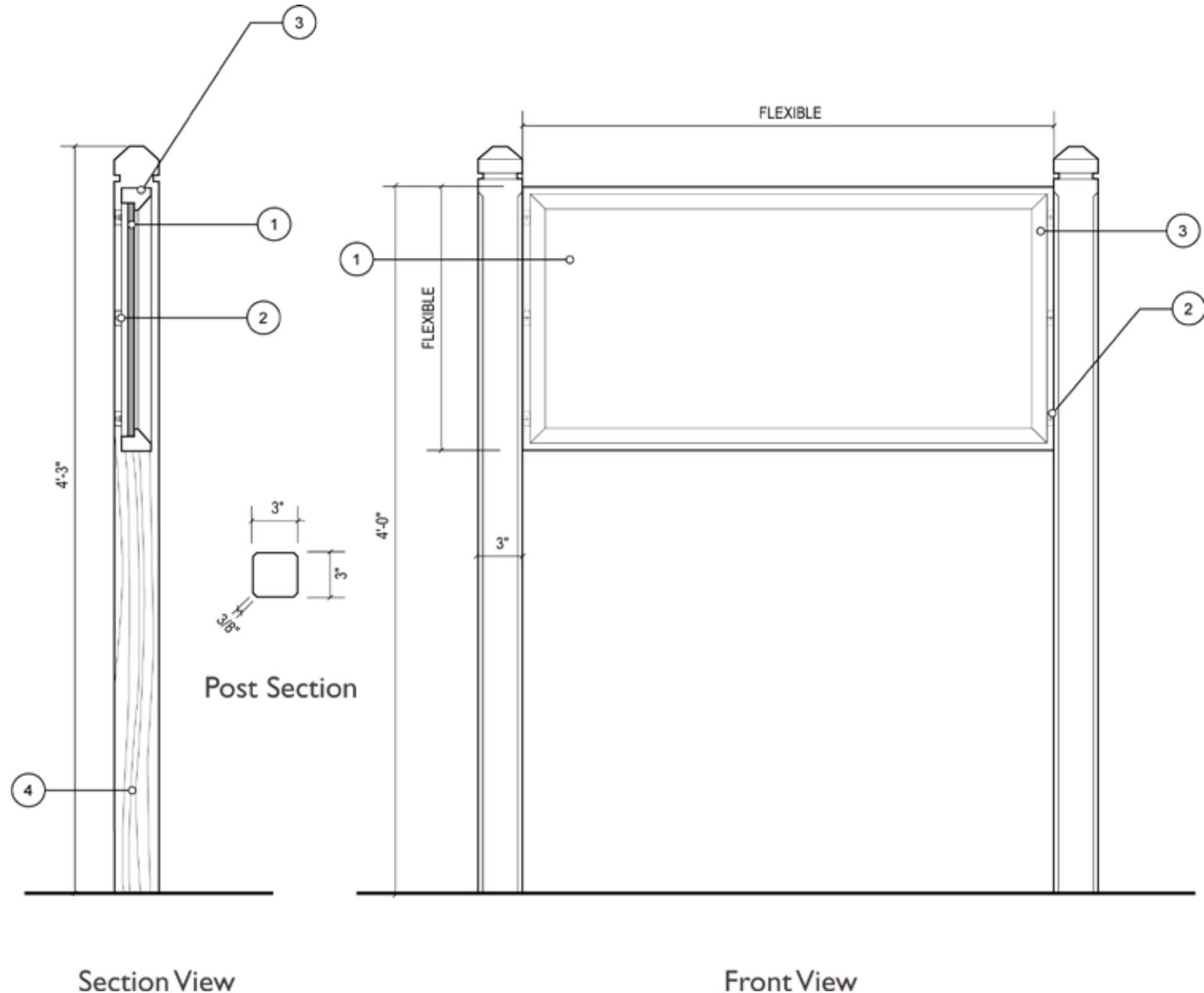
Area identity signs are to be placed parallel to vehicular routes. Preferably at or near pedestrian access entries.

1. 1/2" thick SignPly (or approved equal) Single-sided, painted aluminum over furniture grade exterior plywood core.
2. Stainless steel angle bracket with galvanized or stainless steel wood screw.
3. Frame made from clear grain hardwood or cedar and finished smooth.
4. Clear grain cedar post. Post cap routed and sawed from solid post material - not added as a separate component.

NOTES:

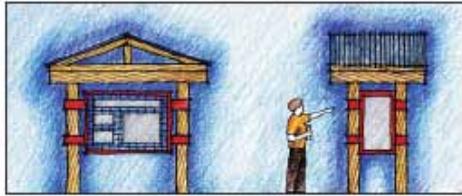
All surfaces of sign frame/panel and post must be primed and painted prior to assembly to ensure complete weather seal.

This sign type can be used for future needs currently unforeseen, and scaled proportionately up or down 20% to accommodate necessary messages.



OPEN SPACE SIGNS

(SOURCE: ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS)



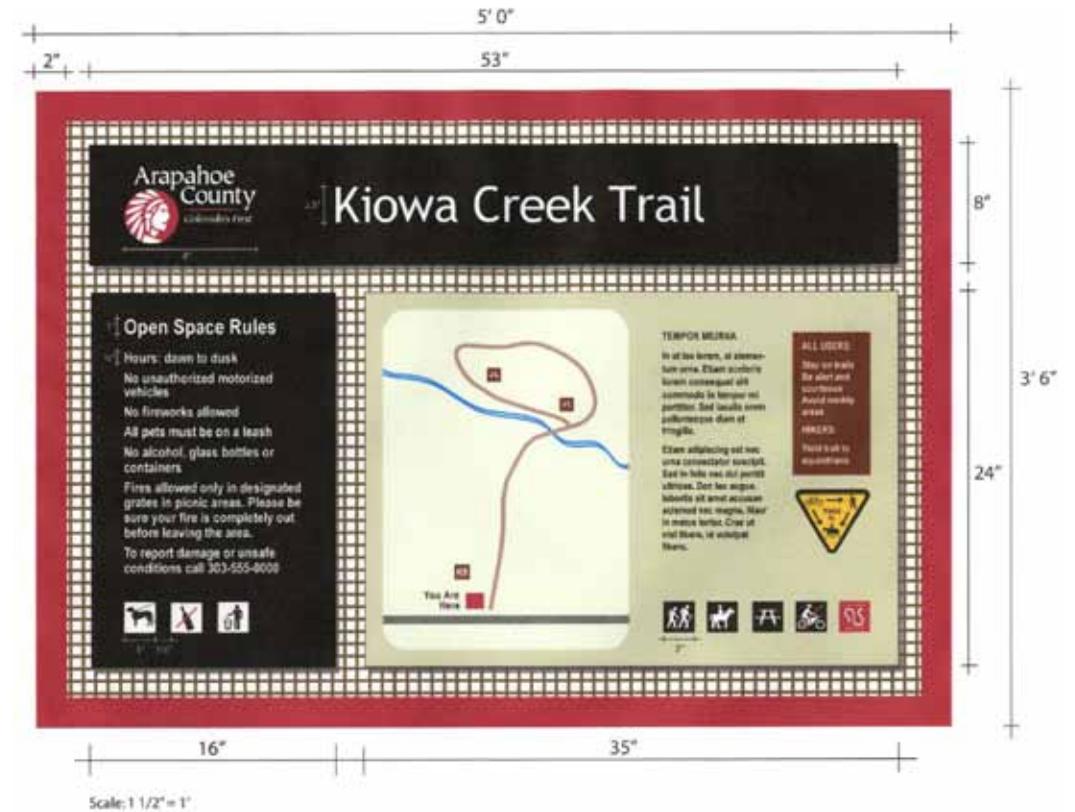
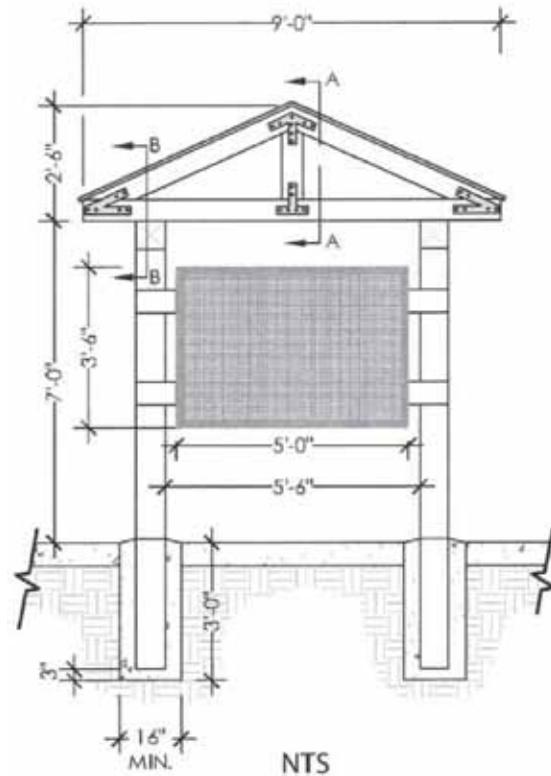
Recommend 1/2" Izone® panels, attached to metal grid from back using tamper proof fasteners.

Recommended copy size: 5/8" to 3/4" for text copy; minimum size: 1/2"

Copy and content for this template is purely conceptual, intended to show possible layout

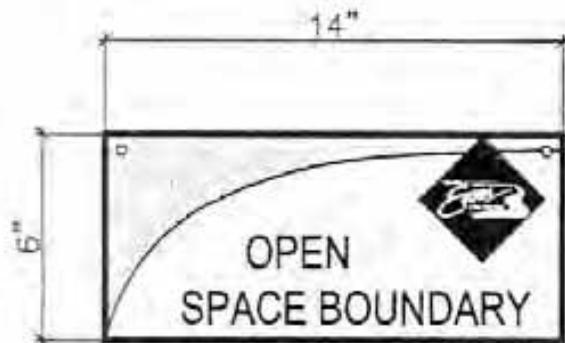
Number of characters will determine type size..

Map shown is placeholder only
Map art to be created for final.



OPEN SPACE SIGNS

(SOURCE: CITY OF SALIDA - Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan)



Sample: Adopt – A –Park Agreement

**Add Town/City name where XXXX exist.*

An Adopt-a-Park Volunteer can be an individual, family, school, business or organization who desires to help the community by becoming a steward or guardian for one of XXXX's parks or natural areas. By providing labor and other resources, you will help staff maintain, protect, restore and beautify our parks for present and future generations. XXXX Adopt-a-Park volunteers agree to the following:

1. The adopting organization/individual will agree to a one year period of adoption, where upon at the end of the one year, the said organization/individual may renew, change, or terminate the adoption.
2. During the one year commitment, the adopting organization will contribute to an agreed upon number of volunteer hours, (40 hrs to 100 hrs), keeping the park clean, performing light maintenance, and reporting concerns (e.g. vandalism, trash) to the Town.
3. XXXX will provide the adopting organization with the following:
 - a. Necessary quantity of trash bags.
 - b. An Adopt-A-Park recognition sign for the adopting organization.
 - c. Necessary supplies and tools for the agreed project.
 - d. Collection of the trash from specific collection points.
4. Adopting organization may keep any funds from any material with recycle value that is picked up.
5. Adopt-A-Park volunteers must be aware of the hazardous nature of the work. Hazards include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Hazardous trash (such as dog waste, broken glass, syringes and other sharp objects).
 - b. Heavy lifting.
 - c. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke (stay hydrated!).
 - d. High water run-off (do not attempt routine cleaning procedures during this time).
6. Safety is of great concern to the Town. Avoid injuries by:
 - a. Being aware of your environment.
 - b. Discuss safety issues before the work project begins.
 - c. Monitoring the individuals working on the project.
 - d. Wear appropriate footwear and gloves.
7. The adopting organization will keep the Volunteer Coordinator updated on projects and provide volunteer hour statistics. A participant list enables the department to include volunteers in recognition and appreciation programs, and is optional.

This copy is for your records

ADOPT-A-PARK APPLICATION FORM

ORGANIZATION AND/OR INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION

Organization Name: _____
Name of Contact: _____ Email: _____
Title or Position: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ Street _____ City _____ Zip _____
Approximate size of membership: _____ Approximate number of volunteers: _____

ADOPTION INFORMATION

Name of Park: _____
Location: _____
Brief description of park maintenance needs:

Preferred Start Date: _____ Time: _____

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

I have read and agree to abide by the policies and regulations as put forth by XXXX with regard to its Adopt-A-Park program. As the organization contact person, I am responsible for informing the members of the organization of all risks and release provisions. All volunteers are required to agree and understand the risk and release provisions. The size and needs of the park will determine the hours for official adoption.

Signed _____ *Date* _____

Title _____

Thank you for your interest in maintaining and preserving parks in the town of XXXX!

Sample: Sponsorship Policy

**Fill in XXXX with Town/City name.*

PURPOSE

In an effort to utilize and maximize the community's resources, it is in the best interest of XXXX to create and enhance relationship-based sponsorships. This may be accomplished by providing local, regional, and national commercial businesses, non-profit groups, and individuals a method for becoming involved with the many opportunities provided by XXXX. XXXX provides parks, open space, trails and recreational amenities to the broadest base of the community. This translates into exceptional visibility for sponsors and supporters. It is the goal of XXXX to create relationships and partnerships with sponsors for the financial benefit of XXXX's parks, open space, trails and recreational programs.

SPONSORSHIPS VS. DONATIONS

It is important to note that there is a difference between a sponsorship and a donation. Basically, sponsorships are cash or in-kind products and services offered by sponsors with the clear expectation that an obligation is created. The recipient is obliged to return something of value to the sponsor. The value is typically public recognition and publicity or advertising highlighting the contribution of the sponsor and/or the sponsor's name, logo, message, products or services. The Sponsor usually has clear marketing objectives that they are trying to achieve, including but not limited to the ability to drive sales directly based on the sponsorship, and/or quite often, the right to be the exclusive sponsor in a specific category of sales. The arrangement is typically consummated by a letter of agreement or contractual arrangement that details the particulars of the exchange. In contrast, a donation comes with no restrictions on how the money or in-kind resources are used. This policy specifically addresses sponsorships, the agreements for the procurement of the resources, and the benefits provided in return for securing those resources. Since donations or gifts come with no restrictions or expected benefits, a policy is generally not needed.

GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTABLE SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsors should be businesses, non-profit groups, or individuals that promote mutually beneficial relationships for XXXX. All potentially sponsored properties (facilities, events or programs) should be reviewed in terms of creating synergistic working relationships with regards to benefits, community contributions, knowledge, and political sensitivity.

SPONSORSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

The first major criterion deals with the commercial character if a sponsorship message. The Town intends to create a limited forum, focused on advertisements incidental to commercial sponsorships of XXXX facilities and programs. No non-commercial speech is permitted in the limited forum created by this policy.

Advertisements incidental to commercial sponsorship must primarily propose a commercial transaction, either directly, through the text, or indirectly, through the association of the sponsor's name with the commercial transaction of purchasing the

commercial goods or services which the sponsor sells. The reasons for this policy include:

- (1) The desirability of avoiding non-commercial proselytizing of a "captive audience" of event spectators and participants;*
- (2) the constitutional prohibition on any view-point related decisions about permitted advertising coupled with the danger that the Town would be associated with advertising anyway;*
- (3) the desire of the Town to maximize income from sponsorship, weighed against the likelihood that commercial sponsors would be dissuaded from using the same forum commonly used by persons wishing to communicate non-commercial messages, some of which could be offensive to the public;*
- (4) the desire of the Town to maintain a position of neutrality on political and religious issues;*
- (5) and in the case of religious advertising and political advertising, specific concerns about the danger of "excessive entanglement" with religion (an resultant constitutional violations) and the danger of election campaign law violations respectively.*

The second major criterion is the appropriate relationship of a sponsorship to **XXXX**.

Sponsorships which shall NOT be considered are those which:

- Promote environmental or work practices that, if they took place in the XXXX community, would violate U.S. or Colorado law (i.e., dumping of hazardous waste, exploitation of child labor, etc.), or promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, or that constitute violations of law.
- Duplicate or mimic the identity or programs of **XXXX**.
- Exploit participants or staff members of **XXXX**.
- Offer benefits which may violate other accepted policies or the Town's Sign Code.

The following questions are the major guiding components of this policy and should be addressed prior to soliciting potential sponsors:

- Is the sponsorship reasonably related to the purpose of the facility or programs?
- Will the sponsorship help generate more revenue and/or less cost per participant than the Town can provide without it?
- What are the real costs, including staff time, for procuring the amount of cash or in-kind resources that come with the generation of the sponsorship?

Guidelines for calculating the levels and benefits provided are outlined in Part B.

EQUITABLE OFFERINGS

It is important that equal levels of sponsorship across divisions within Parks and Recreation yield the same value of benefits for potential sponsors.

SPONSORSHIP CONTACT DATABASE

XXXX keeps an updated list of all current sponsors, sponsored activities, and contacts related to sponsorship. This database is currently being maintained by the Town Staff.

PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE DATABASE

- Limit duplicate solicitations of one sponsor
- Allow management to make decisions based on the most appropriate solicitations and levels of benefits offered
- Keep a current list of all Town supporters and contacts
- Help provide leads for new sponsorships, if appropriate

For staff below management team level, access to the database will be limited to printouts of listings of names of sponsors and their sponsored events. This limited access will provide information to help limit duplicated solicitations, and will also protect existing sponsor relationships, while allowing the evaluation of future sponsorships to occur at a management level.

If a potential sponsor is already listed, staff should no pursue a sponsorship without researching the sponsor’s history with the most recently sponsored division. If more than one division wishes to pursue sponsorship by the same company, the management team shall make a decision based on several variables, including but not limited to:

- History of sponsorship, relationships, and types of sponsorship needed
- Amount of funding available
- Best use of funding based on departmental priorities

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

A committee consisting of supervisors of each program using sponsorships, a representative of the Town staff, and other management team designees shall meet twice per year to review the database, exchange current contract samples, and recommend adjusting benefit levels and policy as needed. Changes shall not take effect before approval by the management team.

APPROVAL LEVELS

Each project or program that involves solicitation of Sponsors should, PRIOR to procurement, create a Sponsorship Plan specific to the project or program that is in line with the Sponsorship Levels given in Part B. This plan needs to be approved by the Management Team Members supervising the project and in accordance with Town advertising and Sign Code policy. In addition, each sponsorship will need separate approval if they exceed pre-specified limits. The Approval Levels are outlined below:

Under \$1,000	The program or project coordinator may approve this level of Agreement, with review by their supervising Management Team Member.
\$1,000 to \$11,999	The Agreement needs approval of a Management Team Member.
\$12,000 to \$99,999	The Agreement needs approval of the entire Senior Management Team.
\$100,000 and over	The Agreement needs approval of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (the PRAB may recommend a review by the Board of Trustees)

B. SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

The following levels are presented as a guideline for types of benefits that may be presented as opportunities for potential sponsors. These levels are based on current research.

Each sponsorship will need to be individually negotiated. One purpose for these guidelines is to create equity in exchanges across sponsorship arrangements. While for the sake of ease the examples given for levels are based on amount of sponsorship requested, the level of approval needed from the Town's staff is really based on the amount of benefits exchanged for the resources. The levels of approval are necessary because the costs and values for different levels of benefits will vary, depending on the sponsorship. It is important to note that these values may be very different. Sponsors typically will not offer to contribute resources that cost them more than the value of resources that they will gain and the Town should not pursue sponsorships unless the total value the Town receives is greater than the Town's real costs.

A hierarchy of Sponsors for events, programs or facilities with more than one sponsor is listed below from the highest level to the lowest. Note that the hierarchy is not dependent on specific levels or amounts of sponsorship. Specific levels and amounts should be designed for each property before sponsorships are procured. Complete definitions of terms are included in **Part C**.

Exclusive Sponsor (if only one) -> Title Sponsor -> Primary Sponsor -> Presenting Sponsor Media Sponsor -> Category Exclusive Sponsor -> Contributing Sponsors

This hierarchy will help decide the amounts to ask various sponsors for, and determine what levels of benefits to provide. It is important to build flexibility and choice into each level so that sponsors can have the ability to choose options that will best fit their objectives, but keeping in mind that the total value of benefits should be commensurate with those listed below. Note that the benefits listed under each level are examples of value. The listing does not mean that all of the benefits should be offered. It is a menu of options for possible benefits, depending on the circumstances. These are listed primarily as a guideline for **maximum** benefit values. It is recommended that each project create a project-specific Sponsorship Plan for approval in advance of Sponsorship procurement, based on the benefits available and the value specific to the project.

EXAMPLE OF LEVELS IN AN APPROVED SPONSORSHIP PLAN:

All benefits must be in accordance to the Sponsorship Policy, equitable, and not in violation of any accepted Town Policy or Sign Code:

1. Levels needing approval only from the Program Supervisor: less than \$1,000.

Sponsorships below \$1,000

Typically small sponsorships for single events/programs. These are usually handled by program staff. Event coordinators can determine amount of funding needed, evaluate costs and value, create proposals for sponsors, create a listing of benefits, and get approval from supervisors.

Maximum benefits include some of the following:

- Recognition on program promo items:
 - T-shirts, water bottles, etc.
 - May be mentioned in press releases
- Complimentary event passes
 - May be mentioned within the current Parks and Recreation brochure blurb
 - Photos from event
- May be recognized at event
 - May hang banner at event
- May be recognized as a primary event sponsor (depends on size of event)
- Recognition on event flyers

2. Levels needing approval from a Member of the Management Team: \$1,000 - \$11,999.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Maximum benefits may include items listed above, in addition to some of the following:

- 1/3 page ad in brochure – 1 season
 - Recognition as Primary event sponsor
- Invitation to an appreciation event if planned for all sponsors
 - Recognition on Town web site
 - Four admissions at recreation center

\$2,500 - \$5,999

Maximum benefits may include items listed above, in addition to some of the following:

- Plaque or permanent signage recognition (appropriate to site)
 - Web site ad for 90 days
- 1/3 page ad in brochure – two seasons or 2/3 page – one season
 - 2 hours of free park shelter usage
 - Recognition as a primary or presenting sponsor, depending on property

\$6,000 - \$11,999

Maximum benefits may include items listed above, in addition to some of the following:

- Up to 120 visits on punch pass(es) to Recreation Centers
 - One time golf foursome
- 1/3 page ad for full year or full page ad for one season
 - Acknowledgment on Town utility bill statements

3. Levels needing approval from the ENTIRE Parks and Recreation Management Team:
\$12,000 - \$99,000.

\$12,000 - \$99,000

Maximum benefits may include items listed above, in addition to some of the following:

- Signage and recognition as appropriate to site and amount
- Four corporate annual passes

4. Levels needing approval of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and/or Board of Trustees: Greater than \$100,000.

\$100,000 and above

Maximum benefits may include items listed above, in addition to some of the following:

- Exclusive rights in category
 - Full page brochure ads for one year
 - For approximately \$400,000 and above: naming rights* to facilities/sites.
- Permanently named portions of facilities

***Naming Rights**

\$400,000 and above: This amount is around the average for current trend sin sponsorships with naming rights. This minimum level should continue to be maintained or increased, bearing in mind the total costs of a project, the amount of future exposure, and inflation in the coming years.

C. DEFINITIONS OF SPONSORSHIP TERMS

Advertising: The direct sale of print or some other types of Town communication medium to provide access to a select target market.

Category Exclusivity: The right of a sponsor to be the only company within its product or service category associated with the sponsored property. Usually a benefit at higher sponsorship levels.

Donations: Cash or in-kind gifts that do not include any additional negotiated conditions in return. Synonyms: Philanthropy, Patronage.

Exclusive Rights: A company pays a premium or provides economic benefit in exchange for the right to be the sole advertised provider, at the most competitive prices, of goods purchased by the Town.

Hierarchy of Sponsors: If more than one sponsor is used, there is often a hierarchy of levels. These levels can be used to differentiate benefits provided for various amounts of sponsorship, but may be provided for different amounts for different properties. They are (from highest to lowest):

- Exclusive Sponsor (if only one) -> Title Sponsor -> Primary Sponsor -> Presenting Sponsor
- Media Sponsor -> Category Exclusive Sponsor -> Contributing Sponsors

In-Kind Sponsorship: Payment (full or partial) of sponsorship fees in goods or services rather than in cash.

Media Sponsors: TV and radio stations, print media, and outdoor advertising companies that provide either cash, or more frequently advertising time or space, or a property in exchange for official designation.

Presenting Sponsor: The sponsor that has its name presented just below that of the sponsored property, i.e, The Kroger Senior Classic presented by **First National Bank**.

Primary Sponsor: The sponsor paying the largest fee and receiving the most prominent identification (would be the Title Sponsor if Title is sold).

Property: a unique, commercially exploitable entity (could be a facility, site, event, or program)
Synonyms: sponsee, rightsholder, seller.

Signage: Banners, billboards, electronic messages, decals, etc. displayed on site and containing Sponsor ID.

Sponsors: Companies or individuals which provide cash or in-kind donations designed to provide them with specific benefits or rights that directly and tangibly fulfill their marketing and communication objectives.

Sponsorship: The relationship between a sponsor and a property in which the sponsor pay a cash or in-kind fee in return for access to the commercial potential of an event, program or property.

Sole Sponsor: A company that has paid to be the only sponsor of a property.

Title Sponsor: The sponsor that has its name incorporated into the name of the sponsored property, i.e., the **Kroger Senior Classic** presented by First National Bank.

nplan

NATIONAL POLICY & LEGAL ANALYSIS NETWORK
TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

JOINT USE AGREEMENT 4:

Joint Use of District and City Recreation Facilities

Developed by the National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to
Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN)

*Support for this document was provided by a grant from the
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*

www.nplanonline.org



This model agreement serves as a template for communities to use to develop their own joint use agreement. Before undertaking a joint use project, the parties must research their state and local law to determine whether there are any requirements or prohibitions related to developing joint use agreements or whether a joint use agreement is the most advantageous vehicle for opening up school recreation facilities for wider use.

Joint Use Agreement 4 is a model agreement between the school district and the local city, town, or county government, in which the school district and local government agree to open all or designated recreational facilities to each other for community and school use. Thus, the school district agrees to allow the local government to open for community use designated school district indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, such as gymnasiums, playgrounds, blacktop areas, and playing fields during time, such as weekends and holidays, when the district is not using the facilities. It also allows for third parties, such as youth organizations or youth sports leagues, to operate recreation programs using school facilities. In turn, the local governmental entity opens its facilities for district use.

To implement an effective agreement, the parties must designate the specific recreation facilities to be opened to use and address access, security, supervision, maintenance, custodial services, and repairs or restitution. In addition, the Agreement should contain a procedure for resolving disputes, a mechanism for scheduling use of the facilities, and an allocation of costs, risks, and insurance.

The model agreement assumes the district has existing policies and procedures regulating third-party use of district facilities that address access, fees, insurance requirements, and use of facilities. The agreement requires that third-party users comply with those existing policies and procedures. If the district does not have existing policies addressing the requirements for third-party use, the district or the district and city together will need to enact those policies and procedures.

The model agreement provides comments explaining the different provisions in the agreement. The language written in *italics* provides different options or explains the type of information that needs to be inserted in the blank spaces in the agreement.

*Prepared by the National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN)
www.nplanonline.org.*

NPLAN is a nonprofit organization that provides legal information on matters relating to public health. The legal information provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, readers should consult a lawyer in their state.



Joint Use Agreement 4: Joint Use of District and City Recreation Facilities

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE _____ COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (“DISTRICT”) AND _____ CITY/COUNTY (“CITY”) FOR USE OF RECREATION FACILITIES

Recitals

WHEREAS, State Code section _____ authorizes/encourages school districts and cities to organize, promote, and conduct community recreation programs and activities to promote the health and general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the District is the owner of real property in the City, including facilities and active use areas that are capable of being used by the City for community recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City is the owner of real property in the City, including facilities and active use areas that are capable of being used by the District for school recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, under appropriate circumstances, these publicly held lands and facilities should be used most efficiently to maximize use and increase recreational opportunities for the community; and

WHEREAS, State Code section _____ authorizes the governing bodies to enter into agreements with each other to promote the health and general welfare of the community and contribute to enhance the recreational opportunities afforded to the children in the community; and

Comments about “Recitals”:

Recitals are a preliminary statement in a contract or agreement explaining the reasons for entering into it, the background of the transaction, or showing the existence of particular facts. Traditionally, each recital begins with the word *whereas*, but that is not required.

NOW, THEREFORE, the District and the City agree to cooperate with each other as follows:

1. Term

This Agreement will begin on _____ and will continue for a period of _____ years, *[and then shall be automatically renewed on a _____ basis]* unless sooner terminated as provided for hereinafter in Section 19.

Comments about “Term”:

The term is the duration of the Agreement. The Agreement should include a specific start and end date. The parties may want to include a provision allowing for automatic renewal of the Agreement.

2. Effective Date

This Agreement shall be effective upon _____ and upon inspection of affected property as described hereinafter in Section 3 by District and City officials.

Comments about “Effective Date”:

The effective date is the date upon which the Agreement will become operative. Often it is the date signed by the responsible officials.

Some school districts may be reluctant to open facilities for after-hour use, fearing property damage. The Agreement designates responsibility for damage repair in section 16. Both parties should inspect facilities before opening them to use to establish an understanding of the condition of the facilities prior to the Agreement.

3. Cooperative Agreement

As provided herein, the District and the City hereby agree to cooperate in coordinating programs and activities conducted on all their respective properties and in all their respective facilities listed on Attachment A (“District Property”) and Attachment B (“City Property”). The District and the City shall have the right to add or exclude properties during the term of this Agreement, provide that any such change shall be in writing and approved by both the District and the City. Reference to District Property or City Property in this Agreement shall include the facilities and the property upon which the facilities are located. As used in this Agreement, “Owner” shall mean the party to this Agreement that owns a particular property and/or facility covered by this Agreement, and “User” shall mean the other party using the Owner’s property and/or facility under the terms of this Agreement. “Public Access Hours” shall mean the hours during which the City or third parties use District Property.

4. Permitted Uses

Comments about “Permitted Uses”:

Generally, communities reserve use of each facility first to the Owner, then to the User, and then allow access to third parties based on a hierarchy of priorities. The parties will determine how to allocate use of the properties, schedule the properties, and what payment each will require.

a. District Property

i District Use

The District shall be entitled to the exclusive use of District Property for public school and school-related educational and recreational activities, including summer school, and at such other times as District Property is being used by the District or its agents.

ii City Use

At all other times and subject to the schedule developed by the City and the District, the City and third parties authorized by the City will be entitled to use

District Property, without charge, [or list payment or reference to payment schedule] for community recreational and educational purposes for the benefit of District students, the District, and the City at large. The City’s obligations under this Agreement shall apply to third parties using District Property. The City shall be responsible for ensuring that third parties comply with all obligations under this Agreement when using District Property. The City shall enforce all District rules, regulations, and policies provided by the District while supervising community recreational activities on District Property. In planning programs and scheduling activities on school grounds, the security, academic, athletic, and recreational needs and opportunities of school-aged children will be the highest priority and be adequately protected.

Comments about “City Use”:

This section provides that the City is responsible for the actions of third parties using the District facilities and presumes that the City will be responsible for scheduling third-party use of facilities (See section 7 below.) Alternatively, the parties may wish to allocate responsibility and scheduling to the District.

iii Third-Party Use

The City and the District agree that in providing access to District Property for use other than by the District or the City, the following priorities for use shall be established:

- Category 1 Activities for youth
- Category 2 City adult programs or activities.
- Category 3 Other adult programs or activities

Comments about “Third-Party Use”:

If the District and City plan on opening access to their property to third parties they should establish priorities for use after a careful review of state and local law. Both the City and District may have other laws, regulations or policies that establish procedures for third party access by permit or other procedure. It is important to ensure that this Agreement conforms to those local laws or regulations or to amend those laws and regulations so that the priorities and procedures established in the Agreement are consistent with the laws and regulations.

b. City Property

- i** The City shall be entitled to priority use of City Property for the regular conduct of park, recreation, and community service activities and/or programs sponsored by the City.
- ii** At all other times and subject to the schedule developed by the City and District, City will permit District to use City Property, without charge, for District educational and recreational activities and/or programs.

5. Compliance with Law

All use of District and City Property shall be in accordance with state and local law. *[Optional: Enumerate applicable state law here.]* In the case of a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the requirements of state law, the state law shall govern. Any actions taken by the District or the City that are required by state law, but are inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement, shall not be construed to be a breach or default of this Agreement.

6. Communication

a. Designation of Employees

The District and the City shall respectively designate an employee with whom the other party, or any authorized agent of the party, may confer regarding the terms of this Agreement.

b. Joint Use Interagency Team

The District and the City shall establish a Joint Use Interagency Team (“Interagency Team”), composed of staff representatives of the District and the City, to develop the schedule for use of District and City Property, to recommend rules and regulations for the District and City to adopt to implement this Agreement, to monitor and evaluate the joint use project and Agreement, and to confer to discuss interim problems during the term of the Agreement.

- i The Interagency Team shall hold conference calls or meetings *frequency of meetings here]* to review the performance of the joint use project and to confer to discuss interim problems during the term of the Agreement. If the Joint Use Interagency Team is unable to reach a solution on a particular matter, it will be referred to *[District official]* and *[City official]*, or their designees, for resolution.
- ii The Joint Use Interagency Team shall review the Agreement by _____ each year to evaluate the joint use project, determine changes to the schedule, and to propose amendments to this Agreement.

Comments about “Communication”:

The parties will need a process by which to schedule use of properties, develop rules for implementing the Agreement, address and resolve any concerns or problems that arise during the Agreement, and evaluate the Agreement. The parties can determine what type of communication will best serve their needs in carrying out the Agreement. The parties will have developed some type of work group/communication method in developing the plan that they may wish to continue to use to address issues that arise during the operation of the Agreement.

7. Scheduling Use of Property –

Comments about “Scheduling Use of Property”:

Depending upon the size of the District and City and the number of properties and potential users involved, the arrangements may require a great deal of planning and specificity. The parties may

wish to include the general practice and procedures in the Agreement and elaborate more specifically in an attached exhibit or other document.

Before entering into the Agreement, the District and City will have developed a process for scheduling properties. The Agreement will address how to continue and/or change the procedures for the subsequent term of the Agreement.

Generally, the City and District develop a master schedule establishing District and City use of facilities. [Although each party could require the other to apply for use just as a third party would, the purpose of the Agreement is to facilitate use so that the parties need not do that for each use of property.] Then, the parties need to allocate use of the facilities to third parties. The primary ways to schedule third-party use is to have the City schedule third-party use of all facilities or to have each Owner schedule third-party use of its own facilities.

a. Master Schedule

The District and City shall develop a master schedule for joint use of District and City Property to allocate property use to the District, City, and third parties. The Interagency Team shall schedule regular _____ [frequency of meetings] meetings or at such other times as mutually agreed upon by the District and City. At these meetings, the District and City will review and evaluate the status and condition of jointly used properties and modify or confirm the upcoming _____ [year/season/etc.] schedule.

b. Scheduling of City Property

The City shall have the responsibility for scheduling the use of City Property when the City and the District are not using the Property.

c. Scheduling of District Property

[Option One: The City will be responsible for scheduling third party use of District Property.]

The City shall be responsible for scheduling third party use of District Property using the priorities established in section 4(a)(iii). The use of District facilities shall be in accordance with the most recent regular procedures of the District for granting permits for the use of school facilities, as set forth in the District's policy _____, attached hereto as Attachment C and incorporated herein by reference, as it may be amended from time to time, or as otherwise provided by this Agreement.

[Option Two: The District will be responsible for scheduling third party use of District Property.]

The District shall be responsible for scheduling third party use of District Property using the priorities established in section 4(a)(iii). The use of District Property shall be in accordance with the most recent regular procedures of the District for granting permits for the use of school facilities, as set forth in the District's policy _____, attached hereto as Attachment C and incorporated herein by



reference, as it may be amended from time to time, or as otherwise provided by this Agreement.

Comments about “Scheduling of District Property”:

Having one entity responsible for scheduling all third-party use of the public properties benefits the public by reducing duplicative administrative costs, and making it easier for third-party users to access the facilities. There may be circumstances, however, where a district may want to retain scheduling responsibilities.

8. Documentation and Allocation of Operational Costs

Comments about “Documentation and Allocation of Operational Costs”:

In this and the following section, the parties may allocate any costs and revenue associated with the agreement. The parties should agree on the type and nature of costs and revenue to record and the methodology to measure and allocate them.

a. Tracking Use of Facilities

The District and the City shall each track use of their respective Properties under this Agreement.

b. Documentation of Costs

The District and the City shall maintain records of costs associated with the Agreement.

c. Payment of Overtime

Each party shall bear the cost of any overtime incurred by their employees in carrying out this Agreement. Each party shall provide to the other party an accounting on an annual basis of all overtime costs incurred as a result of overtime duties carried out by their respective employees.

Comments about “Payment of Overtime”:

The parties can allocate the overtime costs as they choose, consistent with any overriding state or local laws.

9. Fees and Charges

Comments about “Fees and Charges”:

State law may limit the ability to charge fees to community users of public property. Consult with legal counsel before establishing fees.

a. Fees

The _____[City or District depending upon who will be responsible for scheduling] may charge rental fees to third-party users of District Property to cover any administrative and maintenance costs which the District or the City may incur. Any

fees and costs shall be assessed according to District policy.

- b. Documentation of Fees**
The District and City shall maintain records of costs associated with the Agreement.
- c. Annual Review of Benefits**
The District and City shall annually review the exchange of benefits based upon hours of use, costs, fees, and charges, [or capital investments]. Any compensation for an imbalance in joint use programming costs shall occur through balancing the exchange of future benefits [or substitute another method for allocating fees and benefits].

Comments about “Annual Review of Benefits”:

The parties should determine a way to allocate the costs and fees of the joint use project. The parties may wish to simply divide the fee proceeds or reallocate costs by making improvements or using offsets of costs in future years.

10. Improvements

- a.** The District shall obtain prior written consent of the City to make any alterations, additions, or improvements to City Property; the City shall obtain prior written consent of the District to make any alterations, additions, or improvements to District Property.
- b.** Any such alterations, additions, or improvements will be at the expense of the requesting party, unless otherwise agreed upon.
- c.** Each party may, for good cause, require the demolition or removal of any alterations, additions, or improvements made by the other party at the expiration or termination of this Agreement. “Good cause” includes reasons of health, safety, or the District’s need to use the District Property for educational purposes or the City’s need to use City Property for municipal purposes.

Comments about “Improvements”:

The parties should determine whether they wish to be able to make “improvements” (beneficial changes to the owner’s property made by or for the benefit of the user) to the properties, and if so, whether they want to address improvements in this Agreement or another one.

11. Interagency Training

The District and the City shall operate a joint training and orientation program for key personnel implementing this Agreement. [Enumerate categories of staff required to attend training and topics to be included in the training.] The District and the City shall be responsible for ensuring their employees attend the training.

Comments about “Interagency Training”:

To assure the success of the Agreement and program, key personnel must understand the purposes and procedures required under the Agreement.

12. Supervision , Security, and Inspections

a. Supervision and Enforcement

Each User shall train and provide an adequate number of competent personnel to supervise all activities on the Owner’s Property. The User shall enforce all of the Owner’s rules, regulations, and policies while supervising activities or programs on the Owner’s Property.

b. Security

The Owner shall provide the User with access to the Owner’s Property. The Owner will provide keys, security cards, and training as needed to the User’s employee(s) responsible for opening and locking the Owner’s Property while supervising activities or programs.

c. Inspection and Notification

The User shall inspect the Owner’s Property after use to ensure these sites are returned in the condition they were received. The User shall ensure the Owner is notified within _____ hours/days *[insert timing here]* in the event that Owner’s Property suffers damage during User’s use. Such notification shall consist of sending written notification by letter, facsimile, or email to the Owner’s designated employee identifying the damaged property, date of detection, name of inspector, description of damage, and estimated or fixed costs of repair or property replacement.

Comments about “Supervision, Security and Inspections”:

The parties may wish to include more specific requirements in the text, by reference to existing requirements, or in an attachment.

13. Supplies

The User shall furnish and supply all expendable materials necessary to carry out its programs while using the Owner’s Property.

14. Maintenance , Custodial Services, and Toilet Facilities

a. Maintenance

The User agrees to exercise due care in the use of the Owner’s Property. The User shall during the time of its use keep the Owner’s Property in neat order.

[Option One:]

The Owners shall be responsible for the regular maintenance, repair, and upkeep of

their respective Properties.

[Option Two: The District retains responsibility for maintenance of District indoor property and playground and blacktop Active Use Areas and delegates to City the responsibility of District maintenance of playing fields. The City retains responsibility for maintenance of City Property.]

The District shall perform normal maintenance of all indoor Property, playground and blacktop *[or other facility]* properties at basic level of service subject to normal wear and tear. The District shall notify the City of any known change in condition of these Properties.

The City shall provide regular maintenance of playing fields *[or other facility]*, including to the irrigation and drainage systems and turf around the field perimeter and fences. Such regular maintenance shall consist of _____ *[describe maintenance requirements]*.

The City shall be responsible for the regular maintenance, repair, and upkeep of City Property.

b. Custodial

The Owner shall make its trash receptacles available during the User’s use of Owner’s Property. The User shall encourage community users to dispose of trash in the trash receptacles during Public Access Hours.

c. Toilet Facilities

The City shall place temporary, portable, restroom facilities at the District’s Outdoor Properties at the discretion of the District. It shall be the responsibility of the City to maintain these facilities.

Comments about “Maintenance, Custodial Services, and Toilet Facilities”:

The parties need to allocate the responsibility for maintaining the properties and facilities. We offer two samples, but depending on the proposed uses of District and City properties, the parties may wish to assign maintenance responsibilities differently.

15. Parking

During Public Access Hours, the District shall make available for public parking the parking facilities listed in Attachment D to this Agreement.

16. Restitution and Repair

[Option One: Model clause requiring the User to repair damage.]

The User shall be wholly responsible to repair, remediate, or fund the replacement or remediation of any and all damage or vandalism to the Owner’s Property during the User’s use of that Property.

[Option Two: Model clause requiring the User to notify the Owner of damage and reimburse the costs to the Owner of repairing damage.]

The User shall make restitution for the repair of damage to the Owner's Use Areas during User's use of Owner's Property.

- a. Inspection and Notification** The User shall, through its designated employee, inspect and notify the Owner, of any damage, as described above in subsection 12(c).
- b. Repairs** Except as mutually agreed, the User shall not cause repairs to be made for any property, facility, building, or item of equipment for which the Owner is responsible. The Owner agrees to make such repairs within the estimated and/or fixed costs agreed upon. If it is mutually determined or if it is the result of problem-resolution under section 16 of this Agreement that the User is responsible for the damage, then the User agrees to reimburse the Owner at the estimated and/or fixed costs agreed upon.
- c. Reimbursement Procedure** The Owner shall send an invoice to the User's designated employee within _____ days of completion of repairs or replacement of damaged Property. The invoice shall itemize all work hours, equipment, and materials with cost rates as applied to the repair work. If the repair is completed by a contractor, a copy of the contractor's itemized statement shall be attached. Actual costs shall be reimbursed if less than estimated and/or fixed costs. The User shall reimburse the Owner within _____ days from receipt of such invoice.
- d. Disagreements** The User shall retain the right to disagree with any and all items of damage to buildings or equipment as identified by the Owner, provided this disagreement is made within _____ days after a first notification.
 - i** The User shall notify the Owner of any disagreements in writing by letter, facsimile, or email to the District's designated employee. The User shall clearly identify the reasons for refusing responsibility for the damages. Failure to make the disagreement within the prescribed time period shall be considered as an acceptance of responsibility by the User.
 - ii** After proper notification, members of the Joint Use Interagency Team, or other designated representatives of the City and District, shall make an on-site investigation and attempt a settlement of the disagreement.
 - iii** In the event an agreement cannot be reached, the matter shall be referred to _____ *[City official]* and _____ *[District official]*, or their designees, for resolution.
 - iv** The Owner shall have the right to make immediate emergency repairs or replacements of Property without voiding the User's right to disagree.

Comments about “Restitution and Repair”:

The parties will tailor this provision to best suit their needs. The Owner may want the User to make any repairs or may want to make the repairs using its own personnel or contractors and have the User reimburse the Owner for the costs. Parties should address: (1) Which party will be responsible for making the repairs; (2) The timeline for making repairs; (3) The method and timeline for making reimbursements; and (4) The method for resolving disputes over repairs/reimbursements.

17. Liability and Indemnification

[Option: The model mutual indemnity clause below provides for each party to pay for their share of liability.]

- a. The City shall defend, indemnify, and hold the District, its officers, employees and agents, harmless from and against any and all liability, loss, expense, attorneys’ fees, or claims for injury or damages, arising out of the performance of this Agreement, but only in proportion to and to the extent such liability, loss, expense, attorneys’ fees, or claims for injury are caused by or result from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the City, its officers, agents, or employees.
- b. The District shall defend, indemnify, and hold the City, its officers, employees and agents, harmless from and against any and all liability, loss, expense, attorneys’ fees or claims for injury or damages, arising out of the performance of this Agreement, but only in proportion to and to the extent such liability, loss, expense, attorneys’ fees, or claims for injury are caused by or result from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the District, its officers, agents, or employees.

Comments about “Liability and Indemnification”:

An Indemnification Clause is a contractual provision in which one party agrees to be responsible for any specified or unspecified liability or harm that the other party might incur. Attorneys for the City and District will tailor the indemnity clauses to reflect their state and local law and practice. The District and City have three options: (1) they can share responsibility with a mutual indemnity clause; (2) the City can take responsibility for the potential liability; or (3) the District can take responsibility.

18. Insurance

The District and the City agree to provide the following insurance in connection with this Agreement.

- a. Commercial General Liability for bodily injury and property damage, including Personal Injury and Blanket Contractual, with limits of _____ per occurrence _____ aggregate.
- b. Workers’ Compensation. Workers’ compensation coverage, as required by _____ [state law].

- c. _____ [*Other types of insurance required*].
- d. Documentation of Insurance. The District and the City shall provide to each other a certificate of insurance each year this Agreement is in effect showing proof of the above coverage. In the event the District or the City is self-insured for the above coverage, such agency shall provide a letter stating its agreement to provide coverage for any claims resulting from its negligence in connection with joint use facilities in the above amounts.

Comments about “Insurance”:

Insurance is a contract by which one party (the *insurer*) undertakes to indemnify another party (the *insured*) against risk of loss, damage, or liability arising from the occurrence of some specified contingency. **City and District personnel must confirm with risk managers at both the City and District the nature and extent of insurance coverage maintained by each party so that the Agreement accurately reflects the amount of insurance coverage of each party.** Attorneys for the City and District will tailor the insurance clauses to reflect their state and local law and practice.

19. Termination

This Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to its expiration, for _____ [*add basis here*] upon _____ *days/months/years* written notice.

Comments about “Termination”:

The termination clause sets forth the conditions upon which either party can end the Agreement before its term expires. The City and District will tailor this clause to reflect what conditions or actions will be sufficient to terminate the Agreement and how much notice each party must give the other before terminating it.

20. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter and supersedes any prior negotiations, representations, agreements, and understandings.

Comments about “Entire Agreement”:

This clause provides that the Agreement constitutes the sole obligations of the parties. Prior oral or written agreements will not be valid or enforceable.

21. Amendments

This Agreement may not be modified, nor may compliance with any of its terms be waived, except by written instrument executed and approved in the same manner as this Agreement.



Comments about “Amendments”:

This clause requires any changes to the Agreement to be made in writing and approved by both parties.

22. Any Additional Provisions Required by State or Local Law

Comments about “Any Additional Provisions Required by State or Local Law”:

State or local law or practice may require additional clauses in the Agreement.

Signatures

TOWN OF PONCHA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2011

Final Results

November 2011

Prepared For:

Town of Poncha Springs, Colorado

Prepared By:

Matt Farrar
soprislanduse@gmail.com

Kelly Zappia
kelly.zappia@ucdenver.edu

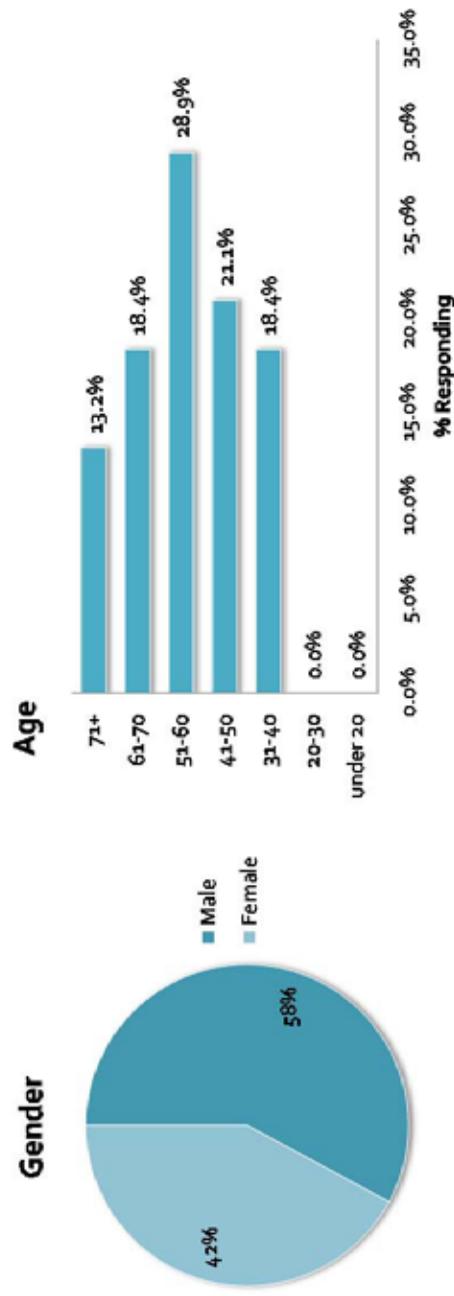
INTRODUCTION

The Poncha Springs Parks and Recreation Survey was fielded and tabulated in October and November of 2011. The primary purpose of the survey was to provide current information on opinions and priorities that would help to inform and shape the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town. The survey was distributed to residents by mail, as well as being offered online. A total of 21 mail-in surveys and 20 online surveys were obtained through this process. 400 surveys were distributed by mail. The mail-in responses represent a return rate of approximately 5.3%. While this response rate is not statistically representative of the sample size (400 residents), the mail-in results, in combination with the results acquired online, do offer some useful insights on how to cater the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to accommodate the needs of the community.

The surveys have been compiled by the consultant team and results are summarized in this short report using graphs and some commentary. The questions on the survey lend themselves to easy interpretation through graphs. For that reason, the survey results are being explained by graphs in this report. Some of the questions offered the option to provide open-ended comments; those comments have been included beneath the applicable questions.

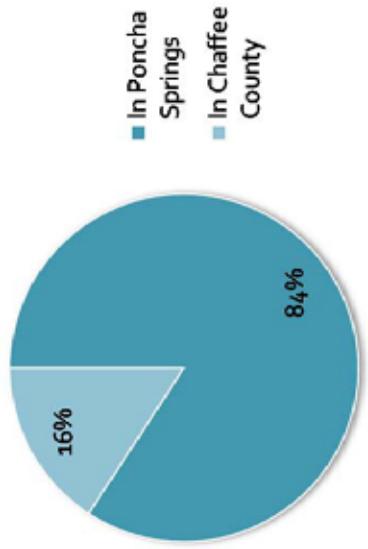
DEMOGRAPHICS

The survey contained a series of questions that are intended to provide a profile of responding households. These questions are asked in order to create some measures of who responded to the survey.

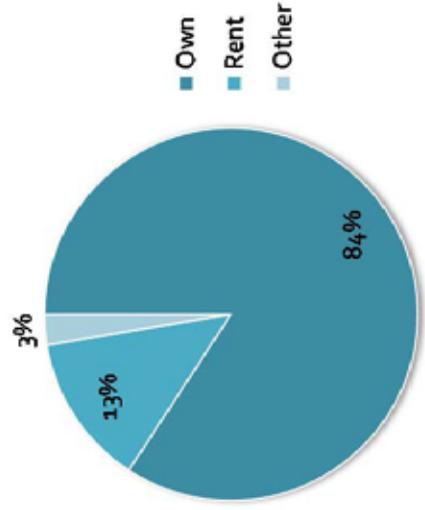


The survey failed to obtain responses from younger age groups (30 and under). In the future, if additional Parks and Recreation surveys are conducted, the way residents are notified about the survey and the way in which the survey is distributed should be modified in order to encourage participation from these younger age groups.

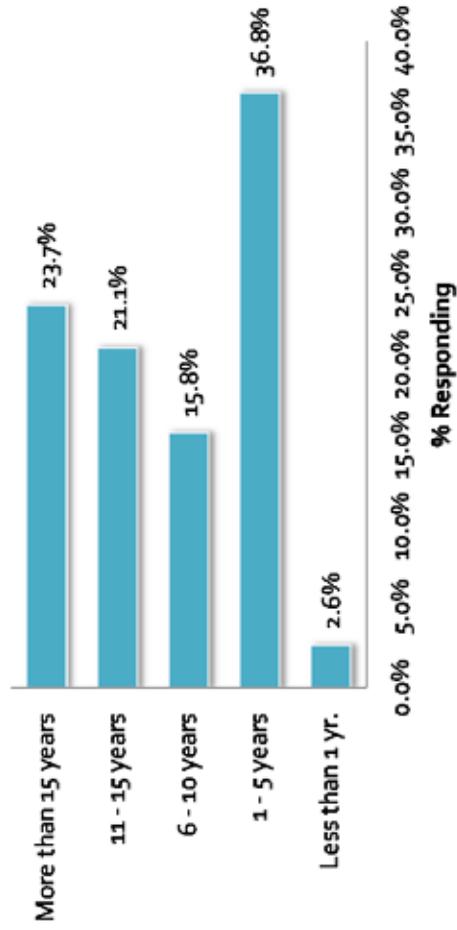
Where do you live?



Own or Rent?

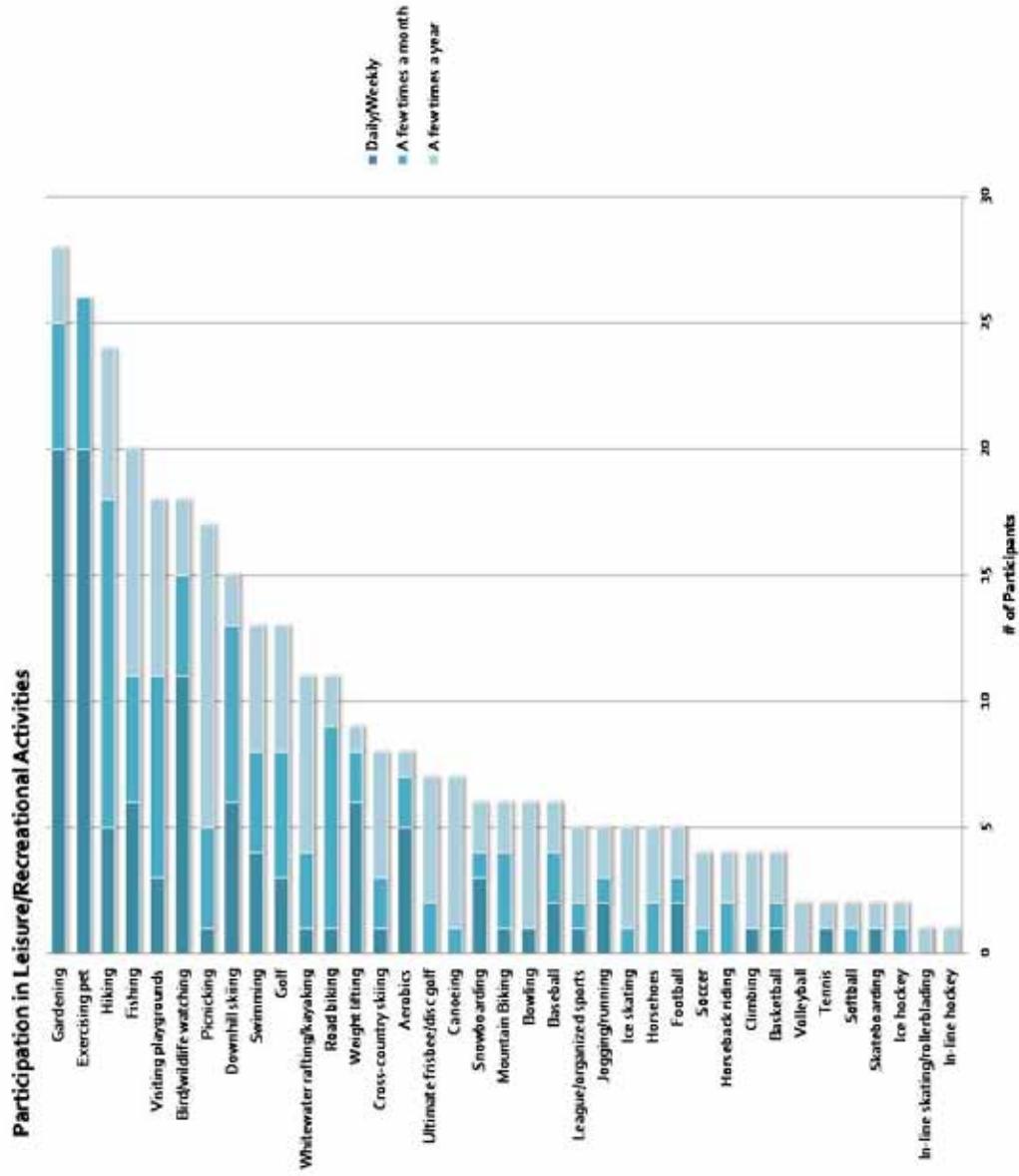


Length of Residency



PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Colorado is known for the variety of leisure and recreational opportunities it offers to residents, as well as to visitors. Question #1 of the survey was asked in order to get a better idea of what type of activities members of the community participate in and how frequently they enjoy these activities. The Top 5 activities that members of the community indicated they enjoy participating in are: 1. Gardening; 2. Exercising pet (i.e. walking the dog); 3. Hiking; 4. Fishing; Tied for 5. Visiting playgrounds & Bird/wildlife watching.



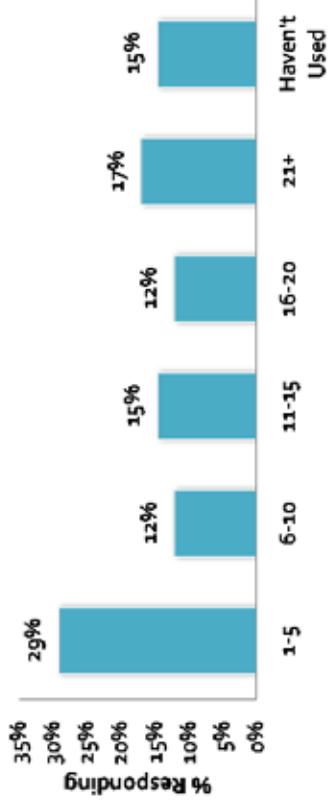
Other:

- Age 76/83. some travel w/limited walking
- Racquetball should be included; I play 2 to three times per week.
- Shooting Sports (rifle, pistol, skeet)
- I would like to play shuffleboard
- Ranching - I operate a 160 acre ranch within the planning area. I would like for Poncha Springs to exclude my ranch from this plan.
- Walking for exercise.

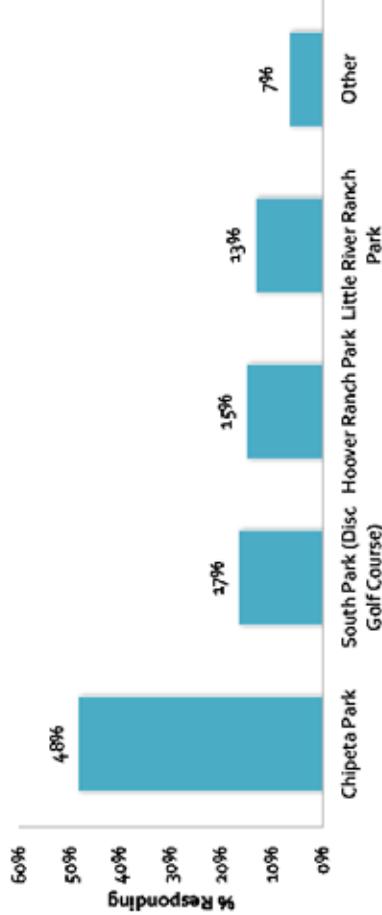
PARKS

The following series of questions were asked in order to better understand how frequently members of the community visited Town owned parks, which of the Town owned parks they visited and their opinion on the general/overall condition of the Town parks they visited. For those members of the community who did not visit any of the Town parks, a question was asked as better understand what may have prevented them from visiting Town parks.

Approximately how many times, in the past year, have you visited any of the parks in Poncha Springs?



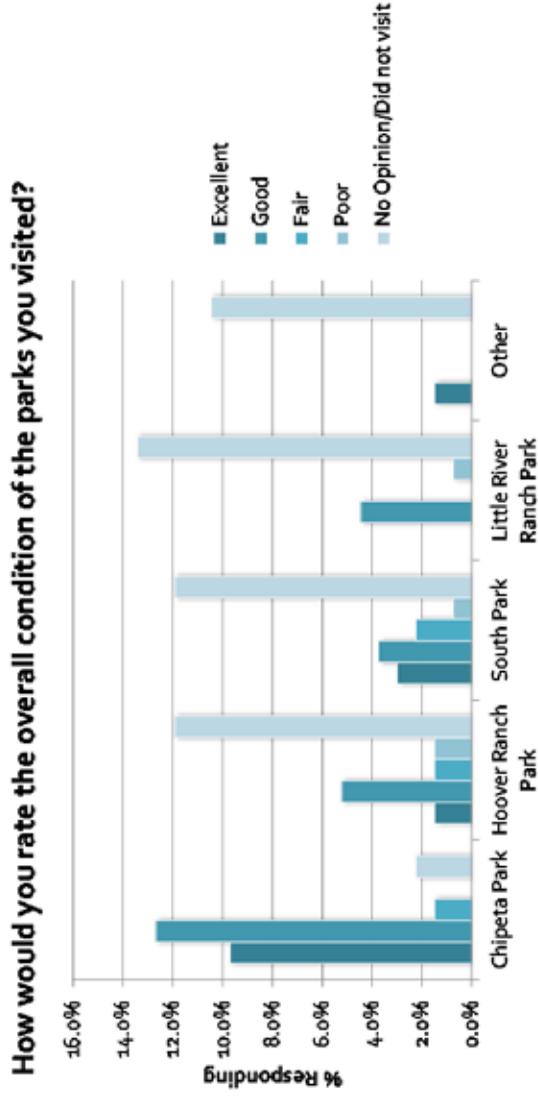
Which of the following Poncha Springs' parks did you visit?



- Other:
- Garden
 - Around

41% of respondents to the Parks and Recreation survey indicated that they have visited parks in Poncha Springs 1-10 within the past year. 44% of respondents indicated that they have visited parks in Poncha Springs 11 or more times within the past year. 15% of survey participants indicated that they had not visited any of the Town's parks.

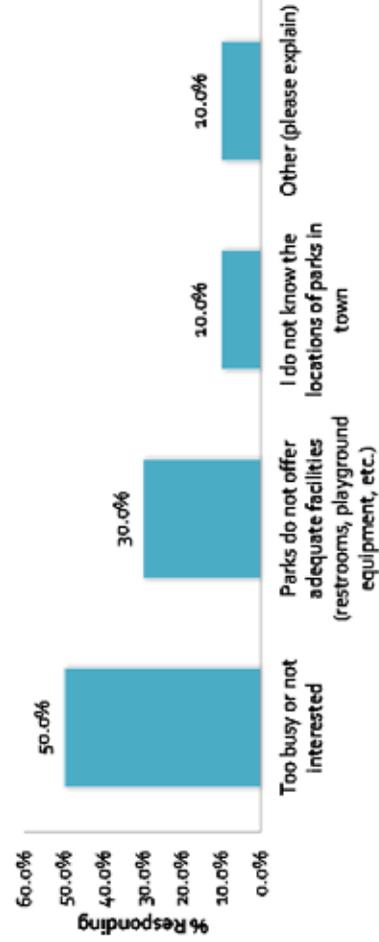
48% of survey participants, who stated they had visited a Town park at least once in the past year, indicated they had visited Chipeta Park. Visits to Chipeta Park were significantly higher than visits to any of the other parks in Poncha Springs.



In general, survey respondents indicated that they felt the overall condition of Hoover Ranch Park, South Park and Little River Ranch Park was Good. Furthermore, survey respondents indicated that they felt the overall condition of Chipeta Park was Good to Excellent

Survey participants, who responded that they had not visited a town park, were asked to provide a reason as to what prevented them from visiting town parks. Their responses are provided below. In addition, a few survey participants, who had visited town parks, offered a response to this question. Their responses have also been included.

What prevented you from visiting the parks in Poncha Springs?

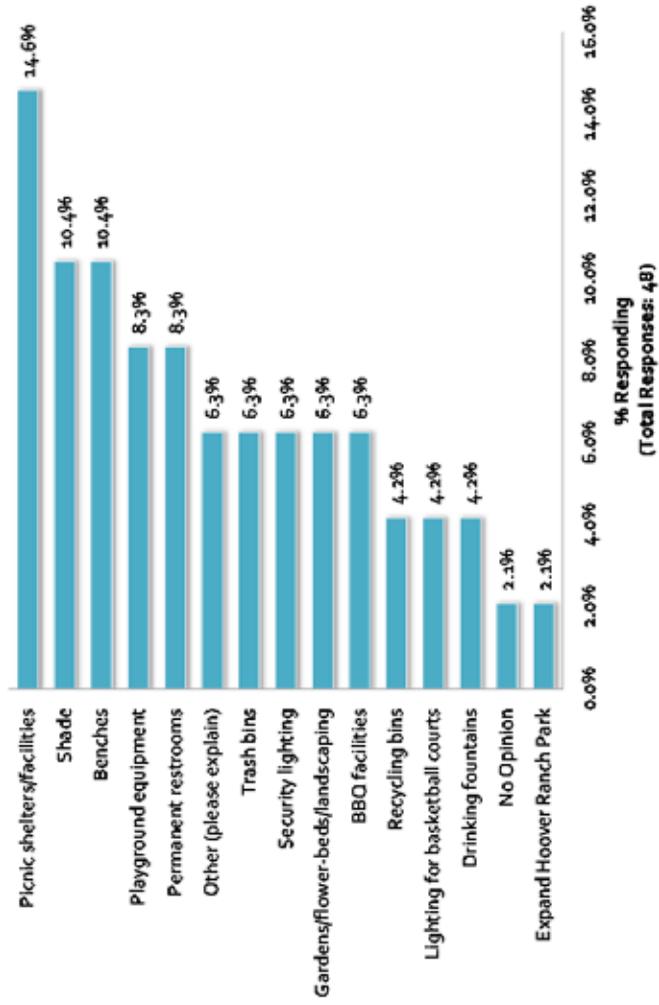


Other:

- Just moved here in April 2011
- Medical problems this year
- Would like to be able to have convenient paths and avoid highway & roads

The following question was asked in order to better understand the type of improvements community members would like to see implemented in each of the Town's parks.

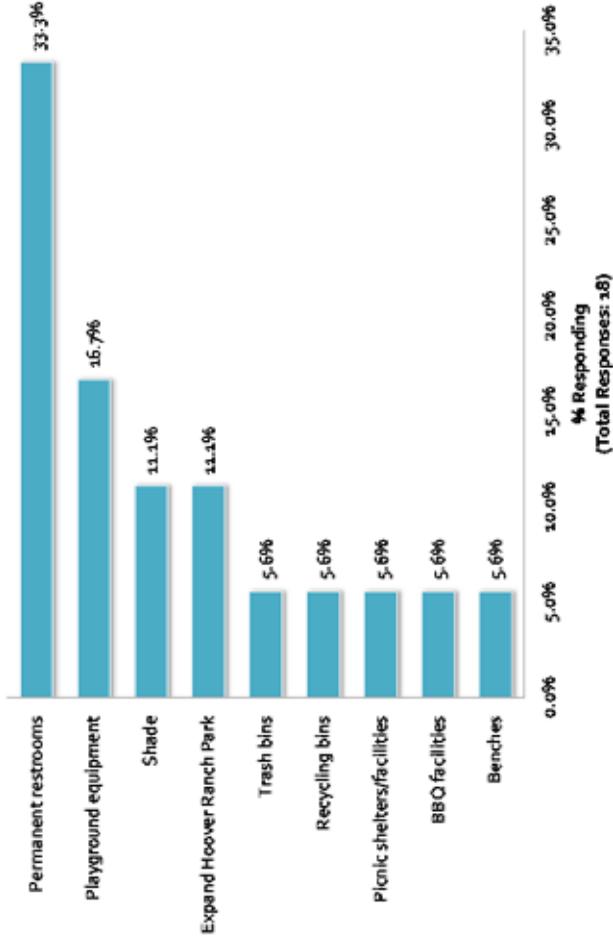
Future Improvements (Chipeta Park)



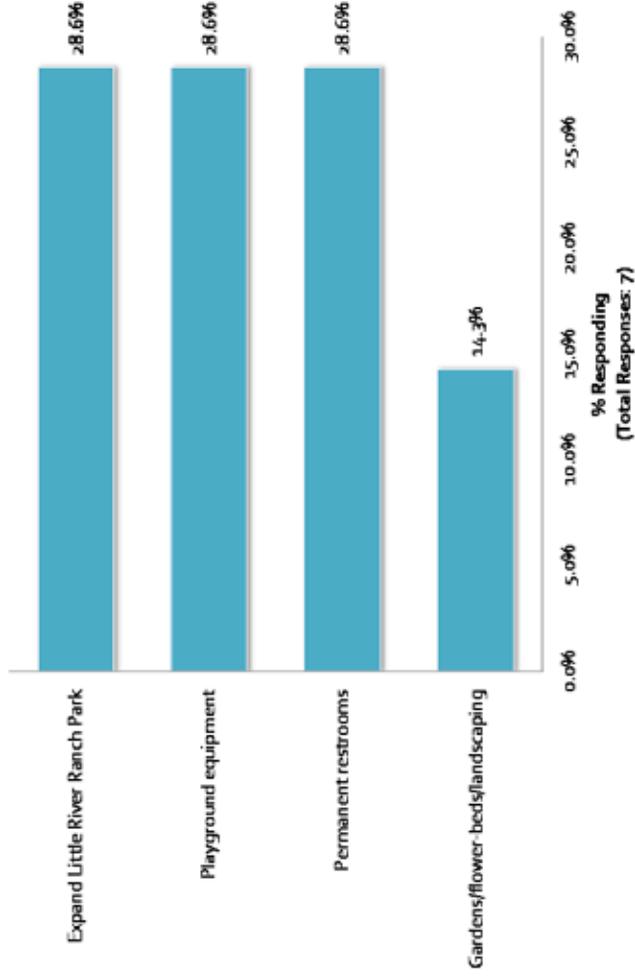
Other:

- Shuffleboard court and improve horseshoe pitching area
- Dog park
- Skateboard & BMX park

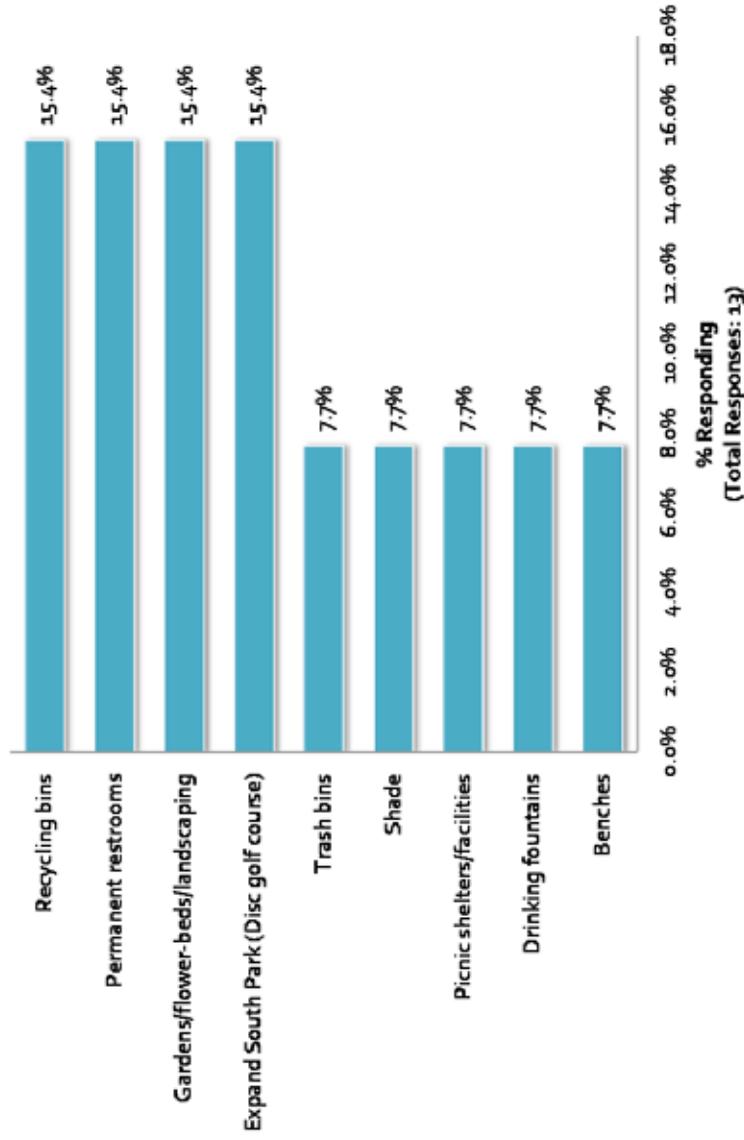
Future Improvements (Hoover Ranch Park)

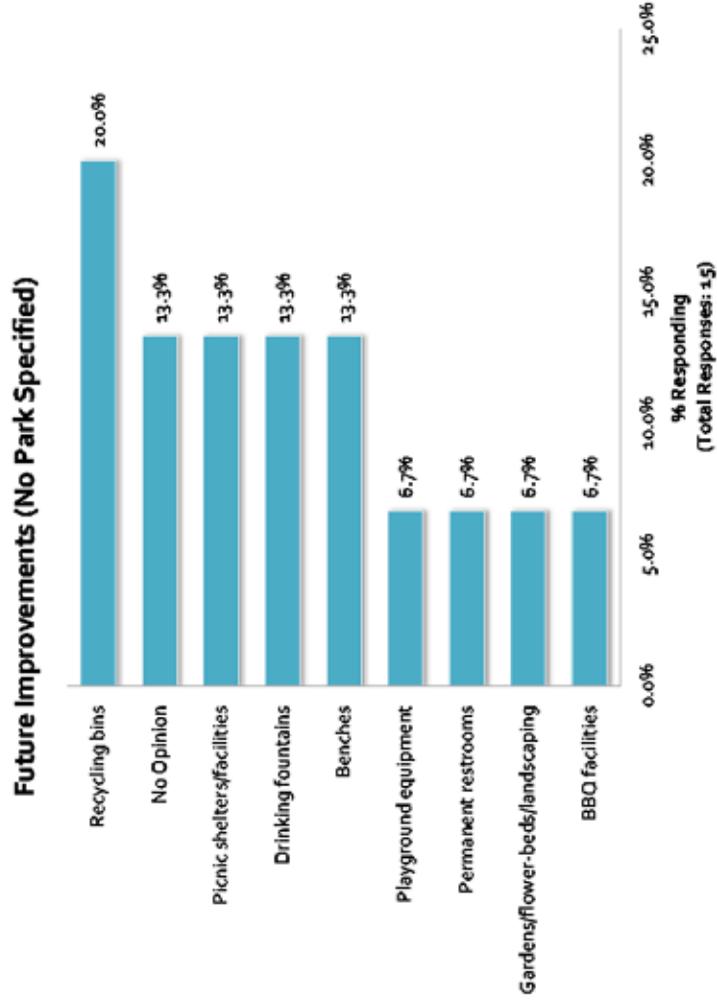


Future Improvements (Little River Ranch Park)



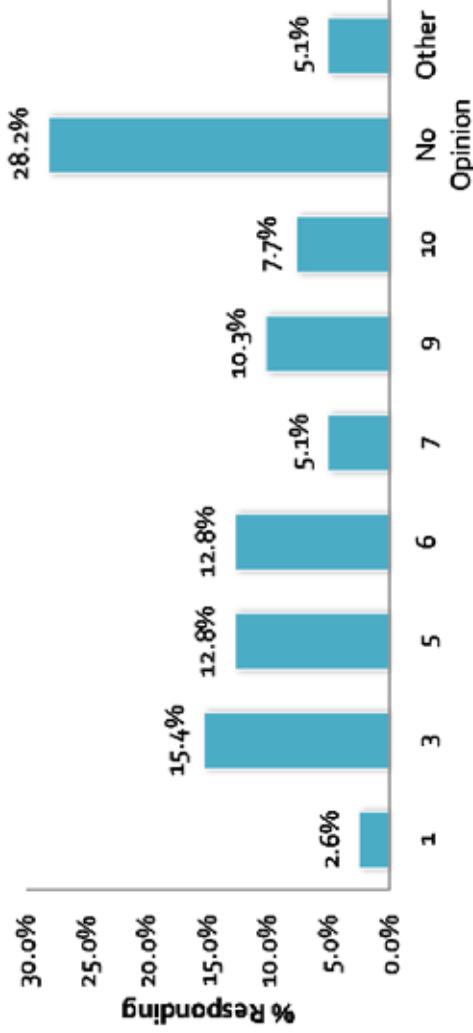
Future Improvements (South Park)





The following question offered survey respondents an opportunity to select a location in, or near Town, that could be considered for a future park location.

In the future, if the Town were going to develop a new park, where would the best location for this park be?



Other:

- Baumdicker Park - Hwy 285 at the river
- 6 & 7 – Open space areas

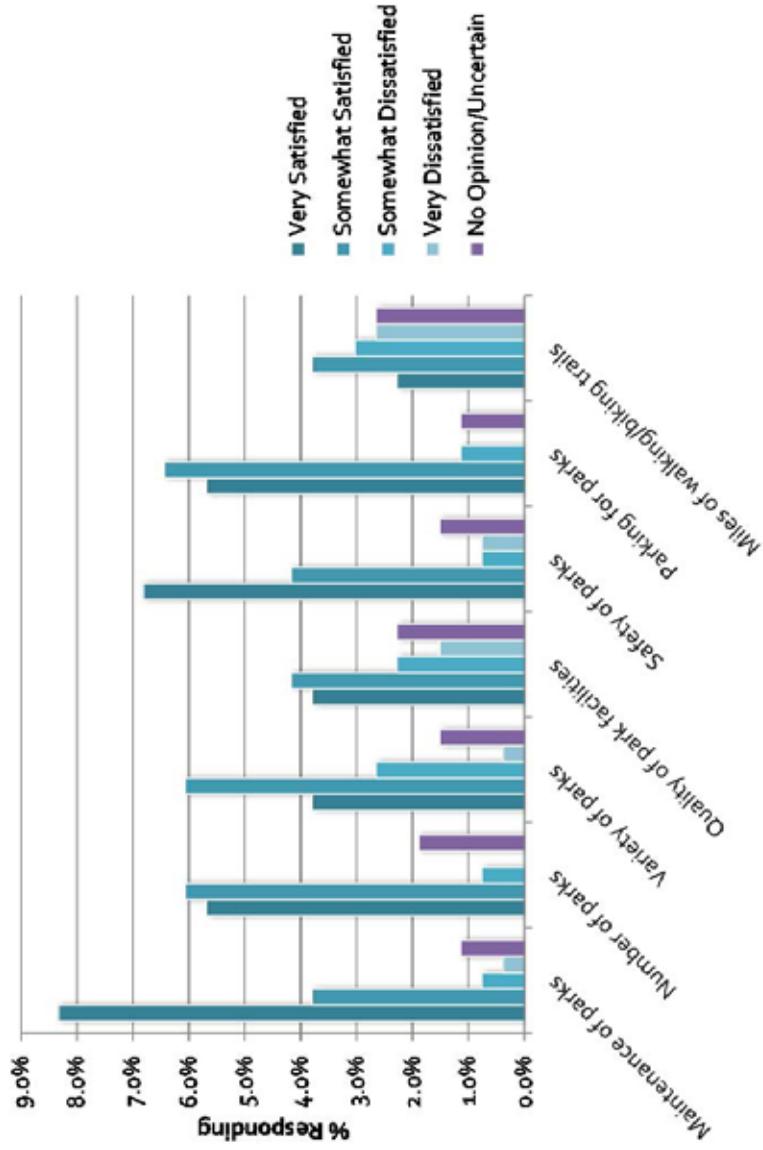
The survey offered an opportunity for respondents to describe the type of park they envisioned in the area of Town they specified in Question #13. The responses are listed below:

- Dog park /soccer, picnic
- I don't think we need a new park
- Walking trails, fishing access, picnic areas along a river
- Trails
- I think that you should redevelop Chipeta Park! It is centrally located and a lot of people don't know of the other parks in Poncha.
- Historic building becomes town museum, fishing area along river, large grass with tables, natural area heavy with trees, and lots of parking.
- Baseball/Softball, BBQ facilities, Much grass area, Horseshoe Pits, Tennis courts, Night lighting (Fee)
- Within the boundaries of former Bent Tree LLC, for future provided growth, keeping families in mind.
- Non-windy location
- Near Visitor Center - a good place for kids to play for a few minutes while stopping for rest stop/bathroom break - that way you wouldn't need additional bathrooms and it would encourage people to stop at the visitor's center.
- I would like to see some type of skate and BMX park, also some baseball fields.

SATISFACTION WITH PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS & RECREATION FACILITIES

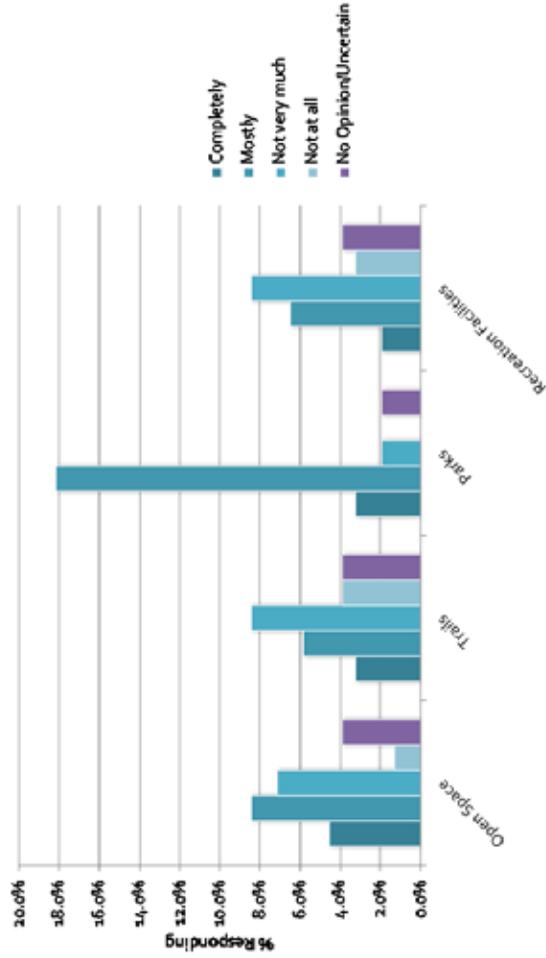
The following two questions asked survey respondents to indicate their level of satisfaction with parks and recreation services provided by the Town and to indicate the extent to which Town parks; open space; trails; and recreation facilities met the needs of the community.

Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following parks and recreation services provided by Poncha Springs.



Members of the community seemed to be generally satisfied with the parks and recreation services provided by the Town. Most notably is their satisfaction with the maintenance of Town parks. It should be noted that while many survey respondents indicated being very satisfied - somewhat satisfied with *miles of walking/biking trails*, there was also a significant percent of survey respondents who were somewhat dissatisfied-very dissatisfied with the *miles of walking/biking trails*.

Overall, how well do you think the open space, trails, parks and recreation facilities in Poncha Springs meet the needs of the community?

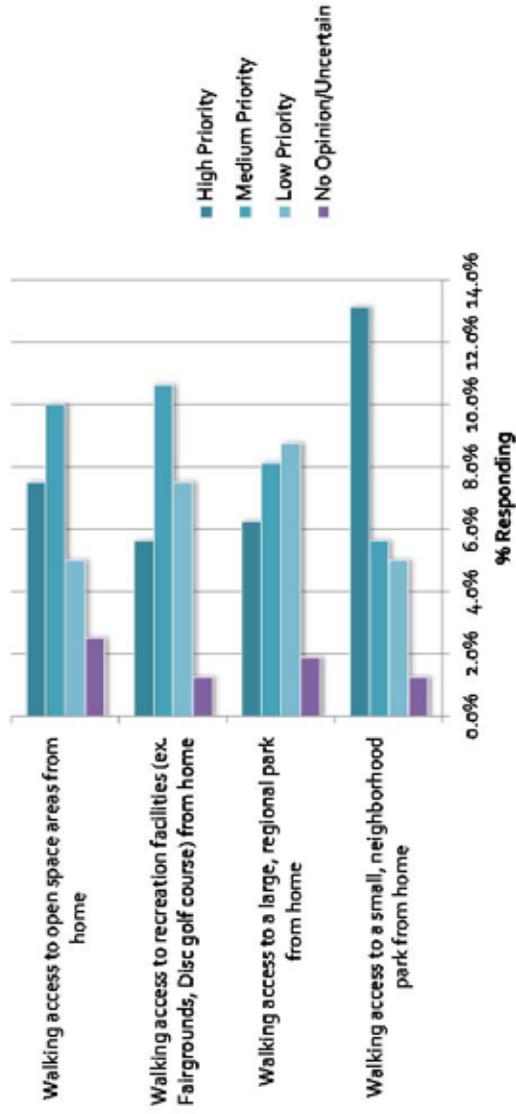


These results clearly indicate that survey participants believe that town parks mostly met the needs of the community. In contrast, there were a many survey participants that indicated they felt trails and recreation facilities in Poncha Springs are not currently meeting the needs of the community.

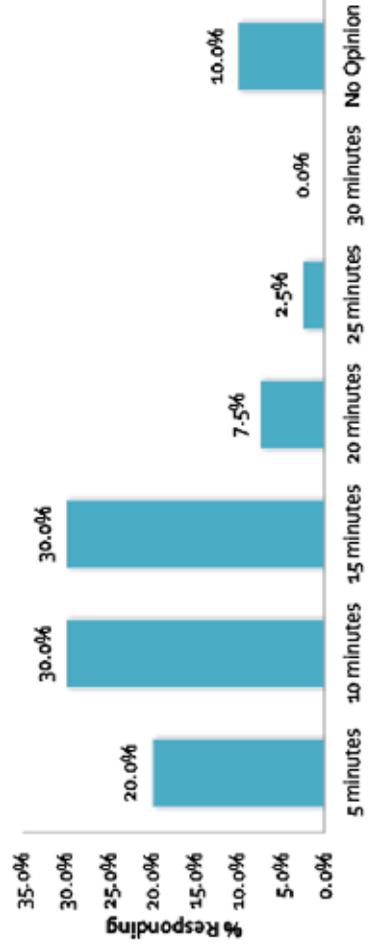
“WALKABILITY” OF PARKS & OPEN SPACE

The following series of questions were provided in order to get a better understanding of the community’s preference on the “walkability” of parks and open space areas in and around Poncha Springs.

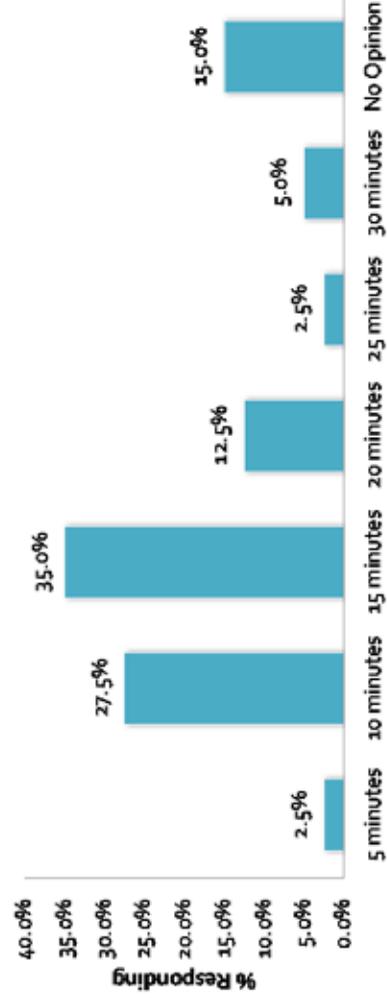
What level of priority should the Master Plan give to each of the following?



What is the maximum walking time you feel a small, neighborhood park should be from most residents' homes?



What is the maximum walking time you feel an open space area should be from most residents' homes?

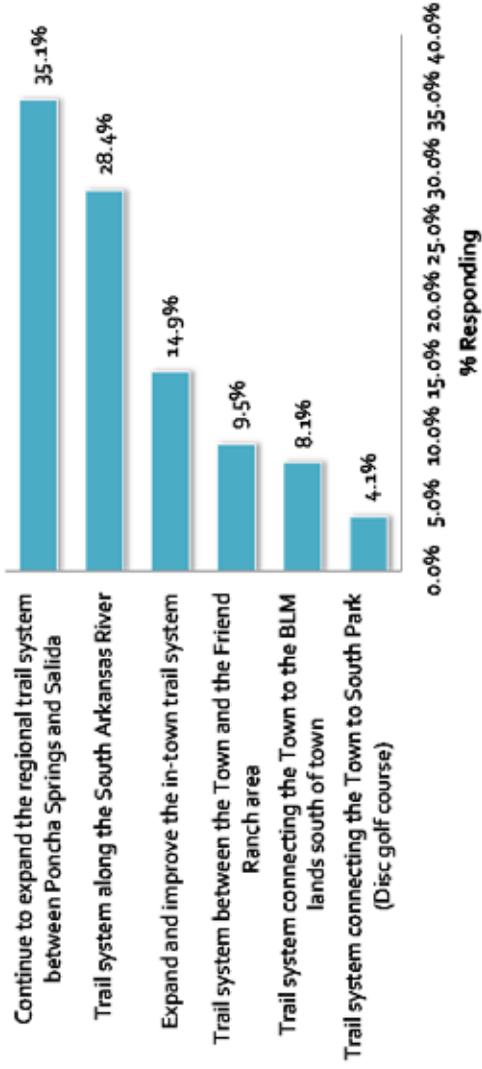


Survey respondents indicated that small, neighborhood parks should generally be within a 10-15 minute from most residents' homes. They indicated that open space areas should also be within a 10-15 minute walk from most residents' homes.

TRAILS

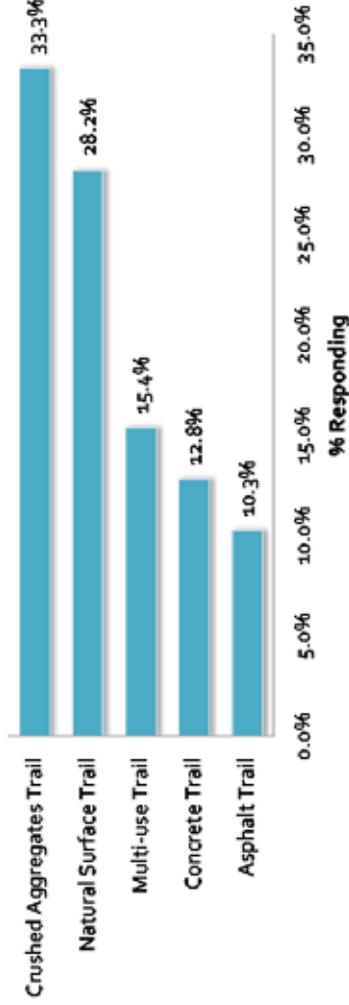
The following two questions asked members of the community to indicate their preference on possible future trail systems in and around Poncha Springs, as well as indicating their preference on the type of trails they felt were best suited for the Town.

Please select your top 2 choices for possible, future trail systems in and around Poncha Springs.



The survey results indicate that the Top 2 trail systems that the Town should consider in the future are: 1. Continue to expand the regional trail system between Poncha Springs and Salida; 2. Trail system along the South Arkansas River.

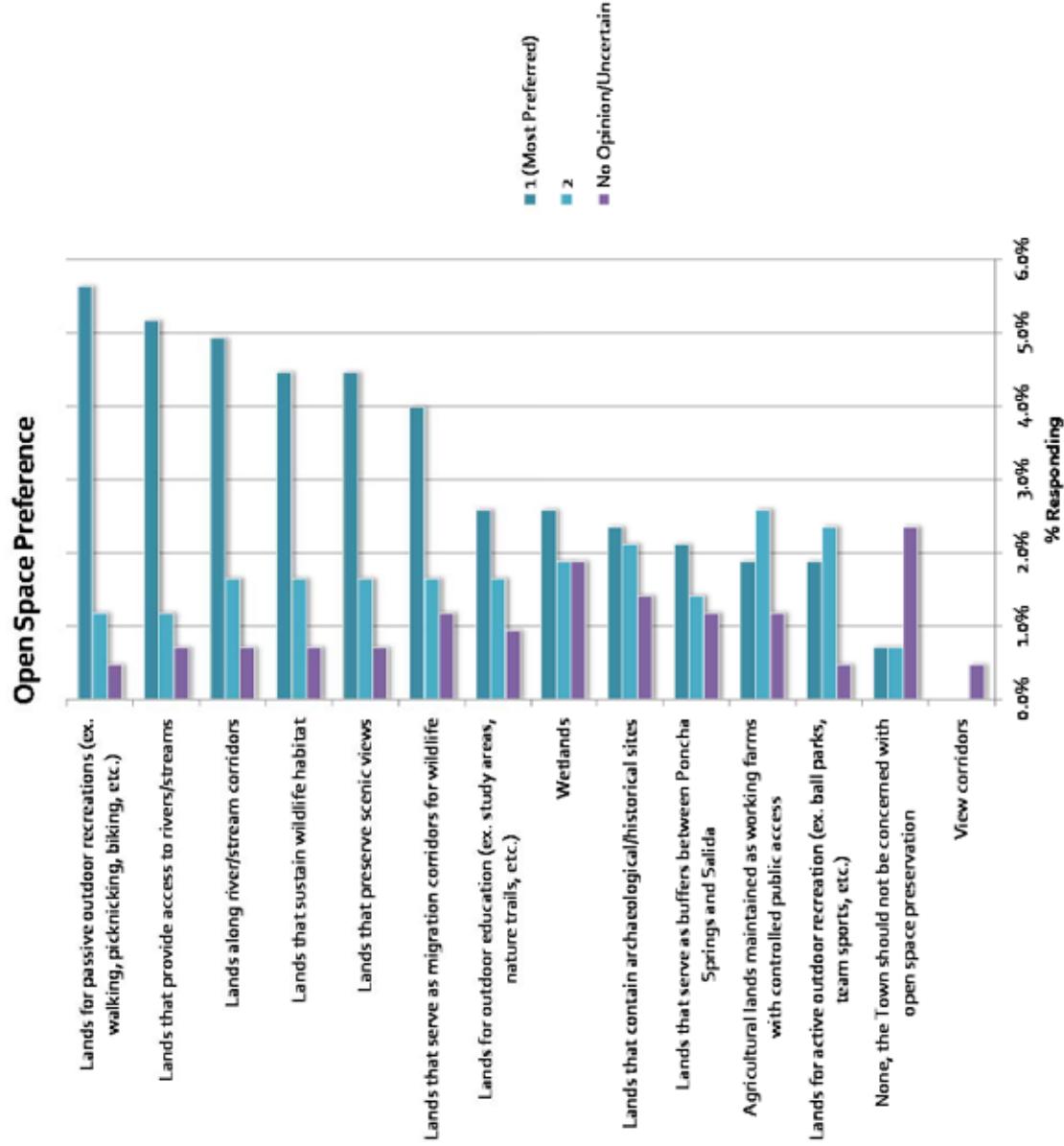
For trails in Poncha Springs, please select the photo of the trail type you believe is best suited for the Town.



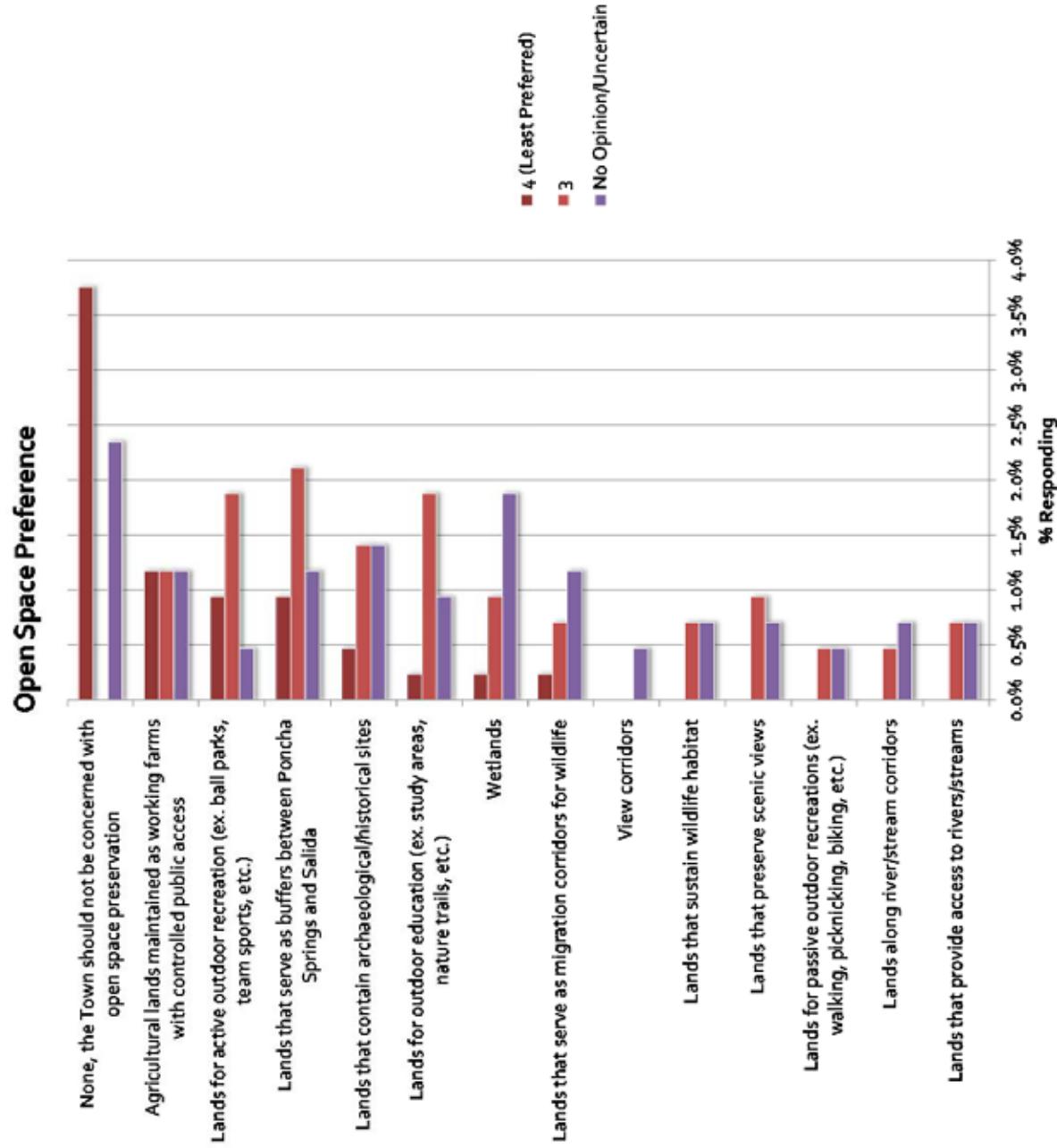
33.3% of survey respondents felt that *Crushed Aggregate Trails* were best suited for Poncha Springs. 28.2% indicated that *Natural Surface Trails* would be well suited for the Town.

OPEN SPACE

Open space is an important topic to address in any Parks and Recreation Plan. Question #17 of the survey asked members of the community to indicate their preference on the types of land the Town should consider for future open space areas. While Poncha Springs is too small of a municipality to realistically have a program dedicated specifically to open space, it is still important to understand what types of land the Town should consider for preservation if future opportunities arise. The survey asked respondents to rate the types of lands they would like to see considered for future open space areas, based on a scale of 1 (Most Preferred) to 4 (Least Preferred). The first graph offers results based on the more preferred options (1-2), while the second graph offers results based on the least preferred options (3-4).



Survey participants indicated that their Top 3 *most preferred* options for lands to preserve as open space areas are: 1. Lands for passive outdoor recreation; 2. Lands that provide access to rivers/streams; 3. Lands along river/stream corridors.



A significant percent of survey respondents indicated that their *least preferred* option is for the Town to not be concerned with open space preservation.

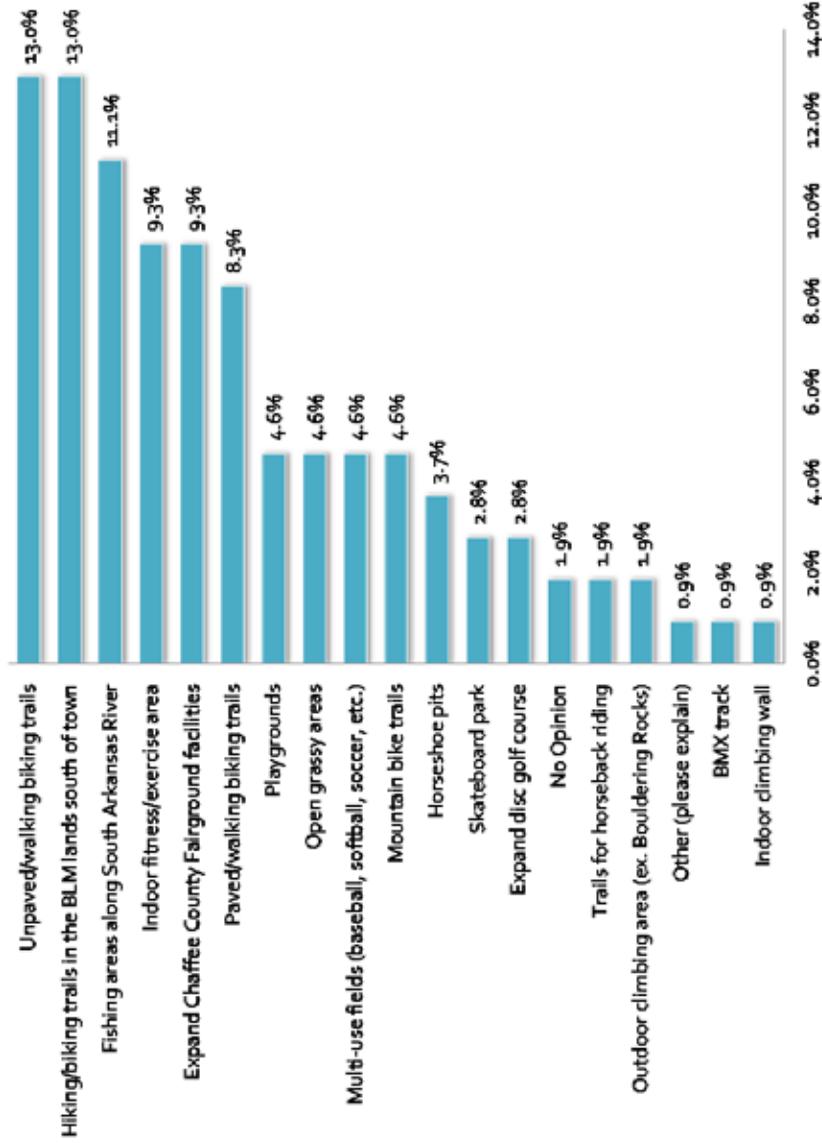
Other:

- None
- Don't encroach on private property. This includes making someone give land up to the town whenever they apply for a change of use or building permit.

RECREATION

The following series of questions were asked in order to get a better understanding of what type of recreation projects the community would like to see the Town consider in the Future. Also, a question was provided to get an understanding of whether or not members of the community utilized the recreational amenities offered by the City of Salida. Survey respondents were also asked to indicate their preference on possible, future recreational programs they would like to see the Town consider.

Please select your top 3 choices for possible, future recreation facilities in Poncha Springs.

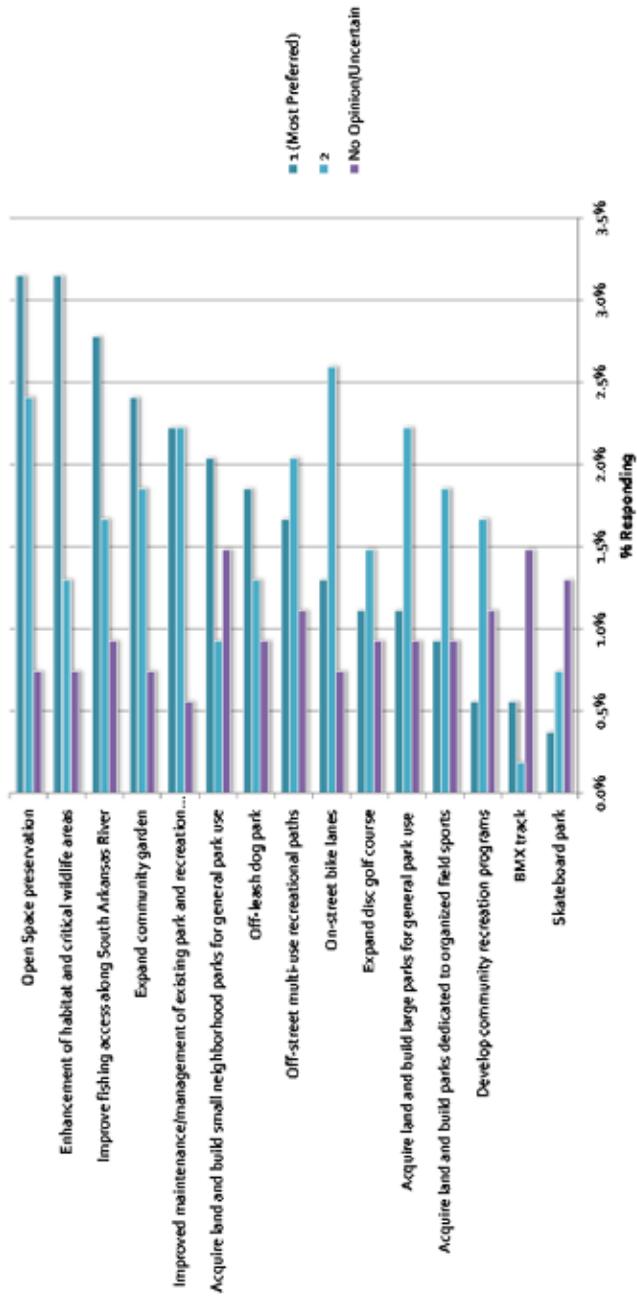


Other:

- Where does all this money come from especially since Poncha lost big time on the Friends Ranch deal?

Tied for the top choice of future recreational facilities in Poncha Springs are: Unpaved walking/biking trails & Hiking/biking trails in the BLM lands south of town. Following these two choices for recreational facilities is the option for Fishing areas along the South Arkansas River. The strong preference for additional trails in Poncha Springs may be related to the responses to Question # 7, which asked survey respondents to indicate how well parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities met the needs of the community.

Listed below are some potential, future parks and recreation projects for which the Town could allocate funds or seek outside funding (ex. grants). Please indicate your preference for each of the following projects.



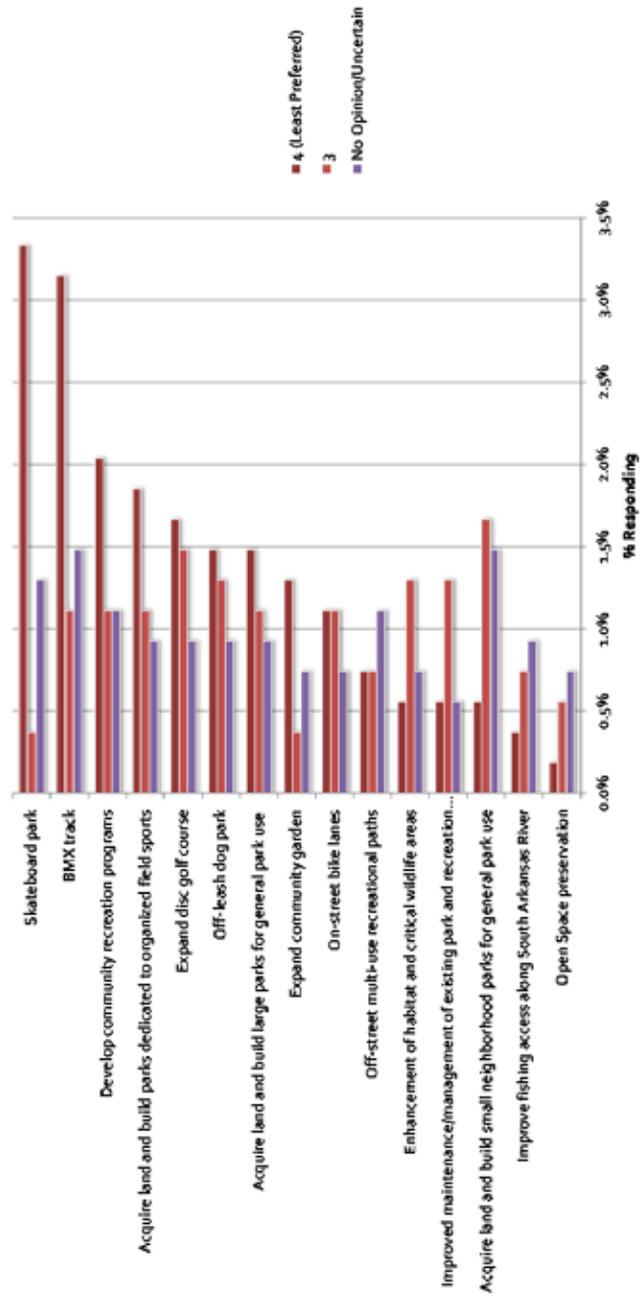
Survey respondents indicated that their Top 5 *most preferred* options for future parks and recreation projects in Poncha Springs were: 1. Open space preservation; 2. Enhancement of habitat and critical wildlife areas; 3. Improve fishing access along South Arkansas River; 4. Expand community garden; 5. Improved maintenance/management of existing park and recreation facilities.

Improving fishing access along South Arkansas River correlates to the response from Question #16, which asked survey respondents to indicate their Top 3 choices for possible, future recreational facilities in Town.

Enhancement of habitat and critical wildlife areas correlates to the responses to Question #18, which indicated a fairly strong preference for preservation of lands that sustain wildlife habitat.

Improved maintenance/management of existing park and recreation facilities being ranked the 5th *most preferred* option is interesting because it is contrary to the responses from Question #6, which asked survey respondents to indicate their level of satisfaction with parks and recreation services provided by Poncha Springs.

Listed below are some potential, future parks and recreation projects for which the Town could allocate funds or seek outside funding (ex. grants). Please indicate your preference for each of the following projects.

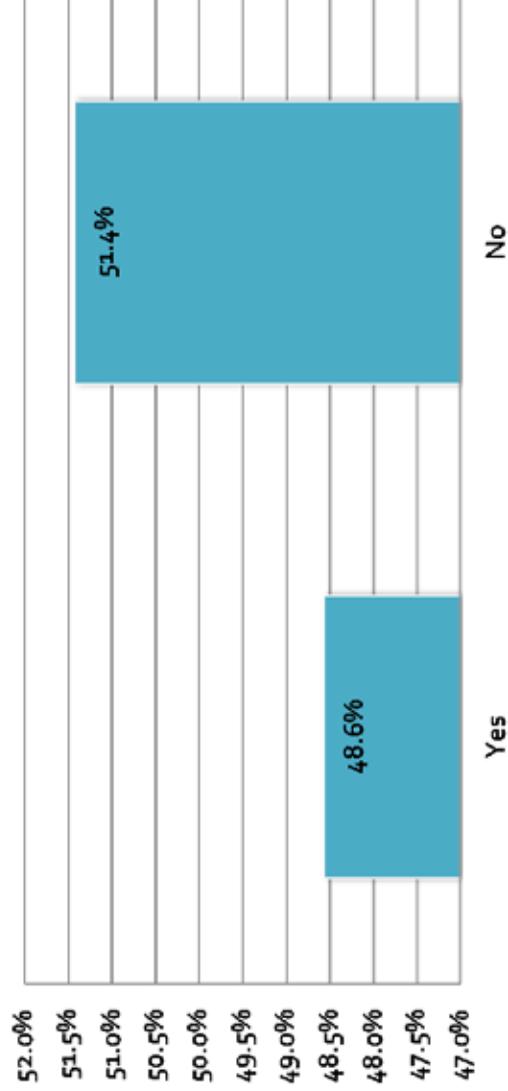


Survey respondents indicated that their Top 5 *least preferred* options for future parks and recreation projects in Poncha Springs were: 1. Skateboard park; 2. BMX track; 3. Develop community recreation programs; 4. Acquire land and build parks dedicated to organized field sports; 5. Expand disc golf course.

Other:

- None
- Poncha should work with Salida on these things. Salida has the population base, Poncha does not. No use in pouring money into something for a population of 400 people.

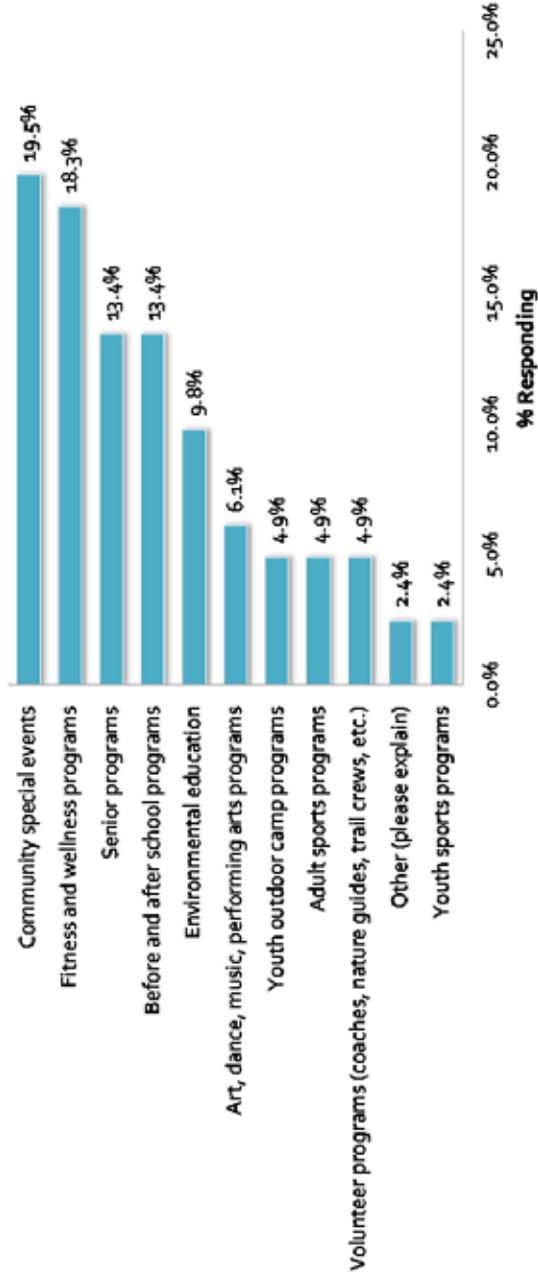
Do you participate in any recreation programs offered by the City of Salida?



Members of the community, who answered YES, were asked to explain which programs, offered by Salida, they participated in and how frequently they participated in these programs. The responses that were provided are listed below:

- Softball - monthly basis
- Swimming - several times a month in the winter
- Swimming at the hot springs pool and trails
- The aquatic center activities
- Trails
- Volleyball spring and fall leagues, tennis clinics and mixers every week (May-Oct)
- Swimming, exercise classes – weekly
- Swimming, soccer
- Water activities at the hot springs facility
- Water exercise and the hot springs 3 days per week and fishing at ark river and franz lake biking on walking path
- Riverfront area, Salida Rec. Center, "S" Mtn. Trails, bike path from downtown to Wal-Mart
- Children's soccer (spring & fall), Hot Springs Pool (weekly)
- Swimming - occasionally
- Aerobic/Zumba - twice weekly
- Children's garden club - weekly during the season
- Easter egg hunt in Park
- I am a Babe Ruth coach, peewee football coach and youth wrestling coach. Also, I am a supporter of the pump track and skate park.
- Trail systems - always; Parks with playground equipment - twice monthly; River trail system - always; Pool - twice monthly; Mountain bike trails east and south of town – always.

In the future, if the Town were able to provide recreation programs to the community, what types of programs would you like to see offered?



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The survey provided an opportunity for respondents to provide additional written comments, regarding parks, open space, trails and recreation. Providing for additional comments offers respondents a chance to elaborate on their previous responses or to offer additional insights that the survey questions may have overlooked or not taken into account. The comments provided are listed below:

- Maybe the Town of Poncha Springs can build a big Aquatic Center :)
- More arts and recreation areas as space allows
- No opinion on many because of age. Most of the questions more appropriate to younger families.
- Thanks for asking our opinion.
- Little River Ranch is a joke....same as "friend ranch" Don't sell out to developers! Clean up the town we have, and enforce rules/town regulations.
- The old Boy Scout camp area is full of potential. Does that belong in Poncha's area, and can it be developed for town use?
- As a newcomer we believe that Poncha Springs has more important problems to solve at this time instead of worrying about parks and recreation.
- I think the parks program is well managed and I know you always need funding, the residents around here seem to take good care of the facilities and that really helps and tells us how important the parks are, keep up the good work.

- As I stated at the start of this survey I own and ranch 160 acres within the Town's planning area. I would like to have my ranch excluded from the planning area. I plan to continue ranching without any public access.
- First priority is maintaining what we already have – which includes cleaning up neighborhoods. In my opinion, Poncha Springs has already taken on more than we can handle – money-wise and time-wise. Let's get back to a level playing field before adding more of anything.
- This is a naturally beautiful place – whatever is done should reflect the "Natural Beauty."
- Sidewalks and paved roads before trails.
- Would like to see a continuous bike/walking trail linking Poncha Springs and Salida.
- I am very encouraged with this survey, I believe our children need places to grow and have activities to keep them busy