



**APPENDIX A:  
PARK INVENTORY (2006)**




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## Bluegrass Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Community Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Near Skyway Elementary, central to neighborhood
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	11.0
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Splash pad, pavilion, children's play area, leisure sport amenities (disc golf, basketball, etc.), restroom, maintenance building.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Situated near Skyway Elementary, Woodland Middle and Lake City High in a newer residential neighborhood. Heavily used by children, teens and adults.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	


## Cherry Hill Community Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Community Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Near intersection of North 15 <sup>th</sup> Street and East Hazel Avenue, at the foot of Stanley Hill
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	30.0 Acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	9/11 Memorial Playground, sledding hill, BMX track, tennis courts, basketball court, restrooms, parking
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Situated at the foot of Stanley Hill and adjacent to a fire station. Home of CdA's 9/11 Memorial Playground with signature helmet play structure. Excellent sledding hill; CdA's only BMX track. Master plan reserves space for BMX track expansion.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	

## City Park and Beach

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Community Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Downtown Coeur d'Alene, off of Northwest Boulevard
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	14.8 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Fort Sherman Playground, beach, volleyball, Centennial Trial runs through park, band shell, public art, basketball, picnic facilities, restroom, several historic structures.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Historic park that has long-served as the City's foremost recreational facility; historic structure at north end of park that currently accommodates a non-profit human rights organization. Coeur d'Alene Resort is east of park facility; directly west is the historic Fort Grounds neighborhood and North Idaho College. Other important park sites (Memorial Field, Independence Point, etc.) are adjacent. With this location and the large number of special events held in the park, the facility gets thousands of visitors per year.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	 <p>The site photos section contains four images. The top-left image shows a stone archway structure in a park setting with colorful flowers in the foreground. The top-right image shows a wooden structure with a gabled roof and the words 'FORT SHERMAN' on top. The bottom-left image shows several people sitting on a concrete bench under a large tree. The bottom-right image shows a sandy beach with people and umbrellas near a body of water.</p>

## Independence Point

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Community Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Adjacent to City Park and Beach and gateway to Lake Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	2.6 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Viewpoint, adjacent parking
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Adjacent to City Park and Beach and gateway to Lake Coeur d'Alene. Public dock south end of park, rented to commercial venues for water recreation activities. Downtown master plan called for relocation of the historic carousel to the site.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	




**Landings Park (planned)**

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Community Park
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	11.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	None. Not yet constructed
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Planned for a new residential area: Playground, basketball, volleyball, tennis, picnic shelter, splash pad, portable restrooms in enclosures, parking




# Riverstone Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Community Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Near Centennial Trail
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	5.0
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Park surrounding large water feature, playground, splash pad, pavilion, parking.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Near the Centennial Trail and soon-to-be-abandoned Union Pacific and BNSF rail lines. Central feature of new development area with commercial space and restaurants. Potential for linkage to Spokane River. Pavilion area has potential for rental revenue. Park opened in summer 2007.
<b><i>Concept Plan:</i></b>	 <p>The Park at Riverstone Coeur d'Alene, Idaho</p> <p>Prepared for: SRM Development and Riverstone Coeur d'Alene, Idaho</p> <p>Prepared by: Landscape and L.A.N.D.</p> <p>Location Map The Park Riverstone</p> <p>Scale: 1 Acre, 1/4 Acre, 1/8 Acre</p>

## Hawks Nest Park (planned)

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Neighborhood Park
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	7.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Not yet constructed
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Neighborhood park amenities are intended for this site within a residential area.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	No photo available

# Johnson Mill River Park

<b>Park Type:</b>	Neighborhood Park
<b>Location:</b>	North bank of the Spokane River
<b>Size:</b>	1.7 acres
<b>Ownership:</b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b>Current Master Plan:</b>	YES – Park is complete according to plan
<b>Existing Facilities:</b>	Catwalk, pavilion, sand beach, public dock for day-use boating.
<b>Comments:</b>	Construction completed in 2006. Park situated on the northern bank of the Spokane River, separated from adjacent high-end housing by rail line. Opportunity to widen park may exist when rail corridor is abandoned.
<b>Concept Plan:</b>	 <p>The concept plan diagram illustrates the layout of Johnson Mill River Park along the Spokane River. Key features include a log boom, boardwalk, scored concrete walkway, and a covered picnic structure. Landscaping is detailed with various tree species and shrubs, along with a sandy beach and hydroseeded lawn. A legend identifies the symbols used for different plant types and materials. A north arrow and scale of 1" = 40' are also provided.</p>


### Legacy Place Park (planned)

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Neighborhood Park
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	1.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Not yet constructed.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Neighborhood park amenities are intended for this site within a residential area.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	No photo available


### North Pines Park (planned)

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Neighborhood Park
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	3.5 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Not yet constructed.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Neighborhood park amenities are intended for this site within a residential area.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	No photo available

## Northshire Park


<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Neighborhood Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Across from the U.S. Forest Service tree nursery at Atlas Road
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	3.5 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Playground, tennis courts, basketball court, volleyball, horseshoe pits, restrooms, picnic area, parking
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	<p>Older park situated in 30-year old residential neighborhood. Serves six different subdivisions in immediate area.</p> <p>Parking, drinking fountain, play equipment, basketball, and volleyball are planned improvements.</p>
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## Phippeny Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Neighborhood Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Located in older residential neighborhood at 7 <sup>th</sup> and Montana
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	2.7 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Play ground, basketball court, pavilion, parking
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Small park situated in older residential neighborhood. Street tree arboretum.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	




## Shadduck Lane Park




<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Neighborhood Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Near Canfield Middle School
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	6.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Basketball, volleyball, playgrounds, pavilion, horseshoes.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Located near Canfield Middle School, situated within mixed-age subdivisions. Large level of community involvement in park development.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	




## Sunshine Meadows Park (pending)

<b>Park Type:</b>	Neighborhood Park
<b>Location:</b>	Larix Court and Timberline Loop
<b>Size:</b>	2.3 acres
<b>Ownership:</b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b>Current Master Plan:</b>	YES
<b>Existing Facilities:</b>	Not yet constructed.
<b>Comments:</b>	Master plan completed, park not constructed due to changing of site configuration. New master plan is needed for the smaller site.
<b>Concept Plan:</b>	 <p>The image is a detailed site plan for Sunshine Meadow Park, titled "SUNSHINE MEADOW RECONFIGURED PARK PLAN". The plan shows a park area of 2.6 acres. Key features include a large "OPEN SPACE 24 ACRES" in the center, a "BASKETBALL COURTS" area on the left, a "PLAY AREA SAND SP." on the right, and a "PARKING &amp; SPACES" area at the bottom right. The park is bounded by "TIMBERLINE LOOP" at the top, "LARIX CT." at the bottom, and "CORRELLS PKY." on the right. The plan also shows various trees, walkways, and utility lines. A scale bar and north arrow are included in the bottom right corner. The logo for "Coeur d'Alene Parks &amp; Recreation" is visible in the bottom right corner.</p>


## Winton Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Neighborhood Park
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Adjacent to Winton Elementary
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	6.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Horseshoe complex, wooded area with pathways, picnic pavilions, one softball field.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Located adjacent to Winton Elementary. Built with Land and Water Conservation Funds.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	  

## Canfield Sport Complex

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	North edge of town, adjacent to Canfield Middle School.
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	16.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Four little league fields and one soccer field.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Youth sports complex at north edge of town, directly adjacent to Canfield Middle School. Hosts Little League and soccer events.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## Coeur d'Alene Soccer Complex


<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	North end of town, directly adjacent to Skyway Elementary.
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	9.5 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Three full-sized soccer fields (can be converted to 20 mini fields).
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Large soccer complex at far north end of town. Parking available on roadway.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## Jewett House and Beach


<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	On Lake Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	2.1 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Historic house with gravel parking area, beach area on lake.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Donated by Potlatch to the City for the benefit of senior citizens, and use of site must be majority senior uses. Beach area offers potential for swimming.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	




## McEuen Field

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Downtown CdA, adjacent to the public launch and Tubbs Hill
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	14.8 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	YES
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	One lighted baseball field, two lighted softball fields (one also used for flag football), tennis courts, basketball courts, large play facility, and restrooms.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Multi-use park with sports focus. Adjacent to Tubbs Hill, parking docks, and public parking for 600 vehicles. Some features need repair. McEuen Field was addressed in the 1999 Downtown Public Places Plan, and the preferred concept for the site is included in Appendix E.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## Memorial Field


<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Downtown CdA, adjacent to City Park and skateboard park.
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	6.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Historic stadium. Lighted baseball field with stadium seating for 500, parking, and restrooms.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Historic field adjacent to City Park in downtown CdA. Structural and ADA compliance issues exist due to the age of the stadium. 1999 Downtown Public Places Plan called for rebuilding Memorial Field.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## Person Field


<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	On 15 <sup>th</sup> , south of Lakes Middle School
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	3.0 acres (city), 6.2 acres total
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	½ City, ½ School District
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Track, one football field with goal posts, one softball field.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Aging sport field half-owned by the City, half-owned by the school district. Development opportunities limited due to ownership situation. Previous Parks Master Plan called for city to do a land trade with the School District to obtain entire site for park use.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	




# Ramsey Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	On Ramsey Road between Golf Course Road and Kathleen
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	29.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Five lighted softball fields, two lighted soccer fields (overlays). Tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts. Extensive annual plantings. Playground, family/group picnic facility, restrooms, parking, concessions building.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Sizeable sport complex near I-90 and downtown. Kroc Center under construction immediately to the south. North end of the park is wooded and serves as a neighborhood park.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	 <p>The 'Site Photos' section contains three images. The top-left image shows a paved path curving through a garden bed with a low stone wall and colorful flowers. The bottom-left image shows a basketball court with a hoop and backboard. The right image shows a large softball field with a tall backstop net and metal bleachers in the foreground.</p>

## Skateboard Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Adjacent to Memorial Field
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	1.0
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Skate park, roller hockey rink.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Good location near downtown. Visibility could be improved. More challenging features and improved skating surface desired by users. BMX freestyle users would like to be accommodated here also. Roller hockey has fallen out of favor, and plans are in place to expand the skate park onto the roller hockey rink
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	


## Stokes Field

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Corner of Ramsey Road and Kathleen Avenue
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	3.7 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Open turf area used for youth soccer (1 U-10 field or multiple micro fields). Parking at east end.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Small soccer complex relatively close to Ramsey Park. Can only accommodate one youth (U-10) fields. Can accommodate ten micro-fields at one time; valuable as a practice site. Parking is an issue, and occurs in adjacent lot at east end of turf
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## Sunset Rotary Field

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Best Avenue and 14 <sup>th</sup> Street
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	5.2 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	One lighted softball field and one unlighted softball field. Picnic shelter, playground, restrooms, parking.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## City-owned Docks


<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Special Use Area
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Adjacent to Tubbs Hill, McEuen Field, City Park and Beach, Independence Point, and the Coeur d'Alene Resort
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	600 sf; 8,800 sf; 4,640 sf; 5,740 sf
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	First Street Dock, Commercial Dock, Launch Dock, Mooring Dock
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	A 600 space public parking lot is adjacent to the boat launch, but parking still is an issue on busy summer days. The public launch is heavily used, and all docks generate revenue as well as provide needed facilities for tourists and residents.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	



## Canfield Mountain Trails

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Natural Park Preserve
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	24.0
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	None
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Pedestrian trails are planned. Limited street frontage and access currently.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## East Tubbs Hill

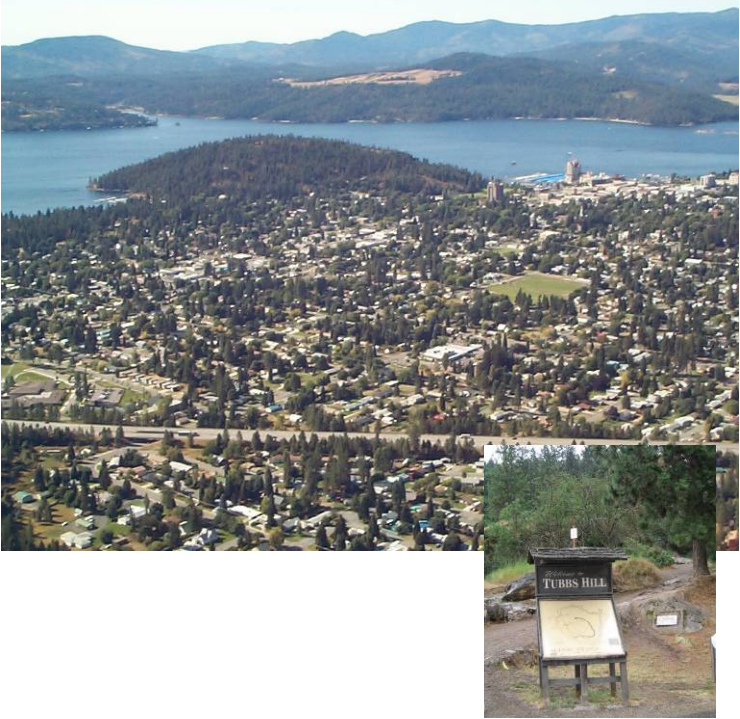
<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Natural Park Preserve
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	1.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Eastern access to Tubbs Hill. Restroom and diagonal parking.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Former water department facility, now an eastern access point to Tubbs Hill.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	

## Fernan


<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Natural Park Preserve
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	South side of Fernan Lake
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	54.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	None.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	South side of Fernan Lake on Potlatch Hill.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	No photo available



## Tubbs Hill

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Natural Park Preserve
<b><i>Location:</i></b>	Downtown, bounded by Lake Coeur d'Alene on three sides.
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	120.0 acres
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	MANAGEMENT PLAN
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Hiking trails, scenic viewpoints. Leashed dogs allowed. Parking at northwest edge of park serves Tubbs Hill as well as public docks and McEuen Field.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	Historic natural area at center of downtown CdA. Bounded by Lake Coeur d'Alene on three sides. Urban wilderness with spectacular lake and city views. Swimming is popular along the Tubbs Hill water frontage.
<b><i>Site Photos:</i></b>	

## Veterans' Centennial Park

<b><i>Park Type:</i></b>	Natural Park Preserve
<b><i>Size:</i></b>	16.0
<b><i>Ownership:</i></b>	City of Coeur d'Alene
<b><i>Current Master Plan:</i></b>	NO
<b><i>Existing Facilities:</i></b>	Designated for passive use at top of Fernan Hill.
<b><i>Comments:</i></b>	No plan has been developed for the site. Adjacent to a residence. Expansive views. May be suitable for development as a native tree arboretum.
<b><i>Site Photo:</i></b>	



**APPENDIX B:  
RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS (2006)**



**CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE  
PARKS & RECREATION**

**survey**

Dear Residents of Coeur d'Alene:

The City of Coeur d'Alene is preparing a long-range master plan for our community's park system. We would like your help determining what types of park facilities and programs are needed to meet the recreation needs of our growing community. Please select one person in your household age 18 or older to respond to the adult survey. Also enclosed is a second survey targeted specifically to youth. If there is a member of your household that is age 17 or younger, please ask him or her to complete the youth survey.

Since we're contacting only a percentage of Coeur d'Alene's residents, your participation is important for the success of this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 768-2252. Thank you for participating!

Sincerely,  
Doug Greenwood, Parks Director

1. Male or Female? Please circle 1.  
2. How long have you resided in Coeur d'Alene? Please check 1.  
3. What is your age? Please check 1.  
4. What are the primary reasons you use parks? Please check your top 3 choices.  
5. If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Coeur d'Alene, what are your reasons? Please check your top 3 choices.  
6. Parks, recreation services and open space are important to Coeur d'Alene's quality of life. Please check 1 reason for:  
7. What type of park is most needed in Coeur d'Alene? Please check your top 2 choices.

## COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY

A statistically valid survey, designed to elicit information about the recreation interests, behavior, attitudes and participation of adults and youth in Coeur d'Alene, was conducted between October and December residents, selected from a current list of residential telephone subscribers in Coeur d'Alene. A survey instrument, designed for residents age 18 and older, was sent to each selected address. Also enclosed was a shorter questionnaire, targeted at youth residents.

At the close of the survey on December 5, 2006, a total of 394 adult surveys and 66 youth surveys had been returned. This provides a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of 4.91% for the adult population. In other words, one can be 95% confident that the survey findings vary no more than just under 5 percent for adults from the results that would have been obtained if everyone in the City had been surveyed.

Specifically, the recreation survey sought to obtain data on the following topics:

- Park use patterns and development priorities;
- Trail and pathway use patterns and development priorities;
- Participation in local water recreation activities;
- Participation in local recreation programming opportunities;
- Opinions on park maintenance;
- Opinions on the use of natural open space;
- Current recreation participation habits; and
- Recreation interests currently unfulfilled by available facilities/programs.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Most residents use parks. Coeur d'Alene's residents have high levels of park use. The top reasons adults use parks are to enjoy the outdoors/nature, to walk or bike for exercise, or for picnics/general leisure. Youth use the parks in Coeur d'Alene to meet friends or play sports.
- City Park is the City's most visited park. Survey respondents also favor parks near their house (particularly Bluegrass Park) and public beaches and docks. Youths utilize sport fields more frequently than adults.

- Coeur d'Alene residents are doing their favorite activities. When asked to select their "preferred" recreation activities, eighteen of the twenty most-preferred activities were at the top of the list of activities in which adults and youth already participate. These activities include walking, bicycling, fishing, motor boating, nature walks, swimming at beaches/rivers, and walking dogs or going to dog parks, among others.
- More than 95% of respondents feel that natural areas are important. Natural open space is also the park type respondents indicated is most needed in Coeur d'Alene. Natural area trails are the trail type respondents identified as most needed. Most want natural areas to have some form of public access.
- Coeur d'Alene has a strong contingency of frequent cyclists (commuters, casual cyclists, and frequent road cyclists), but connectivity is an issue for both trail users and nonusers in Coeur d'Alene. More non-motorized transportation options are sought, as are improved connections between neighborhoods and community destination points, more trailheads, and signage.
- Other resources sought by the public include parks with river or creek frontage, neighborhood parks and multi-use parks. There is little adult interest in additional parks oriented around sports fields.
- Crowding is an issue at both parks and water recreation facilities. A lack of knowledge about park and trail locations exists as well, with the exception of the facilities available near downtown.
- Youth may be interested in an indoor pool and are very interested in new gymnasiums. Youth are not interested in a teen center.
- Coeur d'Alene's parks have an excellent reputation for safety/cleanliness.
- Some accommodation is sought for dogs, even among those who do not own dogs.
- Few adults are participating in recreation programs. However, seniors may be interested in programming and this topic should be explored further.
- A general lack of knowledge exists about the recreation programming that is available in the City. This is one of the top reasons for the lack of participation in City programs on the part of respondents.
- At present, word of mouth and the City newspaper are the two most popular methods used by the public to get information about recreation programming.

- Cultural arts programming is sought by the public as well. The types of cultural arts programming most favored by respondents include concerts in the park, community art festivals, and performing arts events.

**ADULT SURVEY RESULTS**

**Demographic Questions**

Question 1: What is your gender?

**Table B.1**  
Question 1 Results Summary

Total	312
Male	156 50.0%
Female	156 50.0%

- Two unusual aspects of the Coeur d’Alene survey results are that the responses to the gender question were split evenly, and that the overall response rate to this question was low compared to the response rate for the majority of survey questions.

Question 2: How long have you resided in Coeur d’Alene?

**Table B.2**  
Question 2 Results Summary

Total	394
1 year or less	10 2.5%
2-6 years	74 18.8%
7-10 years	44 11.2%
11-19 years	98 24.9%
20+ years	168 42.6%

- More than 66% of responses were from long-term residents (11 or more years in Coeur d’Alene).

Question 3: What is your age?

**Table B.3**  
Question 3 Results Summary

	Total	2000 Census
	394 (age 18+)	25,904 (age 18+)
18-24	13 3.3%	4,038 15.6%
25-34	32 8.1%	4,722 18.2%
35-44	53 13.5%	4,924 19.0%
45-54	96 24.4%	4,497 17.4%
55-64	76 19.3%	2,632 10.2%
65+	124 31.5%	5,091 19.7%

- Individuals age 18-24 and 25-34 appear to be underrepresented by this survey, a common trend in surveys of this type. Individuals age 35-44 and 45-54 are adequately represented by this survey. This survey somewhat over-represents those 55 and older, common to surveys of this type.

**Park Use Questions**

Question 4: What are the primary reasons you use parks? Please check your top 3 choices.

**Table B.4**  
Question 4 Results Summary

Total	946
Enjoy the outdoors or nature	211 22.3%
Walk or bike for exercise	203 21.5%
Picnic and general leisure activities	170 18.0%
Participate in family activities	121 12.8%
Meet friends	62 6.6%
Play sports	61 6.4%
Use a specific facility at a park	55 5.8%
Don't use parks	37 3.9%
Other	26 2.7%



- Adults in Coeur d’Alene use parks for three primary reasons: to enjoy the outdoors or nature, for exercise (walking and biking), and for picnicking/ general leisure. Family activities also rank higher on the list of reasons that adults use Coeur d’Alene’s park resources.

Question 5: If you seldom use or do not use the parks Coeur d'Alene, what are your reasons? Please check your top 3 choices.

**Table B.5**  
Question 5 Results Summary

Total	208
Not interested/no time	64 30.8%
Too crowded	35 16.8%
Don't know what is available	32 15.4%
Too far away; not conveniently located	20 9.6%
Lack of facilities	19 9.1%
Feel unsafe	12 5.8%
Don't know where they are	12 5.8%
Do not have transportation	9 4.3%
Poorly maintained	5 2.4%

- Nearly one-third of responses to this question selected “not interested/ no time” as a reason they seldom use or do not use Coeur d’Alene’s park resources.
- The second most common reason that participants do not use parks in Coeur d’Alene is that they are “too crowded” (16.8%), an answer that typically ranks much lower in other communities. Crowding is a common theme in responses to this survey, indicating either overuse of certain park resources by the public, or a perception of overuse that limits participation from others.
- The third most common reason that participants do not use Coeur d’Alene’s park resources is that they “don’t know where they are.” The responses to several other questions highlight a theme of a lack of awareness of available recreation resources (see Questions 13 and 23).
- Two options were rarely selected by respondents: “feel unsafe” (5.8% of responses) and “poorly maintained” (2.4% of responses). It

appears that Coeur d’Alene is doing an excellent job of ensuring the safety and maintenance of its parks.

Question 6: Parks, recreation services and open space are important to Coeur d’Alene’s quality of life. Please check 1 opinion box.

**Table B.6**  
Question 6 Results Summary

<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>
Strongly agree	306 78.7%
Agree	71 18.3%
Neutral	10 2.6%
Disagree	2 0.5%
Strongly disagree	0 0.0%

- The vast majority (97%) of respondents feel that parks, recreation services and open space are important to Coeur d’Alene’s quality of life. More than 78% of respondents strongly agreed with this statement, and only two of 389 respondents disagreed with this statement.

Question 7: What type of park is most needed in Coeur d’Alene? Please check your top 2 choices.

**Table B.7**  
Question 7 Results Summary

<b>Total</b>	<b>683</b>
Natural areas	175 25.6%
Parks with river, creek or lake frontage	174 25.5%
Small parks in my neighborhood	109 16.0%
Large multi-use parks that serve the whole community	93 13.6%
Arboretum	54 7.9%
Linear trail corridors	48 7.0%
No additional parks or natural areas are needed	17 2.5%
A park consisting primarily of sports fields	13 1.9%

- A nearly equivalent number of selections were received for “natural areas” and “parks with river, creek or lake frontage” for this question.
- Disregarding park type, more than 97% of responses indicated that additional parks of some type are needed.

**Open Space Questions**

Question 8: Having natural open space in Coeur d'Alene is important. Please check 1 opinion box.

**Table B.8**  
Question 8 Results Summary

Total	393
Strongly agree	299 76.1%
Agree	79 20.1%
Neutral	14 3.6%
Disagree	0 0.0%
Strongly disagree	1 0.3%

- A very high percentage of survey respondents feel that natural open space is important in Coeur d'Alene (more than 96%). Only one of 393 respondents disagreed with this statement. This finding is consistent with the results of other questions, which indicate a high level of interest in natural open space.

Question 9: How should natural areas be used? Please check only 1 choice.

**Table B.9**  
Question 9 Results Summary

Total	386
No public use (preserved for wildlife habitat)	8 2.1%
Limited public use (trails, viewpoints, etc.)	89 23.1%
Semi-active recreational use (picnicking, etc.)	81 21.0%
Combination of the above	201 52.1%
Other	7 1.8%

- The high selection of the “combination of the above” option indicates that most respondents will support using natural open space in a manner that respects a site, its context and its constraints.

**Trails, Pathways and Bicycle Lane Use Questions**

Question 10: What are the primary reasons to develop more trails in Coeur d'Alene? Please check your top 2 choices.

**Table B.10**  
Question 10 Results Summary

Total	710
Experience nature	171 24.1%
Increase non-motorized transportation options	158 22.3%
Exercise	144 20.3%
Recreation	128 18.0%
Improve connections between community destination points	64 9.0%
Improve children's access to schools	27 3.8%
No additional trails are needed	18 2.5%

- “Experience nature,” “increase non-motorized transportation options,” “exercise,” and “recreation” are the top reasons that respondents feel more trails should be developed in Coeur d'Alene.

Question 11: What type of trails/pathways should have the highest priority in Coeur d'Alene? Please check only 1 choice.

**Table B.11**  
Question 11 Results Summary

Total	355
Nature trails (e.g. Tubbs Hill)	156 43.9%
Trails that link neighborhoods with community destination points	114 32.1%
Bicycle lanes	58 16.3%
Trails that extend long distances (e.g. Centennial Trail)	23 6.5%
Other	4 1.1%

- Nature trails and trails that link neighborhoods with community destination points are the trail/pathway types most desired by residents of Coeur d’Alene.
- Residents of Coeur d’Alene prioritize bicycle lanes more than residents of other communities recently surveyed by MIG.

Question 12: Check the appropriate box regarding how often you participate in the following cycling activities. For each activity type, please place an "X" in the column that best describes how often you participate.

**Table B.12**  
Question 12 Results Summary

	Total	Once a week or more	1-2 times per month	Less than 5 times per year	Never
Commuting	315 100%	36 11%	22 7%	35 11%	222 70%
Recreational cycling	360 100%	85 24%	95 26%	80 22%	100 28%
Road biking	319 100%	38 12%	41 13%	52 16%	188 59%
Mountain biking	315 100%	18 6%	27 9%	68 22%	202 64%
BMX biking (track/freestyle)	296 100%	4 1%	1 0%	6 2%	285 96%
Cyclocross/ freestyle	297 100%	4 1%	1 0%	6 2%	286 96%

- The strong number of commuters and recreational cyclists is consistent with the expressed need for good connections between neighborhoods and community destination points.

Question 13: If you do not currently use trails or bicycle lanes in Coeur d'Alene, what are your primary reasons? Please check your top 2 choices.

**Table B.13**  
Question 13 Results Summary

Total	300
Other	91 30.3%
Lack of trails and connections	51 17.0%
Feel unsafe	46 15.3%
Too far away, not conveniently located	45 15.0%
Don't know where they are located	41 13.7%
Conflicts with other types of trail users	20 6.7%
Poorly maintained	6 2.0%

- Most respondents (more than 30%) selected “other” and wrote in a reason for not using trails. Seventy of the 91 “other” (write-in) responses indicated that a lack of time, interest, health or equipment was responsible for a respondent’s nonuse of trails or bicycle lanes in Coeur d’Alene. This makes this response the top reason for nonuse of City trails/bicycle lanes (23.3%).
- An enhanced trail/bicycle lane network is fundamental to remedying three of the top four reasons for trail/bicycle lane nonuse.

Question 14: What types of amenities would best encourage trail use? Please check only 1 choice.

**Table B.14**  
Question 14 Results Summary

Total	328
More access points and trailheads	86 26.2%
Restrooms	68 20.7%
Trail signage and mileage markers	59 18.0%
Educational features (signs)	35 10.7%
Active recreation features (playgrounds, paved courts, etc.)	30 9.1%
Picnic areas	28 8.5%
Other	22 6.7%

- Additional access points/trailheads, restrooms and trail signage are the amenities respondents feel would most encourage trail use. These thoughts are very much in line with the reasons for trail/bicycle lane non-use noted in Question 13.

**Water Recreation Questions**

Question 15: What types of water recreation activities do you participate in most frequently in Coeur d'Alene? Please check your top 2 choices.

**Table B.15**  
Question 15 Results Summary

<b>Total</b>	<b>622</b>
Outdoor swimming	181 29.1%
Fishing	149 24.0%
Motor boating	109 17.5%
I do not participate in such activities	68 10.9%
Canoeing/kayaking	49 7.9%
Other	20 3.2%
Water skiing/wakeboarding	19 3.1%
Sailing	19 3.1%
Jet skiing	8 1.3%
Wind surfing	0 0.0%

- Outdoor swimming, fishing and motor boating were the water recreation activities in which survey respondents most frequently participate.



Question 16: If you do not use the city-owned water recreation facilities (boat launch, fishing pier/dock, etc.) in Coeur d'Alene, what are your reasons? Please check all that apply.

**Table B.16**  
Question 16 Results Summary

Total	290
Facilities are too full	74 25.5%
Other	54 18.6%
Facilities do not interest me	46 15.9%
Too busy; no time	35 12.1%
No parking	34 11.7%
Too expensive	22 7.6%
Facilities are inconveniently located	14 4.8%
Not aware of facilities	6 2.1%
Facilities are of poor quality	5 1.7%

- The top reason that local residents do not use water recreation facilities in Coeur d’Alene is crowding. More than one-quarter of responses indicate that the available facilities “are too full,” and several write-in comments support this result.
- When write-in responses are considered, the second most common reason that local residents do not use the City’s water recreation facilities is a lack of time, health or equipment.

**Dog Park Questions**

Question 17: Do you own a dog?

**Table B.17**  
Question 17 Results Breakdown

Total	370
Yes	172 46.5%
No	198 53.5%

Question 18: How should dogs be accommodated in public spaces? Please check only 1 choice.

**Table B.18**  
Question 18 Results Summary

Total	372
Create a park specifically for dogs off-leash	51 13.7%
Create special off-leash areas for dogs in several parks	59 15.9%
Enforce current leash laws requiring dogs to be leashed in parks	109 29.3%
Create off-leash areas and enforce leash laws	141 37.9%
Other	12 3.2%

- Just over half of the respondents own a dog and slightly less than half do not. Of all survey respondents, two-thirds would like to see some form of dog park or accommodation for dogs in parks.

### Park Maintenance Questions

Question 19: Overall, I am satisfied with the level of park, open space and facility maintenance in Coeur d'Alene. Please check 1 opinion box.

**Table B.19**  
Question 19 Results Summary

Total	385
Strongly agree	47 12.2%
Agree	205 53.2%
Neutral	91 23.6%
Disagree	36 9.4%
Strongly disagree	6 1.6%

- Almost two-thirds (65.4%) of respondents are satisfied with the maintenance of Coeur d'Alene's parks. Another 23.6% are neutral on this question. Based on maintenance satisfaction results in other communities, Coeur d'Alene is doing an excellent job of maintaining its parks.

Question 20: If you think specific parks need improvements, please list the park and improvement needed.

This question provided space for respondents to write in a detailed response. Approximately 90 responses were received, and the full text of these write-ins is included in the full survey report prepared in January 2007. Key themes of the responses are summarized below.

- City Park, McEuen Field, Ramsey Park and Tubbs Hill received more comments than other facilities, although not an overwhelming number of complaints.
- Most City Park comments were directed at a lack of seating/leisure amenities (gazebos, benches, shaded picnic areas) and parking.
- Most McEuen Field comments referenced the poor condition of the tennis courts, which are reported to need resurfacing.
- Ramsey Park received very diverse comments, some directed at the need for lighting and general amenities.
- Almost all of the comments regarding Tubbs Hill were related to general cleanliness and maintenance issues (trash, dog waste and bathrooms).

### Recreation Programming Questions

Question 21: Do you participate in recreation programs and classes offered by Coeur d'Alene?

**Table B.20**  
Question 21 Results Summary

<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>
Yes (please go to Question #22)	76 20.2%
No (please go to Question #23)	300 79.8%

**Table B.21**  
Question 21 Results Summary – By Age

	Total	Cross-Tabulation by Age Group					
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
	376	13	32	51	91	72	116
Yes (please go to Question #22)	76 20.2%	0 0.0%	11 34.4%	25 49.0%	20 22.0%	9 12.5%	11 9.5%
No (please go to Question #23)	300 79.8%	13 100.0%	21 65.6%	26 51.0%	71 78.0%	63 87.5%	105 90.5%

- The majority of respondents do not participate in recreation programs offered by the City.
- Based on these results, adults in the 35-44 age group have the strongest participation in the City’s recreation programming. This

may be due to participation by the children of respondents in City-sponsored recreation program, as well as by participation of the respondents themselves

Question 22: If you participated in recreation programs and classes offered by Coeur d'Alene, how did you learn about them? Please check all that apply; then proceed to Question 24.

**Table B.22**  
Question 22 Results Summary

Total	165
From friends or word of mouth	45 27.3%
From the local newspaper	35 21.2%
From the City's schedule of programs and activities	31 18.8%
Information distributed at local schools	23 13.9%
Posters/flyers	14 8.5%
Other	8 4.8%
Web site	6 3.6%
From CDATV	3 1.8%

- Of those who participate in the City’s recreation programs, the top methods by which they hear about recreation programs and classes are from friends or word of mouth, from the newspaper, or from the City’s schedule of activities and programs.

Question 23: If you do not participate in recreation programs and classes offered by Coeur d'Alene, what are your reasons? Please check all that apply.

**Table B.23**  
Question 23 Results Summary

<b>Total</b>	<b>413</b>
Not aware of programs	132 32.0%
Too busy; no time	94 22.8%
Other	59 14.3%
Don't have activities I'm interested in	52 12.6%
Held at inconvenient times	25 6.1%
Too expensive	20 4.8%
Held at inconvenient locations	8 1.9%
Lack of transportation	8 1.9%
Need child care in order to participate	7 1.7%
Classes or programs are full	6 1.5%
Poor quality of programs	2 0.5%

- The most common reason that respondents do not participate in the City's recreation programs is that they are unaware of what is available.
- The second most common reason that respondents do not participate in City recreation programming is a lack of time.

Question 24: What types of cultural arts programs should Coeur d'Alene offer? Please check your top 3 choices.

**Table B.24**  
Question 24 Results Summary

Total	900
Concerts in the parks	259 28.8%
Community art festivals and special events	211 23.4%
Performing arts programs (theater, dance, etc.)	133 14.8%
Art in public spaces, such as murals, sculpture, and statues	113 12.6%
Visual arts classes (drawing, painting, photography, etc.)	71 7.9%
Multi-cultural activities and programming	58 6.4%
I do not support the City's providing cultural arts programs and services	21 2.3%
Literary arts (reading groups, lectures)	19 2.1%
Other	15 1.7%

- Respondents indicate strong support for cultural arts programming, with less than 3% of respondents indicated a lack of support for City provision of cultural arts programs.
- Concerts in the park, community art festivals, and performing arts are the three most desired cultural arts offerings. Support for public art is shown as well.

### Park Use Patterns

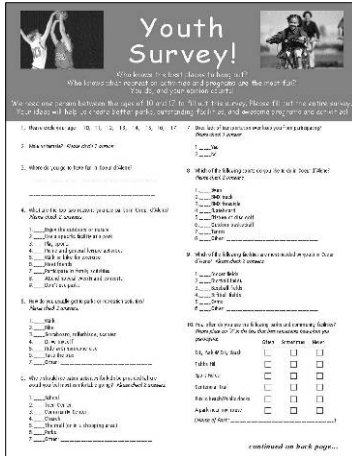
Question 25: Check the appropriate box regarding how often you use the following parks and community facilities when they are in season. For each park, place an "X" in the column that best describes how often you visit.

**Table B.25**  
Question 25 Results Summary

	Total	Once a week or more	1-2 times per month	Less than 5 times per year	Never
City Park @ City Beach	371 100.0%	68 18.3%	128 34.5%	138 37.2%	37 10.0%
Tubbs Hill	367 100.0%	53 14.4%	87 23.7%	143 39.0%	84 22.9%
Sport Fields	337 100.0%	36 10.7%	37 11.0%	81 24.0%	183 54.3%
Centennial Trail	363 100.0%	59 16.3%	76 20.9%	124 34.2%	104 28.7%
Public Beach/Public Docks	364 100.0%	65 17.9%	107 29.4%	120 33.0%	72 19.8%
A park near my house (write-in park name)	267 100.0%	88 33.0%	48 18.0%	42 15.7%	89 33.3%

- City Park/City Beach is overall the most popular, with 90% of respondents visiting the park at some point. This site also had a high percentage of weekly users.
- More than 80% of respondents have visited a public beach or public docks, also with a high percentage of weekly users.
- Almost 80% of respondents have visited Tubbs Hill, and more than 71% have used the Centennial Trail. More than one-third of respondents use Tubbs Hill and the Centennial Trail at least once per month.
- Neighborhood parks have the highest percentage of weekly users (33%). Of the neighborhood parks used by respondents, Bluegrass Park was by far the most popular, with 39 write-in responses. Other popular parks included Shadduck Lane, Northshire and Cherry Hill.
- More than half of respondents reported never using sports fields. This may be due to the age of respondents (adults), as the results show that use of sport fields by youth is much more common.





# YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

## Demographic Questions

Question 1: Please circle your age.

**Table B.26**  
Youth Question 1 Results Summary

	Total 66 (10-18)	Census 3898 (10-18)
10	7 11%	473 12%
11	4 6%	484 12%
12	7 11%	449 12%
13	8 12%	452 12%
14	13 20%	508 13%
15	5 8%	473 12%
16	11 17%	524 13%
17	11 17%	535 14%

- The 66 youths who responded to this survey (14.3% of the total 460 responses) appropriately represent their segment of the population (11.3%, 2000 census). While the margin of error for youth is much higher than that of adults due to the smaller number of surveys received, it appears this survey reached the youth population appropriately.

Question 2: Male or female? Please circle 1 answer.

**Table B.27**  
Youth Question 2 Results Summary

Total	56
Male	27 48%
Female	29 52%

## Park Use Questions

Question 3: Where do you go to have fun in Coeur d'Alene?

This question provided space for respondents to write in a response. Key themes of the responses are summarized below.

- Sixty-two youth write-in responses were received for this question. The most popular write-in response was the beach and the City Park boardwalk/beach area, with about 20 responses.
- Other recreation venues that youth frequent include the movies, local parks (often not specified), Tubbs Hill, the skate park, downtown, or the mall.
- Of the local parks specified by youth, Bluegrass Park was the most often noted by name.

Question 4: What are the top two reasons you use parks in Coeur d'Alene? Please check 2 answers.

**Table B.28**  
Youth Question 4 Results Summary

Total	123
Play sports	31 25%
Meet friends	29 24%
Enjoy the outdoors or nature	19 15%
Walk or bike for exercise	13 11%
Picnic and general leisure activities	9 7%
Use a specific facility at a park	8 7%
Participate in family activities	7 6%
Don't use parks	4 3%
Attend special events and concerts	3 2%

- Most youth (97%) use parks. The top reasons that youth use parks in Coeur d'Alene are to play sports or meet with friends. While these results are typical for youth regionally, these reasons differ from the reasons adults use parks (to enjoy the outdoors or nature) and for exercise (walking and biking).

Question 5: How do you usually get to parks or recreation activities? Please check 2 answers.

**Table B.29**  
Youth Question 5 Results Summary

Total	117
Ride with someone else	34 29%
Bike	31 26%
Walk	25 21%
Drive myself	17 15%
Skateboard, rollerblade, scooter	9 8%
Other: _____	1 1%
Take the bus	0 0%

- Youth most frequently catch rides with parents or friends to parks. Biking is cited almost as frequently as riding with someone else, followed by walking.
- No youth respondents reported riding the bus to recreation activities in Coeur d'Alene.

Question 6: Where should recreation activities for kids be provided (where would you feel most comfortable going)? Please check 2 answers.

**Table 2.30**  
Youth Question 6 Results Summary

Total	124
Parks	33 27%
School	29 23%
Community Center	18 15%
The mall (or in a shopping area)	15 12%
Church	14 11%
Teen Center	9 7%
Other: _____	6 5%

- Youth in Coeur d'Alene would feel most comfortable participating in recreation activities at parks or schools.

Question 7: Does lack of transportation ever keep you from participating?  
Please check 1 answer.

**Table B.31**  
Youth Question 7 Results Summary

<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>
Yes	21 32%
No	44 68%

- Although more than two-thirds indicated that transportation is not a problem, almost one-third of youth indicated that a lack of transportation does keep them from participating in recreation activities.

### Youth Sports Questions

Question 8: Which of the following sports do you like to do in Coeur d'Alene?  
Please check 2 answers.

**Table B.32**  
Youth Question 8 Results Summary

<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>
Swim	41 34%
Other: _____	30 25%
Skateboard	16 13%
Outdoor basketball	15 12%
Frisbee or disc golf	7 6%
Tennis	7 6%
BMX track	4 3%
BMX freestyle	1 1%

- Swimming was the most favored activity for youth in Coeur d'Alene, which correlates the results of Question 3 (Youth), which indicated that many youth hang out at the beach.
- When write-in comments are considered, the next most popular sport activities for youth include skateboarding and basketball (16 selections each); BMX/biking and baseball (8 selections each), and tennis, soccer and Frisbee/disc golf (7 selections each).

### Park Facility Questions

Question 9: Which of the following facilities are most needed by youth in Coeur d'Alene? Please check 2 answers.

**Table B.33**  
Youth Question 9 Results Summary

Total	110
Other: _____	34 31%
Gyms	32 29%
Soccer fields	19 17%
Baseball fields	10 9%
Football fields	9 8%
Softball fields	6 5%

- Many youth respondents wrote in a response, making “Other” the most frequent response. Twelve of the 34 write-in responses indicated the need for a swimming pool.
- Gyms and soccer fields are the two facilities most frequently selected.

Question 10: How often do you use the following parks and community facilities? Please place an “X” in the box that best represents how often you participate.

**Table B.34**  
Youth Question 10 Results Summary

	Total	Often	Sometimes	Never
City Park @ City Beach	63 100%	34 54%	25 40%	4 6%
Tubbs Hill	63 100%	20 32%	37 59%	6 10%
Sport Fields	60 100%	23 38%	22 37%	15 25%
Centennial Trail	61 100%	11 18%	23 38%	27 44%
Public beach/public dock	62 100%	32 52%	28 45%	2 3%
A park near my house (write name into spreadsheet)	58 100%	29 50%	19 33%	10 17%

- Most youth have visited City Park/City Beach, Tubbs Hill, and a public beach/public dock.

- Youth respondents also use parks near their homes – more than 80% use nearby parks “often” or “sometimes”.
- When compared to adults, youth use of sport fields is very high, with 75% of respondents using these facilities at least “sometimes,” and well over one-third using them “often.”
- The Centennial Trail receives the least amount of use by youth, with 44% “never” using the trail.

## RECREATION PARTICIPATION RESULTS

### Current Recreation Participation

Both adult and youth respondents were asked to provide information about their participation in recreation activities. Table B.35 shows the level of participation ranked from highest to lowest level of participation for both youth and adults. Table B.36 shows the top ten activities for youth, derived from youth responses only.

Level of participation is expressed in “per capita occasions”. The per capita occasions for a 30-day period refer to the average number of times the average person participated in the activity when the activity is in season in a 30-day period. MIG tracks recreation participation information from communities surveyed. Coeur d’Alene’s participation rates can be compared with the MIG AVERAGE (the average participation of the last 15 communities surveyed by MIG) to reveal which specific activities receive above- or below-average participation from residents. Table B.35 also shows the current MIG AVERAGE participation rate for each activity. Where the number of comparables was low, no MIG AVERAGE figure is shown.

Question 26 (Adult) and Question 11 (Youth): What activities have you done in the past 2 years? Step 1: Put a check in front of the activities you have done in Coeur d’Alene or elsewhere. Step 2: For the activities you checked, please check the box that most closely represents how often you participate when the activity is in season.

**Table B.35**  
Question 26/11 Results Summary:  
Combined Youth and Adult Data

Rank	Activity	Per Capita	MIG AVERAGE
Respondents = 423			
1	Walking	9.04	5.99
2	Bicycling	5.64	3.26
3	Gardening	5.52	4.09
4	Beach Activities	3.99	2.95
5	Exercising/aerobics	3.91	4.88

Rank	Activity	Per Capita	MIG AVERAGE
6	Dog walking/dog parks	3.81	2.86
7	Swimming (beach, river)	3.73	3.73
8	Bird Watching/Feeding	3.37	2.37
9	Wildlife Watching	3.02	2.51
10	Nature walks	2.75	2.12
11	Boating (power)	2.22	2.42
12	Fishing	2.20	1.74
13	Jogging/Running	2.10	2.41
14	Photography/Picture-Taking	2.09	1.99
15	Playground (visit/play)	2.03	2.72
16	Hiking/Backpacking	2.01	1.89
17	Movies (attending)	1.87	2.17
18	Skiing/X-Country/Snowboarding	1.65	0.85
19	Fairs and Festivals	1.53	2.21
20	Swimming (pool)	1.47	2.45
21	Picnicking	1.33	2.06
22	Concerts (attend)	1.23	2.01
23	Basketball	1.21	1.59
24	Sledding	1.13	--
25	Baseball	1.11	1.58
26	Soccer	1.05	1.34
27	Football	1.01	1.48
28	Museums/Galleries (visiting)	.89	1.45
29	Cultural events (attend)	.79	1.65
30	Other: _____	.74	0.59
31	Softball	.72	1.36
32	Canoe/Kayaking	.71	0.91
33	Tennis	.61	1.14
34	Volleyball	.60	0.86
35	Disc Golf	.59	0.28
36	Dancing (social)	.57	1.04
37	Archery	.49	0.25
38	Kite Flying	.46	0.71
39	Ping Pong	.41	0.38
40	Boating (sailing)	.32	0.66
41	Horseshoes	.30	0.78
42	Bocce/Lawn Bowling	.29	1.16
43	Badminton	.28	1.09
44	Ice Skating	.28	0.93
45	Ultimate Frisbee	.27	1.04
46	Juggling	.26	--
47	Horseback riding	.26	0.72
48	Model Airplanes/Boats/Cars	.20	0.53
49	Chess	.16	--
50	Handball/Racquetball	.15	0.50



**Table B.36**  
Youth Top 10 Activities

Rank	Activity	Per Capita
1	Beach Activities	8.50
2	Bicycling	8.34
3	Walking	7.76
4	Swimming (beach, river)	7.35
5	Exercising/aerobics	4.45
6	Basketball	4.00
7	Swimming (pool)	3.82
8	Skiing/X-Country/Snowboarding	3.73
9	Movies (attending)	3.61
10	Dog Walking/Dog Parks	3.56

- Overall, the participation results for adults/youth indicate that Coeur d'Alene is an active community.
- Walking and bicycling are the two most popular combined adult/youth activities, and residents of Coeur d'Alene have much higher than average rates of participation than the MIG AVERAGE.
- Besides walking and bicycling, other trail-related activities in the combined adult/youth top ten activities list include bird watching/feeding, wildlife watching, and nature walks, for a total of five out of the top ten activities. The high participation in trail-related activities correlates to the high level of interest in the development of more natural areas and nature-related trails in the Coeur d'Alene area shown in the responses to other questions.
- Four of the top 15 activities on the combined adult/youth list are reliant upon natural water resources (Beach Activities, Swimming (Beach/River), Boating (Power) and Fishing). The high ranking of these activities indicates that residents use Coeur d'Alene's abundance of water-related recreation resources. This may account for the relatively low ranking of pool swimming as compared to other communities.
- Adult and youth residents of Coeur d'Alene have slightly lower than average participation in organized sports (Baseball, Soccer, Football, Softball) than other communities recently surveyed by MIG.

### Preferred Recreation Activities

The Coeur d'Alene Recreation Survey also examined preferences for recreation activities, whether they are currently available in Coeur d'Alene or not. Respondents were asked to identify the five activities they most would like to do, if time, money, and transportation were no object. By comparing preferred activities with current participation, areas of latent need (unfulfilled demand) can be identified, highlighting programming or facility needs. Table B.37 shows the top 20 preferred activities communitywide, based on combined youth and adult results. The

current participation rate is shown in the far right column. Table B.38 shows the top 10 preferred youth activities, based on youth results only

Question 27 (Adult) and Question 12 (Youth): Circle the 5 activities you would like to do most. Assume you have the time, money, and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.

**Table B.37**  
Top 20 Preferred Activities  
Combined Youth and Adult Data

	ADULT/YOUTH COMBINED	Participation Rate
Respondents = 405		
1	Bicycling	5.64
2	Walking	9.04
3	Fishing	2.20
4	Boating (Power)	2.22
5	Nature Walks	2.75
6	Concerts (Attend)	1.23
7	Skiing/X-Country/Snowboarding	1.65
8	Swimming (Beach/River)	3.73
9	Fairs and Festivals	1.53
10	Dog Walking/Dog Parks	3.81
11	Swimming (pool)	1.47
12	Gardening	5.52
13	Movies (attending)	1.87
14	Beach Activities	3.99
15	Hiking/Backpacking	2.01
16	Canoe/Kayaking	0.71
17	Wildlife Watching	3.02
18	Exercising/Aerobics	3.91
19	Picnicking	1.33
20	Horseback Riding	0.26

**Table B.36**  
Youth Top 10 Preferred Activities

	YOUTH ONLY	Participation Rate
1	Skiing/X-Country/Snowboarding	3.73
2	Movies (Attending)	3.61
3	Swimming (Beach/River)	7.35
4	Basketball	4.00
5	Swimming (Pool)	3.82
6	Horseback Riding	0.42
7	Boating (power)	1.87
8	Beach Activities	8.50
9	Fairs and Festivals	1.76
10	"Other"	2.58

- Eighteen of the top 20 preferred activities on the adult/youth list (Table B.37) are among the top 20 activities in the actual participation

list provided in Table 2.35-A. This shows that much of Coeur d'Alene's demand for activities is already being fulfilled through City or local services.

- Similarly, 13 of the top 20 preferred activities on the youth-only list are among the top 20 activities in the actual participation list provided in Table B.36.
- Six of the top 20 preferred activities for adult/youth are trail-related or potentially trail-related (Bicycling, Walking, Nature Walks, Hiking/ Backpacking, Wildlife Watching and Horseback Riding).
- Five of the top 20 preferred activities for adult/youth are reliant upon the natural water resources available in the Coeur d'Alene area (Fishing, Boating, Swimming (Beach/River), Beach Activities, Canoe/ Kayaking).
- Swimming (Pool) and Horseback Riding are on the top 20 list of both combined and youth-only preferred activities, indicating that the provision of facilities or programming for these activities may be warranted.
- Attending concerts and attending fairs/festivals are also notably higher on the list of preferred activities than on the list of actual activities, supporting earlier observations regarding an interest in cultural arts programming.



**APPENDIX C:  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OUTREACH**



## INTRODUCTION

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan is based on an extensive public involvement process. Appendix B summarized the results of the Recreation Survey. This Appendix summarizes the other public outreach efforts, including:

- The Master Plan Advisory Committee;
- The Taste of the Coeur d'Alenes booth;
- A series of six stakeholder sessions held over two days;
- A public visioning workshop that attracted more than 50 participants; and
- Workshop meetings with youth and senior citizens.

## MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) met throughout the planning process, with the consulting team and with City staff. The MPAC was selected to represent broad recreation interests in the community, and the efforts of the group to guide the planning process were extensive. Below is a full list of the dates of MPAC meetings.

February 14, 2006	June 08, 2007
March 17, 2006	June 22, 2007
May 5, 2006	July 20, 2007
May 8, 2006	July 27, 2007
September 19, 2006	August 10, 2007
January 12, 2007	August 24, 2007
January 26, 2007	September 14, 2007
March 23, 2007	September 21, 2007
May 11, 2007	October 12, 2007
May 21, 2007	October 19, 2007
May 25, 2007	November 16, 2007
June 08, 2007	

At their meetings, the MPAC reviewed and commented on materials, discussed park and recreation policy issues, and made recommendations to the planning team. This plan represents the extensive efforts of the MPAC members to guide the plan and provide the best plan for the future of Coeur d'Alene residents.

MPAC members also attended presentations to the Parks & Recreation Commission, the General Services committee, and the City Council, as well as the public visioning workshop. MPAC members also staffed the Taste of the Coeur d'Alenes booth and led a workshop with senior citizen residents of Coeur d'Alene. The tireless participation of MPAC members and their

commitment to the City and its park system were central to the development of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

## INTERCEPT EVENT: A TASTE OF THE COEUR D'ALENES

“A Taste of the Coeur d’Alenes” is a summer festival set against the backdrop of Lake Coeur d’Alene. During the summer 2006 three-day event, the Parks Department sponsored a booth with displays to get input from the public about the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The booth was staffed by staff and volunteers, who distributed a questionnaire to event attendees.

By the end of the event, a total of 971 respondents indicated how they use parks and recreation facilities in Coeur d’Alene, and what they would like to see in the future. Of these respondents, two age groups dominated: 10- to 17-year-olds (21%) and 35- to 44-year-olds (22%). More women responded than men (57% women to 43% men).

### Favorite Coeur d’Alene Attractions

When asked to choose their favorite attractions in Coeur d’Alene, respondents chose waterfront amenities (such as docks and beaches), and natural areas and parks, including Tubbs Hill and City Park, as their top two attractions (25% and 23% respectively). In line with the result that most respondents live in or close to Coeur d’Alene (based on their ZIP codes), resort or vacation amenities were lower on the list of favorites. Table C.1 details the results. Respondents could choose as many answers to this question as applied.

**Table C.1**  
Taste Questionnaire: Favorite Coeur d’Alene Attractions

Total	3251
Waterfront amenities (e.g. docks, beaches)	816 25.1%
Natural areas and parks (e.g. Tubbs Hill, City Park)	750 23.1%
Trail facilities (e.g. Centennial Trail, Tubbs Hill)	566 17.4%
Downtown shopping/leisure opportunities	441 13.6%
Public art	369 11.4%
Resort/vacation amenities	207 6.4%
Other	102 3.1%

### Community-Enhancing Facilities

Participants were asked about which types of amenities and facilities should be added to the Coeur d'Alene parks and recreation system, and could choose their top three answers. The top three responses were natural areas (19.4%), additional bike and pedestrian trails (17.2%), and a dog park (16.2%). Although the responses to this question were generally the same across city boundaries, Post Falls residents placed a higher priority on cultural facilities (14% of Post Falls respondents). The greatest percentage of Hayden residents (20%) chose a dog park as the facility that would most enhance the community.

Table C.2 contains overall results.

**Table C.2**  
Taste Questionnaire: Community-Enhancing Facilities

Total	1736
Natural areas (e.g. arboretum)	337 19.4%
Additional pedestrian/bike trails	298 17.2%
Dog park	282 16.2%
Performing arts venue (e.g. playhouse/concert hall)	219 12.6%
Additional day-use dock space	163 9.4%
Cultural facilities (e.g. natural history museum)	155 8.9%
More leisure amenities (e.g. stores, restaurants)	151 8.7%
Other	67 3.9%
Long-term boat moorage	64 3.7%

### Frequency of Visits to Coeur d'Alene Parks

Questionnaire respondents who are residents of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, or Post Falls visit Coeur d'Alene parks at least several times a month (67.1%). Those who live in Coeur d'Alene proper tend to visit the parks slightly more often than those who live outside the city limits. The majority of respondents visit parks several times per month. Of those who responded that this was their first time visiting a Coeur d'Alene park, 85% live outside the local area. Table C 3, on the next page, contains the overall results.



**Table C.3**

Taste Questionnaire: Frequency of Visits to Coeur d’Alene Parks

Total	942
Several times per month	358 38.0%
Once a week or more	274 29.1%
Once or twice a year	231 24.5%
First time	79 8.4%

**Park Visits by Season**

When asked during which season they visited parks, respondents were able to choose more than one response, which is why Table C.4 shows a total of 2,520 responses to this question. The percentages show what percentage of respondents visit parks in each season. The results indicate that people are using parks year round, but not surprisingly that the highest use is in the summer.

**Table C.4**

Taste Questionnaire: Park Visits by Season

Total	2520
Summer	953 98% of respondents
Fall	622 64% of respondents
Winter	307 32% of respondents
Spring	638 66% of respondents

**Primary Reasons for Park Use**

Respondents were asked to indicate the primary reasons that they use parks, and could choose two answers. Results are shown in Table C.5. Overall, the top three reasons are: to enjoy the outdoors or nature (21.6%), to walk or bike for exercise (18.3%), and to picnic and participate in general leisure activities (16.2%). These results support respondents’ expressed interest in adding natural areas and pedestrian/bike trails to the Coeur d’Alene park system. Differences by location were negligible; however, some age-specific trends did emerge. For example, the majority of 45- to 54-year-olds (30.1%) use parks to walk or bike for exercise. In contrast, 10- to 17-year-olds tend to use parks for playing sports (18.3%), using playground equipment (13.8%), or meeting friends (13.3%).

**Table C.5**  
Taste Questionnaire: Primary Reasons for Park Use

Total	883
Enjoy the outdoors or nature	191 21.6%
Walk or bike for exercise	162 18.3%
Picnic and general leisure activities	143 16.2%
Participate in family activities	90 10.2%
Use playground equipment	88 10.0%
Play sports	80 9.1%
Meet friends	72 8.2%
Other	24 2.7%
Use specific facility at a park	22 2.5%
Don't use parks	11 1.2%

### Reasons for Not Using Parks

To build the best possible park and recreation system, it is important to know why people are seldom or never using facilities. Of those respondents who seldom use or do not use the parks in Coeur d'Alene, the majority's reason is that the parks are too crowded (21.7% of total respondents), as shown in Table C.6. Crowding is the top concern for residents of Coeur d'Alene proper (35.5%), Hayden (22.8%), and Post Falls (25%) alike. Respondents could choose two answers to this question.

The rest of the top three responses to this question do differ by respondents' location, however. The second-most-cited reason that Coeur d'Alene residents do not use parks is lack of interest and/or time (12.4%). While their Hayden neighbors agreed with this reason (22.8%), those living in Post Falls indicated that they were not aware of what is available to them (16.7%). A lack of facilities was Coeur d'Alene residents' third-ranked response (12.4%). By contrast, both Hayden and Post Falls residents indicated that distance and inconvenient location were obstacles to park use (15.8% of Hayden residents, 13.9% of those in Post Falls). Lack of transportation was another major reason for lack of park use, ranking fourth for Coeur d'Alene and Hayden, and fifth for Post Falls.

Respondents’ ages also affected the reasons they cited for not using parks. Accessibility to parks is a potentially significant problem for youth in Coeur d’Alene. Of those aged 10 to 17, 20.3% do not use parks because they are too far away and 14.2% do not have transportation. Looking at adult respondents, 25- to 34-year-olds seem interested in using parks, but cite overcrowding (32.9%) and a lack of facilities (14.6%) as important reasons that they seldom or do not use them. Lack of information seems to be a barrier for those aged 35 to 65 and up, with higher percentages of these groups responding that they do not know what is available (as high as 27.3%, for those 65 and older).

**Table C.6**  
Taste Questionnaire: Reasons for Not Using Parks

Total	526
Too crowded	114 21.7%
Too far away; not conveniently located	100 19.0%
Not interested/no time	74 14.1%
Don't know what's available	68 12.9%
Do not have transportation	47 8.9%
Don't know where they are	47 8.9%
Lack of facilities	39 7.4%
Feel unsafe	20 3.8%
Poorly maintained	17 3.2%

**Importance of Natural Open Space**

The vast majority of respondents consider natural open space to be important, and 75% consider these areas very important. Very few people consider natural open space unimportant, and few have no opinion on this topic. Table C7, on the next page, displays full results from this question.

**Table C.7**  
Taste Questionnaire: Importance of Natural Open Space in Coeur d'Alene

Total	960
Not important	4 0%
Not important-important	11 1%
Important	53 6%
Important-very important	147 15%
Very important	724 75%
No opinion	21 2%

### Participation in Water Recreation Activities

Given Coeur d'Alene's location on a lake and its proximity to other lakes and water bodies, water recreation activities are popular. This questionnaire reveals that the most popular water-related activities are traditional and family-oriented: outdoor swimming (41.8%) and fishing (21.8%). Motor boating (11.2%) and canoeing or kayaking (9.1%) are also popular, which is reflected in respondents' expressed desire for canoe and/or motor boat rentals. Respondents could choose their top two choices.

**Table C.8**  
Taste Questionnaire: Participation in Water Recreation Activities

Total	1094
Outdoor swimming	457 41.8%
Fishing	238 21.8%
Motor boating	123 11.2%
Canoeing/kayaking	100 9.1%
Water skiing/wakeboarding	45 4.1%
I do not participate in water recreation activities	44 4.0%
Other	35 3.2%
Jet skiing	32 2.9%
Sailing	19 1.7%
Wind surfing	1 0.1%

### Reasons for Not Using Water Recreation Facilities

Table C.9 shows the results of a question about reasons for not using water recreation facilities. Respondents could choose all applicable answers. Explanations for lack of use of city-owned water recreation facilities vary by respondents' locations. Those who live in Coeur d'Alene cite crowding (21%), lack of parking (19%), and prohibitive cost (16.3%) as their top three reasons they do not use facilities. Hayden respondents' top three choices are the same, but fall in a different order: lack of parking (32.1%), crowding (16.1%), and prohibitive cost (14.3%). In Post Falls, respondents seem under-informed about water recreation facilities—27% indicate that lack of awareness prevents them from using facilities. 24.3% of Post Falls respondents cite crowding as a reason for lack of use, while 18.9% cite lack of parking.



Overall, the top reason for not using Coeur d'Alene's water recreation facilities is lack of awareness of those facilities (21.8%). However, only 40% of respondents who cited this reason live in the local area. In other words, most respondents who are unaware of what is available are visitors to Coeur d'Alene. Inconvenient locations and lack of time are other important reasons that visitors do not use facilities. Given that its proximity to water is a major contributing factor to the success of Coeur d'Alene's tourism industry, these results indicate there may be a need for visitor-aimed advertising of water recreation opportunities.

**Table C.9**

Taste Questionnaire: Reasons for Not Using Water Recreation Facilities

Total	523
Not aware of facilities	114 21.8%
Facilities are too full	92 17.6%
No parking	91 17.4%
Too busy; no time	75 14.3%
Too expensive	69 13.2%
Facilities do not interest me	40 7.6%
Facilities are inconveniently located	30 5.7%
Facilities are of poor quality	12 2.3%

### Frequency of Bike and Trail Use

From the results depicted in Table C.10, Coeur d'Alene appears to have higher than average bike and trail use. Although 75% of respondents

never bike to work, 25% of respondents have. Also, 65% have tried bicycle lanes. Use patterns for the Tubbs Hill Trail and Centennial Trail are fairly similar.

**Table C.10**  
Taste Questionnaire: Frequency of Bike and Trail Use

	Total	Once/week	Several times/month	Once/year	Never
Bike to work	719 100%	68 9%	52 7%	57 8%	542 75%
Use bicycle lanes	762 100%	138 18%	165 22%	196 26%	263 35%
Use the Centennial Trail	814 100%	116 14%	183 22%	288 35%	227 28%
Use the Tubbs Hill Trail	829 100%	108 13%	179 22%	328 40%	214 26%

### Community Event Attendance

Respondents were asked about which City-sponsored events they attend, and could select all the events they attended. The July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, the farmers’ market, and concerts in the park were most attended by respondents. The percentages show what percent of respondents indicated attendance at each event.

**Table C.11**  
Taste Questionnaire: Community Event Attendance

Total	2597
July 4 <sup>th</sup> celebration	527 54% of respondents
Farmers’ market	456 47% of respondents
Concerts in the park	454 47% of respondents
Car d’Lane	425 44% of respondents
Ironman	367 38% of respondents
Sports tournaments	205 21% of respondents
Other	163 17% of respondents

### Desired Additional Services

Respondents were asked if they would like to see any additional services in the park system, and could choose up to three services. As Table C.12 shows, food vendors and nature tours are nearly tied for the most popular service people would like to see in Coeur d’Alene parks, garnering 20.8% and 20.6% of responses respectively. Rentals of canoes or kayaks, motor boats or jet skis, and bikes also ranked high on

respondents’ service “wish list.” Responses to earlier questions indicated that canoeing and motor boating are popular water recreation activities; more widespread availability of required equipment would likely be welcomed. When results are cross-tabulated by ZIP code, where respondents live does not affect what additional services they would prefer.

**Table C.12**  
Taste Questionnaire: Desired Additional Services

Total	1541
Food vendors at waterfront or park sites	321 20.8%
Nature tours (e.g. hiking or biking tours)	317 20.6%
Canoe/kayak rentals	251 16.3%
Motor boat/jet ski rentals	191 12.4%
Bike rentals	174 11.3%
Athletic classes (e.g. wakeboard/water ski lessons)	173 11.2%
Childcare	77 5.0%
Other	37 2.4%

**Duration of Visits to Coeur d’Alene**

Respondents were asked how long they stay when visiting Coeur d’Alene. As Table C.13 shows, 65% of respondents indicated that they are Coeur d’Alene residents. Another 22% responded that they take day trips to Coeur d’Alene, again reflecting how close most respondents live to the city proper.

**Table C.13**  
Taste Questionnaire: Duration of Visits

Total	890
I am a resident, not a visitor	580 65%
Day trips only	196 22%
Two to three days (weekends or long weekends)	59 7%
One week or more (full vacations)	55 6%



## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

To gain valuable input on the visions, strengths, challenges, and needs of Coeur d'Alene's park system, six meetings were held over the course of September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 with representatives of the following stakeholder groups:

- Mayors' Office/City Council
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Centennial Trail Foundation
- Parks Foundation
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee
- Tubbs Hill Foundation
- Urban Forestry Committee
- Sign Board Committee
- Arts Commission
- Master Plan Advisory Subcommittee
- Parks Department Staff

## KEY FINDINGS

Key findings and themes emerged that were consistent across the groups. These themes are summarized below.

### Visions for Park Plan/System

- *Responsive planning process, clear planning goals:* This master plan update should be founded upon current demographic information and be responsive to citizen values; the plan should establish proactive policies to guide growth and garner funding; the plan should articulate clear performance measures and frequencies for evaluating progress.
- *Stronger diversity of park types.* A stronger balance of active/passive uses, adult/youth activities, traditional/alternative sport facilities, and summer/winter uses than are currently offered is desired.
- *A balanced use of City parks.* Mechanisms to draw users to parks other than City Park and the Lake Coeur d'Alene waterfront are desired to ease maintenance, traffic, parking, and overcrowding pressures.
- *Improved pedestrian connections.* Safer walking routes to schools; safer walking routes from new subdivisions to downtown, ADA improvements to sidewalks in downtown, and improvements to



maps and directional/informational signage are desired.

- *Improved cycling connections.* Safer biking routes to schools; safer cycling routes from new subdivisions to downtown, highly visible and safe “bikeways” to and within downtown, safer cycling routes to Fernan Lake and areas south of town, safer regional connections, and improvements to maps and directional/informational signage are desired.
- *Unified tree care:* Conflicts between public/private tree care efforts were noted; a unified plan for tree care is needed to maintain Coeur d’Alene’s urban forest and prevent disease/decay across ownership lines.
- *Vista/view protection.* Specific streets (Sherman Avenue) were identified as view corridors within Coeur d’Alene; these were sited for preservation, as were their associated viewsheds (Blackwell Island, Canfield Mountain).

### **Park System/Departmental Strengths**

- Dedicated, flexible staff with strong sense of ownership and lots of energy!
- Strong managerial and political leadership within the Department.
- Excellent rapport within the Department; excellent relationships with other City Dept’s.
- High level of community trust in the Parks and Recreation Departments.
- High level of community involvement in governmental issues.
- Natural beauty of Coeur d’Alene area; integrity of existing tree canopy.
- Positive planning/implementation for parks in past: many successes in land acquisition, well-maintained park system, highly involved community

### **Park System/Departmental Challenges**

- Regional provider of park/rec facilities, but only City revenue is currently available.
- Maintenance will be very difficult to fund in future if additional revenue is not located.
- Current and future growth very likely, but little new park land is available.
- New residents create/demand new recreation programs/facilities.

- Lack of park land/natural open space zoning creates issues during development.
- Low unemployment rates limit availability of qualified help – staffing is a problem.
- Maintenance shop is too small.
- Beautification areas provide positive benefit to City, but are expensive to maintain.
- Discrepancies exist between School District/Parks Dep't maintenance expectations.
- Discrepancies exist between private/public tree care requirements.

### **Park System/Departmental Needs**

- New sources of revenue for park land acquisition/development. Explore options: bed tax, excise tax, utility user tax, revision of impact fee levels, frontloading of impact fees, revisions to alcohol laws to allow for permitted uses/revenue, special events revenue
- A clear process for developers: pre-application meetings with an inventory of existing trees (including old-growth stocks); meetings during application process; ability to verify that plan was followed; means of recourse if developer strays from plan.
- Zoning classification for park land and natural open space to ease development process.
- Design standards that address land size/type, as well as access and parking.
- Ability to track park violations of all types (code, events, etc.), and a means of recourse.
- Improved community education on a variety of issues: locations of and activities within parks, tree care and responsibilities, pedestrian/cycling routes and safety, volunteering.
- Improved communication with local engineering departments (City, County, State) for tree care issues, as well as lane widths/street design and signage for cycling needs.
- Full implementation of existing plans (particularly Walker-Macy's plan for McEuen Field and Tubbs Hill).
- Coordination with other planning efforts: Blackwell Island (to address land use and future recreation/viewshed potential); Armstrong/Huetter properties (to address land use issues); natural area management coordination to address regional ecological and recreational issues; City-wide tree care plans to prevent disease/decay



of air quality and preservation of the tree canopy in the City were two environmental values identified for Coeur d'Alene.

### Visions for the Park System

Attendees were requested to translate their values into specific visions for the park system. Vision elements discussed by participants are described below.

- Enhanced process for new park development. In line with the value of providing park services that are “equal for all,” residents of newer neighborhoods have a vision that park land in their community should have, at least, a moderate level of development (grass and pathway) while their facility is in the queue for full-fledged development by the City.
- Developers held to their word. When informed of the City’s real roles and responsibilities in new park development, attendees were surprised at what their developers had promised but not delivered on. Holding developers to their word is a vision for many, and may assist in achieving faster park development or, at least, more accurate disclosure.
- Natural area and water access. Visions for natural open space include a bridge to Blackwell Island and native plant preserves. More public docks and unrestricted access to the beaches in the city are desired. Good water conservation methods are desired for the maintenance of the City’s developed parks.
- Trail connections. Better access to the USFS land near Canfield Mountain is envisioned, as are improvements to trail connections in general. Alternatives to travel on Highway 95 are sought.
- More opportunities for youth. Park facilities that will serve a variety of youth age groups are sought, as are more open gyms for use by youths and others.
- Dog park! The need for a dog park or, alternately, some accommodation for dogs in City parks, was strongly articulated in this visioning session. Water access, multiple small sights and safe facilities for small dogs were desired by some attendees.
- Facilities list. Other facility types envisioned for Coeur d’Alene include a swimming pool, an enhanced skateboard park, a community garden, a world-class arboretum, and more multi-use sport fields (with artificial turf).
- Budget should reflect values. Fundamentally, participants envisioned a park system in which the parks budget reflects the values articulated above.

## Priorities

After stating their visions, attendees were asked to identify their top priorities. The list below is not in any specific priority order.

- Hold developers responsible for their promises.
- Ensure that park development is balanced.
- Better-use the park facilities that are currently underutilized. Bryan Playfield is one site that was repeatedly mentioned as an underutilized facility. Enhancements to its field and play facility would allow for increased use of the site.
- Acquire land while it is still available.
- Improve existing partnerships. Relationships with sports leagues and the school district were identified for improvement.
- Improve pedestrian access and bike linkages. Access to Canfield Mountain was mentioned repeatedly.
- Provide for accessibility needs at each park facility.
- Build a dog park, or accommodate dogs in some manner at parks. Provide cleanup supplies; consider using native plant species for a “greener” dog park.
- Provide more fields. Consider designs that are multi-use in nature (football, soccer, lacrosse, etc.). Strongly consider the use of artificial turf.

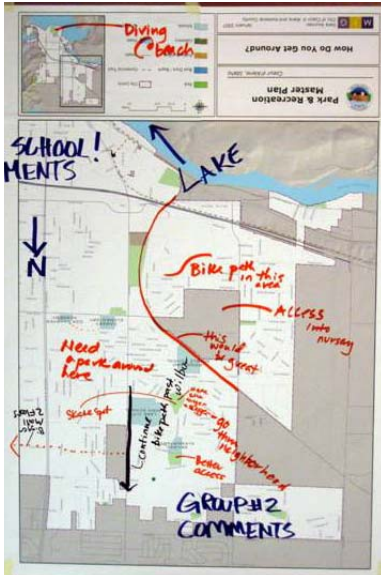
## Implementation

Participants were asked to identify implementation strategies for their park priorities.

- Acquisition. The City should continue to ensure that park land acquisition occurs with annexation and that new lands are acquired through the development process.
- Development. More formalized park development agreements may need to be brought on-line if developer promises to continue to be unmet. Investigate what other communities have done in terms of policy, and revise the comp plan accordingly.
- Maintenance. At the very least, basic maintenance of undeveloped park sites should be provided for, contractually, to accommodate residents before parks are fully developed.
- Deferred park site development. For those neighborhoods currently underserved, each neighborhood should meet with the Parks Department to ascertain their issues and a means of recourse.
- Better communication. Several gaps in communication were

identified in the visioning workshop. The website should be enhanced to provide a map and information on park development; kiosks could provide info regarding park site amenities.

- Funding possibilities: Bike licenses (for trail money), dog licenses (for dog park money), impact fees, real estate transfer fees, tap into volunteer labor, seek grants, host a design competition, encourage estate/land donations, seek out partnerships, host fundraisers.



## TEEN WORKSHOPS

Two sessions were held with teens on January 25, 2007: one at Woodland Middle School from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and one at the high school from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Both sessions followed a similar agenda, where youth participants were given an overview of the parks planning process and a summary of youth results from the questionnaire and survey. Youth participants were then asked to describe how where they go to have fun, what they do to have fun, and how they get to recreation activities. At the close of the meeting, they were given information about how they could volunteer in the park system.

During the middle school session, youth participants worked in three small groups around tables to mark up maps with their ideas about the park system. The high school session had low attendance and was a discussion format.

The youth participants indicated visiting parks near home, as well as significant use of City Park and the beaches. Youth tended to participate in more active recreation pursuits than adults, both at the middle school and high school levels. Participants wanted to see an improved skate park, a dog park, more water recreation facilities on the lake and in parks (e.g., the splash pad at Bluegrass Park), and enough sports facilities for soccer and lacrosse.

## SENIORS WORKSHOPS

A member of the MPAC and a city staff member held two workshops with senior citizen residents of Coeur d'Alene using a workshop activity developed by MIG for this purpose. The first group was older with an average age of 85, survivors of the Depression and WWII. They were the less mobile of the two groups. The second group was mostly aged in the late 60's, representing a younger and more active group.

It was generally agreed that parks and recreation should provide opportunities to experience nature, seek adventure and promote fitness and a healthy active lifestyle. Concern for youth programming was a key issue expressed by both groups of seniors. During each session, senior participants indicated interest in activities and opportunities designed to meet the needs

and abilities of their own age-group. In addition, they were interested in the opportunities where the interests of both generations could overlap, such as mentoring.

More active seniors expressed interest in fitness, education and enrichment classes for their age groups. There was significant interest in therapeutic style fitness and aquatics programming as well as one suggestion for a seniors' self defense class.

Transportation and access arose as two issues that can create obstacles to participation for seniors. An increase in frequency of public transit stops and connections was suggested as a possible solution. Universal access is viewed as desirable for all facilities.



**APPENDIX D:  
NEEDS ASSESMENT**





## NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW



The purpose of a recreation needs assessment is to establish, in quantifiable terms, the need for park land and recreation facilities. This document presents the methods and data used to analyze need in Coeur d'Alene, along with the findings of the analysis.

The process for completing the needs assessment in Coeur d'Alene included the following:

- Inventorying and assessing existing park and recreation resources;
- Evaluating public input on park and recreation needs and preferences;
- Analyzing population growth projections within the planning boundary;
- Identifying and assessing the unique factors impacting the need for and development of different types of park and recreation facilities; and
- Calculating the need for new park and recreation facilities in the city.

The needs identified in this analysis were used to recommend system-wide improvements, including the acquisition, development, and redevelopment of park sites and facilities, within the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It is possible that the City will decide on actions that do not meet all needs identified in the analysis. In addition, some needs may be met by other agencies or organizations, such as the school district or private developers. The community may decide to prioritize some needs over others, or to make compromises when meeting needs. The provision of parks and facilities will also be influenced by funding options, land availability, potential partnerships, and so forth.

## DEVELOPED PARKS

Developed parks, particularly the neighborhood and community parks that fulfill basic health and recreation needs, are critical to the livability of Coeur d'Alene. This section addresses the acreage needs for the following types of park land:

- Community Parks;
- Neighborhood Parks; and
- Special Use Areas (Sports-Related).

## METHODOLOGY FOR DEVELOPED PARK LAND NEEDS ANALYSIS

The process for assessing needs incorporates three steps to arrive at a conclusion about current and future needs. Geographic analysis reveals what areas of a city are underserved with these resources. Public outreach offers insight into a community's priorities for park development. A mathematical analysis, termed a level of service analysis (LOS), uses data generated from geographic analysis and public outreach to then quantify park land needs.

## GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

### Travel Distance/Service Areas

The distance people are willing to travel to a park is dependent upon the amenities available in that park, as well as the mode of travel chosen for the trip. People are willing to travel far for amenities that are unique and large in scale. Park users are willing to travel further when traveling by car versus traveling by foot or bike. An inventory of amenities in a given facility can help determine the distance the average person might travel to that park, the mode of travel they might select, and, thus, the “service area” for that facility.

Input from city staff and public outreach assisted in identifying service areas for Coeur d’Alene’s parks by facility type. The service area for community parks was determined to be 1.5 miles based upon the unique amenities of the facilities in this category (public beach, BMX track, and water features, etc.), which would draw people to the site.

One-half mile was identified as the service area for neighborhood parks, in part due to prevalence of similar amenities provided in these parks (playgrounds, pathways, etc.), but also because neighborhood parks are intended to fulfill basic needs on a localized level.

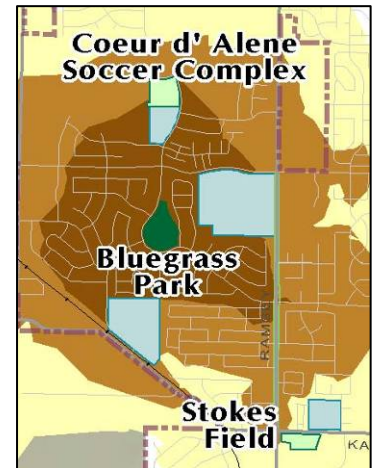
Because they are used by residents region-wide for organized sporting events, no service area was calculated for sports-related special use areas. However if a particular facility also functions as a community or neighborhood park, that function is considered in the service area analysis for those types of parks.

### Park Access

Park access can be evaluated using two types of analyses: a straight-line distance (as the crow flies) or network distance (the distance one must travel to a given facility if one uses a city’s road or pathway network).

A straight line analysis assumes that park users can travel directly from point A to point B with no diversions. A network analysis assesses the road and/or trail network, as well as barriers within that network, to derive the actual distance from point A to point B.

With input from the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) and city staff, a network analysis was selected to evaluate park access in Coeur d’Alene. This method is most appropriate for the city as several significant roadway barriers exist that have a substantial impact on pedestrian, cyclist and youth travel patterns.



## PUBLIC OUTREACH

### Community Priorities

Extensive public outreach has been carried out in support of this plan. The results of a community survey were detailed in the Appendix B. Additional public outreach, including stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and a community visioning workshop, is documented in Appendix C. The visions articulated by participants in the public involvement activities were consistent in nature. Those relevant to the city’s community, neighborhood and sports-related special use facilities include:

- Equal access for all to community and neighborhood park facilities;
- Equal development of community and neighborhood park resources;
- A repurposing of park facilities that are currently underutilized;
- Park development/redevelopment that features a range of amenities;
- More opportunities for youth, particularly with regard to gym access; and
- Community partnerships that maximize existing recreation opportunities.

## MATHEMATICAL MODELING

### Level of Service Calculation

To quantify developed park land needs, a level of service (LOS) standard is calculated using data generated by geographic analysis, public outreach, and research on a community’s growth. LOS standards are expressed in acres/1,000 residents. The basic formula for calculating LOS is shown at left.

Factors influencing an existing LOS include the acreage inventory of existing park resources and current population. Calculating proposed LOS is slightly more complex, as one must make qualitative decisions (such as ideal park size and location) and examine actual restrictions on development (such as available land, projected growth, and projected residential densities) to develop the numerical factors used in the LOS calculation. Local, regional and national trends are used as a baseline to determine if proposed LOS standards are within municipal and industry practices.

### Calculating LOS in Coeur d’Alene

LOS standards were calculated for both existing (2006) and proposed (2007- 2025) provisions of service in Coeur d’Alene. Calculating existing LOS standards for Coeur d’Alene required inventorying existing park resources and determining the current population.

Calculating proposed LOS standards required deciding upon reasonable service areas and travel distances for different types of developed parks, determining geographic restrictions to park access, identifying

**Calculating Level of Service**

**Formula:**

$$\frac{\text{Acreage}}{\text{Population}} \times 1,000 = \text{LOS}$$

**Example:**

Total Community Park Acreage: 63.4  
 Current City Population: 41,983

$$\frac{63.4 \text{ acres}}{41,983 \text{ people}} \times 1,000 = 1.51$$

Current C.P.LOS:  
 1.51ac/1,000 people

community priorities for parks, and projecting population and residential densities through 2025.

With these parameters, a geographic analysis was conducted to determine which areas of town are or will be underserved with regard to park resources if new facilities are not provided. This type of analysis then allowed for a quantification of acreage needs, which factored into the proposed LOS calculations.

#### **Key Data: Population Growth and Future Residential Densities**

Current and future population estimates and future residential densities used in this document were based on Planning Department data as of November 2006. In summary:

- Coeur d'Alene's 2006 population is 41,983;
- Coeur d'Alene's 2025 projected population is 90,731; and
- Residential development is strongly anticipated at the northern and northwestern edges of the city.

After the initiation of the needs assessment, the Planning Department began working toward a Comprehensive Plan update that included a reevaluation of population projections. The 2025 projection is based on a high level of growth, and is the "worst case scenario" for park system development. A smaller population would mean that less park land is needed.

## COMMUNITY PARK ANALYSIS



### PARAMETERS FOR ANALYSIS

#### Community Park Purpose

A community park should provide opportunities for active and structured recreation, as well as passive and non-structured recreation, for individuals and families. Community parks should feature facilities that attract people from a large geographic area. Community parks may require support facilities such as parking and restrooms. They may have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park.

#### Service Area/Travel Distance and Geographic Restrictions

The service area for community parks in Coeur d’Alene is 1.5 miles.

Highway

95 was the only barrier to access factored into the analysis.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### Current Inventory

Table D.1, on the following page, lists the existing community park facilities in Coeur d’Alene. The average community park size is 12.68 acres and the current LOS is 1.51 acres per 1,000 residents. Landings Park is not included in the table, because it is not yet developed.

**Table D.1**  
Existing Community Parks

Park	Acres
Bluegrass Park	11.0
Cherry Hill Community Park	30.0
City Park and Beach	14.8
Independence Point	2.6
Riverstone Park	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.4 acres</b>

#### Geographic Analysis of Existing LOS

A visualization of access to existing community park facilities is provided in

Figure D.1, using the parameters articulated above (1.5-mile service area, with Highway 95 as a barrier). Note that when these parameters are applied, gaps in service appear in the following locations:

- Near the Government Way/Margaret Avenue intersection, extending east toward Canfield Mountain;
- In the northwest area of town, near Landings and Hawk’s Nest Parks;

- At the west edge of town, south of Northshire Park; and
- Directly west of Highway 95, south of Kathleen Avenue, where a mobile home development is concentrated.

Because the current distribution of community park resources in Coeur d'Alene is leaving some areas of town underserved, Coeur d'Alene should consider increasing its number of community park resources. Landings Park, when developed, will serve the underserved area in the northwest area of town.

Fig D.1 front



Fig 3.1 Back

## PROPOSED CONDITIONS

### Proposed Park Distribution

To achieve the public’s vision for community parks, in which these facilities are distributed equally throughout the city and accessible to all, additional community parks are needed.

Landings Park will contribute an additional 11 acres to the community park inventory when constructed.

The development of two new community parks, one near the intersection of Margaret and 15th Avenue and the other near the U.S. Forest Service Tree Nursery, will assist in meeting some of Coeur d’Alene’s current community park need.

Need at the mobile home site near Highway 95 and Kathleen could be filled by the development of a neighborhood park. While this will not meet community park needs, this residential area has little land available for park development and a neighborhood park is also needed by residents.

In addition to depicting service areas of existing parks, FigureD.1 depicts where new community park facilities could be located in relation to existing resources. Note that proposed park locations are theoretical in nature; actual site selection will be determined in future years by land and resource availability.

### Proposed Acreage and LOS Calculations

The average size of a community park in Coeur d’Alene is 12.68 acres, which is smaller than is typically needed to support the range of facilities offered at community parks. Therefore, the LOS calculation assumes that community parks developed in Coeur d’Alene in the future will be at least 18 contiguous acres.

Landings Park increases the community park acreage from 63.4 to 74.4 acres. With two new community parks recommended at 18 acres apiece, 36 acres of community park land should be acquired to meet current need. The addition of these acreages results in a total community park land inventory of 110.4 acres, and a proposed LOS of 1.22 acres/1,000 residents.

In other words, Coeur d’Alene should strive to provide community park resources at a rate of 1.22 acres/1,000 residents as it grows.

If the city expands beyond the planning area, community parks should be provided at the rate of 1.22 acres/1,000 residents in currently undeveloped rural areas.

#### **Community Park Proposed LOS**

***Data:***

Proposed Total C.P. Acreage: 110.4  
 Projected Future Population: 90,731

***Calculation:***

$$\frac{110.4 \text{ acres}}{90,731 \text{ people}} \times 1,000 = 1.22$$

***Proposed LOS:***

Proposed Community Park LOS: 1.22

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ANALYSIS

### PARAMETERS FOR ANALYSIS

#### Neighborhood Park Purpose

Neighborhood parks are generally small in size, intended to serve nearby residents. Their size ranges from 1 to 5 acres, and they may be attached or adjacent to school sites. In Coeur d’Alene, public input supported strengthening community partnerships to maximize the use of existing resources.

#### Service Area/Travel Distance and Geographic Restrictions

The service area for neighborhood parks in Coeur d’Alene is 0.5 miles. The barriers used in the network analysis of park access incorporated the following barriers:

- Major roadways such as Highway 95, Atlas, Kathleen and 15th Avenue;
- Intersections identified as dangerous by City staff and focus groups; and
- Gaps in the existing road and pathway network.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### Current Inventory

Table D.2 lists the existing neighborhood park facilities in Coeur d’Alene. The average neighborhood park size in Coeur d’Alene is 3.7 acres and the existing LOS is 0.80 acres/1,000 residents.

**Table D.2**  
Existing Neighborhood Parks

Park	Acres
Hawks Nest Park	7.0
Johnson Mill River Park	1.7
Legacy Place Park	1.0
North Pines Park	3.5
Northshire Park	3.5
Phippeny Park	2.7
Shaddock Lane Park	6.0
Sunshine Meadows Park (undeveloped)	2.3
Winton Park	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.7 acres</b>

In addition to the parks listed in the table above, Ramsey Park – a special use area – provides neighborhood park amenities at the north end of the park. Figure D.2 shows a service area for the north end of Ramsey Park, although the acreage is included in the special use category.



Figure D.2 front

## Figure D.2 Back

## Geographic Analysis of Existing LOS

A visualization of access to existing neighborhood park facilities is provided in Figure D.2. Note that gaps in service exist in the following neighborhoods:

- Directly east of downtown;
- Above and below the I-90 alignment as it veers south into town;
- Between Canfield High School and the Canfield Sports Complex;
- West of Highway 95, south of Kathleen Avenue;
- Southwest of Northshire Park;
- West of Ramsey Road, in the Parkwood Court area; and
- In a centralized, medium-density residential area between Sunshine Meadows, Legacy Place and Bluegrass Parks.

This indicates that the existing distribution of neighborhood parks is leaving some areas of town underserved, and that the City of Coeur d'Alene should consider increasing its number of neighborhood parks in the underserved areas.

## PROPOSED CONDITIONS

### Proposed Park Distribution

To achieve the public's vision for neighborhood parks, which directed that they be evenly distributed throughout town and accessible to all, additional neighborhood parks are needed.

To fill the gaps detailed above, eight new park sites need to be acquired for neighborhood use, as depicted in Figure D.2. Note that proposed park locations are theoretical in nature; actual site selection will be determined in future years by land and resource availability.

Note as well that four of the eight new sites needed are in the vicinity of schools or special use area sport complexes:

- Directly adjacent to the Coeur d'Alene Sports Complex in the residential area between Sunshine Meadows, Legacy Place and Bluegrass Parks; and
- In three locations above and below the I-90 alignment: near Borah Elementary school; at Bryan Playfield; and at Fernan Elementary school.

### Proposed Acreage and LOS Calculations

With eight new neighborhood parks recommended at five acres apiece, 40 acres of neighborhood park land should be acquired to meet current need. Adding 40 acres would result in a total proposed neighborhood

#### **Neighborhood Park Proposed LOS**

##### **Data:**

Proposed Total N.P. Acreage: 73.7  
Projected Future Population: 90,731

##### **Calculation:**

$$\frac{73.7 \text{ acres}}{90,731 \text{ people}} \times 1,000 = 0.81$$

##### **Proposed LOS:**

Proposed Community Park LOS: 0.81

park inventory of 73.7 acres and a proposed LOS of 0.81 acres/1,000 residents, about the same as the current LOS.

In other words, Coeur d'Alene should strive to provide neighborhood park resources at a rate of 0.81 acres/1,000 residents as it grows. By 2025, the recommended creation of eight additional park resources should be carried out in the areas previously indicated.

As with community parks, if the city expands beyond the planning area for this project, neighborhood parks should be provided at the rate of 0.81 acres/1,000 residents in newly urbanizing areas.

### **Special Topic: Youth Access**

The MPAC and city staff were concerned about the access for youth to neighborhood parks, and identified several barriers for youth in addition beyond those for neighborhood parks.

Common modes of travel for those in the K-8 age group include walking, bicycling and skateboarding, and the distance children this age can travel independently is often limited by parents. Therefore, the service area for K-8 youth is analyzed based on a distance of 0.25 miles. Additional barriers and geographic restrictions to access also exist, including roadway crossings and intersections that might not be dangerous to older teens and adults.

The results of the geographic analysis, using the 0.25-mile service area designated for K-8 children and the application of several additional roadway and intersection barriers, revealed gaps in neighborhood park service for K-8 youth in five locations: southwest of Northshire Park, west of North Pines Park, areas surrounding Person Field, an area southeast of Winton Park, and south of I-90, near Project CdA. These gaps are depicted in Figure D.3.

Neighborhood parks could be constructed in these areas to improve service for K-8 youth, but other measures exist that could be employed to fill these gaps. For example, improving crossings in areas where roadways create a barrier would increase access at a relatively low cost. Local school sites may also serve some of the play needs for younger youth, if there is formal or informal access to the sites.

All accommodations for K-8 youth should be developed with the knowledge that neighborhood demographics, particularly those pertaining to age, change with some rapidity. In other words, neighborhoods with high concentrations of K-8 residents today may not have this demographic in ten years. Facilities for K-8 youth should therefore be as flexible as possible in their design and installation, as well as affordable to the community. For example, facilitating access through crossing improvements will benefit the entire community, not only K-8 youth.

Figure D.3 Front



Fig D.3 Back

## SPECIAL USE AREAS ANALYSIS



### PARAMETERS FOR ANALYSIS

#### Purpose of Special Use Areas

Special use areas are recreation sites that support a specific, stand-alone use.

The types of facilities housed in special use areas include sports complexes, community centers, community gardens, and aquatic centers, among others.

In Coeur d'Alene, there are predominantly two major types of special use areas: sports-oriented sites and water-oriented sites.

Public input largely indicated that adults are satisfied with the current provision of sport fields. Youth feel that additional gymnasiums and soccer fields would benefit the City. An enhancement of the current skate park, a non-traditional sports amenity, is desired by youth as well. The community as a whole places a very high priority on water access, and would like to see expanded water access in the City.

#### Service Area/Travel Distance and Geographic Restrictions

Special use areas serve a community-wide audience, and attract people from a distance. Often, the primary mode of travel to them is by car. Therefore, no designated service area or geographic barriers to access are analyzed.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### Current Inventory

Special use areas differ from other park facilities in that they feature special amenities that appeal to a communitywide audience, at times even a regional audience. For this reason, the approach to reviewing special use area park land needs is based on different factors. Community interest in new facilities and opportunity for additional park sites are the major factors in establishing an LOS guideline.

Table D.4, on following page, lists the existing special use areas in Coeur d'Alene. The average special use area size is 10.9 acres and the current LOS is 2.07 acres per 1,000 residents. The special use area category includes several smaller sites. The average size of the four largest field complexes is approximately 17 acres.

**Table D.4**  
Existing Special Use Areas

Park	Acres	
Canfield Sports Complex	16.0	Sports Field
Coeur d'Alene Soccer Complex	9.5	Sports Field
Jewett House and Beach	2.1	Water/Other
McEuen Field	14.8	Sports Field
Memorial Field	6.0	Sports Field
Person Field	3.0	Sports Field
Ramsey Park	29.0	Sports Field
Skateboard Park	1.0	Other
Stokes Field	3.7	Sports Field
Sunset Rotary Field	5.2	Sports Field
City-owned Docks (First Street, Commercial, Third Street Launch, Third Street Mooring)	N/A	Water
<b>Total</b>	<b>90.3 acres</b>	
	<b>87.2 acres, Sports Field Sites</b>	

**PROPOSED CONDITIONS**

A number of needs were identified through the planning process that would influence the need for special use areas. Additional sports fields will be needed to accommodate the demand generated by an increased population. The development of sports complexes (fields in groupings of three or more) is becoming increasingly common nationwide because of their capacity to host tournaments, as well as to manage league play. Coeur d'Alene is attuned to this trend, having developed complexes for each of the major field types (baseball, softball and soccer) in recent years. The community has also strongly emphasized the need for additional waterfront access, and indicated this is a high priority. Waterfront access can be provided at special use areas, or at sites of other classifications.

**Proposed Acreage and LOS Calculations**

An adequate inventory of sport fields currently exists in Coeur d'Alene (see the Recreation Facilities section of this paper for field need calculations). As the city's population grows, however, a significant demand for all sport fields will develop. Estimates project that eight baseball, 14 softball and 15 soccer/ multi-use fields will be needed, in addition to existing resources, to serve population of 90,731.

To accommodate this demand, 80-100 additional acres of special use area land for sports fields will be needed. Because fields can be developed in a variety of configurations (complexes, stadiums, at community parks, etc.), this acreage could be provided in different ways, whether it is a single large complex or smaller complexes multiple sites.

For waterfronts, waterfront acreage should be added if it becomes available or if the opportunity arises. Because acreage is very small, it is

**Special Use Area Proposed LOS**

**Data:**

Proposed Total S.U.A. Acreage: 170.3  
Projected Future Population: 90,731

**Calculation:**

$$\frac{170.3 \text{ acres}}{90,731 \text{ people}} \times 1,000 = 1.87$$

**Proposed LOS:**

Proposed Special Use Area Park LOS: 1.87

assumed that less than an acre of special use waterfront land will be added.

Assuming acquisition of an additional 80 acres of special use land will result in a total special use area land inventory of 170.3 acres, and an LOS of 1.87 acres per 1,000 residents.

### **Proposed Park Distribution**

The additional acreage needed to support future sport field development is sizeable enough that several new sports complexes could be constructed. If desired, the existing configuration of sports fields in Coeur d'Alene could also be shifted, in favor of more complexes, which may open up options for neighborhood and community park development in the city's core.

For these reasons, it is strongly recommended that special use area land intended for sports complex be acquired in manner that can support complex development. Large sites are recommended for procurement. Complexes developed at the northwest edge of town may also attract buy-in from neighboring towns, if the city can demonstrate that a county-wide audience is being served by Coeur d'Alene's fields

## NATURAL PARK PRESERVE ANALYSIS

Coeur d’Alene’s natural park preserve land is analyzed in this section.

### METHODOLOGY FOR NATURAL PARK PRESERVE NEEDS ANALYSIS

Different communities have different types of natural open space available to them. Different locations have differing amounts of natural resource or geographic opportunities and constraints – some communities have wetlands in their boundaries, others have steep slopes, still others have creeks or rivers, and some have combinations of resource types. Planning policies also impact the amount of land preserved for natural open space park land. Some communities have policies protecting parcels, resources and corridors, which can result in natural open space park land for the community.

The way in which natural open space is defined can vary greatly from city to city as well. In some cities, land deemed undevelopable by the city or builders is categorized as natural open space. In other communities, natural open space must meet specific environmental criteria. Because of these variations, the need for natural park preserve land is addressed differently. It may be based on opportunity, depending on how much resource land is available. Another method, most suitable for communities with adequate resource land, is to use the existing level of service as a baseline, to make sure the community is not reducing LOS as the population grows.

### PARAMETERS FOR ANALYSIS

#### Public Input on Natural Park Preserves

Public input on natural open space in Coeur d’Alene touched upon a variety of topics and opinion on natural open space was strongly articulated in all public involvement forums.

The results of the community survey revealed that some form of public access is desired for the natural open space in Coeur d’Alene. To illustrate, natural area trails are the trail type identified as “most needed” by recreation survey respondents. In addition, “natural areas” and “natural area-related facilities” were a top park amenity desired by survey respondents. Also according to the survey, nature walks were one of the favorite activities of respondents, and many use parks primarily to enjoy the outdoors or nature.

Other public forums, such as focus groups and the community workshop, identified access to natural open space as a primary issue in Coeur d’Alene. An additional topic noted in these forums was the overuse of one highly-accessible area resource, Tubbs Hill, for hiking and other natural open space activities. Crowding was repeatedly cited as a problem at this site.

### **Service Area/Travel Distance and Geographic Restrictions**

Natural park preserve land serves a community-wide audience. While nearby natural park preserves are desirable, people are willing to travel, often by car, to reach a desirable site. Tubbs Hill is an example of a natural park preserve that draws people from a distance. Access by bicycle to natural open space is also common, particularly for areas in or close to town that are dedicated to trail riding. Connections to the city trail network are important for this reason. Since natural open space serves a community-wide audience, no service area is recommended for this type of park land.

The barriers to natural park preserve land in the Coeur d'Alene area are generally not streets, but issues of configuration. Canfield Mountain Trails, Fernan Park, and Veterans' Centennial Park each lack visible, easily accessible connections to public roads and pathways. These resources also do not have on-site parking.

### **Planning and Land Use**

Tubbs Hill is Coeur d'Alene's most visible existing natural park preserve. It has a formal management plan.

No formal conservation plan exists in Coeur d'Alene, but large reserves of natural open space have been dedicated by philanthropic individuals to the City at several locations along the city's eastern edge.

Large tracts of federal land exist at several points in and around Coeur d'Alene. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) currently owns a nursery near the northwest edge of town, surrounded on all sides by city land. USFS and the Bureau of Land Management also own and maintain recreation sites at Blackwell Island, Canfield Mountain, and Higgens Point.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **Current Inventory**

Table D.5 lists the existing natural park preserves in Coeur d'Alene. The existing LOS is 5.12 acres per 1,000 residents.

**Table D.5**  
Existing Natural Park Preserve

Park	Acres
Canfield Mountain Trails	24.0
East Tubbs Hill	1.0
Fernan	54.0
Tubbs Hill	120.0
Veterans' Centennial Park	16.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>215.0 acres</b>

Limited development has occurred at Canfield Mountain and Fernan, and public facilities have not yet been developed at Veteran’s Centennial Park. Therefore, an “effective” LOS can be calculated for existing resources based upon an acreage figure of 121.0 acres based on the Tubbs Hill/East Tubbs Hill acreage. The effective existing LOS for natural open space in Coeur d’Alene is 2.88 acres per 1,000 residents.

**PROPOSED RESOURCES**

**Proposed LOS Standard and Acreage Acquisition Requirements**

Coeur d’Alene has an official LOS for natural park preserve that is higher than the combined LOS of all community, neighborhood and special use facilities. Because only two of its six existing sites are easily accessible by the public, however, the city’s effective LOS is lower, at 2.88 acres per 1,000 residents. There will be a need to preserve more land, and access to the existing resources needs to be improved if the public’s strong demand for natural park preserve access is to be met.

In addition to improving access, natural park preserves should continue to be acquired and/or accepted as donations by the City, as opportunities to obtain parcels of resource lands are increasingly scarce. Acquisitions should be evaluated prior to procurement to determine what, if any, environmental sensitivities exist and what level of public use is appropriate.

**Proposed Distribution of Resources**

The Parks Department has recently obtained the Canfield Mountain site, and Canfield Mountain has been identified as an important scenic resource. As many parcels still exist along this ridge, and because strong interest was expressed by the public in maintaining the natural appearance of this undeveloped area, opportunity-based acquisition of resources along Canfield Mountain is supported and encouraged by this master plan.

In addition, the public expressed strong interest in acquiring natural park preserve land at Blackwell Island to protect views from downtown, and in the Rathdrum Prairie, northwest of town, to retain open space and



allow for environmental conservation. Again opportunity-based acquisition of resources in these areas are strongly supported and encouraged by this plan.

## TRAIL AND PATHWAY ANALYSIS

A community system of trails can link residential areas, community facilities, parks, schools, and open space – creating opportunities for non-motorized transportation, as well as enhanced opportunities for recreation. Trail types can vary, ranging from on-street bike lanes to unpaved pathways tucked into natural open space corridors. Coeur d’Alene maintains a trail and pathway system that is diverse in nature; and the city completed a trails planning effort recently. While the focus of the Parks Department is on the development and maintenance of off-street trail corridors that serve both cyclists and pedestrians, this analysis also discusses on-street bike lanes because of their importance to the overall trail network.

## METHODOLOGY FOR TRAIL AND PATHWAY NEEDS ANALYSIS

The efficacy of a city’s trail network depends upon a number of qualitative factors – connectedness, accessibility, perceived sense of safety, etc. – that determine whether or not a city’s trail system is used by the average resident.

A qualitative analysis of a city’s trail and pathway network, identifying public priorities for trails and evaluating existing resources against those priorities, was conducted to evaluate Coeur d’Alene’s trail needs.

The trail assessment evaluates the following:

- Community priorities for trails and trail use;
- Proximity of trail segments to areas of highest probable use;
- Connectedness of trail segments, including barriers to access;
- Frequency and clarity of trail signing;
- Quality of original trail design and frequency of maintenance;
- Perceived sense of safety along trail routes; and
- The provision of amenities to encourage/assist in trail use.

## PARAMETERS FOR ANALYSIS

### Community Priorities: Public Input and Sub-System Vision

Public input on the trail network in Coeur d’Alene was extensive. Comments made in all public forums – the recreation survey, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, the community workshop, and the MPAC – mentioned trail needs.



The recreation survey revealed the following trail-related data:

- Walking or biking for exercise is one of the top reasons adults use park facilities in Coeur d’Alene. Additionally, walking, bicycling, nature walks, and walking dogs are among the favorite recreation activities of residents.
- An “enhanced trail network” is one of the park facilities most desired by respondents. Specifically, respondents feel that natural area trails are the trail type most needed in the city. Other desired enhancements include improved connections, more trailheads, and more signage.
- Coeur d’Alene has a strong contingency of frequent cyclists (including commuters, casual cyclists, and frequent road cyclists). Even with this, more non-motorized transportation options are sought.
- Connectivity is an issue for both trail users and non-users.
- A lack of knowledge about trail locations also exists.

Participants in other outreach activities offered the following input:

- The City should direct bike traffic away from Highway 95, and encourage the creation of “bikeways” or “bicycle boulevards” for on-street connections.
- Routes between neighborhoods and schools and new neighborhoods and downtown are not sufficiently safe for either cyclists or pedestrians.
- Improved trail connections to natural open space, especially Canfield Mountain, are needed.
- Improved maps and signage for walkers and bikers is needed.
- Parking at recreation facilities should be designed to accommodate bicycles, and be less focused on accommodating peak use by automobiles.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Approximately 28.5 miles of Class I and II trails exist, and another 35 miles is planned. Approximately 5.2 miles are scheduled for construction in the next few years, as funding permits.

These resources are evaluated in terms of how they impact and can be enhanced for recreation use. Transportation is a secondary focus of this assessment, as transportation-related issues are most comprehensively addressed in the City’s *Transportation Plan* and *Bikeways Plan*.

### **Service Area/Travel Distance to Network**

Existing bike lanes and pathways in Coeur d'Alene have been developed in a manner that provides a one-half mile service area for the majority of residents. In other words, one would only need to travel one-half mile, at most, on a bike to access one of the city's designated bike lanes or pathways.

Proposed bike lanes and pathways are laid out in a similar manner.

Most neighborhoods in Coeur d'Alene are constructed with sidewalks to provide for pedestrian accessibility. Sidewalks are so prevalent in Coeur d'Alene that a service area has not been evaluated for these facilities.

Despite the prevalence of these routes, public comment in Coeur d'Alene voiced a need for an enhanced trail network. Related comments indicated that some residents feel trails are too far away or not conveniently located, do not sufficiently connect, and that they don't know where trails are located.

### **Connectedness and Barriers to Access**

At present the bike lanes/pathways run north to south, with the flow of the city, and while there is some connectivity, more is needed. The proposed trail network detailed in the Master Plan would create much greater levels of connectivity through trail maintenance and creation of east-west linkages, especially beneficial in the northern city neighborhoods.

Barriers to access in Coeur d'Alene are primarily caused by roadways. Heavy traffic exists along many of routes designated as bikeways. While off-street paths may overcome these barriers for those dedicated to non-motorized transportation, traffic-congested highways or high-speed roadways may not appeal to the recreational trail user, particularly those with young children.

### **Signage**

Signage standards exist for the bicycle network in Coeur d'Alene, but many public comments voiced a lack of awareness regarding trail locations. More visible signage or more frequent signing, directional signage on major routes, enhanced distribution of bicycle and pedestrian route maps, and perhaps even events to orient users to the trail network may be needed.

### **Design and Maintenance**

Few comments on the design of actual trail facilities were received during the public involvement effort for this master plan. Maintenance comments were very positive, and highly supported the existing level of maintenance effort.

Grade separations have been discussed for off-street routes. These can increase safety and ease of use for trail users, but adequate attention must be given to design to ensure that safety or maintenance issues are not created.

### **Safety**

Survey statistics revealed that a notable percentage of respondents feel that trails in Coeur d'Alene are not safe, a much higher percentage than were concerned about safety in parks. Given other public comments received regarding trail use, it is our conclusion that these statistics relate to auto-bike or auto-pedestrian safety issues, versus personal safety issues (i.e.: crime).

The proximity of bike and pedestrian routes to heavy traffic can contribute to a perception that these facilities are not safe, as can intersections not designed with bicycle or pedestrian crossings in mind. Grade separations can reduce auto-bike and auto-pedestrian conflicts, but they must be carefully designed to ensure that trail users feel safe when passing through the separated.

### **Amenities**

Trail amenities in Coeur d'Alene vary widely depending upon the type of trail facility one is using. Linear trail corridors, such as the Centennial Trail, feature high-end amenities such as restrooms, trailheads and pull-outs. These amenities do not exist on more transportation-oriented trail facilities, such as bike lanes and pathways. Public comment expressed an interest in trailheads, restrooms, and signage to encourage and support trail use in Coeur d'Alene.

## **PROPOSED CONDITIONS**

Because Coeur d'Alene's existing trail network is extensive but the need for enhancement has been repeatedly voiced by the public, we conclude that the existing network is lacking in perceived rather than actual accessibility. In other words, residents of Coeur are not comfortable using the resources already developed for their use, so they therefore feel too few resources exist or that service areas for existing resources are inadequate. Also, in some instances, residents may not be able to locate existing resources due to a lack of route visibility or signage.

### **Service Area/Travel Distance to Network**

Coeur d'Alene's half-mile trail and pathway service area is reasonable for an urban trail network. This service area also replicates that of neighborhood parks, thus providing equal levels of basic recreation services to residents.



No changes to the half-mile service area are recommended. It is suggested that this service area be used to plot cycling and pedestrian routes if the City is to expand beyond its current planning boundary.

### **Connectedness and Barriers to Access**

Bicycle and pedestrian trails and pathways in Coeur d'Alene are either already connected or will soon be when proposed lanes and pathways are installed.

The development of both north-south and east-west routes should continue in order to provide maximum connectivity for recreational users. Developing as-yet unbuilt east-west routes will also greatly enhance connectivity within the existing system, and may in its own right improve residents' satisfaction with the trail network.

To decrease the perception that trails and pathways are unsafe for recreation, it is also recommended that existing and proposed bike lanes on major roads and thoroughfares be re-routed to more minor corridors (parallel and in close proximity to main routes). "Bicycle boulevards," which feature numerous traffic calming and access control devices to deter fast and frequent car use, should be installed where possible.

#### **Bicycle boulevard**

signage should be very visible to alert trail users to their presence. In addition, the City should pursue grade-separated crossings at intersections of off-street trails with major streets.

Trail and pathway recreation needs should be considered and incorporated into all of Coeur d'Alene's transportation plans to ensure residents have a trails network that is both comprehensive and appealing for use.

### **Signage**

As many members of the public indicated they do not know where trails are currently located, an informational campaign consisting of more signage and wider distribution of trail system maps is recommended. Directional signage along major routes is also encouraged.

### **Design and Maintenance**

Design considerations should incorporate the "bicycle boulevard" idea noted above. Perceived safety, particularly with regard to auto-bicycle/pedestrian conflicts, should be factored into design considerations. Design solutions should include elements like pedestrian/cyclist activated signals, bike boxes, pedestrian refuge islands, raised crossings, delineated crosswalks, and so forth.

Maintenance of trails is already well-regarded in Coeur d'Alene. Current levels of effort should be maintained, which may require the addition of more staff and equipment as the trails network grows.

## **Safety**

Perceptions of safety are expected to improve if alternative, less-trafficked corridors are selected for bicycle routes, and with the addition of more signage.

Non-physical solutions to safety concerns, such as “safe bicycle” workshops and group tours of new, safer, routes as they are developed, may also enhance the public’s perceptions of safety.

Finally, pursuing grade separations where off-street trails intersect high traffic streets offers another way to increase safety.

## **Amenities**

The provision of high-end amenities, such as restrooms and trailheads, along linear trail corridors should continue as these corridors receive the most recreational use. The ongoing installation of more standard amenities, such as bike racks, should also continue in “destination areas” such as schools and downtown.

Routing bicycle lanes and pathways in close proximity to parks, and signing these amenities where they are available, may be an affordable way to provide such amenities to daily users, particularly transportation-oriented users.

## **Proposed Trail Network**

No alterations to the basic trail and pathway network, as depicted in Figure D.3 are proposed in Coeur d’Alene. When possible and affordable (i.e.: when bicycle lanes on major thoroughfares need to be resurfaced or restriped, or when roadway improvements for less-trafficked streets are in design), it is recommended the “bicycle boulevard” concept be implemented.

As these facilities are usually only one or two blocks off of major roads, the development of this alternative trail and pathway design will not substantially impact the layout of the City’s existing and proposed trail network. Thus, no substantial alterations are proposed.

Figure D.3 (front)

Figure D.3 (back)

## RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS

This section discusses the community's need for the following types of recreation amenities and facilities:

- Sport fields (softball, baseball, soccer, multi-use fields, complexes);
- Recreation centers and gymnasiums;
- Skateparks and BMX facilities;
- Outdoor basketball courts;
- Disc golf courses;
- Dog parks;
- Water recreation facilities; and
- Community gardens.

## SCALE OF RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation facilities can be designed to serve different audiences, geographic areas, and population sizes. Recreation facilities can also be categorized into three types: regional, community and local facilities. Coeur d'Alene has facilities that fall within each scale. Each facility type is described below.

### Regional Facilities

Regional facilities serve the broadest geographic or population base. These are the largest and most specialized facilities, and usually draw from a large market area. Because of the large area served, regional facilities should be located on major streets or in places where surrounding land uses will not be impacted by traffic in and out of the site. The sports complex at Ramsey is regional in scale.

### Community Facilities

Community facilities are developed at a size and scale to serve multiple neighborhoods. These facilities are designed to accommodate organized activities. Users may walk, bicycle, or drive to access the facility. In the case of Coeur d'Alene, community facilities may serve the entire city. The skatepark and McEuen Field are examples of community scale facilities.

### Local Facilities

Local facilities are intended to serve the smallest geographic area, typically within walking distance from most homes. These facilities are intended to serve the everyday needs of residents for recreation and active living. Local facilities are typically smaller in scale to suit their context, and these are typically not suited for organized activities.



## SPORT FIELDS

### METHODOLOGY

To determine the need for sport fields, an existing LOS was calculated for each of the major sport field types. Note that the LOS calculation for sport fields differs slightly from the LOS calculation for park land, and is expressed in terms of the number of people served per sport field. The formula for calculating sport field LOS is shown at left.

After calculation, existing levels of service were determined to be either adequate, inadequate, or in excess of stated need based upon the results of public outreach. To cross-check this analysis, existing recreation habits in Coeur d’Alene were examined in relation to recreation participation data obtained from surveys conducted by MIG in other cities. An assessment of local, regional and national recreation trends was also conducted to assist in discerning possible field needs in Coeur d’Alene. Based upon these evaluations, a proposed LOS was developed for each sport field type. Future needs were then projected using the LOS guideline and the 2025 population figure.

**Calculating Level of Service**

***Formula:***

$$\frac{\text{Population}}{\text{Number of Fields}} = \text{LOS}$$

***Example:***

Current City Population: 41,983  
 Total Number of Soccer Fields: 11

$$\frac{41,983}{9 \text{ Soccer Fields}} = 4,665$$

Current Soccer Field LOS:  
 1 Soccer Field/4,665 people

### PARAMETERS FOR ANALYSIS

#### Public Input: Survey Results

Public input on sport fields indicates that adult residents of Coeur d’Alene appear to be satisfied with the current provision of these amenities. The following recreation survey statistics are the basis for this conclusion.

- When asked what type of park is most needed in Coeur d’Alene, only 1.9% of adult respondents indicated the city needs a park consisting primarily of sport fields.
- When asked why they use parks, the lowest ranked response for adults was to “play sports.” Only 6.4% of adults in Coeur d’Alene indicated they use parks primarily to play sports.
- When asked how often they visit specific park facilities, adults had very low levels of sport field visitation. Only 10.7% of adult respondents said they visit sport fields once a week or more; over half of adults said they never visit sport fields in Coeur d’Alene.

While adults in Coeur d’Alene use sport fields infrequently and prioritize new sport field development lower than other park improvements, youth use the sport fields in Coeur d’Alene often, and have clear opinions about what sport facilities are needed in Coeur d’Alene. The following statistics, also from the recreation survey, form the basis for this conclusion.

- When asked why they use parks, the highest ranked response for youth was to “play sports.” Twenty-five percent of youth in Coeur

d’Alene indicated this was their primary reason for using parks in the city. Note that “meeting friends” was a close second reason for youth use of parks, with 24% of youth respondents selecting this option in the survey.

- When asked how often they visit specific park facilities, youth had very high levels of sport field visitation. Thirty-eight percent of youth respondents said they visit sport fields “often” and 37% said they visit sport fields “sometimes.” Only 25% said they never visit sport fields in Coeur d’Alene.
- Youth were not asked what type of park is most needed in Coeur d’Alene, but were asked what type of sport facility is most needed in the city. Answers to this question ranked as follows: soccer fields; an indoor pool; baseball fields; football fields; more skate areas; and softball fields.

### Recreation Habits and Preferences

Field sports are a traditional recreation pursuit throughout the United States, especially for youth. Participation levels vary depending on the community and region. Adults in Coeur d’Alene participate in field sports, although overall participation is less than that of adults in other communities surveyed by MIG. We conclude that adults in Coeur d’Alene are generally satisfied with the amount and condition of sports fields in the city, due to the lack of comment about these facilities. However, youth in Coeur d’Alene have higher levels of participation in field sports as compared to adults and commented more frequently than adults about the need for more fields and sports facilities.

The following survey results are the basis for these conclusions.

- Adults in Coeur d’Alene participate in softball at a rate almost half that of the average adult in the Northwest (an average of 0.72 days per 30-day period, as compared to an adult average of 1.36 days per 30-day period). While more popular than softball, baseball and soccer are also less popular in Coeur d’Alene than elsewhere in the region.
- When asked what they would most prefer doing for recreation, no field sports (softball, baseball or soccer) emerged on the top-twenty combined list (adult and youth statistics together) of preferred recreation activities.
- No “average” data exists to evaluate youth participation in organized sports in relation to other communities in the region, but it appears that youth participate in field sports more often than many other possible recreation activities. When asked to indicate how often they participate in a list of fifty possible recreation activities, soccer, baseball and softball ranked twelfth, seventeenth and twenty-sixth, respectively, in relation to other recreation activities.
- When asked what they would most prefer doing for recreation, no field sports (softball, baseball or soccer) emerged on the top-twenty combined list (adult and youth statistics together) of preferred recreation activities. Soccer and baseball, however, ranked twelfth

and fifteenth, respectively, on the youth-only list of top-twenty preferred recreation activities.

### **Local, Regional and National Trends**

Substantial public outreach was conducted for this master plan effort beyond the recreation survey, revealing additional interests that may impact the use and development of sport fields in Coeur d'Alene in the future. The following local trends were derived from other public outreach efforts:

- A strong interest in lacrosse was revealed in both the teen focus group and the community workshop. Statistics support this observation: high school boys' lacrosse had a rapid increase in registrants between the 2004 and 2006 seasons. Girls' lacrosse is emerging, and one of the City's two high schools fielded a team in 2006. In addition, other communities in the Northwest have been experiencing increased participation in lacrosse and in some cases an explosion in popularity.
- A strong interest in the development of multi-use fields, capable of supporting a variety of sports (football, soccer, lacrosse) was expressed in the community workshop.
- An additional interest expressed in the community workshop and the teen focus group was the use of artificial turf for sport field surfacing, which allows for an increased level of play, permits year-round play, and requires less maintenance.

Regional and national trends in sport field use and development, as observed by MIG park and recreation planning staff, are noted below.

- The development of complexes (fields in groupings of three or more) is becoming increasingly common because of their capacity to host tournaments, as well as to manage league play. Baseball or softball field complexes are typically developed in groupings of four to eight fields.
- As with baseball and softball fields, many communities develop soccer fields in complexes. This approach is efficient to maintain, supports tournament play, and permits field configurations to change easily.
- In the Northwest, a number of communities have been exploring and implementing artificial turf fields, also known as synthetic fields. These are generally lighted and designed for soccer and use by other field sports such as lacrosse and rugby.
- Interest in less-traditional field sports is increasing in the Northwest and nationwide. Accommodating lacrosse, rugby and Ultimate Frisbee, the most popular of the "new" field sports, will affect the need for multi-use soccer fields or football fields.

## BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD ANALYSIS

### Field Inventory

Table D.6 itemizes the 19 baseball and softball fields available for public use in Coeur d'Alene, including several owned by the School District but used for league play. These fields provide a baseball field LOS of 1 field per 6,000 residents (approximately) and a softball LOS of 1 field per 3,500 residents (approximately).

**Table D.6**  
Baseball/Softball Field Inventory (2006)

#	Location	Comments
<b>Baseball Fields</b>		
2	Canfield Middle School	Owned/maintained by School District, adjacent to Canfield Sports Complex; 1 little league and 1 junior varsity field
4	Canfield Sports Complex	Little League fields; adjacent to Canfield Middle School
1	McEuen Field	Varsity field that can accommodate adult play but cannot accommodate college play; lighted
<b>7</b>	<b>TOTAL (4 Little League and 1 Varsity/Junior Varsity Fields, 2 at Canfield MS)</b>	
<b>Softball Fields</b>		
2	McEuen Field	Lighted
1	Memorial Field	Lighted; can accommodate 500 people; ADA issues
1	Person Field	
5	Ramsey Park	Lighted
2	Sunset Rotary Field	1 field is lighted; fields used predominately for youth and women's softball
1	Winton Park	Used predominately by youth softball
<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL (Adult/Youth Softball Fields)</b>	

### Proposed LOS Guideline

Public input on the provision of baseball and softball fields in Coeur d'Alene indicated that residents are generally satisfied with the current inventory. We conclude that the current supply is adequate for the existing population, and recommend that the City use the following guidelines for the provision of baseball and softball fields in the future:

- Baseball fields: 1 field per 6,000 residents
- Softball fields: 1 field per 3,500 residents

Based on the projected future population of 90,731, Coeur d'Alene will need a total of 15 baseball fields by the year 2025 to maintain the desired level of service. Baseball fields in Coeur d'Alene are generally not lighted, unless they are designed for adult baseball. This level of service assumes unlighted fields.

Based on the future population, Coeur d'Alene will need 26 softball fields to maintain the level of service given projected growth. Softball fields in

Coeur d’Alene are generally lighted if they serve adults. This projection of softball field demand assumes the same practice will continue.

## Soccer Field Analysis

### Field Inventory

Table D.7 itemizes the 9 soccer fields available for public use in Coeur d’Alene. These fields provide a soccer field LOS of 1 field per 4,665 residents.

**Table D.7**  
Soccer Field Inventory (2006)

#	Location	Comments
<b>Soccer Fields</b>		
2	Canfield Middle School	Owned/maintained by School District, adjacent to Canfield Sports Complex
1	Canfield Sports Complex	Adjacent to Canfield Middle School
3	CdA Soccer Complex	Can convert to 20 mini fields
1	Jenny Stokes Field	Can convert to 10 mini fields
2	Ramsey Park	Lighted
9	<b>TOTAL (Soccer Fields)</b>	

### Additional Public Input and Comment

Public comment focused on the shortage of soccer field space, especially because soccer fields are used for other sports, including lacrosse. This issue is compounded when seasons for different sports overlap. Public support for the development of multi-use fields with artificial turf was voiced during the community workshop so that multiple sports could be accommodated.

### Proposed LOS Guideline

Public input on the provision of soccer fields in Coeur d’Alene indicated that a slight increase is needed to serve soccer needs, and that a larger increase may be needed to accommodate demand generated by other sports. The following LOS guideline was developed based upon this feedback:

- Soccer/multi-use fields: 1 field per 3,500 residents

Given this standard, the development of two soccer fields is needed. If possible, these fields should be grouped to allow for more flexible configurations.

Based on a projected future population of 90,731, Coeur d’Alene will need a total of 26 soccer fields by 2025 to maintain the desired level of service. Soccer fields in Coeur d’Alene are generally not lighted, and the field LOS assumes future fields will not be lighted either. If artificial turf

fields are constructed (with lighting), it may be that fewer fields are needed due to their enhanced capacity for play.

## **OTHER SPORT FACILITIES**

The need for the following facilities is evaluated in this section:

- Recreation centers and gymnasiums;
- Skateparks and BMX facilities;
- Outdoor basketball courts; and
- Disc golf courses.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Evaluations of need for other sports facilities are based on MPAC, public input, and recreation survey data. No level of service guideline was identified for these facilities. This section describes the current provision of and future need for specific types of facilities, along with a summary of public input.

## **RECREATION CENTERS AND GYMNASIUMS**

### **Facilities Inventory**

All gymnasiums in Coeur d'Alene are located at school sites and maintained by the Coeur d'Alene School District. Several gymnasiums are used by the Recreation Department as a result of an agreement with the School District. The City has provided additional funding when new schools have been constructed to either provide a second gymnasium (as at Woodland Middle School) or to upgrade a planned multipurpose room to full gymnasium. In exchange for this funding, the Recreation Department receives gym time. This has been a successful and cost effective means of providing gymnasium space for the community.

By the fall of 2008, one of only seven of the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers in the nation will be completed adjacent to Ramsey Park and the planned Prairie Trail Corridor. The Center will be a state of the art, full-service recreation center that includes a gymnasium (dividable into three courts with a jogging/running track), a freestanding climbing wall, a dance/aerobics room, and a fitness center. This center will provide a wide range of recreation options for the entire Coeur d'Alene community.

### **Public Input**

Public comments noted during the planning process revealed that youth want increased access to gymnasiums, particularly during the summer months, for sports-related activities such as basketball.

This input is reflected strongly in the youth recreation survey. A substantial number of youth (29%) selected a "gymnasium" as the recreation facility most needed by youth in Coeur d'Alene.

## Recommendations

The City should continue its successful agreement with the School District, and should continue to provide funding for upgraded or expanded gymnasium space when schools are constructed or renovated. There is no need for the City to pursue development of a city-operated gymnasium or recreation center, because of the Kroc Center. This facility should serve the entire community for the foreseeable future. However, to maximize public access to the Kroc Center, it is recommended that connections be provided from Ramsey Park and the Prairie Trail. These paths could also be designed to provide an exterior exercise route for Center users, with amenities such as mile markers.

Since Highway 95 was earlier identified as a barrier to park land access for cyclists, pedestrians and youth, access to the Kroc Center for those residing east of Highway 95 should be carefully considered.

## SKATE PARK AND BMX TRACK

### Facilities Inventory

One skatepark exists in Coeur d'Alene, located adjacent to Memorial Field, and includes an in-line hockey rink and a skate park with features such as a pyramid with rail, a quarter pipe, and ledges. The current skatepark site is in the center of an urban renewal district created by the Lake City Development Corporation. Revitalization may enhance the skatepark's visibility in future years if it is retained in this general location.



Coeur d'Alene's BMX track occupies the northwest corner of Cherry Hill Community Park. Consisting of dirt jumps that wind their way down a relatively steep slope along the track, the park appears to appeal to a wide age range; recent visits have revealed use by bikers ranging in age from 5 to 24.

### Public Input

During focus groups, youth expressed a strong interest in an upgrade to the existing skatepark facility. Junior high students in particular felt that the existing elements in the park were not challenging enough. An additional recommendation, that skate features be distributed more evenly throughout town at neighborhood parks, was also voiced in several forums, as was the idea of building an additional or replacement facility. Although people commented positively on the central location of the existing skatepark, there were comments about the poor visibility of the park. The in-line hockey rink was reported to get very little use.

Several results regarding skatepark did emerge on the youth recreation survey. When presented with a list of sports and asked to pick their favorite (or write in their own idea), skateboarding was the second-most popular youth sport, after swimming. However, when asked what facilities are most needed by youth in Coeur d'Alene, a new skate facility

ranked relatively low compared to other facilities (sixth out of nine possible facilities).

Public comment on the BMX track was limited but enthusiastic. One issue noted was bicycle access to the facility. Given heavy traffic volumes on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, it appears younger children often are escorted to the facility (usually in a car) by an adult rather than venturing to the park on their own.

Survey statistics on the popularity of BMX showed that youth have an average interest level in BMX biking in Coeur d'Alene. When presented with a list of sports and asked to pick their favorite (or write in their own idea), BMX biking came in fourth in a list of eight activities.



### Recommendations

As discussion of the skate facilities in Coeur d'Alene centered upon the level of difficulty of existing skate elements, rather than access or crowding, it appears that one community-scale skatepark is adequate in Coeur d'Alene. A need for a more challenging facility was, however, clearly articulated by youth. Visibility improvements are also needed.

Redevelopment plans for the Memorial Field/Skatepark area currently make room for a repositioned and expanded skatepark. This skatepark should be constructed with more challenging features, in response to youth feedback on its current elements, and with better visibility from surrounding streets.

If skateboarding continues at the current rate of participation, by 2025 Coeur d'Alene may need another community-scale skatepark due to the projected doubling of population. Given the planned growth areas in Coeur d'Alene, a future community-scale skatepark should be located north of I-90 and perhaps east of Highway 95 (two significant barriers to park access for youth).

To diversify the recreation opportunities in neighborhood parks and provide training opportunities for younger skaters, the addition of skatepark features – often called skate spots – to neighborhood parks should be considered, given the popularity of the sport.

No existing need was identified for an additional BMX facility. The existing facility should be maintained in its current location, and expansion room should be reserved in accordance with the Cherry Hill Park master plan. Improved crossings at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue should be strongly considered to enhance access to this facility, and the remainder of Cherry Hill Park.



## **OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS**

### **Facilities Inventory**

Outdoor basketball facilities exist at all community and neighborhood parks in Coeur d'Alene, as well as at several sports-oriented special use areas. The most popular outdoor basketball courts are located at City Park, according to public outreach.

### **Public Input**

Basketball is highly popular among youth in Coeur d'Alene, according to the results of the community survey. Basketball is the sixth most popular activity, in a list of 50 recreation activities, among youth. When youth were asked what they would most like to do for recreation, basketball jumped to fourth in the list of activities.

Basketball is not as popular with adults as with youth, but adults participate in basketball more frequently than baseball, soccer, softball, or disc golf.

### **Recommendations**

Several participants in the youth focus group indicated they were unaware of the outdoor basketball facilities available at local parks in Coeur d'Alene. As part of its overall public outreach strategy, the City should consider new ways of outreach to youth. In addition, the City should continue its policy of providing outdoor basketball courts in community and neighborhood parks.

## **DISC GOLF COURSES**

### **Facilities Inventory**

Disc golf courses exist at Bluegrass Park and the North Idaho College Campus.

### **Public Input**

Disc golf was enthusiastically discussed in public forums regarding parks. About 10% of survey respondents reported playing disc golf, and most players participated frequently.

Comments generated during a staff meeting did reveal a possible conflict of uses at the disc golf course at Bluegrass Park. Staff members indicated that the siting of a disc golf course around the perimeter of Bluegrass, a park that attracts large numbers of families and teens, may not be appropriate due to conflicts between disc golfers and other park users.

### **Recommendations**

While the existing courses appear to be satisfying local need for disc golf facilities, these courses are relatively low in cost and flexible in terms of space demands and siting. At suitable sites, disc golf should be considered as a potential element when designing new parks. As new parks are developed,

Coeur d’Alene could consider relocating the course at Bluegrass Park to a location with more space and fewer potential for user conflicts, or adding another course to reduce the use at Bluegrass.

## OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS

The following facilities are analyzed in this section:

- Dog parks;
- Waterfront access and recreation facilities; and
- Community gardens.

### METHODOLOGY

Evaluations of need for other outdoor recreation facilities are based on MPAC, public input, and recreation survey data. No level of service guideline was identified for these facilities. This section describes the current provision of and future need for specific types of facilities, along with a summary of public input.



### DOG PARKS (OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS)

#### Facilities Inventory

Currently, dogs are not allowed in Coeur d’Alene parks, even on a leash, with two exceptions: dogs are allowed on a leash at Tubbs Hill and on the Centennial Trail. There are no facilities or locations where dog owners may allow their animals to be off-leash.

#### Public Input

Public support for allowing dogs in city parks, in some manner, was strong in

Coeur d’Alene. Input from the community workshop, nearly all of the stakeholder interviews and numerous focus groups revealed that the lack of options for legally accommodating dogs in parks has not deterred dog owners from using parks for recreation with their pets. Notably, representatives of the Coeur d’Alene School District wished for some level of dog accommodation in parks to decrease the use of school facilities for dog exercise.

Survey results support these comments. Although slightly less than half of survey respondents indicated they own a dog, 13.7% desired the creation of a special off-leash park for dogs; 15.9% felt that off-leash areas should be created in several parks; and 37.9% felt that off-leash areas should be created so long as leash laws are enforced. Thus, over two-thirds of respondents felt that some form of off-leash accommodation is desirable in Coeur d’Alene.

Suggestions for accommodating dogs varied. Public outreach generated the following ideas to accommodate dogs in parks:

- Allowing dogs on-leash at most parks;
- Creating an off-leash area at a suitable site, including fencing;
- Creating a dog park that would allow for water access; and
- Creating a dog facility that has separate play areas for small dogs.

### Recommendations

The need for a dog park, or at least some method of accommodating dogs in city parks, was one of the needs most strongly expressed during the planning process. Coeur d’Alene should evaluate its policy to prohibit dogs in public parks and perhaps allow leashed dogs in parks outside of the downtown core as a test of the revised policy. In addition, the City should consider providing at least one designated off-leash area.

Off-leash areas can take different forms, from fenced enclosures to designated park sites denoted only by signage. Coeur d’Alene should implement one test site. The location and size of the test site should be carefully considered, because there appears to be great demand for an off-leash facility. In addition, the test site should not displace existing park uses.

There is significant interest in an off-leash area on the waterfront to allow for water training and other in-water activities. It may be difficult for Coeur d’Alene to find a suitable location due to the high value of waterfront land and to the high level of use of most waterfront areas. However, if a suitable site can be found, Coeur d’Alene should consider a waterfront off-leash dog area.

## WATERFRONT ACCESS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### Facilities Inventory

Several stretches of public waterfront (beaches and docks) exist in Coeur d’Alene, maintained by numerous organizations, among them the Parks Department. Most of the city’s waterfront amenities are concentrated south and west of downtown.

### Public Input

Public access to the waterfront is a top priority for Coeur d’Alene residents, as indicated consistently through public forums. When residents were asked which type of park facility was most needed in Coeur d’Alene on the survey, “parks with river, creek or lake frontage” received the second-highest number of selections, nearly equivalent to the top choice of “natural areas.”

Beach activities and swimming at the beach or river were among the top recreation activities of adult respondents to the recreation survey and beach activities were the top recreation pursuit for youth.



Visitation trends, as reported by the recreation survey, reflect the level of participation in beach or river activities noted in participation charts. Only 10% of adult survey respondents in Coeur d'Alene have never visited City Park or City Beach, and over 50% of youth use these facilities "often."

Public outreach also revealed that residents feel waterfront facilities are overcrowded, which may be due to the concentration of facilities near downtown and heavy seasonal use by both residents and visitors

### **Recommendations**

The need for enhanced public access to the waterfront in Coeur d'Alene has been clearly expressed by the community. However, opportunities to meet this need are highly dependent upon the choices of private landowners in the area, as no publicly-owned waterfront parcels remain for development. If waterfront land becomes available, the City should consider acquisition to provide for community needs.

One mechanism of meeting need may be through policy development. A policy requiring some form of public access to the waterfront be created when land with lake or river frontage is privately developed may ensure that the public is at least considered when waterfront opportunities arise.

In addition, there may be ways to spread out some of the use of waterfront areas. If the City partnered with North Idaho College, some of the waterfront use (swimming, beach activities, etc.) taking place at City Park could be shifted to the College's waterfront areas. The waterfront at Jewett House and Beach may also offer an opportunity to distribute use, especially for Coeur d'Alene residents.

## **COMMUNITY GARDENS**

### **Facilities Inventory**

Currently, no community gardens exist in Coeur d'Alene.

### **Public Input**

Gardening ranked highly in the list of current and preferred recreation activities for adult survey respondents from Coeur d'Alene. Additional public input on this recreation activity, voiced in the community workshop and at several focus groups, identified an interest in the creation of community gardens for flowers, fruits and vegetables.

### **Recommendations**

There appears to be interest in a community garden in Coeur d'Alene. In addition, while most residences in Coeur d'Alene now have private yards, new residential development especially downtown is mainly higher density housing, such as condos, townhouses, and multistory residential buildings, without private yards or garden space.

The City should consider providing a community garden, in a location convenient to higher density housing. There are a number of sites that have suitable sunlight and other conditions to support a community garden. For example, the Jewett House, maintained by the Recreation Department, historically had fruit and vegetable gardens, as well as a small animal farm, at its northern edge. Placement of a community garden in this location would not impact other uses currently occurring or that may occur in the future.



**APPENDIX E:  
VISUAL SUMMARIES OF  
PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS**



## VISUAL SUMMARIES OF PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan incorporates the visions of several of the planning efforts that have come before. This appendix contains visual representations for two sites addressed by previous planning efforts.

The treatment of the area presented in Figure E.1, on the following page, comes from the June 2002 Walker Macy/ McEuen Plan. McEuen Playfield, a popular and important recreation site, is located between downtown, the lake and Tubbs Hill Park.

Figure E.2 is an illustration of a scenario for the 4 Corners area that borders downtown Coeur d'Alene. Conditions at these sites may have changed since the design and /or adoption of these two scenarios. These figures are included for background and reference only.





Figure E.1







Figure E.2

