

2. THE STATE OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS SYSTEM

Existing System

The Longmont community has developed an extensive system of park land, recreation facilities and trails over the course of 140 years. The first parks in the system (Collyer, Thompson, and Roosevelt) were part of the original Chicago-Colorado Colony vision and plat of 1871. Twenty-three additional parks were acquired or developed during the next 120 years (1871 to 1991) and within the last twenty-two years (1991-2013) another sixteen parks have been added to the system bringing the total to forty-two. During that time, Longmont has also developed a significant trail and greenway system, much of which is built along natural waterways and along the sides of the irrigation ditches built by the early settlers to provide water for agriculture.

Development of the City's Open Space Program in 2000 has also made a significant contribution to the growth of greenways, trails and District Parks in the system. As noted in the Executive Summary, this Plan was nearly complete in September of 2013, when Longmont experienced a devastating flood. This chapter reflects the system prior to the flood under the assumption that it will be rebuilt.

This chapter provides a foundation for the direction in Chapters 3, 4, and 5, painting a picture of Longmont's parks, recreation and trails system in 2013. This chapter:

- Describes the elements that currently compose the system;
- Summarizes what has guided growth and development of the system;
- Presents an updated methodology for assessing park service levels; and
- Highlights results of the evaluation of how well the system is meeting the community's needs.

Park Land

Today, Longmont has more than 2,350 acres of park land.¹ Map 1: Existing Parks, Recreation, and Trails System depicts the park system graphically, and Table 2-1 provides a complete inventory of the system. Longmont's parks provide a variety of recreation amenities, experiences and uses and are strategically distributed to reach different audiences and geographic areas. The classification system for Longmont's parks, established in the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan (LACP), includes three types of parks, as described below, with each type serving a specific purpose.



Izaak Walton Park



Blue Skies Park

¹ As of March 2013. Includes developed and undeveloped park land and does not include the City's open spaces and greenways with the following exception: the St. Vrain Greenway is currently designated as a District Park and is included in the park acreage.

Neighborhood Parks

- Affolter
- Alta
- Athletic Field
- Blue Skies
- Carr
- Collyer
- Dawson
- Flanders
- Hover Acres
- Kanemoto
- Kensington
- Lanyon
- Left Hand Creek
- Loomiller
- Pratt
- Price
- Raber
- Rothrock Dell
- Rough & Ready
- Spangler
- Stephen Day
- Sunset
- Thompson
- Valley
- Willow Farm

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the basic building block of the system and provide space for close-to-home recreation activities. Existing sites range in size from under 2 acres to 16 acres. The ideal neighborhood park is central to and easily accessible from the neighborhood. Sites are often located adjacent to elementary school sites, which can enhance the site's acreage, and offer convenience to one of the critical user groups, children and their families.

- **Existing inventory:** 192 acres
- **Types of features:** single ball fields and/or multi-use fields (typically unlighted), open turf areas, shelters, playgrounds, sport courts, dog off-leash areas, small wheels parks, restrooms, off-street parking.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger sites developed for active recreational use. Existing sites range in size from 20 to 100 acres and provide space for concentrations of sport facilities, such as athletic complexes, and major indoor and outdoor recreation facilities such as pools and recreation centers. These sites are spread across the city and augment the neighborhood park access with larger recreation facilities and gathering places.

- **Existing inventory:** 253 acres
- **Types of features:** multiple lighted ball and/or multi-use fields, aquatic facilities, playgrounds, multiple sport courts, multiple restrooms and recreation or community centers.

Community Parks

- Clark Centennial
- Dry Creek
- Garden Acres
- Quail Campus
- Roosevelt
- Sandstone Ranch Community Park

District Parks

District parks protect and provide access to and enjoyment of important natural, historic and cultural resources, such as viewing wildlife at Union Reservoir, and honoring local veterans at Jim Hamm Nature Area. These parks allow for limited recreational uses that fit their unique natural characteristics and promote low impact, passive outdoor recreation opportunities.

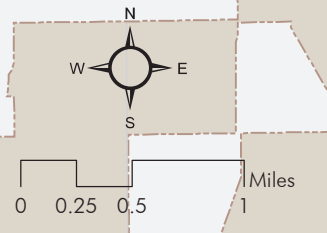
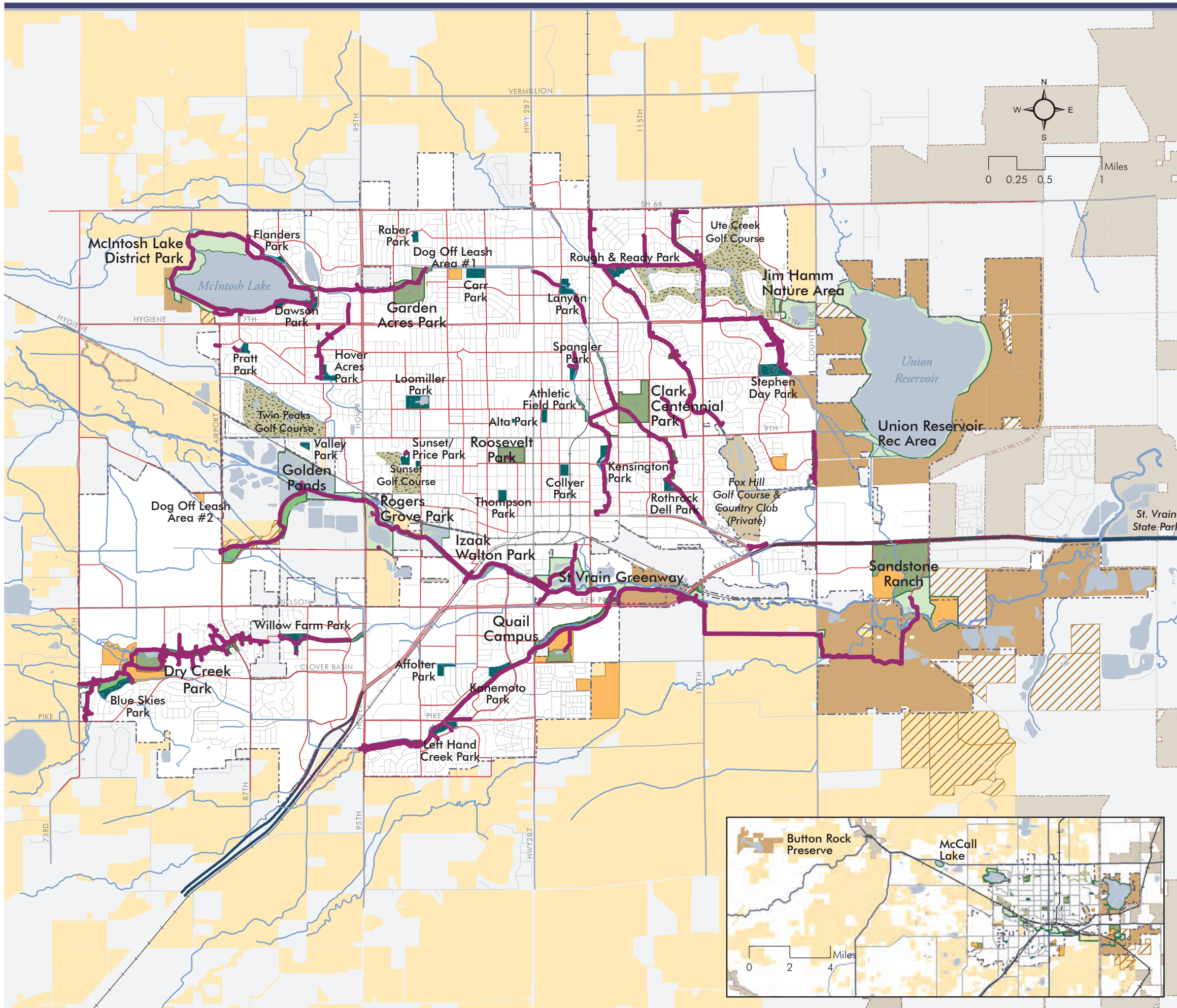
- **Existing inventory:** 1654 acres
- **Types of features:** shelters, trails, water access, wildlife viewing.

District Parks

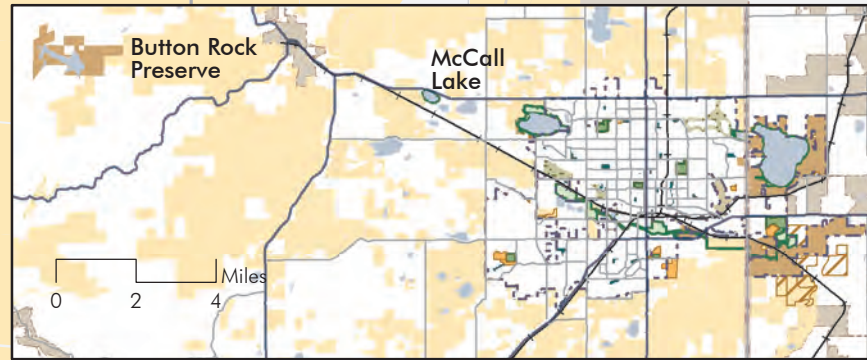
- Golden Ponds
- Jim Hamm Nature Area
- Izaak Walton
- McCall Lake
- McIntosh Lake
- Rogers Grove
- Sandstone Ranch District Park
- St. Vrain Greenway
- Union Reservoir



Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan



- City Limit
- Stream
- Lake
- Existing Trails
- On-Street Bicycle Transportation Routes (bike lanes, bikeways, bike routes, etc.)
- Multi-use Trail (Non-City)
- Railroad
- Expressway
- Arterial Road
- Collector Road
- Local Street
- District Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Other City Public Lands (Intended for recreational uses)
- City Open Space - Easement/Option
- City Open Space and Public Lands
- County Open Space (fee and easement)
- Public Golf Course
- Private Golf Course
- Greenway Lands
- Other City/County/State Lands



Map 1: Existing Parks, Recreation and Trails System

MIG Data Source: City of Longmont
NAD 83 State Plane North

1.3.14

Table 2-1: Parks, Recreation and Trails System Inventory

Park Type		Acres (2012 GIS)	Ball Fields (Total)	60' Base paths	90' Base Paths	Grass Infield	Lights	Multi-Use Field	Lights	Scoreboards	Open Turf Areas	Aquatics Facility (Pool, Splash Pads, Swim Beach)	Shelters	Playground	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Lights	Roller Hockey Rink	Wheels Park	Dog Off-Leash Area	Horseshoes	Disc Golf	Boat Launch/Dock	Fishing Pier	Fishing	Restrooms	Bike Parking	Off Street Parking	Other	
Affolter	Neighborhood	5.5	1	1				1			X		1	1	2	4		X												Hand Ball Wall	
Alta	Neighborhood	0.5									X		1	1																Community Gardens	
Athletic Field	Neighborhood	3.5						1			X		1	1	1																
Blue Skies	Neighborhood	11.3						3			X		2	1	1		1		1	1	X							1	X	X	
Carr	Neighborhood	8.7	1	1				1			X		1	1	2	4			1									1	X	X	
Collyer	Neighborhood	4.2											2	1		2	1	X										1	X		Pickleball
Dawson	Neighborhood	15.0						1			X		2	1		2	1	X					1				1				
Flanders	Neighborhood	7.0						1			X		1	1	1		1						1				1	X	X		
Hover Acres	Neighborhood	10.4						1			X		1	1	1	2	2	X				4					1			X	
Kanemoto ¹	Neighborhood	7.2	1	1				1			X	1	2	1	1		2										1	X	X	Pagoda/ Outdoor Fitness Equip.	
Kensington	Neighborhood	16.4									X		1	2	1												1	X		Labarynth	
Lanyon	Neighborhood	8.4	3	1				1			X		2	1	1												1				
Left Hand Creek ²	Neighborhood	11.5						1			X		2	1	1		1		1								1	X	X		
Loomiller	Neighborhood	15.2											2	1								1					1				
Pratt	Neighborhood	3.5	1	1				1			X		1	1	1	4		X	1								1				
Price	Neighborhood	1.3									X																				
Raber	Neighborhood	3.1											1	1																	
Rothrock Dell	Neighborhood	5.8	1	1							X		1	1	1			X	1								1				
Rough & Ready	Neighborhood	9.0						1			X		2	1	1		1			1	X	2					1	X	X	Bocce Ball Court	
Spangler	Neighborhood	5.2						1			X		1	1													1				
Stephen Day	Neighborhood	14.8						1			X	1	2	1	1		1			1	X						1	X	X	BMX Dirt Bike Hill	
Sunset	Neighborhood	4.5										1	1	1			1										1	X	X		
Thompson	Neighborhood	4.3						1			X		2	1													1			Tree Tour	
Valley	Neighborhood	2.6						1			X		1	1	1		1					1									
Willow Farm	Neighborhood	13.4	1			1		2			X		2	1	1				1								1		X		
Subtotal: Existing Neighborhood Parks		192.3	9	6	-	1	-	20	-	-	21	3	34	25	18	18	13	6	6	3	3	7	1	2	-	-	20	10	10		
Clark Centennial	Community	47.7	4	3	1		4	1		4	X	1	1	1	1	2	2	X	1				1				1	X	X	Disc Golf = 9 holes, concessions, track	
Dry Creek ³	Community	31.3						3			X			1								1					1	X	X	Disc Golf = 18 holes, cricket pitch	
Garden Acres	Community	41.6	4	4			4	2		4	X		1	2													1	X	X	batting cage, cricket pitch	
Quail Campus	Community	14.1										1		1						1					1		1	X	X	Museum, Rec Center	
Roosevelt	Community	19.4						1			X	1	2	2								2					3	X	X	Pavilion, Memorial Bldg., Senior Center, Rose Garden	
Sandstone Ranch	Community	99.4	4	3	1	3	4	5	2	4	X	1	8	4			1			1							5	X	X	Adventure Playground, Concessions	
Subtotal: Existing Community Parks		253.5	12	10	2	3	12	12	2	12	5	4	12	11	1	2	3	1	1	2	-	2	2	-	1	-	12	6	6		

Table 2-1: Parks, Recreation and Trails System Inventory

Park Type			Ball Fields (Total)					Multi-Use Field		Scoreboards	Open Turf Areas	Aquatics Facility (Pool, Splash Pads, Swim Beach)	Shelters	Playground	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Lights	Roller Hockey Rink	Wheels Park	Dog Off-Leash Area	Horseshoes	Disc Golf	Boat Launch/Dock	Fishing Pier	Fishing	Restrooms	Bike Parking	Off Street Parking	Other
		Acres (2012 GIS)	60' Base paths	90' Base Paths	Grass Infield	Lights		Lights																						
Golden Ponds ⁴	District	87.8									9												1	X	2		X			
Jim Hamm Nature Area	District	45.0									2															1	X	X		
Izaak Walton ⁴	District	21.5									1													1	X	1	X	X	Clubhouse	
McCall Lake	District	53.7																					1		X	1		X		
McIntosh Lake	District	362.0																					1		X	1	X	X		
Rogers Grove	District	54.9									1															1	X	X	amphitheater, apple orchard, demo garden	
Sandstone Ranch ⁴	District	43.9																							2	X	X	Visitor Center		
St. Vrain Greenway ⁴	District	154.9																												
Trailhead at N. 119 St. ⁴											1														1	X	X			
Trailhead at CR 1 ⁴											1															X	X			
Union Reservoir	District	830.6									1	1	1			1				X	1		2	1	X	3	X	X	Beach, Campground, concessions	
Subtotal: District Parks		1654.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	3	13	8	10			
Dog Off Leash Area I (21st & Francis)	Other City Public Lands	7.0									1									X										
Dog Off Leash Area II (Airport Rd.)	Other City Public Lands	2.7									1									X								X		
Dry Creek Park Undeveloped	Other City Public Lands	21.2																												
Fox Meadows	Other City Public Lands	8.8																												
Quail Campus Undeveloped	Other City Public Lands	25.7																												
Sandstone Ranch (Phase 4)	Other City Public Lands	35.1																												
Sandstone Southeast Parcel	Other City Public Lands	41.4																												
Sisters	Other City Public Lands	69.3																												
Wertman	Other City Public Lands	8.5																												
West Grange	Other City Public Lands	33.5																												
Subtotal Other City Public Lands		253.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	
System Total		2,353.3	21	16	2	4	12	32	2	12	26	8	64	37	19	20	17	7	7	5	6	10	3	6	4	45	24	27	0	

¹Kanemoto Park was impacted by the September 2013 flood. The activity pool was destroyed. Refer to current flood recovery plans for status of repairs.

²Left Hand Creek Park was impacted by the September 2013 flood. The multi-use field is not available for use in 2014. Refer to current flood recovery plans for status of repairs.

³As of March, 2014, Dry Creek Community Park is not yet open to the public.

⁴Impacted by the September 2013 flood. Refer to current flood recovery plans for status of repairs.

Other City Public Lands (intended for recreational uses)

Other public land includes single purpose, undeveloped or limited use properties owned by the City. Though not defined as a land category in the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan, the City reserves these sites for specific uses or for future park development. For example, the two dog off-leash areas in the system are important specific use areas but do not fulfill the purpose of a neighborhood park. In some cases, the City has purchased property or developed early phases of planned parks. For example, the first phases of the Quail Campus, Sandstone Ranch, and Dry Creek Park have been developed but surrounding undeveloped land is intended to be part of future park improvements. Undeveloped “Other City Public Lands (intended for recreational uses)” at planned park sites is intended for future development of neighborhood, community or district parks.

Open Space and Public Lands

As defined by the Longmont Municipal Code, Open Space is land that remains in a relatively natural state or use (including agricultural use) and serves one or more of the following functions:

1. Preservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and agriculture and visual corridors;
2. Linkages and trails, access to public lakes, streams and other usable open space lands, stream corridors, and scenic corridors along existing highways;
3. Conservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, forest lands, range lands, agricultural land, aquifer recharge areas, and surface water;
4. District parks devoted to low-impact recreational uses;
5. Implementation of greenways and open space policies or strategies of the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan;
6. Urban shaping buffers between or around municipalities or community service areas and buffer zones between residential and non-residential development.



Sandstone Ranch

The Existing Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Map (Map 1) includes Open Space Program lands and public lands owned by the City of Longmont as well as open space owned by Boulder County. Other public land owned by Longmont includes land preserved for water resource projects and watershed protection (such as Button Rock Preserve), and other uses. As a secondary function, these lands provide some limited public recreation. Public access for recreational uses on Open Space and other public land properties is limited and depends on the primary purpose of the land. Specific strategies for acquiring and managing Open Space are set out in the *2002 Open Space and Trails Master Plan*. District Parks and Greenway Trails are compatible uses in appropriate locations on Open Space lands in

Longmont. Without the vision of Open Space, many of Longmont’s gems such as the St. Vrain Greenway or McIntosh Lake District Park may not exist.

Greenway Lands

The City manages a system of Greenways for multiple functions including trail connections, stormwater management and habitat corridors. Greenways typically follow existing rivers and ditch corridors and may connect parks and schools which are located along them. The City designates two types of Greenways in the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan: primary and secondary Greenways. Primary Greenways encompass water resources and corridors that carry urban storm drainage. They may contain utilities and often contain trails. These primary Greenways can provide continuous and direct connections across the city. There are currently 12 primary Greenways which vary in size and scale including:

- Dry Creek #1
- Jim Hamm Nature Area
- Lake McIntosh
- Left Hand Creek
- Longmont Supply Ditch
- Lykin's Gulch
- Oligarchy Ditch
- Rough & Ready Ditch
- Spring Gulch #1
- Spring Gulch #2
- St Vrain River
- Tri-State²

Secondary Greenways provide short links between residential areas, bikeways, parks, schools, and primary Greenways. These Greenways alleviate the need to use streets and enhance alternative modes of transportation. Though plans such as the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan refer to “greenway” as the entire river or water conveyance corridor whether it’s City-owned land or not, the term “greenway” in this plan refers to the trails as well as portions of the City-owned land that borders these trails.

Private Parks and School Sites

While not part of the system as defined for this plan, there are a number of sites that serve park-like purposes. A preliminary inventory of HOA and private parks identified approximately 58 acres of privately owned property reserved for pocket parks and open space owned by homeowners’

² The Tri-State greenway is the Platt River Power Authority (PRPA) easement and connection between Rough & Ready Greenway and Spring Gulch #2 northeast of Rough & Ready Park

associations and other private entities. School sites are also recognized as providing some level of service, and are shown on plan maps within this document, recognizing the role that these sites play in providing recreation opportunities (mainly available after school hours).

Park Facilities

As detailed in the Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Inventory (Table 2-1), Longmont has developed and maintains a wide variety of outdoor park facilities which are briefly described below.

Outdoor Park Facilities

- **Ball Fields.** There are 21 ball fields in the City’s system. Ball fields are diamond-shaped fields that support a variety of field sports from T-ball to adult softball and high school baseball. At the youngest levels of recreational play and for informal use, functional ball fields can be as simple as a backstop added to a level turf area. Base paths of 60’ to 90’, foul line fencing, player benches and lights and scoreboards are all improvements present at many Longmont ball fields, supporting higher skill levels and league play. The highest quality fields are built in community parks with supporting amenities such as concession stands and restrooms to support intensive use and tournament play. Longmont currently has 12 fields developed to this level, all of which are under lights and have scoreboards.
- **Multi-Use Field.** Longmont’s parks feature 32 multi-use fields³. Similar to ball fields, multi-use fields can be built to a variety of standards. At their most basic, multi-use fields are level, open turf areas 50’ by 70’ or larger. Uses on multi-use fields include soccer, football, and other sports such as lacrosse and ultimate Frisbee. At the highest level, multi-use fields are also developed in community parks with supporting amenities for intensive use and tournaments. Longmont currently has 8 fields developed to this higher standard with 2 under lights. At this time, Longmont does not have any existing synthetic turf fields in the system.
- **Open Turf Areas.** Nearly all of the City’s parks have open turf areas. Open turf areas are irregularly shaped and often rolling grassy areas. These areas support a wide range of activities from enjoying the sun, to picnicking to playing catch. These areas also provide important buffer areas between recreation facilities and use areas.



Softball at Garden Acres Park



Left Hand Creek

³ One multi-use field at Left Hand Creek Park was impacted in the September 2013 flood. Refer to current flood recovery plans for status of repairs.



Alta Park

- **Shelters:** Shelters in Longmont parks range in size from small structures covering two to four picnic tables to large group shelters like the ones found at Sandstone Ranch with over 10 tables. These provide spaces for community and family gatherings at a park and can be reserved for this purpose. Shelters are also used in a less formal way to provide shade or protection from inclement weather when people are using the park.
- **Playgrounds:** Longmont has 37 playgrounds, almost all located in neighborhood and community parks. The predominant type of playground is the modular play structure such as the one found at Rothrock Dell Park. There are also more elaborate, thematic playgrounds such as the aeronautically themed one at Blue Skies Park. The City's most elaborate and customized play area is the Adventure Playground found at Sandstone Ranch, and includes a modular playground structure, customized details and a built-in climbing wall.
- **Basketball Courts:** There are 19 basketball courts in Longmont's parks, mostly located in neighborhood parks. The quantity of courts in the inventory represents a variety of full court, half court and $\frac{3}{4}$ court sizes. Some sites (such as the basketball courts at Carr Park) are built adjacent to other hard surface recreation facilities such as roller hockey rinks and tennis courts to focus these more intense recreational uses in one area of the park. Some are also intended to double as multi-use courts, such as the court at Pratt Park, which has dual use for basketball and in-line hockey.
- **Tennis Courts:** There are 20 tennis courts, also primarily located in neighborhood parks. All sites with tennis courts are fenced and feature multiple courts located side-by-side.
- **Volleyball Courts:** There are 17 sand volleyball courts, with most located in neighborhood parks. In sets of one and two these courts primarily support casual, rather than league or programmed play.
- **Other Features:** The following are additional recreation facilities that are present in Longmont's parks, recreation and trails system. These recreation facilities add variety, provide uniqueness in individual parks and create special recreational opportunities.

Table 2-2: Other Park Features

Facility	Total	Facility	Total
In-line hockey rinks	7	Large Outdoor Pavilion (seasonal ice rink)	1
Wheel parks	5	Swim Beach	1
Dog off-leash areas (within parks)	6	Campground	1
Horseshoes	10	Bocce ball court	1
Disc golf	3	Cricket pitches	3 ⁴
Boat launches/docks	6	Outdoor fitness equipment	1
Fishing piers	4	Hand ball wall	1
Community garden	1	BMX area	1

- **Ice Pavilion:** The Longmont Ice Pavilion at Roosevelt Park is an outdoor, seasonal, full service ice facility, offering public ice skating, hockey, skating lessons and party facilities throughout the winter. The ice pavilion has been in operation since 2003 and attendance in recent years is approximately 22,000 visitors per season. The facility’s cost recovery is currently upwards of 110%.
- **User Amenities:** User amenities in the inventory include restrooms, off-street parking and bike parking. In addition, the City keeps a detailed inventory of all assets in the parks—including benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, lighting and signage—developed in 2013 as part of the asset management system.
- **Golf Courses:** Golf courses are both a category of land and a set of recreation facilities in Longmont. The golf courses are self-supported and are not managed within the parks, recreation and trails system. Each course also offers golf-specific programs such as lessons and tournaments. The three public courses are:
 - *Sunset, located at 1900 Longs Peak Ave.*
 - *Twin Peaks, located at 1200 Cornell Drive*
 - *Ute Creek, located at Ute Creek Drive*

⁴ Includes facilities at Dry Creek Community Park which are not yet open to the public as of April 2014.

Partner-Provided Recreation Facilities

In addition to the outdoor park facilities included in park site inventory, there is a small set of features that are provided for by partners through leases and agreements on land owned by the City. Each group operates their facility and manages programs independently of the City. Usage is restricted to members or visitors that pay entrance fees.

Partner Recreation Facilities Located at Union Reservoir

- HobbyTown USA off-road remote control car course
- Union Sailing Club/Longmont Sculling Club
- Longmont Electric Aircraft Flyers

Partner Facilities Located at Garden Acres Community Park:

- Garden Acres Batting Cages

Partner Facilities Located on other Longmont Property:

- St. Vrain Archery Range

Trails and Greenways:

The City of Longmont has a variety of Greenway trails, park trails, multi-use trails, bike lanes, and bike routes. Greenway trails are particularly important because they provide stormwater management and serve both transportation and recreation functions. Table 2-3 summarizes the constructed primary greenways, secondary greenway connections, and in-park trail lengths. While greenway trails are multi-use, there are additional multi-use trails outside of the primary and secondary greenway system. These include eight feet wide, detached trails in the right-of-way corridor that offer recreation as well as transportation connections. These, as well as bike lanes and bike routes are not specifically listed in Table 2-3, contribute to the overall system.

Table 2-3: Longmont Greenway Trails

Trails Within Greenways	Miles*
Dry Creek #1	3.0
Jim Hamm Nature Area	0.3
Lake McIntosh	3.7
Left Hand Creek ⁵	3.2
Longmont Supply Ditch	0.8
Lykin's Gulch ⁶	1.1
Oligarchy Ditch	5.4
Rough & Ready Ditch	2.4
Spring Gulch #1	1.1
Spring Gulch #2	3.1
St. Vrain River ⁵	7.7
Tri-State	0.9
Subtotal Greenways	32.6
Park Trails	61.0
Total Built Trail System	93.6

*Total constructed length as of April 2013

Outdoor Aquatics Facilities

Longmont's outdoor aquatics facilities currently include three pools, two splash pads and a swim beach⁷. Each of the pools and the swim beach has lifeguard staff and entrance fee charges for use.

Sunset Pool

Located at Sunset Park, this unique, crescent-shaped heated pool features a 6-lane x 25-meter lap area, deep water zone with a 1-meter diving board, a 3-meter board, and a deck level board. There are also two large slides and a shallow zone. A new bathhouse includes locker rooms, a concessions area, a meeting/classroom, and an office area. The site also includes sand and grass areas, as well as a covered shelter area.



Sunset Pool

⁵ Impacted by September 2013 flood. Refer to current flood recovery plans for status of repairs.

⁶ Impacted by September 2013 flood. Re-opened in February, 2014.

⁷ The activity pool at Kanemoto Park was destroyed in the September, 2013 flood. Refer to current flood recovery plans for status of repairs.

Roosevelt Activity Pool

Located at Roosevelt Park, this activity pool is a small aquatic facility that has heated water and a maximum depth of 2' 8". There is a zero-depth entry area, various water play features and a spray garden. There is also a small bathhouse with changing/restrooms.

Kanemoto Activity Pool

Located at Kanemoto Park, this activity pool was destroyed in the September 2013 flood. It was a small aquatic facility that has heated water and a maximum depth of 3'6". There was a zero depth entry area, small deck slide, waterfall, and geyser. The facility also included restrooms, space for changing and an office area. A replacement aquatics facility will be designed and built in 2014 as part of the flood recovery effort.

Splash Pads

Located at Stephen Day Park and Sandstone Ranch, these small water features include spray fixtures and water jets but have no standing water. This type of feature allows for free water play without requiring staff for safety.

Union Reservoir Swim Beach

Located at Union Reservoir, the swim beach is a buoyed swim area within the 736 acre reservoir. The beach is open seasonally from late May through Labor Day. Open water swimming is also available at Union Reservoir from early June to mid-September at specified times and days of the week.

Major Recreation Facilities

The three recreation facilities operated by the City of Longmont are the base of recreation programming and year-round activity for the community.

Longmont Recreation Center

This 63,500 square foot, full-service recreation center opened in 2002. Located in south Longmont, this center features an indoor lap pool and leisure pool along with a large gymnasium. Additionally, the center includes an indoor running track, weight room, cardio equipment and group exercise room, climbing wall, and supporting amenities. The lap pool has six 25-yard lanes, and the leisure pool includes waterslides, a lazy river, spa and interactive play features. The large gymnasium can be separated into multiple spaces for concurrent activities. The center is heavily used, with an average of 450,000 to 470,000 users per year stretching the capacity of the building and supporting amenities such as parking.



Leisure Pool at Longmont Recreation Center

St. Vrain Memorial Building

Located in Longmont's historic Roosevelt Park immediately adjacent to downtown Longmont, the 29,441 square foot, St. Vrain Memorial Building has an indoor gymnasium with a sport court floor and raised seating. The facility also has a small weight/cardio area, large group exercise room, small classroom area, and a licensed preschool space. This building also serves as the primary administrative offices for the Recreation Services Division. While the building has proven to be adaptable over the years, it is one of the oldest structures in the system, built in 1951.



St. Vrain Memorial Building

Centennial Pool

This facility houses a competitive indoor lap pool (six 25-yard lap lanes with starting blocks, wading area, deep end and two 1-meter diving boards). Centennial Pool is heavily programmed for learn to swim and fitness programs and competitive programming. The 14,336 square foot building includes locker rooms, a small spectator seating area and a small cardio equipment area plus a space for exercise or movement classes. The building is nearly 40 years old receiving a variety of renovations and improvements over the years. The most recent renovation was done in 1996; however, some of the systems and infrastructure have been replaced more recently.



Centennial Pool

Development and Planning of the System

Prior to this planning process, the Parks, Greenways, and Open Space chapter of the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan guided the growth of the system. This chapter includes policies aimed at a growing community, targeting the amount and distribution of park land to be added as the City builds out. The policies include specific standards for the amount of park land (relative to population), as well as for distribution and size of future developed neighborhood and community parks. Table 2-4: Park Land Standards by Park Type summarizes the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan's standards and shows the current inventory in comparison to the adopted standards.

Table 2-4: Park Land Standards by Park Type

Park Type	Existing Standards			Existing Developed		
	Park Land Standard (Acres/1,000 residents)	Size	Service Area	Total Acres	Size	Acres/1,000 residents (2013*)
Neighborhood Park	2.5 Acres	10-20 acres	½ mile	192.3	0.5-16.4 Acres	2.2 Acres
Community Parks	4.5 Acres	50-100 acres	1-1½ miles	253.5	19.4-99.4 Acres	2.9 Acres
District Parks	No Standard Established	Varies	City-wide	1695.7	21.5-830.06 Acres	18.9 Acres
Other City Park Property	No Standard Established	None	None	211.8	2.7-69.3 Acres	6.0 Acres

*Based on a population of 87,461

The City designed the existing standards to act together to guide the acquisition and development of new parks. The Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan Map accompanies these standards and indicates the approximate locations of neighborhood, community and district parks. Based on the 2013 inventory, Longmont is just under the neighborhood park standard and substantially under the community park standard (currently under that standard by 1.6 acres per thousand residents or 140 total acres of developed community park land). There is no existing standard for District Parks or Greenways.

Prioritization

New parks have historically been added to the system based on the best judgment of staff with guidance from the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan and with PRAB, Council and community input. Staff has taken into consideration factors such as how complete a specific neighborhood was, how long an area has been waiting for park development, and equity between the areas of the city. The most recent neighborhood park development projects included Stephen Day Park to serve areas in the east, Rough and Ready Park to serve areas in the north, and Blue Skies Park to serve neighborhoods in the west. The next planned neighborhood park project (Wertman site) is in the southeast. Taking a similar approach to geographic equity for community parks, the City focused on building three phases of Sandstone Ranch in the east, and then began working on Dry Creek to provide a community park on the west side of town. Recommendations from staff require approval by City Council, which generally occurs through the budget process. Refer to Appendix C for the City's current 5-Year Capital Improvement Program.

Funding

The current system is the result of over 100 years of investment from a variety of funding sources. The system has grown in acres of land through donations, purchases, and development agreements. It has been developed largely through public funds (including developer impact fees), tax revenues collected by the City or grant funds from State and Federal sources. The community has also periodically chosen to contribute additional funding for the construction of major recreation facilities, an example being the voter approved bond measure to fund the construction of the Longmont Recreation Center and the Roosevelt Park renovation.

Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Analysis

Throughout the planning process, City staff and members of the public provided their input on the state of the existing system in an effort to accurately identify challenges and opportunities. From this feedback, the planning team developed criteria to evaluate how well the system is responding to the challenges it faces. The analysis focused on the following major topics:

- Renewal;
- Park Access;
- Trail Access;
- Unique Sites; and
- Recreation Facilities.



Dog Park

Renewal

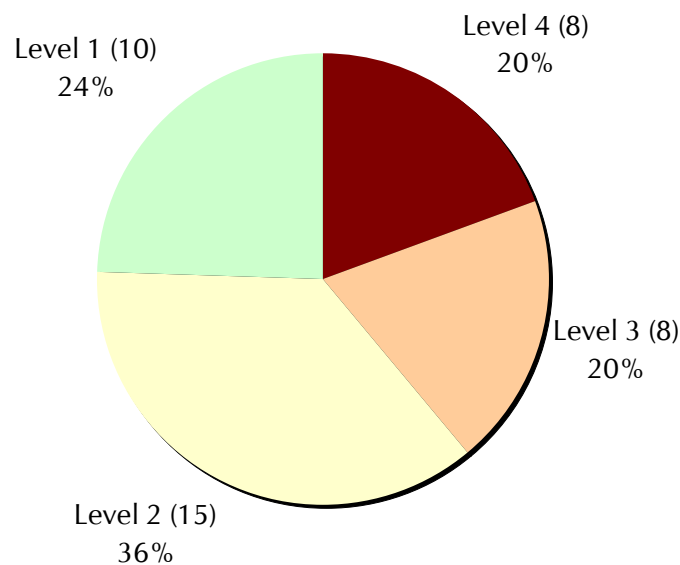
Renewal is the process of investing in the existing park sites, recreation facilities, and trails to bring them up to current standards, return them to their intended use or address changes in recreation needs, and ensure maintenance efficiency. At a small scale renewal may be the simple replacement of a feature, such as a bench, or facility such as a playground with a modern version. At the larger scale, indoor recreation facility renewal may involve interior renovation and changes in the uses supported. Each renewal project strikes a balance between replacing (to continue to support the same mix of activities) or reconsidering the mix of activities and changing recreation facilities to support a different set of needs or opportunities.

Park Renewal

Longmont's parks and the amenities within them vary in age and condition. Parks require different levels of attention, based on the severity and degree of existing issues and use levels. The park renewal assessment relied on existing data available for Longmont's park sites, including the asset

inventory/lifecycle analysis (which includes assessment of above ground assets as well as un-seen infrastructure such as irrigation), park usage, observed condition ratings, playground safety, and the amount of time passed since the most recent major investment. Forty-one sites with multiple data points were analyzed by dividing each data point into quartiles and identifying the sites that ranked highly relative to the rest of the system. The analysis relied upon the City’s asset inventory/lifecycle analysis which is a work in progress and did not have data available for all sites, including McCall Lake, and many of the District Parks and Greenways. Consideration of the asset conditions at these sites may affect the ranking produced in this document and alter the outcome when factored in. This analysis includes the recreation facilities (such as fields, fencing, and structures) that support competitive play but not any buildings or pools present at the site (these are addressed in the next section). Based on the available data⁸, the level of renewal need for parks range from low (Level 1) to high (Level 4). Figure 2-1 shows the distribution of renewal need for existing parks.

Figure 2-1: Parks and Level of Renewal Need



- Level 1: These are sites that have no critical needs, such as those that have recently been built or renovated. 24% of City parks have no current critical need for renewal.
- Level 2: These are sites that showed at least one data point indicating a need for replacement of features at the park that have reached the end of their useful life. 36% of parks can be categorized as Level 2.

⁸ Does not include the parallel ADA assessment and prioritization under development at the time of this plan’s completion.

- Level 3: These are sites with multiple renewal issues (more than 2 data points) that should be addressed to avoid future problems. There are 20% of sites in this analysis category.
- Level 4: These are sites with nearly all indicators showing needs that should be addressed as soon as possible to avoid and correct failures of equipment and high priority safety and usability issues. 20% of Longmont’s parks in this highest category.

Table 2-5: Longmont Parks and Renewal Severity

Level 4			
Affolter	Hover Acres	Raber	Spangler
Garden Acres	Price	Rothrock Dell	Thompson
Level 3			
Clark Centennial	Kanemoto	Left Hand Creek	Valley
Flanders	Kensington	Loomiller	Willow Farm
Level 2			
Alta	Dawson	Lanyon	Rough & Ready
Athletic Field	Dog Park I (21 st and Francis)	Pratt	Sandstone Ranch Community Park
Blue Skies	Dog Park II (Airport Rd.)	Quail Campus	Union Reservoir
Carr	Golden Ponds	Roosevelt	
Level 1			
Collyer	Izaak Walton	McIntosh Lake	Stephen Day
Jim Hamm	Rogers Grove	Sunset	Dry Creek
McCall Lake	Sandstone Ranch District Park		

While this analysis provides a way to differentiate the intensity of renewal needs at each site, it does not provide a priority order in which the City should address the needs. Other factors for consideration include the level of use of the site, how essential the site is to providing park enjoyment and use, and how much of the park is in need of renewal. In some cases a single amenity, such as a playground, may be at a Level 4 severity, but the park as a whole is at a lower level of severity. In addition, demographic factors should also play a role. For example, many of the sites with a higher need for renewal are located in areas with diverse socioeconomic characteristics or clustered so that one area of the city is impacted more than others. Other sites have few features which makes the data hinge on limited factors. The analysis of renewal data is provided in Appendix G. Opportunities for partnerships with neighborhood groups, and the existence of an updated park master plan, may also impact the order in which needs are addressed.

Major Recreation Facility Renewal

Similar to park sites, the varied age and status of the major recreation facilities in Longmont impacts the need for renewal. Unlike park sites, there is a standard practice of budgeting for the renewal of major systems (such as

roofs, heating/ventilation/air conditioning, etc.) for buildings in nearly all cities, including Longmont. The analysis of the renewal need for the major recreation facilities is limited to the observed condition, facility age and the input from staff and users about functionality. The planning team’s observations are summarized below.

Table 2-6: Longmont Major Recreation Facility Renewal Needs

Facility	Observed Renewal Need	Notes ¹
Centennial Pool	High	Nearing end of life, fixes likely to only slow the decline in use and increase in costs
Longmont Recreation Center	Low	Newer construction, will need renewal of building systems over time
St. Vrain Memorial Building	Medium	Older building, functionally challenging and limits further adaptability
Sunset Pool	Medium	Recent investment in the bathhouse structure, pool tank and systems require ongoing investment

¹This analysis did not include an audit of the capital budgeting or detailed evaluation of building systems

Park Access

In the past, service areas were applied using a straight line distance to either create a radius from the center of the park or a buffer outward from the boundary of the park (Service Area Radius Method). Even though barriers such as major streets were considered in the analysis, this approach still assumes that all those within that distance have equal access to the park in question. The drawback to this approach is that it does not reflect the reality of how people get around the community, how features such as railroads and creeks may create barriers, or how attractive the park is to the people who use it. Therefore, it may overstate or understate the ability of a park to serve the community.

To be more reflective of Longmont’s on-the-ground reality, this planning effort updated the approach to analyzing access to parks using a geographic model of the city. This approach provides a more accurate portrayal of park access by reflecting the street and trail network that residents can actually travel (Network Method). When the service distance is evaluated using this network methodology, the actual area served is quite different – sometimes much less. It also points out cases where pedestrian access improvements may enhance the usability and service area for an existing park.

The new network methodology utilizes the same distance standards found in the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan for neighborhood parks (½-mile) and community parks (1 to 1½ miles), which are typical and appropriate for the size of Longmont. The closer, ½-mile service area for neighborhood parks is based on the typical walking distance most pedestrians are willing to travel to reach nearby destinations such as a neighborhood park. The longer, 1 to 1½-mile service area is based on the distance most people are willing to bike, drive or take transit to destinations with a city-wide draw such as a community park. This distance is a balance between spacing these recreation facilities out and keeping them close enough to not force travel by personal auto.

City Park Access

Map 2 illustrates park service areas using both the service area radius method and network methods. This map includes all neighborhood and community park sites, representing the types of parks that have the features park users are most often looking for close to home, such as places to play (both unstructured play and competitive activities), opportunities for exercise, places to gather with friends and family or to enjoy the outdoors. District park sites are not intended to be spread across the community, instead focusing on significant natural or historic sites, but can provide a level of service to park users and increase park access. These are examined on a case-by-case basis after identifying gaps in service. At the ½-mile distance, there are several gaps between park sites. Though neighborhood and community parks are generally well distributed across the city, not all neighborhoods have nearby (1/2 mile) access to city parks because of existing barriers.



Dawson Park

Community Park Distribution

Map 3 illustrates the community park service areas using both the service area radius and network methods. The analysis shows that the community park service area standard has achieved the purpose of distributing these sites across the community, particularly with the development of Dry Creek Community Park in the southwest portion of Longmont. Gaps shown on this map are primarily non-residential or, in the case of the northeastern edge of the city, designated for a future community park site on the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan map.

Park Access Gap Areas

Map 4 highlights many of the areas in the city that lack nearby access to a city community or neighborhood park. These are existing and planned residential areas that are outside a ½-mile distance to the nearest park using the network method of analysis. Though some gap areas may seem close to a park, the analysis included significant travel barriers such as busy streets, railways and water bodies. Based on the access analysis, fourteen gap areas

are identified: five in south (S-1 to S-5), five in central (C-1 to C-5) and four in north (N-1 to N-4). The fourteen gap areas on the map are the most significant and sizable in terms of underserved areas; however, there are smaller gap areas identified in the analysis (and illustrated on Map 2) as well. While these are not as significant in size as those mapped, they may be equally significant to residents who live, work or play in those regions of the City. Of all the highlighted gap areas, four (two in the central, and two in the northern portions of the city) have or are planned for high population density, which suggests a greater need for access to places for play and recreation in these areas.⁹ Age, ethnicity and other demographic factors are also relevant to these gaps; however, in long-term planning, these other factors are susceptible to more variability than population density.

Table 2-7: Neighborhood and Community Park Service Gap Analysis

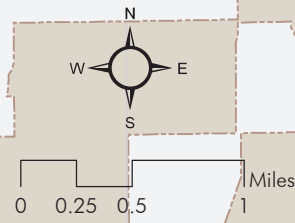
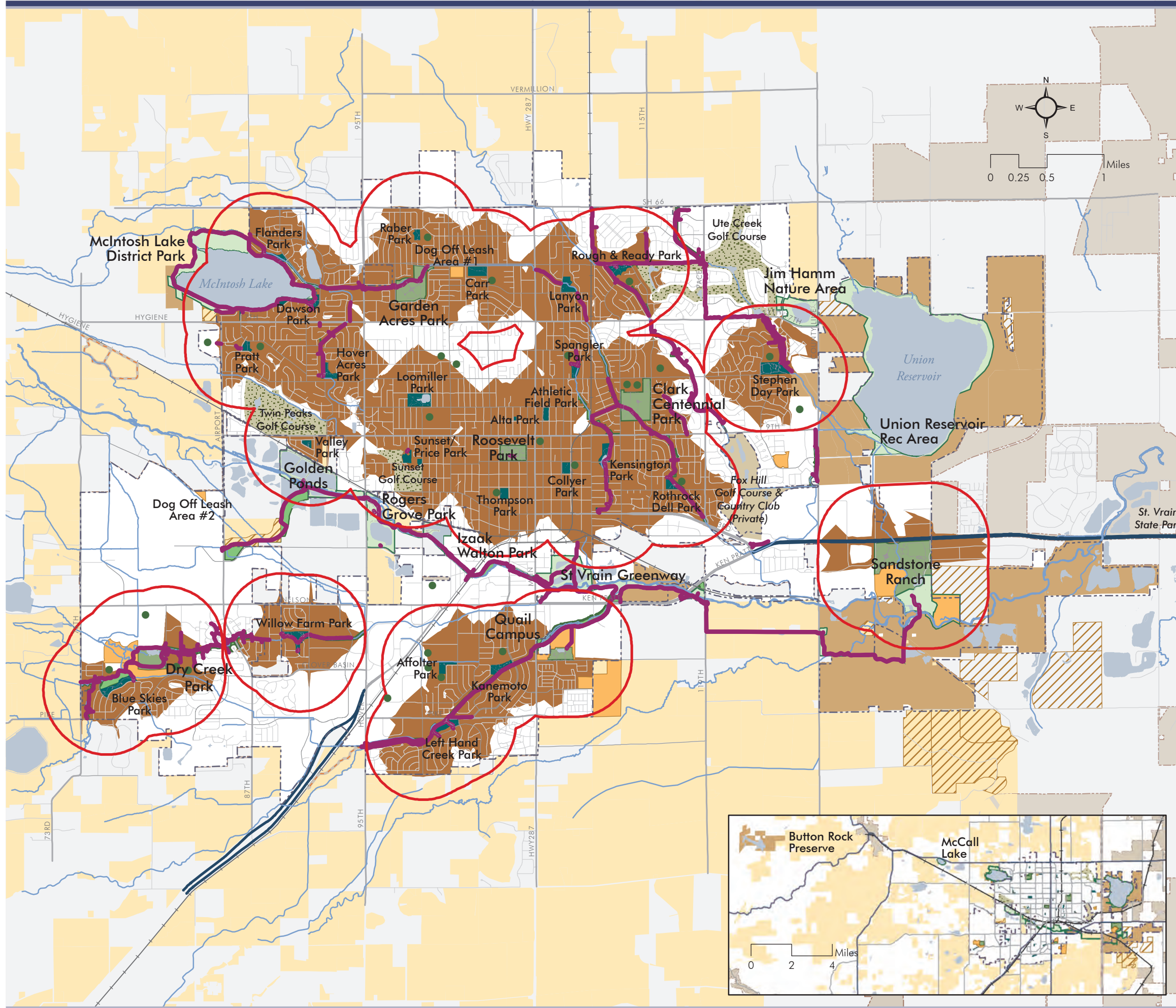
Gap Area	Planned Population density		
	High	Med	Low
S-1	-	-	●
S-2	-	●	●
S-3	-	●	-
S-4	-	-	●
S-5	-	-	●
C-1	-	●	●
C-2	●	●	-
C-3	●	●	-
C-4	-	●	-
C-5	-	●	●
N-1	●	●	-
N-2 ¹⁰	●	●	-
N-3	-	●	-
N-4	-	●	-

⁹ For this analysis, population density is based on census tract data and includes low (less than 700 persons/square mile), medium (700-4,999 persons/square mile) and high (5,000 persons/square mile and greater).

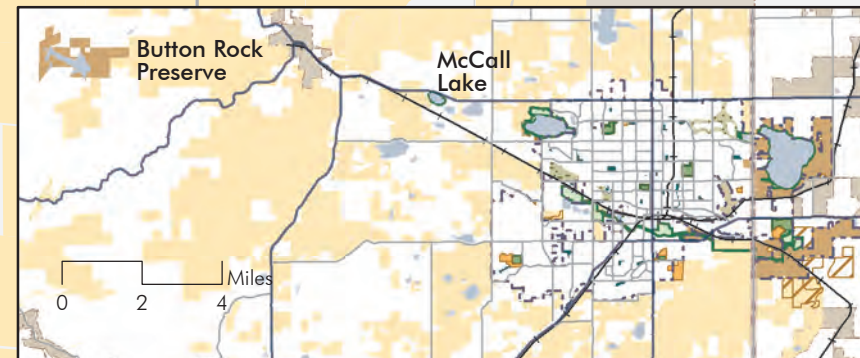
¹⁰ A significant portion of Gap N-2 is planned for future high-density residential development.



Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan



- Neighborhood and Community Parks 1/2 Mile Buffer - Service Area Radius Method
- Neighborhood and Community Parks 1/2 Mile Service Area - Network Method
- School
- City Limit
- Stream
- Lake
- Existing Trails
- Multi-use Trail (Non-City)
- Railroad
- Expressway
- Arterial Road
- Local Street
- District Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Other City Public Lands (Intended for recreational uses)
- City Open Space - Easement/Option
- City Open Space and Public Lands
- County Open Space (fee and easement)
- Public Golf Course
- Private Golf Course
- Greenway Lands
- Other City/County/State Lands

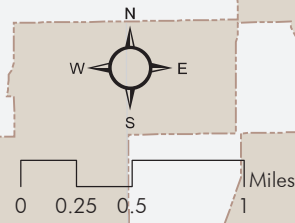
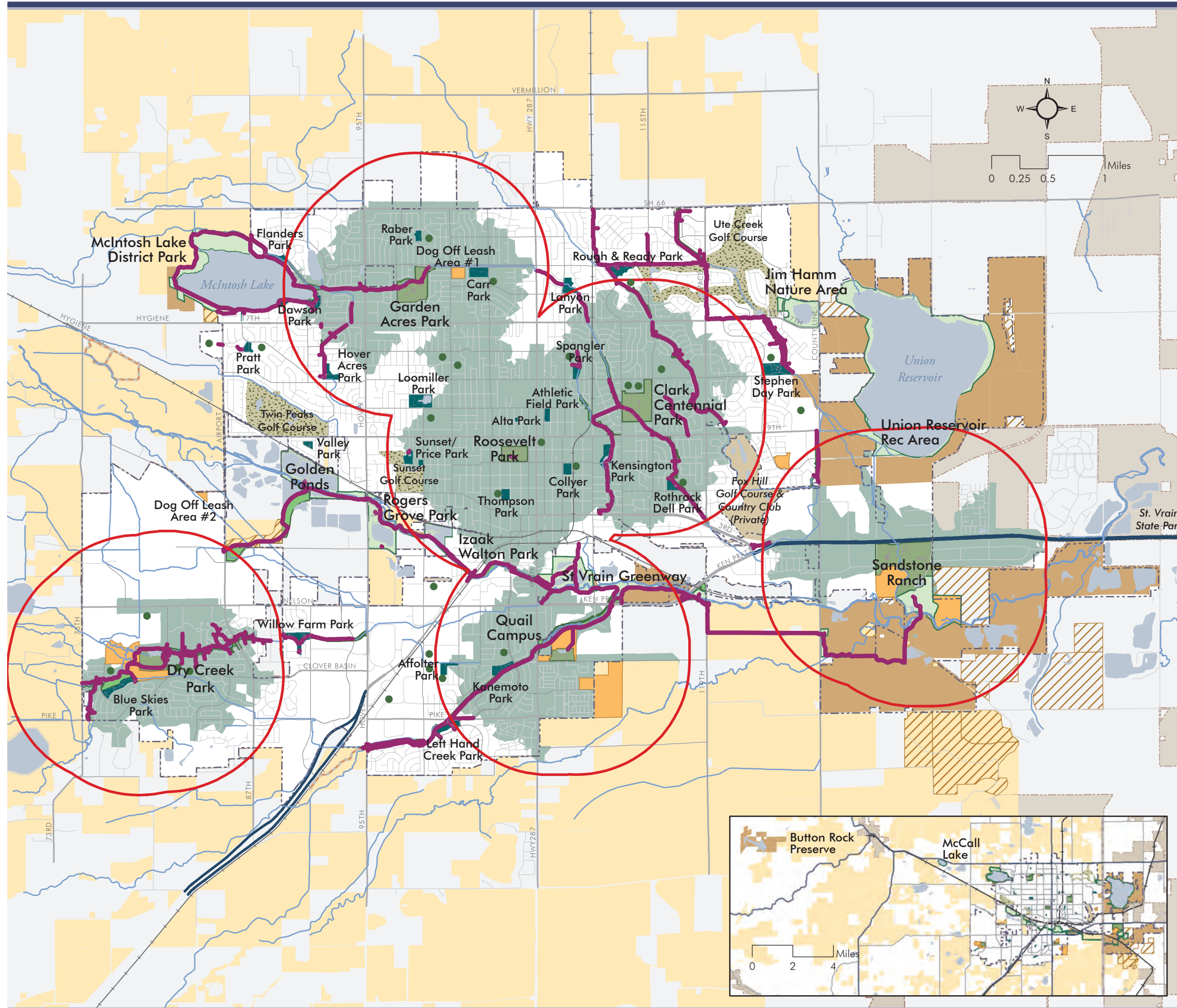


Map 2: Park Access

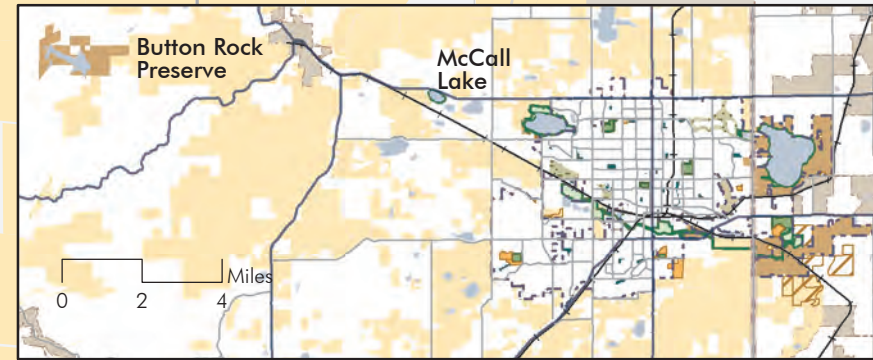
MIG Data Source: City of Longmont NAD 83 State Plane North

1.3.14

Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan



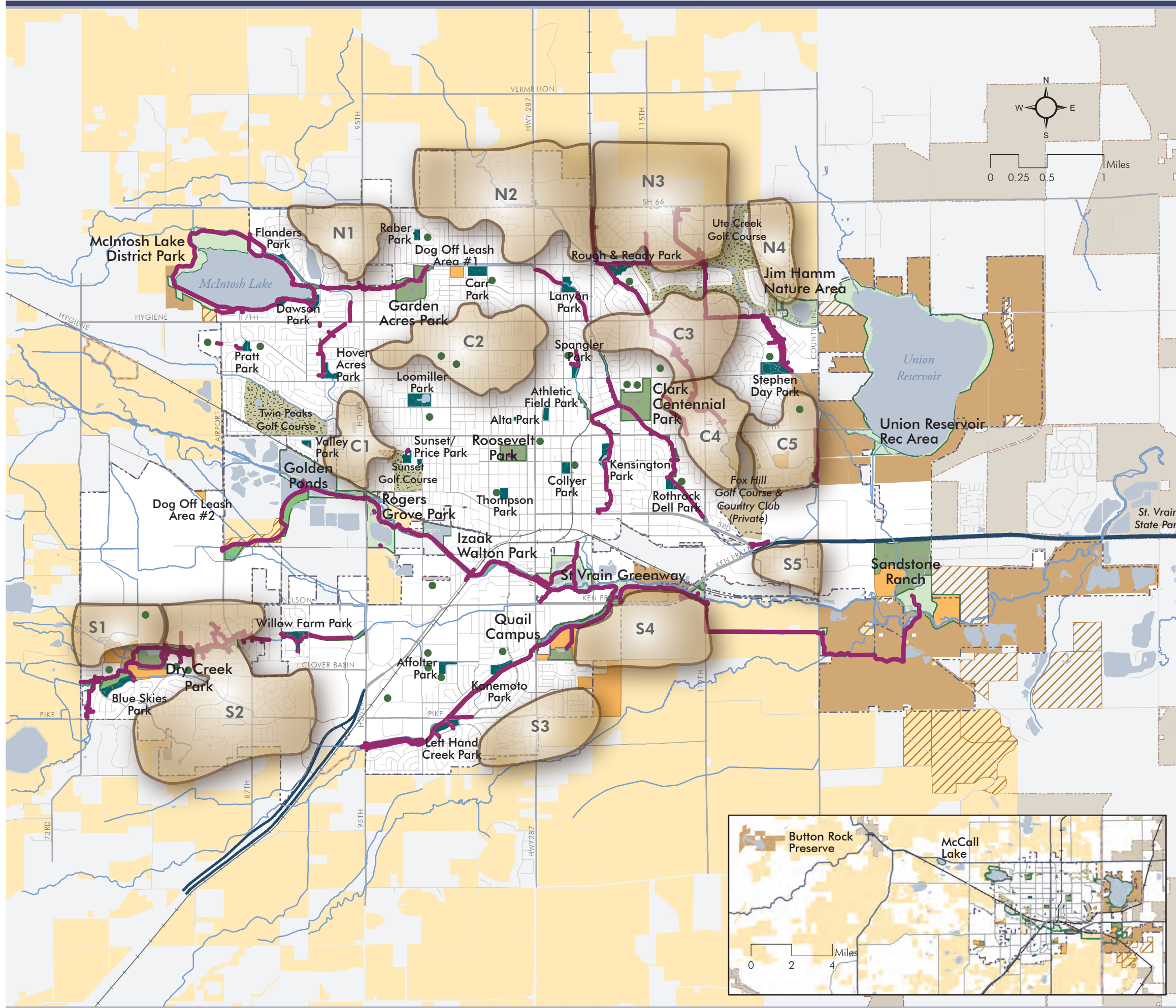
- Community Parks 1 Mile Buffer Service Area Radius Method
- Community Parks 1 Mile Service Area Network Method
- School
- City Limit
- Stream
- Lake
- Existing Trails
- Multi-use Trail (Non-City)
- Railroad
- Expressway
- Arterial Road
- Local Street
- District Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Other City Public Lands (Intended for recreational uses)
- City Open Space - Easement/Option
- City Open Space and Public Lands
- County Open Space (fee and easement)
- Public Golf Course
- Private Golf Course
- Greenway Lands
- Other City/County/State Lands



Map 3: Community Park Distribution



Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan



- Gap Area
- School
- City Limit
- Stream
- Lake
- Existing Trails
- Multi-use Trail (Non-City)
- Railroad
- Expressway
- Arterial Road
- Collector Road
- Local Street
- District Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Other City Public Lands (Intended for recreational uses)
- City Open Space - Easement/Option
- City Open Space and Public Lands
- County Open Space (fee and easement)
- Public Golf Course
- Private Golf Course
- Greenway Lands
- Other City/County/State Lands

Map 4: Gap Areas

M I G Data Source: City of Longmont
NAD 83 State Plane North

1.3.14

Off-Street Trails Access

Trails, and the activities residents enjoy while using them, are an important focus in the community. Access to trails was the top priority for respondents as the feature they would like to see close to home. Therefore, access to off-street trails was analyzed using the same network methodology described for the park access analysis.

The City currently does not have a trail service area standard, so an analysis of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile was completed using the network model of the City. These distances are generally accepted as how far most pedestrians are willing to travel to access transportation/transit. Map 5 depicts the results of the analysis.

As the analysis shows, a significant portion of Longmont has access to the trail network within either $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile or $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile. In addition to the trail network, many existing parks have internal loop pathways and/or tracks that provide trail-related benefits. One example is the loop at Roosevelt Park. Another compliment to the trail network is the City's system of alternative transportation routes and bikeways within the right-of-way. These also provide added connectivity and access to the off-street trail system which is the focus of Map 5. According to Map 5, there are several areas without the desired level of nearby trail access. These include areas along the City's perimeter and a large gap area in the center of the city, primarily west of Main Street. Table 2-8 identifies the level of trail access for each of the park gap areas that were summarized in Table 2-7.

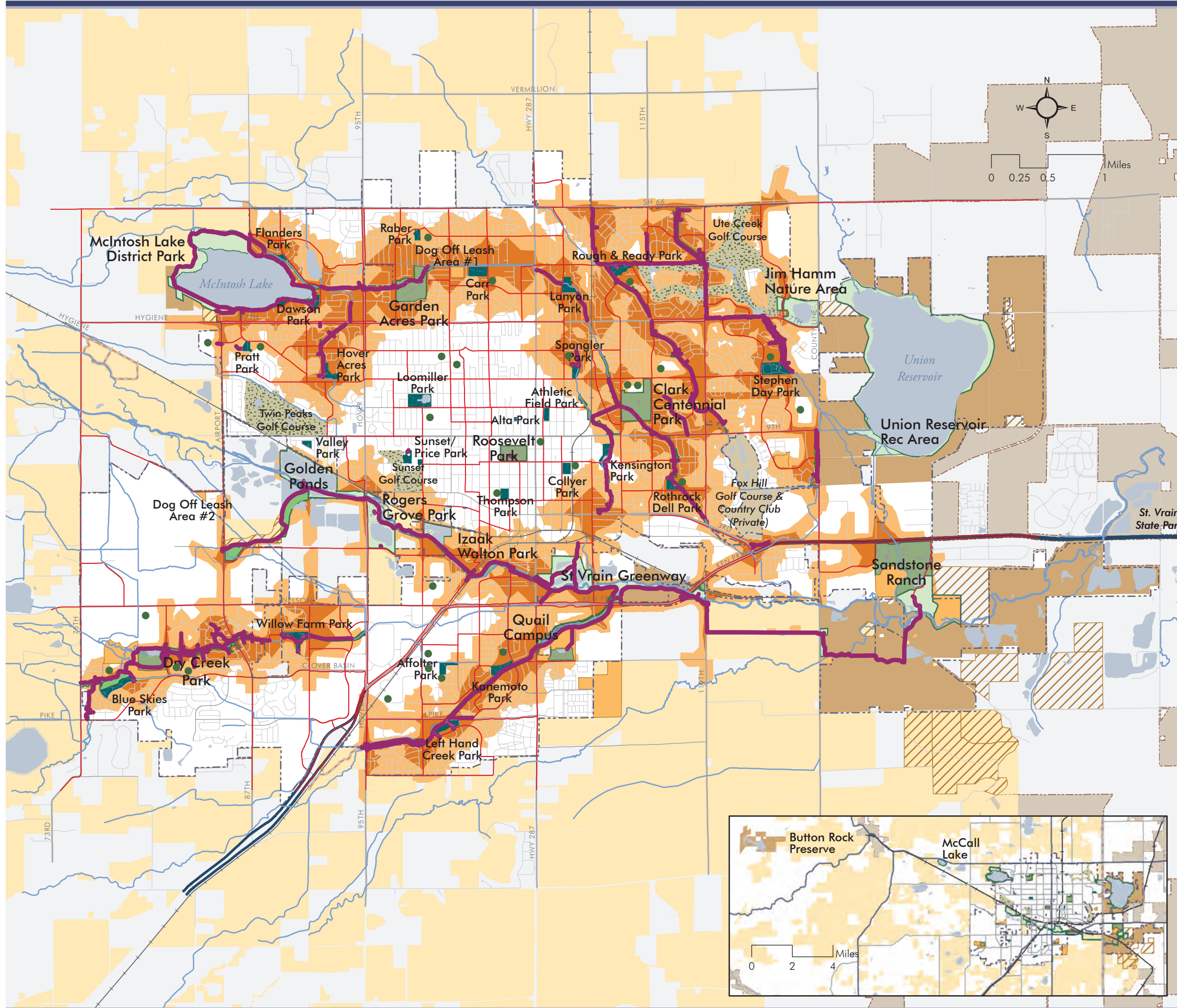
Table 2-8: Trail Access in Identified Gap Areas

Gap Area	Within ¼ - ½ mile to an existing trail ¹	Planned Population Density		
		High	Med	Low
S-1	☐	-	-	●
S-2	☐	-	●	●
S-3	☐	-	●	-
S-4	☐	-	-	●
S-5	☐	-	-	●
C-1	☐	-	●	●
C-2	-	●	●	-
C-3	●	●	●	-
C-4	●	-	●	-
C-5	☐	-	●	●
N-1	-	●	●	-
N-2	-	●	●	-
N-3	☐	-	●	-
N-4	☐	-	●	-

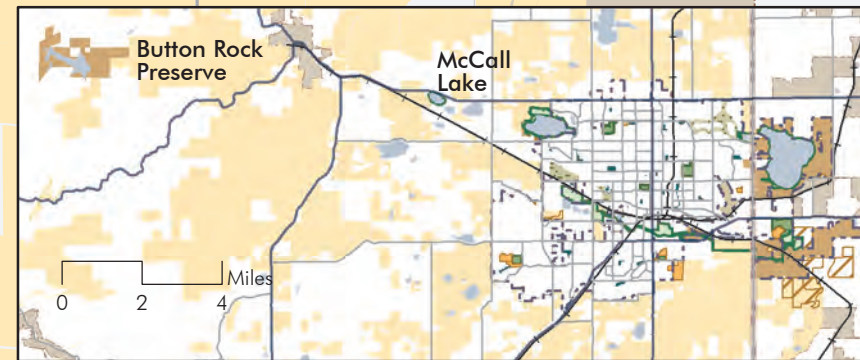
¹Notes: - = outside of service area, ☐ = partially within service area, ● = mostly within service area



Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan



- 1/4 Mile Trails Service Area
- 1/2 Mile Trails Service Area
- School
- Existing Trails
- City Limit
- Stream
- Lake
- On-Street Bicycle Transportation Routes (bike lanes, bikeways, bike routes, etc.)
- Multi-use Trail (Non-City)
- Railroad
- Expressway
- Arterial Road
- Collector Road
- Local Street
- District Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Other City Public Lands (Intended for recreational uses)
- City Open Space - Easement/Option
- City Open Space and Public Lands
- County Open Space (fee and easement)
- Public Golf Course
- Private Golf Course
- Greenway Lands
- Other City/County/State Lands



Map 5: Existing Trails Access



Data Source: City of Longmont
NAD 83 State Plane North

As Table 2-8 indicates, most of the park gap areas have nearby access to trails. Three gap areas (C-2, N-1 and N-2) do not have nearby trail access. In addition to non-motorized transportation options, trails provide desired recreation opportunities such as walking, running, rolling, and cycling. As both a more pleasant transportation route for pedestrians and cyclists and a recreation destination themselves, trails have the potential to reduce the need for proximity to additional parks in several of the gap areas identified on Map 4.



Roosevelt Park

The trail gap areas located near the edges of the city generally have a medium to low population density currently but the northern edge (N-1 and N-2) are planned for additional development. The trail service gap in gap area C-2 has the largest underserved area and has a high population density. Given the development patterns in this area of Longmont, the City's longstanding approach to trails (following natural and man-made drainages) will not create opportunities here.

Unique Sites

The analysis of unique or destination sites originated from community input about the desire to support a variety of uniqueness in Longmont's parks. There was a strong interest in sites that serve a broad audience, include a wide variety of activities, and contribute to the community's identity in some way. This type of site (Sandstone Ranch, Union Reservoir, and Roosevelt Park were often named) has a unique draw, which may be unrelated to park classification.

Qualitative analysis based on community input and observations of the sites named by the community resulted in a set of factors that, when added together, raise the identity of park sites to a higher level. These factors include:

- Supporting a range of activity formats and types, from casual walking and enjoying scenery, to organized sports and fitness activities;
- Providing hubs or gateways in the trail system;
- Designing to highlight a unique location in the community;
- Containing unique, identifying feature(s);
- Hosting community and family gatherings or events; and
- Driving visitation to Longmont and increases park/facility use;

Most of Longmont's parks contribute in some way to the identity of the system and the city. Beyond this basic level of identity, the analysis revealed clusters of sites with a shared identity or association with a natural, cultural or historical feature that have a key role in shaping Longmont's identity.

Historic Cluster

Roosevelt, Collyer and Thompson Parks can be considered together as a cluster both for their historic story and as central downtown parks with mature landscaping. Roosevelt is already a key to the community's identity and is heavily used supporting downtown events and parades. The downtown/Main Street corridor and budding Arts and Entertainment District also serves as a temporary event "park" setting for many of the community's signature events (such as Festival on Main, Artwalk Longmont and the Halloween Parade) contributing to this cluster.



Dawson Park

Lake McIntosh Cluster

McIntosh Lake District Park, Dawson Park and Flanders Park all feature water-edge activities and scenery. Taken together, these sites create a complete loop around McIntosh Lake. These sites create a unique opportunity to integrate nature into the city park experience.

Quail Cluster

The recreation facilities at the Quail Campus are already a focus of local and visitor attention, combining the recreational and historic/cultural interests. When built out, this campus, along with the nearby future parks (Wertman and Sisters) will be unique in its combination of outdoor spaces and major indoor facilities. As planned, this will be one of the signature sites in the parks, recreation and trails system.



Quail Campus

Sandstone Ranch Cluster

The pairing of a community park and a district park at Sandstone Ranch creates a combination of natural and developed features at a level not found at any other site. This cluster offers opportunities to introduce park users to nearly all of the opportunities Longmont's parks, recreation, and trails system offers and is also at the confluence of the St. Vrain Greenway and Spring Gulch #2 Greenway. This cluster, along with the Union Reservoir-Jim Hamm Nature Area-Stephen Day Park Cluster are important access points and destinations in what could potentially be the longest off-street trail network in the city.

St. Vrain Greenway

The combination of the district parks along the St. Vrain River, when considered as a cluster, meets each of the identified factors. Additional investment and access could enhance the appeal and could also help serve identified park and trail gap areas.

Union Reservoir-Jim Hamm Nature Area-Stephen Day Park Cluster

Union Reservoir is already considered a destination; however, the enhancements identified in the Union Reservoir Recreation Master Plan (including a future trail) could expand its destination potential along with key trail connections. Additional improvements in this cluster at Jim Hamm and along the Spring Gulch #2 Greenway create a loop of connected parks that not only offer nearly every outdoor activity available in Longmont's parks, recreation, and trails system, but also connect to the Sandstone Ranch cluster and beyond.

Role of Unique Sites

Identifying these unique park sites creates the potential to plan to improve them in a more unified way and make the most of their ability to distinguish Longmont. Thematic development at the time of master planning also helps unify a park and create a unique identity. Recognizing these sites does not mean that they are the only sites with their own distinct identity. Other sites, including Garden Acres and Clark Centennial community parks, as well as numerous neighborhood parks, each have varying degrees of identity expressed through their offered recreation facilities, art and site design. While these sites are important to the function and identity of the overall system, these sites do not currently have the variety of experiences observed in the community identity clusters.

Recreation Facilities Analysis

Providing recreation facilities and programs to support a range of programmed and self-directed activity is an important and valued service in Longmont. The analysis of recreation facilities is focused on the types of major facilities (athletic fields, pools) that are critical to providing this range of recreation options. These recreation facilities also all require a large amount of land, have a relatively high development cost, and require a higher commitment of maintenance and operations resources. Recreation Services facilitates programming, including league sports, tournaments, classes and camps, which maximize the use of both indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, classrooms and public spaces.

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan process offered opportunities for residents to identify the types of desired recreation facilities. A focus group with recreation program providers and discussions with facility users and sports groups provided valuable feedback to inform the plan. The analysis of recreation facilities also included a capacity review of existing athletic fields and a review of the distribution of aquatics opportunities. Findings and recommendations related to recreation programming are addressed in the Recreation Master Plan, a separate, parallel effort.



Community Workshop

Athletic Fields

The results of the analysis of field capacity indicated that play is limited by external constraints. The field use season (March 1 to the first week in November) is determined by a combination of the start of competition for state-wide sport organizations and the availability of water to bring the fields to playable condition. It should be noted that state-wide sport organizations would be on the fields at the beginning of February until the end of November if permitted by municipalities. The March 1 start date is a particular pressure point as it is not always possible to prepare the fields adequately before the start of play and spring frost can damage turf areas. Irrigation is often not available until mid-April. The first and second week of May is the peak of the season for outdoor field use with soccer season overlapping with baseball and softball seasons.

It is also clear that existing City fields are heavily programmed, with 2012 numbers exceeding 5,500 participants utilizing ball fields over the season. These seasons run for an average of 12-13 weeks with each participant having an average of 3-4 hours per week on the fields. Additionally, there are nearly 3,000 participants on multi-use fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.) with the same season parameters of 12-13 weeks and 3-4 hours per week on a field for each participant. This use adds up to over 200,000 hours of use per participant on ball fields and over 100,000 hours of use per participant on multiuse fields. The majority (80%+) of these participants are Longmont residents. This includes City league softball with over 3,000 participants playing adult softball Monday-Friday from mid March through late October. Almost every time one of these participants utilizes a field, they bring one to three spectators on average. While these spectators do not wear the field, they are an impact on facilities from parking to benches to restrooms. Most of this use is occurring in the prime playing times between the end of the school day and dark during the seasons described above. Play is extended on some fields using lighting.

Tournaments (specifically baseball and softball) are in high demand, with 32 of 40 possible weekends booked for 2013 as of the end of March 2013. Most of these tournaments are a regional draw and bring in hundreds of participants and spectators into the city every weekend creating a positive economic impact. Of special note is an annual Independence week softball tournament that brings in almost 50 teams (over 2000 participants and spectators) from all over the country that stay in Longmont for six to seven nights.

The use of multi-use fields (for soccer, football, etc.) has been extremely flexible and is not dependent on the design of the turf area. Full-size fields at Sandstone Ranch are used for games only and are often divided into multiple smaller fields to maximize playing time. This places higher demand on

supporting amenities, such as parking and restrooms. Parking at Sandstone Ranch Community Park is designed to allow for overflow into the ball field parking on the other side of the park, but the more convenient parking fills quickly.

Sports groups reserve blocks of time and then maximize the use of the fields within their allotted time, configuring and scheduling as appropriate for different age groups and for practice or game play. In all parks with enough rectangular space for some level of play, Recreation Services and the sports groups are utilizing the space as a sport field. St. Vrain Valley School District fields add capacity in the city, but mainly at the youngest levels of play. High quality high school fields are exclusively scheduled for school sports. Middle school and elementary fields are not developed or maintained to the standards Longmont residents desire, but they are used due to the lack of field space.

The current level of play on City fields is a balance between the capacity of the fields, the level of maintenance required to keep them safe, high quality field turf, and allowing minimal time for field resting and rescheduling options for rain cancelations. Additional playing time could be squeezed out of the fields but would come at a cost to quality of the playing conditions, especially later in the seasons. In this situation, artificial turf is often considered for the highest intensity fields, allowing a more intensive schedule on those fields (requiring no rest and a longer playing season). Due to the higher cost of installation, artificial turf fields would probably not cost less on a per-field basis, but would provide considerably more playing time for that investment. Improvements or additions to the City's athletic fields will modify the current balance of play (particularly for community sports groups) between School District and City fields. Typically sports groups will maximize their time on the best fields available, constrained only by the cost of field time and their participant's willingness to pay. This effect can also come into play at the regional level where tournament play and the highest levels of competition will choose to locate to the best fields available to them. The quality of the recreation facilities available in Longmont will impact both local and regional demand for their use and impact the direct and indirect economic return on this community investment.

Aquatics

Centennial Pool and the Longmont Recreation Center are the two public recreation facilities in Longmont with indoor aquatics opportunities. Private providers also exist with significant use at the YMCA, Fox Hill Country Club and the Longmont Athletic Club.

Centennial Pool Use

Centennial Pool is the only indoor pool in Longmont large enough to host swimming and diving meets. Of the aquatics user groups that participate in meets, Centennial Pool is the home to all four High School swim teams and the two USA competitive swim teams. Additional groups that utilize Centennial Pool include divers, two Masters Swim groups, recreational swim teams, Special Olympics, the Tri Peaks Youth Triathlon Team, swim lessons, fitness classes, Skyline High School P.E., American Red Cross classes, open swim/lap swimmers, scout groups, kayak groups, and the community for birthday parties and community events like the Longmont Triathlon. Annual attendance at Centennial Pool in 2012 was 128,718. Details of use by each major group are provided below.

High School Swim Teams. The high school teams that utilize Centennial Pool include four High School girls swim teams and two High School boys teams totaling approximately 250 participants. Due to the limited practice times and space available at Centennial Pool, the teams rotate swimming at Centennial Pool and the local YMCA. Although swimming at the YMCA allows the teams to have more swim time, it doesn't provide the same practice experience as Centennial Pool due to the lack of starting blocks, diving boards and spectator seating. Additionally, while most High School swimmers are participating in two-hour practices each day, Longmont teams are limited to 1.25 hours per day. Due to the demand on the facility, home swim meets for the High School teams are limited to less than three hours, including warm-up time. This is not adequate time for the teams to hold two heats of each event; therefore many swimmers are not able to participate in their home swim meet.

Diving. The High Schools also have diving teams, with approximately 20 participants, which utilize the diving area while the High School swim teams are practicing. The High School Diving competitions are held at the same time as the swim meets. In addition to the High School diving teams, Centennial Pool offers diving lessons and a recreational (CARA) diving program. These programs are instrumental in providing a feeder program for the High School diving teams. The diving program averages 45 students, although it is constrained by the limited pool time available.

USA Teams & Youth Triathlon Team. Three USA teams rent Centennial Pool for practices. The Redtails Swim Club practices and uses four to six lanes depending on the time of year. The Club averages 12 hours of use per week. The Fox Hill team (which also utilizes the private outdoor pool at Fox Hill Club) currently rents Centennial one hour per week for nine months of the year. The other USA swim team, the Gurgles, rents two lanes of Centennial

Pool for five hours per week. The Tri Peaks Youth Triathlon Team continuously seeks pool time for their swim practices. All of these teams combined represent approximately 160 participants. The Redtails host two half day swim meets and one weekend swim meet annually. The Gurgles and Fox Hill teams do not host meets at Centennial Pool.

Masters Swim. Centennial Pool hosts two sessions of Masters Swim, a morning and an evening session. The Masters Swim Programs are swim teams for adults ages 19 and older. Presently, the morning group meets three days per week and the evening group meets two nights per week. Both groups average 18-24 swimmers. The morning group utilizes four of the six lanes, which affords two lanes to drop-in lap swimmers. The evening group also utilizes four lanes while also sharing pool space with an older age group swim team (CARA).

Recreational Swim Teams. In addition to the recreational diving program, Centennial also has a City-sponsored (CARA) recreational swim team, which meets two nights per week, year-round. To accommodate the number of swimmers (approximately 75 swimmers during the school year and up to 90 during the summer) within the 1.5 hours the team has the pool, they split into three different work-out groups. The CARA program also shares pool space the pool with the evening Masters group as mentioned previously.

Special Olympics. To accommodate Special Olympics, the Special Olympics team has had to split between Centennial Pool and the Longmont Recreation Center to accommodate both the expanding Special Olympics and CARA swim teams. Independent swimmers utilize the Recreation Center Pool while assisted swimmers are at Centennial Pool. The team practices once a week on Friday evenings for one hour. The split between recreation facilities has lessened the team camaraderie and has created a need for additional volunteers to assist with the program.

All in all, of the 88 hours per week Centennial Pool is open, 58 hours are utilized by competitive and recreational swim teams/groups which currently represent approximately 500 local participants.

Other Users: The remaining 30 hours per week at Centennial Pool are programmed for a combination of lap swim, open swim, swim lessons, fitness classes and Skyline High School P.E. classes. Presently, all of the programs mentioned above have requests in for additional pool space/time. The High School teams would prefer practicing full time at their home pool and have the ability to dive off starting blocks at every practice. The Masters group would like more time for evening practices. CARA swim and dive teams need more time in order to increase participation and reduce the number of people on wait lists. Additionally, the Special Olympics team would prefer to practice on a night other than Friday. The Gurgles USA

Swim team is interested in establishing a development team to feed into their regular team, and the Youth Triathlon teams needs dedicated time and space. There are also additional time and space needs for lap swimmers, scout groups, residents, etc. who would like access to the pool.

Additional use and time constraints at Centennial Pool include:

- American Red Cross classes (lifeguard and swim lesson instructor classes) held several times throughout the year.
- Friday nights and weekends are as tightly scheduled as weekdays.
- In addition to one of the Masters groups, which has been utilizing Centennial Pool on Saturday mornings since the 80's, both USA teams also currently practice on weekend mornings (one on Saturday and one on Sunday).
- Citizens rent Centennial Pool for birthday parties and gatherings.
- Swim lessons and fitness classes are held.
- Open kayak and kayak rentals also use the pool during the Fall/Winter and early Spring. Friday nights are extended to accommodate the Youth Kayak Club which has 15-20 kayakers every Friday night until 9 p.m.
- On Saturday and Sundays, Centennial Pool is thoroughly programmed from 6:45 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. With the rentals and kayak participants, the hours stretch to 6 p.m. on Saturday's and 9 p.m. on Sunday's.

An additional constraint to Centennial Pool being utilized as a competitive facility is the undersized spectator area. Although Centennial Pool is the only pool in town capable of hosting swim meets, the observation area available for spectators is severely undersized. Bleacher seating is available on two of the three sections of the upper area; the 3rd area is designated as a small fitness room. Even with movable chairs on the deck and re-locating all of the exercise equipment in the fitness area, the space is inadequate. In 2013, the Centennial Pool facility hosted a recreational (CARA) swim meet. Spectators arrived at the meet at 12:30 p.m. in order to save their spot to watch the 4 p.m. swim meet. The USA teams have the same spectator problems when hosting meets and have trended towards hosting small meets due to the inadequate recreation facilities. The USA teams generally host one big meet a year and two smaller meets to avoid the overcrowding in the spectator area.

Also recently in 2013, the School District began hosting the "All City" swim meet on a Saturday after swim lessons as opposed to hosting dual swim meets during the late afternoon. This allows the teams to have two heats per event and allows all teams the opportunity to participate in the meet. This

arrangement also affords working parents the opportunity to watch their child swim locally.

Longmont Recreation Center Pool Use

In 2002, the Longmont Recreation Center pool was opened with the philosophy of offering aquatics patrons the opportunity for drop-in and open swim at any time of the day or evening. This philosophy eliminates all practice opportunities until late evenings. Most teams are unable to start practices after 8 p.m. due to the practice times not being conducive to students. The Recreation Center pool design was geared to meet the swimming needs of the leisure swimmer. At the time the center was built, National trends indicated that 85% of swimmers went swimming for the purpose of splashing around, getting wet and having fun. This is in contrast to 15% of people swimming for fitness or competitive purposes. It is estimated that 55% of those using the Recreation Center go to the pool. This is approximately 258,500 people annually.

During the design process, the lap lanes at the Recreation Center were narrowed by 36" (6" per lane) to help bring the facility within budget. The narrow lanes make it difficult for multiple swimmers to practice in one lane. The leisure pool was also reduced in size due to budget constraints. With the construction of the aquatics facility at the Longmont Recreation Center, Centennial Pool became the City's primary "programmed" pool and open swim opportunities at Centennial Pool were minimized. Monday through Friday during the school year, Centennial Pool is not available for lap or open swimming after 2:30 p.m. In the summer, Centennial Pool is not available after 3:30 p.m. From opening until mid-afternoon, lap swim is offered in conjunction with open swim, swim lessons and fitness classes. The later part of the afternoon, Centennial Pool either has High School swim teams or the USA swim teams utilizing the pool. During these practices, Centennial offers swimming lessons to the general public. Swim lessons can only be offered two days a week, as swim meets are held on the other days. In the earlier years of Centennial Pool, this sharing of the pool space was adequate, but this is no longer the case. Swim lesson participants are not getting a quality swim lesson as they have to crowd into a single lane of the pool to be taught how to swim. Meanwhile, the High School teams get pushed into fewer lanes and do not have the space they need to run efficient practices.

Distribution of Aquatics Facilities

Clarifying and classifying different types of aquatics facilities allows the distribution of these sites to be examined against the population distribution. There are several types of aquatics opportunities in Longmont offering a range of activities from water play to competitive swimming. The existing options include:

- Lap pool;
- Recreational pool;
- Competition pool;
- Indoor and outdoor pools;
- Activity pools;
- Splash pads; and
- Swim beaches.

In general, aquatics are a high demand facility that many residents are likely to travel a greater distance to visit. As with the park and trail access analysis, three demographic screens were considered against the distribution of aquatics opportunities (Table 2-9). Based on the analysis, the northwest and far southwest areas of Longmont are the residential areas furthest from existing aquatic options.

Table 2-9: Aquatic Facility Distribution

Aquatic Facility	Type	Location	Population Density		
			High	Med	Low
Centennial Pool	Indoor Pool – Competition	Northeast	-	•	-
Longmont Recreation Center	Indoor Pool – Lap and Recreational	South	•	•	-
Sunset Pool	Outdoor Pool – Lap and Recreational	Central	-	•	•
Kanemoto Park ¹¹	Activity Pool	South	-	•	•
Roosevelt Park	Activity Pool	Central	-	•	-
Stephen Day Park	Splash Pad	East	-	•	-
Sandstone Ranch	Splash Pad	Southeast	-	-	•
Union Reservoir	Swim Beach	Northeast	-	-	•

Additional aquatics options in the community will impact both the community’s total investment in ongoing operations and maintenance (pools are resource intensive) and the use of existing recreation facilities. Depending on the exact recreation facilities included, older sites may be rendered duplicative or outmoded.

¹¹ Destroyed in 2013 flood