



# city of coeur d'alene



## parks and recreation master plan

prepared by



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Special Thanks

We would like to thank the many citizens, staff and community groups who provided extensive input for the development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The project was a true community effort, anticipating that this plan will meet the needs and desires of all residents of our growing city.

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

In July 2006, the City of Coeur d'Alene began an update of its 1994 Long Range Plan for Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The result of the planning effort is this document, the *Coeur d'Alene Parks & Recreation Master Plan*, which is intended to provide the City with guidance on parks for the next ten to twenty years. An extensive citizen outreach process was an integral part of the planning process to capture the visions, values, and preferences of Coeur d'Alene's residents.

At the time of the 1994 Plan, it was clear that Coeur d'Alene was lacking in park land for a community of its population size. Since then, the City has made acquisition of new park property a high priority, with considerable success. The City created a Parks Foundation, with the goal of taking donations of land for parks and matching these donations with grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The City has also received donations of several large parcels of land in the foothills, as well as 1000 linear feet of riverfront property. The primary objective and most of the City's goals for park and recreation from previous plans have been met.

Since the 1994 Plan, Coeur d'Alene has experienced many changes, including population growth, an expanded and more highly developed park system, and changes in recreation participation. Building on the strong foundation set forth in the 1994 Plan, this *Parks & Recreation Master Plan* sets forth a strategy for the next twenty years. The year-long planning process included three phases, as depicted in Figure 1.

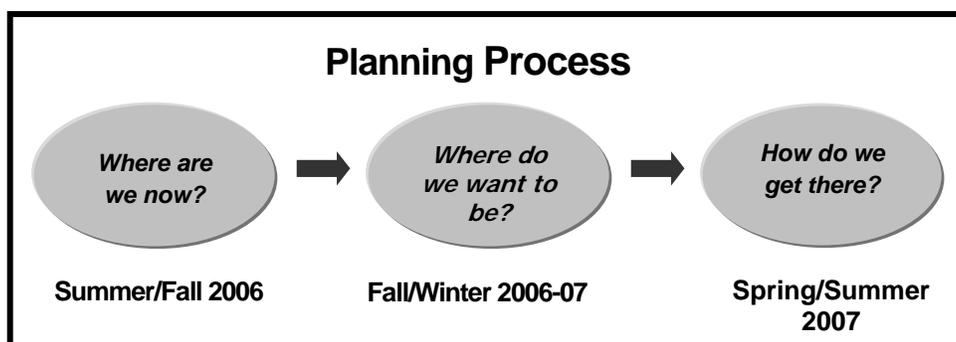


Figure 1: Planning Process

The purpose of Phase I was to take inventory of the community's current recreation resources, including parks, facilities, and programs. Tasks in this phase included a community analysis, a park evaluation and condition assessment, regional facility identification and park operations review. Recreation resources within Coeur d'Alene were identified and mapped.

During Phase II, public involvement activities, including a recreation survey, outreach booth, focus groups, a community visioning workshop and open house, helped identify public preferences and community needs for local parks and facilities, along with directions, goals, and objectives for the Plan. A technical analysis was completed, and Phase II tasks were incorporated into a Recreation Needs Assessment report.

Based on the vision and needs identified in Phase II, Phase III included the development of specific recommendations and actions for improving and developing Coeur d'Alene's park and recreation system. Capital projects were prioritized to create a Capital Improvement Plan, and funding strategies to implement these projects were discussed. Data from all three phases are summarized and refined in this Plan. The draft plan was developed in September 2007, and plan refinement and the adoption process continued through January 2008.

## A. THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The *Parks & Recreation Master Plan* is based on an extensive public involvement process. This community input was used to assess community values and develop a vision and goals framework to guide the planning effort. Many opportunities for public participation were available, including:

- The Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC), a citizen committee which met extensively to provide guidance;
- The Taste of the Coeur d'Alenes booth, where more than 900 attendees provided input during the 2006 Taste Event;
- The community recreation survey, sent to a random sample of Coeur d'Alene households and which generated 394 adult responses and 66 youth responses;
- A series of six stakeholder sessions held over two days with participation from the Mayor and City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission, Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee, Urban Forestry Committee, Sign Board Committee, North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation, and Parks Foundation;
- Outreach meetings with middle school youth and senior citizens; and
- A public visioning workshop that attracted more than 50 participants and included an open house that allowed for drop-in participation.

All together, more than 1,400 Coeur d'Alene residents participated in the development of this plan. Citizen input directed the core value, vision, and goals which provide the framework for this plan.



*Stakeholder Session*

The results of the public involvement process are described in greater detail in Chapter 3 and Appendices B and C of the document.

## **B. CORE VALUES, VISION, AND GOALS**

Through the public involvement process, several consistent themes emerged. These themes were analyzed to determine a set of community core values, which were then used to create a vision and goals framework to guide decision-making and help identify priorities. The following outlines the core values, vision, and goals that guide the Coeur d'Alene *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

### **Core Values**

Public involvement process participants identified five themes that are most valued by community members. These core values, as expressed by the community, provide the foundation of this Plan. Coeur d'Alene's core values are:

- *Equity:* The park system will make every effort to provide equitable access to its parks and trail system and will use its available resources to the benefit of all Coeur d'Alene parks.
- *Conservation:* The park system will support conservation of local resources and will help protect Coeur d'Alene's views and character.
- *Efficient use of resources:* The park system will be well-managed, from a financial standpoint. It will be the responsibility of the City Council and staff to assure a well-coordinated effort in the production of both the Park Master Plan and City Comprehensive Plan. These two documents are expected to be mutually supportive, sharing a common vision of the residents' community desires for the future.
- *Stewardship:* Community assets will be managed for the long term, recognizing the importance of parks, recreation facilities and urban forest to the community's health. Day to day accountability for Parks and Recreation operations will reside with the Director, who will receive general guidance from the City Council.
- *Active Living:* Coeur d'Alene is uniquely located on a major lake with an outdoor-oriented community and an active population that values the wealth of natural resources and recreational opportunities available in and around the city. City management will be proactive in securing water and land-based acquisitions for City parks and recreation needs.

### **Community Vision**

The vision creates a picture of success for the Coeur d'Alene park system. This vision is drawn from the input gathered during the public involvement effort, and provides the foundation for the Plan's goals and recommendations. The following vision statement represents the ideal for the parks and recreation system.

**Master Plan Vision Statement**

*We will actively strive to provide a quality parks and recreation system that offers a diverse range of experiences, preserves local resources, and supports a vibrant community spirit.*

**Goals**

Using the core values and vision as a guide, a set of goals was developed. These goals are intended to assist the Coeur d’Alene Parks Department in achieving the community vision, and enhancing and preserving the core values of the community. A goal is typically a general statement that describes an outcome the Parks and Recreation Department wishes to achieve. It does not change over time, unless community values or economic conditions make it necessary.

Through the planning process, nine goals were identified for the City of Coeur d’Alene’s Parks and Recreation Department. These goals provide focus for the plan and key directions for the future.

- Goal 1: Provide safe, accessible and enjoyable parks, recreational facilities and natural open space areas.
- Goal 2: Develop an integrated open space network that helps to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Coeur d’Alene region.
- Goal 3: Create a comprehensive trails system that connects users to recreational amenities, parks and schools, as well as to downtown, the Spokane River, Lake Coeur d’Alene, and regional trails.
- Goal 4: Provide physical amenities and programs that support and enhance active living opportunities.
- Goal 5: Ensure that recreational programs and facilities are available to community members of all ages, incomes and abilities.
- Goal 6: Encourage cooperation and partnerships with local jurisdictions and public and private entities to ensure that parks and recreational services delivery are effectively and efficiently coordinated.
- Goal 7: Provide efficient and high quality maintenance of parks, facilities, the urban forest and natural open spaces.
- Goal 8: Maintain sound financial practices that ensure the long term stability of the park system.
- Goal 9: Encourage ongoing community involvement and public participation as a cornerstone for decision-making about parks and recreation.

## C. DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

Due to the large amount of technical information in the Plan, much of the background information is presented in the appendices.

The main body of this report is organized as follows:

**Chapter 1: Introduction:** Chapter 1 provides an overview of the document organization, planning process, and public involvement effort. It also presents the Coeur d'Alene community's core values, vision, and goals for parks and recreation.

**Chapter 2: Planning Context:** Chapter 2 describes the planning context—the physical and political characteristics that form the framework for recommendations made in this Plan. Characteristics described include Coeur d'Alene's regional context, landscape, and demographics. This chapter also includes an inventory of existing recreation resources in the Coeur d'Alene planning area.

**Chapter 3: Recreation Needs:** Chapter 3 presents public involvement findings specifically relating to Coeur d'Alene's recreation needs. Building upon this input, this chapter details park land and recreation facility needs.

**Chapter 4: Park, Facility, and Trail Recommendations:** Chapter 4 offers recommendations and policies for the development or redevelopment of parks, recreation facilities, waterfront access, natural park preserves and trails.

**Chapter 5: Policy and Operations Recommendations:** Chapter 5 provides recommendations for policy directions and changes, including the urban forest. It also discusses operations of and funding for the park and recreation system.

**Chapter 6: Funding and Implementation:** Chapter 6 identifies the capital projects listed in the plan, details funding resources and recommends a five-year capital improvement plan.

The Appendices (under separate cover) include:

Appendix A: Park Inventory

Appendix B: 2006 Recreation Survey Results

Appendix C: Summary of Public Outreach Results

Appendix D: Recreation Needs Assessment.

Appendix E: Previous Planning Graphics: Four Corners Project and McEuen Playfield



## CHAPTER 2: PLANNING CONTEXT

The City of Coeur d’Alene is located in northern Idaho, at the southern end of the Idaho panhandle. Situated in the center of Kootenai County, Coeur d’Alene is bounded by Canfield Mountain to the east and Lake Coeur d’Alene to the south. The cities of Post Falls, Hayden, Hayden Lake, Dalton Gardens, and Fernan Village are located to the immediate west and north of Coeur d’Alene. The rural lands once separating these cities are gradually infilling with a mix of suburban residential and commercial development.

Coeur d’Alene is linked to the larger metropolis of Spokane, thirty miles west, via Interstate 90. Connections to smaller towns in Idaho, Montana and Washington are also provided via Interstate 90, as well as State Highway 95. Both Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe run rail lines between Post Falls and Coeur d’Alene along the Spokane River, terminating near the northern edge of downtown. These lines are scheduled to be abandoned and the surrounding urban areas redeveloped within the next several years.

**Figure 2**  
Coeur d’Alene’s Regional Context



Source: *Data & Maps 2005 United States CDs, ESRI*

As it is the largest city in northern Idaho, Coeur d’Alene holds a position of regional economic importance. According to 2002 Economic Census Data (U.S. Census Bureau), over half of the retail trade, accommodation and food service establishments of Kootenai County are based in Coeur d’Alene. The city also plays a primary role in health care provision, and the provision of arts, entertainment and recreation services. Given the City’s location and its physical growth, Coeur d’Alene will continue to

serve as a regional commercial, cultural and recreation hub in future years.

## A. PLANNING AREA

The planning area for this Plan was determined in consultation with the Coeur d'Alene Planning Department, and it is consistent with the planning area used for the 2007 Coeur d'Alene Comprehensive Plan update. All maps in this Plan depict the 2007 city limits and the planning boundary.

## B. THE COEUR D'ALENE LANDSCAPE

Coeur d'Alene's topography, natural resources and land use patterns give the City its unique character. These aspects of the landscape also affect the provision of parks and recreation.

### Waterfront

The most visible water resource within the Coeur d'Alene area is Lake Coeur d'Alene. The St. Joe, St. Maries and Coeur d'Alene Rivers feed the lake; its elevation is kept constant by the Post Falls Dam on the Spokane River, which drains from its northwest corner.

Readers of travel and recreation magazines consistently vote Lake Coeur d'Alene as a top water recreation destination in the United States. Downtown Coeur d'Alene is nestled at the northern edge of the lake, encouraging both visitors and residents to use the lake's beaches, waterfront pathways and docks. Boating, swimming, fishing and water skiing are among the most popular recreation activities on this lake.

While Lake Coeur d'Alene is the most visible water resource in the area, other resources do exist. The Spokane River is popular for boating, trout fishing and swimming. East of the city of Fernan Village, there is a 54-acre waterfront parcel dedicated to the Coeur d'Alene Parks Department. The regional North Idaho Centennial Trail runs through or adjacent to all of Coeur d'Alene's water resources.

### Downtown and Surrounding Neighborhoods

Coeur d'Alene has a vibrant downtown, located near City Park and the lake. Busy with residents and tourists, Coeur d'Alene's lakeside location and amenities attract visitors from throughout the region. The park complex along Lake Coeur d'Alene is a major feature of downtown and the immediate neighborhoods. Surrounding the downtown core are older residential neighborhoods, designed for pedestrians and with good access to downtown parks, shops and amenities.



*Mooring Docks*

## Recent Developments

Since the development of the 1994 Plan, most new residential subdivisions have been encouraged by the City to provide a site for a neighborhood or community park. Bluegrass Park is an excellent example of the type of residential development the City has desired, where a well-sited park is central to the neighborhood and attracts significant use. More residential developments are in the planning stages to the west of city limits, transforming former agricultural areas into neighborhoods requiring city services, including parks.

In addition to the residential development to the north and west, Coeur d'Alene has experienced significant growth in recent years along the Spokane River. Both residential and commercial developments have occurred, as industrial sites have been redeveloped. This area of the City surrounds the heavily used North Idaho Centennial Trail, and it is also home to three educational institutions which are actively planning for the future.

## Prairie

The Rathdrum Prairie extends from Coeur d'Alene to Spokane and north to Lake Pend Oreille. Once a forest, large portions of the Prairie are now home to Kentucky Bluegrass farms and, increasingly, residential development.

## Forested Areas

The area of Coeur d'Alene near the Spokane River and Lake Coeur d'Alene is lowland, rising swiftly to over 4,000 feet at Canfield Mountain, directly east of the city. Tubbs Hill is the highest point in Coeur d'Alene proper at just over 2500 feet. These elevated areas are forested, and represent significant visual and natural resources that contribute to Coeur d'Alene's character.

## C. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Population growth creates an increased demand for park and recreation services, and demographic characteristics can influence recreational interests and levels of participation. This section highlights some of the key findings about population and demographics that influence the Plan.

### Historical Growth

In 15 years, Coeur d'Alene increased its population by over 50%, growing at a rate faster than Idaho as a whole, although slower than that of Kootenai County. As much of Kootenai County's growth is based upon infill of the rural lands between Coeur d'Alene and the surrounding communities, it is likely that population growth rates within Coeur

d’Alene and outside of Coeur d’Alene will increase in future years as completed subdivisions are annexed. Table 1 compares the City’s growth between 1990 and 2005 to that of Kootenai County and the State of Idaho.

**Table 1**  
 Population Growth 1990-2005  
 City of Coeur d’Alene, Kootenai County, Idaho

Year	City of Coeur d’Alene	Percent Increase	Kootenai County	Percent Increase	State of Idaho	Percent Increase
1990	24,563	--%	69,795	--%	1,006,749	--%
2000	34,514	40.5%	108,685	55.7%	1,293,953	28.5%
2005	40,459	64.7%	127,668	82.9%	1,429,096	42.0%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 population estimates; Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, 2005 Population Estimates

The notion that Coeur d’Alene’s recreational resources, such as sport fields and public docks, are being drawn upon by a larger population than lives in the city proper is supported by the high rate of County growth noted above. High growth rates within the City, in conjunction with the County’s growth patterns, substantiate the need for ongoing park land acquisition both inside and outside of the existing city limits.

## Population

Population growth occurs primarily through two means: annexation or infill. Due to the large amount of rural land available within the Coeur d’Alene city limits, the City’s primary growth mechanism is through infill. This planning process was based upon population data from the Coeur d’Alene Planning Department. In summary, Coeur d’Alene’s 2006 population is 41,983 and the 2025 projected population is 90,731, based upon an average annual growth rate of 4%.

For the purposes of this plan, the 2025 growth projection was used. While this plan was underway, the City began a Comprehensive Plan update. The Comprehensive Plan now projects population growth to slow down. Since this Parks & Recreation Master Plan was through the needs assessment phase before the new Comprehensive Plan projections were completed, the projections based on 4% growth were used. Since the park standards are a rate, e.g., 4 acres per 1,000 residents, the standards are flexible enough to work regardless of whether the population increases more quickly or slowly than projected.

## Demographics

As of the 2000 Census, the median age in Coeur d'Alene was 34.8 years. The age profile for the City indicates a large number of children and youth age 19 and below, as well as a relatively large number of young adults. However, more than 20% of the population is age 55 or older. Coeur d'Alene appears to have successfully attracted young families and young adults in recent years, and has a significant population of older adults. This demographic picture has and should continue to influence the recreation facility choices of the Coeur d'Alene Parks Department.

Youth tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group, and generally favor active and competitive activities, such as basketball, baseball, soccer, swimming and bicycling. Younger adults (ages 18-35) also participate in active recreation and typically form the core of adult competitive sports. Older adults generally have more time to devote to leisure activities than other adults. With the aging of the baby boomer population, the interest among older adults in active recreational activities has increased substantially in recent years. The traditional senior citizen age group historically has participated in more passive leisure activities. The changing national trends for older adults will influence Coeur d'Alene's park system. These trends should be monitored annually, or on a regular basis. New trends should be addressed accordingly.

### D. EXISTING RECREATION RESOURCES

In addition to serving local residents, the City of Coeur d'Alene is a regional provider of park and recreation services, as this chapter demonstrates. While there are notable regional resources provided by other agencies, Coeur d'Alene is the major provider of parks and facilities in the area.



*Cherry Hill BMX Track*

Coeur d'Alene's park system is extensive, diverse and well-maintained. Many park sites are multi-use in nature, combining sport field resources with casual sport amenities, picnic facilities and support facilities such as parking and restrooms. Many parks are located near schools or are nestled in residential settings, with designated pathways providing easy, non-vehicular access for youth and families. A July weekday tour of the Coeur d'Alene park system revealed notably high levels of park use by teens and families, particularly in newer residential neighborhoods. The City of Coeur d'Alene has also done an excellent job of acquiring new park land as the city expands outward, and has developed these sites as funding has allowed.

This section summarizes the City's inventory of parks and facilities, and briefly reviews major regional resources.

## Coeur d'Alene's Park Inventory

Park land is classified to assist in planning for a community's recreation needs. A park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering different recreation opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the entire range of community needs. By classifying park land by its function, a community can evaluate its needs and plan more easily, providing a more efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and neighbors.

Coeur d'Alene's classifications for existing parks include:

- **Community Parks.** Community parks are planned to provide active and structured recreation opportunities, as well as passive and non-organized opportunities for individual and family activities. Community parks generally include facilities that attract people from a large geographic area and require support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. Community parks often have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Size ranges from 10 acres to 20+ acres, with an optimal size of at least 15 acres.
- **Neighborhood Parks.** Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and park, designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size and intended to serve nearby residents, who are intended to mainly arrive by foot or bicycle. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, pathways, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer, softball and baseball. Size generally ranges between 1 and 7 acres, with 4 acres desirable.
- **Special Use Areas.** Special use areas are miscellaneous park lands or stand-alone recreation sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. Some of the facilities in this classification can include sports field complexes, community centers, community gardens, aquatic centers or sites occupied by buildings.
- **Natural Park Preserves.** Natural park preserves are sites primarily left in a natural state and intended for nature-oriented leisure activities. These sites are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, steep hillsides, wildlife habitats, stream and

creek corridors, or lands containing unique and/or endangered plant species. Natural park preserves may serve as trail corridors, and generally support only passive recreation. Active recreation that occurs is usually a secondary use.

Two additional classifications – Undeveloped Land and Beautification Areas – address the growth of the park system and the increase in Parks Department responsibilities since the 1994 Plan. This plan does not address beautification areas, which are part of the City’s street and right-of-way system, nor does it address the two historic cemeteries operated by the Parks Department.

Map 1 depicts the Coeur d’Alene park system in 2007, illustrating the planning boundary and the existing parks by classification. Table 2 summarizes the existing and planned parks by classification, including acreage.

**Table 2**  
Coeur d'Alene Park Land Inventory by Classification, 2007

Park Land	Total Acreage
<b>Community Parks</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bluegrass Park (11.0 acres)</li> <li>• Cherry Hill Community Park (30.0 acres)</li> <li>• City Park and Beach (14.8 acres)</li> <li>• Independence Point (2.6 acres)</li> <li>• Landings Park * (11.0 acres)</li> <li>• Riverstone Park (5.0 acres)</li> </ul>	74.4 acres
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawks Nest Park* (7.0 acres)</li> <li>• Johnson Mill River Park (1.7 acres)</li> <li>• Legacy Place Park * (1.0 acres)</li> <li>• North Pines Park (3.5 acres)</li> <li>• Northshire Park (3.5 acres)</li> <li>• Phippeny Park (2.7 acres)</li> <li>• Shaddock Lane Park (6.0 acres)</li> <li>• Sunshine Meadows Park ** (2.3 acres)</li> <li>• Winton Park (6.0 acres)</li> </ul>	33.7 acres
<b>Special Use Areas</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canfield Sports Complex (16.0 acres)</li> <li>• City-owned Docks (acreage not applicable)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Street Dock</li> <li>Commercial Dock</li> <li>Third Street Launch Dock</li> <li>Third Street Mooring Dock</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coeur d'Alene Soccer Complex (9.5 acres)</li> <li>• Hubbard Street Park (.4 acre)</li> <li>• Jenny Stokes Field (3.7 acres)</li> <li>• Jewett House &amp; Beach (2.1 acres)</li> <li>• McEuen Field (14.8 acres)</li> <li>• Memorial Field (6.0 acres)</li> <li>• Person Field (3.0 acres)</li> <li>• Ramsey Park (29.0 acres)</li> <li>• Skateboard Park (1.0 acre)</li> <li>• Sunset Rotary Field (5.2 acres)</li> <li>• Veterans Memorial Park (1.3 acres)</li> </ul>	92 acres
<b>Natural Park Preserves</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canfield Mountain Trails (24.0 acres)</li> <li>• East Tubbs Hill (1.0 acres)</li> <li>• Fernan** (54.0 acres)</li> <li>• Tubbs Hill (120.0 acres)</li> <li>• Veterans' Centennial Park * (16.0 acres) UNDEVELOPED</li> </ul>	215.0 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>415.1 acres</b>

\* planned – not yet constructed

\*\* pending – concept under revision





## Coeur d’Alene’s Recreation Facilities

Within the park system, Coeur d’Alene has a wide range of recreation facilities. The inventory includes traditional facilities such as softball, soccer and baseball fields; non-traditional sports facilities such as a BMX track; and waterfront docks.

### Waterfront Access

The Coeur d’Alene Parks Department owns several public docks, providing public access to Lake Coeur d’Alene and generating revenue to fund park services. These docks are located within the parks complex created by City Park, Tubbs Hill and McEuen Field.

Public beach access is provided at Independence Point and City Park and waterfront access is available at Johnson Mill River Park, Tubbs Hill and Jewett House.

### Outdoor Sports Facilities

Coeur d’Alene has an extensive system of sport fields, which serve both Coeur d’Alene and much of Kootenai County. Table 3 on the following page summarizes the City’s inventory of sports fields.



*Coeur d’Alene Soccer Complex*

**Table 3**  
Coeur d'Alene's Sports Fields

#	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 could accommodate adult play, but cannot accommodate college play; lighted
<b>7 TOTAL (4 Little League and 1 Varsity/JV 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 TOTAL (Adult/Youth Softball Fields)</b>		
<b>Football Fields</b>		
1	McEuen Field	Flag football is played on one of the softball fields; can be played on both softball fields depending upon demand
1	Person Field	
<b>2 TOTAL (Football Fields)</b>		
<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
<b>9 TOTAL (7 Soccer Fields, 2 at Canfield MS)</b>		
<b>Other Recreation Facilities</b>		
1	Skatepark	Near Memorial Field; barriers exist for in-line skating
1	BMX Track	Within Cherry Hill Community Park
<b>2 TOTAL (Other Recreation Facilities)</b>		

In addition to the sports fields listed in Table 3, the park system also includes:

- A tournament-scale horseshoe pit complex;
- A disc golf course at Bluegrass Park;
- Tennis courts; and
- Basketball courts at most parks.

### **Indoor Facilities**

While Coeur d’Alene does not own any gymnasiums, the City and School District 271 developed a partnership years ago, where the City provides funds to provide additional gymnasium space when new schools are developed. As a result, the City Recreation Department and School District 271 have joint use of the gymnasiums at: Skyway Elementary; Fernan Elementary; Woodland Middle School, and Project CDA. Additionally, the City and S.D. 271 have a joint use agreement for the gymnasiums at Sorensen Elementary, Ramsey Elementary, Borah Elementary, Dalton Elementary and Lakes Middle Schools.

The Jewett House, east of Tubbs Hill and fronting on the lake, is an additional resource for the City of Coeur d’Alene. The Jewett House is, officially, a senior center, providing daily senior activities in a beautiful historic setting.

### **Trails**

Residents and visitors to Coeur d’Alene have a remarkable regional trail resource in the North Idaho Centennial Trail, which stretches from Higgens Point for 23 miles to the Washington border and beyond. Within Coeur d’Alene, the North Idaho Centennial Trail has support facilities such as restrooms and drinking fountains at designated service points. The North Idaho Centennial Trail runs along the waterfront through Coeur d’Alene for approximately eight miles.

Other trail resources are also available in Coeur d’Alene. The Atlas Trail connects to the North Idaho Centennial Trail on Seltice Way and runs to the northern boundary of the city limits. The future Prairie Trail will connect to the North Idaho Centennial Trail at Riverstone Park and continue northwest for five miles, currently ending at Huetter Road. The U.S. Forest Service allows mountain bikes and off-road motorcycles on Forest Service Land at Canfield Mountain, immediately east of the Coeur d’Alene city limits. Multi-use pathways thread throughout the City, particularly around Bluegrass Park at the north edge of Coeur d’Alene, encouraging pedestrian and bicycle commuting. Designated bicycle lanes and Share the Road lanes exist along minor thoroughfares throughout the city.

## Regional Resources

Coeur d'Alene's system of parks is supplemented by park and recreation resources owned by other agencies and groups. Major regional resources include:

- *Federal Land.* 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 and the largest tract of undeveloped land in the area. In addition to this in-town site, state and federal agencies also own and maintain recreation sites at Blackwell Island, Canfield Mountain, and Higgens Point.
- *Beach Access.* North Idaho College, located west of downtown, owns and maintains beach access at the origin of the Spokane River at Lake Coeur d'Alene. This beach is open to the public as well as to students, and equipment such as non-motorized boats is available for rent.
- *North Idaho Centennial Trail.* Coeur d'Alene has built segments of the North Idaho Centennial Trail within city limits, but the North Idaho Centennial Trail extends far beyond the City. Extending west to the Washington border, the North Idaho Centennial Trail continues as Spokane River Centennial Trail. The North Idaho Centennial Trail continues east to Higgens Point, and there is discussion to extend it further.
- *Kroc Center.* By the spring of 2009, one of only seven Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers in the nation will be completed adjacent to Ramsey Park and the 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, swimming pool and leisure pool, a fitness center and other classrooms and public space. This center will provide a wide range of recreation options for the entire Coeur d'Alene community. The Kroc Center will be operated by the Salvation Army, and an operating endowment was established as part of the gift. Site work began in 2007, and construction was underway at the writing of this Plan.



*Independence Point*

## CHAPTER 3: RECREATION NEEDS



*Fort Sherman Playground at City Park*

A Recreation Needs Assessment was conducted as part of the planning process. The Recreation Needs Assessment is based on qualitative assessment and technical analysis. These needs — defined in terms of park land standards, defined geographic service areas for some park types, sport facility guidelines and specific individual facilities — are based on increasing community demand for recreation opportunities, which was noted in the public involvement activities.

This chapter summarizes the results of the needs assessment. It includes key findings from the public involvement process, presented more fully in Appendices B and C. It also provides highlights from the Recreation Needs Assessment report, which is presented in Appendix D.

### A. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS

#### 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 2006. The recreation survey was mailed to a random sample of 1,600 addresses selected from a current list of residential telephone subscribers in Coeur d’Alene. A separate youth survey was included in the survey mailing, aimed at youth between the ages of 10 and 18. At the close of the survey on December 5, 2006, a total of 394 adult surveys and 66 youth surveys had been returned.

Key findings from the recreation survey are

- *Most residents use parks.* 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 houses (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.
- In line with their demonstrated interest in natural area- and trail-related activities, adult residents would like to see *more natural areas* and natural area-related facilities and an *enhanced trail network*.
- 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. 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*.
- *Crowding is an issue* at both parks and water recreation facilities. 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 in parks*, even among those who do not own dogs.
- *Cultural arts programming* is sought by the public. The types of cultural arts programming most favored by respondents include concerts in the park, community art festivals and performing arts events.
- *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. A lack of knowledge about park and trail locations exists as well, with the exception of the facilities available near downtown.
- 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.

## 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. The Parks Department hosted a booth during the three-day event during summer 2006. The booth included displays and a questionnaire, administered by staff and volunteers. A

total of 971 respondents indicated how they use parks and recreation facilities in Coeur d'Alene, and what they would like to see change and develop in the city's park and recreation system.



*Taste of the Coeur d'Alenes Booth*

- When asked about 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).
- When asked what facilities would enhance the community of Coeur d'Alene, respondents most favored *natural areas* (19.4%), additional *bike and pedestrian trails* (17.2%) and a *dog park* (16.2%).
- The *top three reasons* respondents reported using parks 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%).
- Of those respondents who seldom use or do not use the parks in Coeur d'Alene, the most cited reason is that the parks are *too crowded* (21.7% of total respondents).
- Respondents consider natural open space to be very important or important (90%).
- The most popular water-related activities are traditional and family-oriented: *outdoor swimming* (41.8%) and *fishing* (21.8%).
- Those who live in Coeur d'Alene cite *crowding* (21%), *lack of parking* (19%) and *prohibitive cost* (16.3%) as the top three reasons for not using water recreation facilities.
- From a list of City events, the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration (20.3%), the farmers' market (17.6%) and concerts in the park (17.5%) were most attended by respondents.
- *Food vendors* and *nature tours* are the most popular service people would like to see in Coeur d'Alene parks, garnering 20.8% and 20.6% respectively. Rentals of canoes or kayaks, motor boats or jet skis, and bikes also ranked high on respondents' service "wish list."

## Focus Groups

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 Mayor and City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission, Urban Forestry Committee, Sign Board Committee, Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee, North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation, Parks Foundation and Parks Department staff.

- *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.
- *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).
- *Specific facility needs.* Desired facilities that fulfill a specific purpose include a regional sports complex, dog park, skatepark, BMX freestyle and cyclocross.

## Community Visioning Workshop

To gain input on the visions and priorities for Coeur d'Alene's park system, a public visioning session was held January 25, 2007 at Woodland Middle School. More than 50 citizens were in attendance, in addition to a number of City representatives and Parks and Recreation staff. Participants were asked to identify the values they hold that should be enhanced and reinforced by the Plan.

- *Equal facilities for all.* This sentiment was based in the need for all neighborhoods to have equal access to parks and equivalent levels of park service. This value also relates to the public's desire to have new neighborhood parks come "on line" more quickly.
- *Public access to lake.* Although much of the Lake Coeur d'Alene waterfront is privately owned, the public values maintaining public access to the lake.

- *Open space conservation.* Conservation of the Rathdrum Prairie — while portions of it can still be conserved — is important. Enhanced connections to natural areas and increased access to wildlife are also valued.
- *Safety and cleanliness.* Safety and cleanliness were two fundamental values identified for the park facilities in Coeur d'Alene.
- *Environmental values.* A high level of air quality and preservation of the tree canopy in the City were two environmental values identified for Coeur d'Alene.

Attendees were requested to translate their values into specific visions for the park system.

- *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 desired.
- *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 sites 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.

## B. PARK LAND NEEDS

Community needs for park land were determined in the Needs Assessment by evaluating the level of service provided in parks within the City, identifying gaps in service and recommending a level of service that meets the public’s expectations.

### Community and Neighborhood Parks

As part of the park and recreation master planning process, the need for developed park resources — particularly the neighborhood and community parks that fulfill a community’s basic health and recreation needs — is assessed in several ways.

Public outreach offers insight into a community’s priorities for park development, as well as willingness to travel and other factors influencing park use. Geographic analysis reveals what areas of a city are underserved with these resources. 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. Using this information, a standard is derived, expressed in acres per 1,000 residents.

### Community Parks

The desired level of service for Coeur d’Alene is to provide a community park within 1.5-miles of each resident, using the network analysis method. Highway 95 serves as a barrier, and was factored into the geographic analysis.

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

With two new community parks recommended at an average size of 18 acres, 36 acres of community park land should be acquired to serve the planning area. The addition of these sites would result in a total community park land inventory of 110.4 acres, based on a standard of 1.22 acres of community park land per 1,000 residents.



*Dedication of Johnson Mill River Park*

## Neighborhood Parks

The desired level of service for Coeur d'Alene is to provide a neighborhood park within 0.5 mile of each resident, using the network analysis method. Because neighborhood parks are accessed by local residents primarily on foot or bike, there are more barriers. Barriers to neighborhood park access that were factored into the analysis include major roadways such as Highway 95, Atlas, Kathleen and 15th Avenue; intersections identified as dangerous by City staff and the MPAC; and gaps in the existing road and pathway network

To adequately serve the planning area, eight new neighborhood park sites are needed. Eight neighborhood park sites averaging 5 acres each would add 40 acres to the park system, based on a standard of 0.81 acres/1,000 residents.

## Special Use Areas

Coeur d'Alene's inventory of special use areas in 2007 includes sports complexes/facilities and waterfront facilities. There is currently a strong public demand for more waterfront access, and this demand is anticipated to increase as the population grows. Although waterfront land is scarce, it is a significant public priority.

As the city's population grows, a significant demand for all sport fields will develop. Estimates project that eight baseball fields, fourteen softball fields and fifteen soccer/multi-use fields will be needed, in addition to existing resources, to serve population of 90,731. To provide space for sports complexes, an estimated 80 to 100 additional acres of special use area land will be needed.

Finally, there is interest in new types of recreation facilities. While some may be accommodated in parks of other classifications, the City should consider adding other special use areas (e.g., a stand-alone dog park or an arboretum) if suitable sites become available.

## Natural Park Preserves



*Tubbs Hill Suspension Bridge*

The public is highly interested in more parks of this type. In addition, Tubbs Hill, the City's largest and oldest natural park reserve, is one of the most used parks in the City. The overuse of Tubbs Hill was cited during public involvement activities, and crowding was repeatedly cited as a problem at this site. Overall, public input indicated support for more natural park preserves, with interest in focusing on certain key areas. These areas are Canfield Mountain, to protect the scenic character of this significant feature; Blackwell Island to protect views from downtown; and the Rathdrum Prairie, northwest of town, to retain open space and allow for environmental conservation.

### C. RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

The community’s need for recreation facilities within the park system is growing. Recreation facilities range in scale, depending on the number of people and the area served, from regional scale to community and local facilities. Community needs for recreation facilities are summarized below.

#### Sport Facilities

Table 4 summarizes the level of service guideline for sports fields of different types, as well as the number proposed for development by 2025, based on the proposed field guideline. Comments are also provided regarding field development standards.

**Table 4**  
Field Guidelines and 2025 Projections

Field Type	LOS Guideline	Fields at Build-out	Comments
Baseball Fields	1 field per 6,000 people	15	Baseball fields are generally not lighted in Coeur d’Alene. The proposed field figure assumes this will continue.
Softball Fields	1 field per 3,500 people	26	Softball fields dedicated to adult use are generally lighted in Coeur d’Alene. The proposed field figure assumes this development practice will continue.
Soccer/ Multi-Use Fields	1 field per 3,500 people	27	A strong interest in the use of Astroturf for multi-use fields was expressed in public outreach efforts. Development of multi-use, Astroturf fields is therefore recommended.

- Gymnasiums are needed in Coeur d’Alene. The City’s partnership with the School District to contribute to the construction of enhanced school gym space has been a cost-effective way to provide these valued facilities. The construction of the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center will provide additional facilities, available even during daytime hours. Therefore, it is recommended that gym need be met through partnerships and not through City construction of gymnasiums.
- Skateboarding is a popular sport in Coeur d’Alene. Enhancement and expansion of the existing skatepark is recommended, to increase the level of challenges and to accommodate BMX freestyle riders. To

accommodate this popular sport, the creation of “skate spots” in neighborhood parks may also be needed.

- BMX biking is also a popular sport in Coeur d’Alene. The current facility is adequate for meeting current and future need. If population grows rapidly, the size of the current facility could be increased or a second track installed.
- Outdoor basketball courts are plentiful in Coeur d’Alene. No need has been determined for this amenity, but the policy of providing them in each neighborhood and community park should be continued.
- Tennis courts should also be considered for inclusion in neighborhood and community parks, to maintain the current level of service as the population increases.
- Disc golf is very popular with a segment of the population, especially with young adults. The low expense of disc golf equipment and flexible space demands can allow it to be installed easily at community parks, if the site is suitable and there is interest.
- Explore creating a remote control car track if it is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and other park uses.

## Other Outdoor Recreation Facilities

In addition to sport fields, the need for a variety of other outdoor and recreation facilities was evaluated.

- Waterfront access is a top priority for Coeur d’Alene residents. Opportunities to provide waterfront features, swimming beaches, docks and other water access should be actively pursued.
- Some method of accommodating dogs and dog owners in Coeur d’Alene’s parks is necessary, according to all public outreach forums. Coeur d’Alene should strive to have at least one designated, permanent off-leash dog area.
- Gardening is one of the most popular and preferred recreation activities in Coeur d’Alene, according to the 2006 Recreation Survey results. A test community garden site should be implemented.

## D. TRAIL NEEDS

Coeur d'Alene's planned trail network, as depicted in the *2006 Trails & Bikeways Plan*, is extensive. When fully developed, the network proposed in this Plan will serve the City well, in terms of service range and resource distribution. The needs assessment supports the implementation of the *Trails & Bikeways Plan* to meet community demand for trail-related recreation activities, as well as for transportation.



*North Idaho Centennial Trail*

## CHAPTER 4: PARK, FACILITY, & TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations for enhancing Coeur d'Alene's park system, and is a companion to the recommendations on administration and operations in Chapter 5. The park system recommendations implement the vision and goals presented in Chapter 1. This chapter is organized as follows.

- *Park Improvements.* This category includes improvements at existing parks and recommendations for new parks.
- *Natural Park Preserves.* These recommendations address natural park preserve target areas and recommendations.
- *Recreation Facility Improvements.* This category includes recommendations for recreation facilities, including sports fields, indoor space and other types.
- *Waterfront Access.* This section addresses existing waterfront access points and a strategy for increasing waterfront access in Coeur d'Alene.
- *Trails.* Recommendations for trail improvements area are noted in this section.

### A. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

To achieve the vision articulated by the community, as noted in Chapter 1, Coeur d'Alene will need to improve existing parks to incorporate new facilities or make operations more efficient. The City will also need new parks to keep up with growth and to serve areas that are not currently served by parks.

Map 2 illustrates the proposed park system, based on the recommendations found in this Plan. Each park site is coded with a letter and number combination (such as P-27) for site identification purposes. These reference numbers are included on the system map and with recommendations for each existing and proposed site. Parks are numbered roughly clockwise, beginning with Landings Park in northwest Coeur d'Alene. Colored asterisks show the general location for each proposed park. The locations of proposed park sites are conceptual in nature, showing where parks will be needed. The final location of park sites will be determined based on land availability, acquisition costs, property ownership and willingness to sell.

Recommendations for developed parks are included in this section, organized into two sub-sections: existing parks and proposed parks. Recommendations for natural park preserves are contained in the following section.

## Existing Parks

### Landings Park (P-1)

Landings Park is a new community park in northwest Coeur d’Alene, not yet developed. The City has completed a plan for the site, and should proceed with implementation. Landings Park may be able to support additional amenities, if desired by the community.

### Sunshine Meadows Park (P-2)

Sunshine Meadows Park was originally intended to be larger, but the City was unable to acquire all of the land needed for the park. The City should revise the site master plan for this planned park to reflect the changed size and access and implement the site master plan (image at right).



### Legacy Place Park (P-3)

Legacy Place Park is another planned park, also anticipated to be a neighborhood park within a new development area. The City should prepare a site master plan and develop the park.

### CdA Soccer Complex (P-5)

CdA Soccer Complex is a newer soccer/multi-use field complex located next to a school. Capital improvement and maintenance recommendations for this special use site include:

- Consider installing a parking lot at north end of the complex.
- Consider adding neighborhood park amenities, such as a playground and picnic shelter. (See discussion of proposed park P-5.)

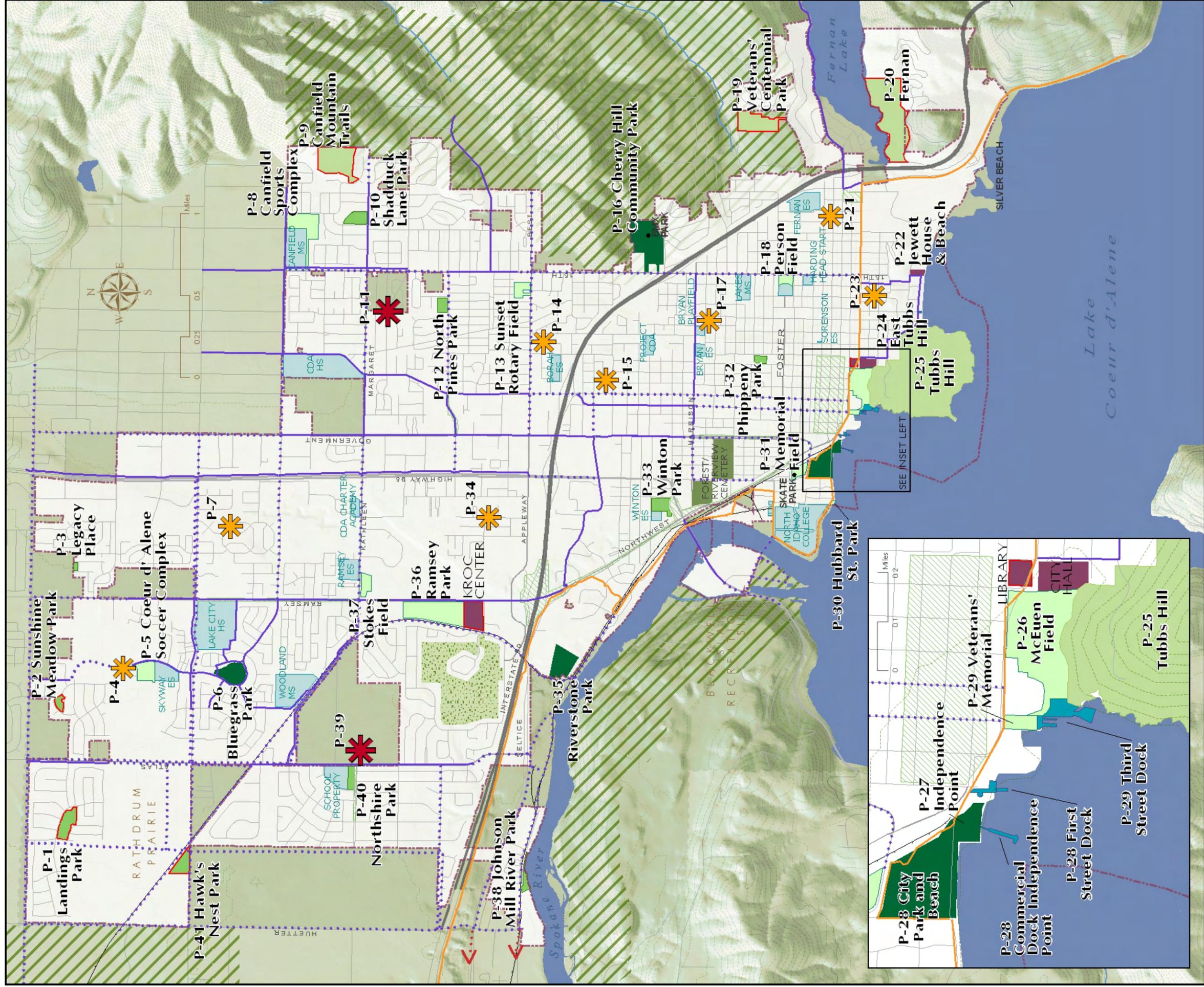
### Bluegrass Park (P-6)

Bluegrass Park is a very popular facility, and has room for more amenities if public interest is expressed. Ongoing development of this site should continue in conjunction with public input.

Conflicts between disc golf and other park users have been noted.

Relocation of the disc golf course to another park, or relocation of the disc golf baskets and tees within the park, should be considered. Other capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Installation of a booster pump in the irrigation system or exploration of the potential of developing wells for irrigation on site;



# Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

## Map 2: Proposed Park Facilities



Data Sources:  
City of Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai County  
January 2008

	Community Park		Proposed Community Park		Stream
	Neighborhood Park		Proposed Neighborhood Park		Water
	Natural Open Space		Natural Resource Target Area		40' Contour
	Special Use Area		Planned Neighborhood Park		Interstate
	Public Dock or Beach		Planned Natural Open Space		Highway
	Public Site		City Limits		Major Roads
	Beautification Area		Proposed Bike Path		Local Roads
	Cemetery		Existing Bike Path		Railroad
	Golf Course		School Property		Centennial Trail
	See Inset Left				



### **Canfield Sports Complex (P-8)**

Canfield Sports Complex is a key special use site serving Coeur d'Alene's sports field needs. Capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

### **Shadduck Lane Park (P-10)**

This park is a newer park on the northeast edge of town, built with the volunteer help of nearby residents. Capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Add a splash pad water feature.

### **North Pines Park (P-12)**

North Pines is a recently developed neighborhood park in a new development. An evaluation of the park should be conducted in several years to determine if additional improvements or maintenance is required.

### **Sunset Rotary (P-13)**

Capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Replacing the swings;
- Rehabilitating the basketball court; and

### **Cherry Hill Community Park (P-16)**

Cherry Hill Park provides several unique recreation facilities for the community, such as the BMX track, a popular winter sledding hill and a one-of-a-kind 9/11 memorial playground with an emergency services theme. The site master plan for Cherry Hill should continue to be implemented. Land around the BMX facility should be reserved to allow for future expansion of the track, if necessary. In addition, a portion of the park should be used as an 18-hole disk golf course, with signage, baskets, and tees. Other capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

### **Person Field (P-18)**

The City currently owns half of Person Field, and the School District owns the other half, creating conflicts over future use of this site. Person Field meets all the criteria for development as a Neighborhood Park in an area of town that has been identified as underserved. Additionally, with a size of seven acres and being virtually undeveloped in an older part of town (where existing uses and past development generate site remediation expenses before new development can take place), this site offers reduced remediation expense and a size not often available in developed neighborhoods.

The Parks Department needs to secure ownership of the entire site. After securing the site, the following actions should be taken:

- Develop a site master plan based upon workshop decisions made with residents of the area served by the new park; and
- Fund and implement the direction in the new site master plan.

### **Jewett House and Beach (P-22)**

This site is an historic house fronting on Lake Coeur d’Alene that was donated by Potlatch Corporation for the benefit of Coeur d’Alene senior citizens. Jewett House provides beach access, highly valued by Coeur d’Alene residents. Although the site is not heavily used, it has the potential to be a “crown jewel” of Coeur d’Alene’s park system due to its lakeside location, swimming beach, and historic character. Steps that could be taken include:

- Develop a master plan that capitalizes on this site’s potential for use for special events (weddings, etc.) and its waterfront location;
- Consider installing community gardens at the rear of this site;
- Purchase a beach or sand cleaning machine to assist in maintenance; and
- Improve/enhance waterfront and beach area.

### **McEuen Field (P-26)**

McEuen Field is part of the downtown complex of parks, located next to the public parking area and City Hall. The city should implement Walker/Macy’s *McEuen Field Master Plan*. Additional capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Provide an improved restroom in keeping with the character of this signature site, including potential relocation of restroom to a more appropriate area;
- Replace hydraulic irrigation system with an automatic electric system;
- Install pump house to allow for water draw from the lake;
- Replace tennis courts if consistent with the site master plan; and
- Replace play equipment on west side of park.

### **Independence Point (P-27)**

As part of the City Park complex, Independence Point is highly utilized and in good condition. The Downtown Public Places Master Plan, completed for downtown Coeur d’Alene in 1999, addresses Independence Point as well as the other downtown parks, and recommendations proposed by that plan should be implemented. Additional capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Purchase of a beach or sand cleaning machine to assist in maintenance; and
- Landscape improvements of the shrub beds between Independence Point and City Park.

**City Park and Beach (P-28)**

City Park and Beach are heavily used major downtown focal points, forming a complex of parks including the docks, McEuen Field, Tubbs Hill, Independence Point and Memorial Field. Improvements and modifications to City Park and Beach should consider the site's recreational context, including other city parks and facilities as well as NIC's facilities. These resources should be viewed as a recreational "whole," and work should be planned in a harmonious manner to best meet the needs of residents and visitors.

Additional capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Replacement of existing gazebo roof;
- Replacement of shop;
- Ongoing maintenance of wooden play facility;
- Tree thinning and pruning at north end of park to allow for turf growth;
- Purchase of a beach or sand cleaning machine to assist in maintenance;
- Selective shrub removal at east edge of park (near the Museum);
- Tree replacement along seawall for trees that are badly damaged by sunscald;
- Selective sidewalk replacement; and
- Construction of a second gazebo.

**Memorial Field (P- 31)**

Memorial Field is located in within the boundaries of the *Four Corners Master Plan*, and is next to City Park. In addition, the skateboard park is located adjacent to Memorial Field. Location of the skateboard park may be shifted as part of the implementation of the *Four Corners Master Plan*. If the Four Corners Plan is not implemented soon, the following capital improvement and maintenance measures are recommended:

- Replace structurally deficient grandstands;
- Repair and replace fencing, as needed;
- Replace playground equipment;
- Automate the irrigation system; and
- Expand and enhance the skateboard park, with input from skateboarders and BMX users.

### **Phippeny Park (P-32)**

Phippeny Park is a neighborhood park serving one of the older Coeur d'Alene neighborhoods, and is adjacent to a school. Capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Basketball court resurfacing;
- Parking lot resurfacing;
- Drinking fountain replacement; and
- Selective sidewalk replacement.

### **Winton Park (P-33)**

Winton Park is adjacent to a school site, and was built with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds, which require continued use of Winton Park as a park site. The School District has expressed a need to expand the elementary school which might encroach upon the park land. In the event this should occur, the Parks Department would have to be appropriately compensated to the satisfaction of the community, Idaho State Parks and the National Park Service, as well as meet LWCF criteria.

A park is needed in the vicinity of Winton Park, so if the School District needs to expand, a suitable site will need to be found nearby to ensure that nearby residents are served by a neighborhood park.

If the school does not expand onto the park site, capital and maintenance improvements are needed, including:

- Updating the restroom; or replace with restroom shelter;
- Replacing the irrigation time clock;
- Installing irrigation and plant turf south of the restroom (in natural area);
- Painting the gazebo; and
- Rebuilding the retaining wall west of the horseshoe courts.

### **Riverstone Park (P-35)**

Riverstone Park is a high visibility community park located in the center of a newly developed commercial area. Located with access to the North Idaho Centennial Trail, this park is opened in 2007. The City should seek a connection between Riverstone Park and the waterfront. In addition, this site should be marketed as an event site. An evaluation of Riverstone Park should be conducted in a year or two to determine if additional improvements or maintenance are needed.

### **Ramsey Park (P-36)**

This is the City's largest sports complex, situated in close proximity to the Kroc Center, currently under construction, and the Prairie Trail, a trail facility in the early stages of planning. The City should evaluate how to connect Ramsey Park with the Kroc Center, and should explore a perimeter path around Ramsey Park connecting to the Kroc Center.

Capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Installation of a booster pump and the Water Conservation System to improve existing irrigation issues;
- Replacement of drinking fountain at Field #1; and
- Collaboration with Public Works regarding the creation of longer left turn lanes into the parking lots off of Ramsey Road.

**Stokes Field (P-37)**

Stokes Field provides needed soccer fields in the City. This site is small, and is difficult to access. This Plan calls for development of a new sports complex (see Recreation Facility Improvements in this chapter). If better replacement soccer fields can be provided at the sports complex or elsewhere, the Parks Department should consider using this site for an off-leash dog area, or turning this site over to the Fire Department or another agency.

**Johnson Mill River Park (P-38)**

Johnson Mill River Park provides an overview of and access to the Spokane River, and was recently completed. An evaluation of the park should be conducted in several years to determine if additional improvements or maintenance is required.

**Northshire Park (P-40)**

Northshire Park is a neighborhood park, located next to a site originally planned for a school. Since a school is no longer anticipated at this site, the City should pursue acquisition of the school district property (7 acres) to expand the park. If the park is expanded, a new plan should be developed. A soccer or multi-use field may be possible on an expanded site.

Capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Playground replacement (possible playground relocation required);
- Gazebo or covered shelter installation; and

**Hawk's Nest Park (P-41)**

Hawk's Nest Park is a planned park, intended to be a neighborhood park to serve the nearby subdivision. The City should prepare a site master plan and develop the park. A dog park and trailhead are possibilities that should be explored for this site, in addition to traditional park amenities.

## Proposed Parks

Proposed parks with a general location are depicted on Map 2. The proposed sports complex has not yet been sited.

### **P-4 Neighborhood Park**

A neighborhood park is needed to serve the neighborhood north of the CdA Soccer complex. A playground and other neighborhood park amenities could be added to the soccer complex to serve the neighborhood, as well as soccer field users. An alternative is to acquire a new site and build a small neighborhood park in the vicinity.

### **P-7 Neighborhood Park**

A neighborhood park is needed north of Kathleen Road and east of Ramsey Road. A site should be acquired in the area. A master plan should be completed with the input of surrounding neighbors, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

### **P-11 Northeast Coeur d'Alene Community Park:**

A community park is needed in central northeast Coeur d'Alene, an area that currently lacks access to community park resources. A site should be acquired in the area. A master plan should be completed with the input of the community, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

### **P-14 Neighborhood Park**

A neighborhood park is needed south of Apple Way, in the vicinity of Borah Elementary School. A small site should be acquired in the area. A master plan should be completed with the input of surrounding neighbors, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

### **P-15 Neighborhood Park**

A neighborhood park is needed south of Interstate 90 and east of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, to serve the older neighborhood in the vicinity. A small site should be acquired in the area. A master plan should be completed with the input of surrounding neighbors, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

### **P-17 Neighborhood Park**

A neighborhood park is needed south of Harrison and west of 15<sup>th</sup>, in the vicinity of Lakes Middle School and Bryan Playfield. As in the other older neighborhoods, a small site should be acquired. A master plan should be completed with the input of surrounding neighbors, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

**P-21 Neighborhood Park @ Bryan Field**

A neighborhood park is needed on the east end of the city, west of Interstate 90. This is in the vicinity of Fernan Elementary School. A small site should be acquired. A master plan should be completed with the input of surrounding neighbors, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

**P-23 Neighborhood Park**

A new neighborhood park is needed to the east of downtown and west of 15<sup>th</sup>. A small site should be acquired. A master plan should be completed with the input of surrounding neighbors, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

**P-34 Neighborhood Park**

A neighborhood park is needed between Kathleen Road and Apple Way, to the east of Ramsey Road. As with site P-8, a site should be acquired in the area. A master plan should be completed with the input of surrounding neighbors, and the plan should be implemented when funds are available.

**P-39 U.S. Forest Service Nursery Site**

Coeur d'Alene should pursue acquisition of all or at least a portion of the nursery site. This site could be developed as a community park, or potentially could be developed as a regional park if the entire site were secured. The City should work with the appropriate governmental bodies to acquire this site when it is deemed surplus by its current user.

As the largest undeveloped site in this area of Coeur d'Alene, the nursery offers outstanding potential as a large park that could serve the entire region.

**New Sports Complex**

Coeur d'Alene should pursue another sports complex to accommodate projected sports field demand. Ideally, this would be one large site suitable for accommodating tournaments as well as league play. Since the City has Ramsey, an excellent softball complex, and Canfield, for youth baseball, the new sports complex should focus on soccer fields, although softball or baseball fields could be an additional element.

A complex could be incorporated into a regional park at the Forest Nursery site, if the entire site or a large enough portion of the site can be acquired by the City for park purposes. If the nursery site is not an option, a large (minimum 40+ acres) site on the Rathdrum Prairie could be targeted, serving a regional audience.

## **B. NATURAL PARK PRESERVES**

Natural open space preservation is a priority for Coeur d'Alene residents, and access to natural areas is a key concern. Several key open space resources are contained within the City's park system, with Tubbs Hill the most visible and most used.

### **Existing Natural Park Preserves**

Coeur d'Alene has several existing natural park preserves. However, geographic barriers limit the accessibility of some sites to the public. Canfield Mountain Natural Area, 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 or developed trailheads.

#### **Canfield Mountain Trails (P-9)**

A site master plan that provides appropriate access for public use of this key preserve area is needed. The plan should assess the resources on the site, identify appropriate public access areas given the resources and specify trail locations and trail access points. A plan for wayfinding, including signs directing people to the site, trail maps, and trail signs, should be included as part of this plan. In addition, the highest priority expansion areas should be identified in the master plan, targeting trailhead provision and connections to the U.S. Forest Service trail system.

#### **Veterans' Centennial Park (P-19)**

Veteran's Centennial Park is a new site, currently undeveloped for park use. Located on a scenic slope, the site offers opportunities but is most suited for passive, quieter uses because of its proximity to residences. This site should be considered for use as a native tree arboretum and native plant site with trails and low impact uses. A site master plan is needed. If the arboretum idea is pursued, a specialist in arboretum or botanical garden design should be involved in the master plan.

#### **Fernan (P-20)**

The City is in the process of acquiring an open space site on Fernan Lake. As with Canfield Mountain, an assessment of site resources and designation of appropriate public access areas should be carried out. Based on the assessment, a trails and waterfront access plan for the site should be developed.

#### **East Tubbs Hill (P-24)**

East Tubbs Hill is an extension of Tubbs Hill, and public access to Tubbs Hill from this site has been improved and encouraged. This effort

should continue, because East Tubbs Hill provides an alternate entrance to the trail system instead of the heavily used entrance near McEuen Field. While East Tubbs Hill is a developed park, it is an important gateway to Coeur d'Alene's most significant natural park preserve. Any development at East Tubbs Hill should continue to build the connection to Tubbs Hill. For this reason and its future trailhead potential, East Tubbs Hill is included in the natural park preserve recommendations.

### **Tubbs Hill (P-25)**

Tubbs Hill is the City's premier natural park preserve. Highly visible and adjacent to downtown, Tubbs Hill contains a heavily used trail system and provides publicly owned water frontage. The City has prepared a management plan for Tubbs Hill. This plan should continue to be implemented and updated every ten years. Other capital improvement and maintenance recommendations include:

- Monitoring pest issues at site (bark beetles);
- Removal of ladder fuels and other fire hazards;
- Ongoing trail restoration as is necessary; and
- Continuing reforestation efforts as is necessary.

### **Target Areas for New Natural Park Preserves**

The City should actively pursue preservation of natural open space resources, including acquisition of additional land. Key areas of acquisition include:

- *Canfield Mountain.* Canfield Mountain is recognized as a unique landmark for the City of Coeur d'Alene and its neighbors. As the tallest mountain in the area, it is highly visible and is the first thing most residents and visitors see as they approach the City. Canfield Mountain covers many miles, with over 2,000 feet of elevation. Partly within the city limits of Coeur d'Alene, it is also under the jurisdiction of the City of Dalton Gardens, Kootenai County, and the U.S. Forest Service. The City owns a 24-acre natural park preserve on Canfield Mountain, and should pursue additional land acquisition in the Canfield Mountain area or support conservation and protection by other agencies or private parties. In addition, the City should coordinate with other agencies to provide and maintain a comprehensive trail system linking into U.S. Forest Service Canfield Mountain Recreational Trail system.
- *Prairie Preservation.* Preservation of existing prairie lands, particularly to the north and northwestern edges of the City, was a stated interest of many participants in public outreach efforts associated with this

plan. Prairie land should be targeted for acquisition and protection, particularly parcels that are accessible from the Prairie Trail.

- *Viewshed Protection.* Improved protection of significant viewsheds, especially hillsides and slopes around the city, was desired by stakeholders. The City should acquire or protect key viewshed areas to maintain the character of Coeur d'Alene, and potentially provide public access. The view from downtown across the lake has been identified as a key view residents would like to maintain. Areas, such as Blackwell Island, Canfield Mountain, and Best Hill are among those identified as in need of protection, to maintain views.
- *Silver Beach Area.* The Silver Beach area should be targeted for acquisition or protection.
- *South Side of the Spokane River.* The south shore of the Spokane River should be targeted for acquisition or protection. This area is highly visible, close to population centers and offers unique resources to which the public would enjoy access.



*City Park Beach*

## C. RECREATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Coeur d'Alene has a range of recreation facilities, and this plan recommends new facilities as well as improvements to existing facilities.

### Outdoor Sports Facilities

Coeur d'Alene has a range of sports fields and other outdoor sports facilities. Coeur d'Alene should continue to provide a mix of local, community, and potentially even regional scale sports facilities, and should continue to track sports trends to guide capital projects and park improvements. Recommendations for existing and new outdoor sports facilities are provided in this section, organized by facility type.

#### Baseball Fields

Coeur d'Alene currently has an adequate supply of baseball fields to meet demand, but will need additional fields in the future. The City should target providing one baseball field per 6,000 residents, based on 2006 playing trends.

In addition, all existing fields are needed. If any are removed or eliminated, this should not occur until a replacement field is operational.

Baseball fields should be provided as follows:

- *Canfield Sports Complex.* Retain the four field complex at Canfield. Make improvements as needed to maintain playability at these fields.
- *McEuen Field.* Follow the master plan for McEuen Field, which calls for replacing this field elsewhere. The McEuen fields should remain until a replacement is constructed.
- *New Community Parks P-10 and P-19.* Sports fields will be an important element at the two new community parks. If the guideline indicates additional fields are needed, baseball fields should be considered for inclusion at these two parks.
- *New Sports Complex.* Although it is recommended that the new sports complex focus on soccer, baseball fields should be considered for inclusion if there is adequate space.
- *School Fields.* Canfield Middle School already is an important supplier of baseball fields. As new schools are built, the City and School District should continue to collaborate on public access so that any additional baseball fields can help meet future community needs.

#### Softball Fields

As with baseball fields, Coeur d'Alene currently has an adequate supply of softball fields. Fields are geographically dispersed, and the City also offers a complex and a stadium. In the future, new softball fields will be needed to meet demand if softball participation continues at its current



*McEuen Field*

level. The City should target providing one softball field per 3,500 residents, based on 2006 trends and demand.

Softball fields should be provided as follows:

- *McEuen Field.* Follow the master plan for McEuen Field, which calls for replacing the two lighted fields here with fields elsewhere in Coeur d'Alene. The two McEuen softball fields should remain until replacements are constructed.
- *Memorial Field.* Upgrade the field and stadium to address seismic, structural and ADA issues. A review of the stadium found numerous issues, and significant upgrading is needed. Consider the overall Four Corners Plan, City Park and Beach, the skate park and the redevelopment area as part of the upgrade.
- *Person Field.* This Plan includes a recommendation that the City secure ownership of Person Field, then develop a neighborhood park on the site. Person Field already has a softball field. Although sports fields for organized play are typically discouraged at neighborhood parks, there is a history of use of Person Field for sports. If the neighborhood favors retaining the softball field, the master plan should include it, even if the location changes. If the master plan for Person Field does not include a softball field, a replacement field will be needed at another site.
- *Ramsey Park.* Retain the lighted field complex at Ramsey Park, and upgrade as needed to maintain playability for league play and tournaments.
- *Sunset Rotary Field.* Retain these softball fields and upgrade as needed.
- *Winton Park.* The field at Winton Park is in poor condition and as a result is not used as often as other fields. If Winton Park is reconfigured, the softball field could be eliminated, but would need to be replaced by a better facility at another location. If a softball field remains part of the site program at Winton Park, the field should be upgraded so that it is equivalent to softball fields at other City sites.
- *New Community Parks P-11 and P-36.* Sports fields will be incorporated into both new community parks. If the guideline indicates more softball fields are needed, or replacement softball fields are needed, softball fields should be considered for inclusion in the design of these two parks. Adult fields should be lighted and preferably in a complex if they will be used for league play. However, in the community parks, some softball fields should be available for casual, unscheduled play especially on the weekends. Unscheduled fields should ideally be located near group picnic areas.

- *New Sports Complex.* As already noted, the new sports complex should focus on soccer. However, if the site is large enough, softball fields should be considered as part of the field mix. These should be lighted and suitable for tournament use.
- *School Fields:* Coeur d’Alene does not currently have a relationship with the School District regarding softball fields. Since some existing schools have softball fields and planned new schools may also offer these, school fields could help meet future community needs. The City should explore joint use with the School District if softball field demand begins to exceed the City’s supply.

**Soccer/Multi-Use Fields**

Coeur d’Alene is currently in need of one additional soccer/multi-use field, and more will be needed in the future. Based on 2006 trends, the city should provide one soccer/multi-use field per 3,500 residents.

Since this type of field can accommodate many sports, demand can be influenced by trends more than single-use fields, such as baseball and softball fields. The City should continue to monitor emerging sports to assess impacts on multi-use field needs. For example, lacrosse has recently been increasing in popularity and therefore is increasing the demand for multi-use fields. With the anticipated population increase, Coeur d’Alene will need additional soccer/multi-use fields in the future. However, this guideline should be monitored closely and be adjusted if needed to accommodate emerging sports such as lacrosse.

Lighting fields may reduce the number of facilities required to meet future demand, as could the use of artificial turf. The costs and benefits of lighting and artificial turf should be analyzed as fields are developed; the incorporation of soccer/multi-use fields into a single-sport or multi-sports complex should also be considered.



*Canfield Sports Complex*

- *Canfield Sports Complex.* Coeur d’Alene should maintain the field at Canfield Sports Complex, and should also maintain the relationship with Canfield Middle School to provide access to the three fields at the school.
- *CdA Soccer Complex:* CdA Soccer Complex can accommodate as many as 20 mini-fields, or 3 full-sized fields. The flexibility of this site is a good model for future soccer/multi-use field development. This site should be maintained and upgraded as needed. The addition of parking to this site will make it more convenient to users. If neighborhood park amenities are added, they should be located to serve the families of soccer players, as well as neighborhood residents.

- *Jenny Stokes Field.* Jenny Stokes Field can be used as a large field, or as many as 10 mini-fields. This site is somewhat constrained, and relies on off-site parking. Coeur d'Alene should seek replacement facilities for Jenny Stokes Field, at a location with room for additional fields and better potential for amenities. The site is adjacent to a fire station, which may need expansion room in the future. However, Jenny Stokes Field should be retained until replacement facilities are constructed. Potential replacement sites include the new sports complex, new community parks P-10 and P-19, or the potential expansion area at Northshire Park.
- *Ramsey Park.* Ramsey Park has three soccer/multi-use fields overlaid on softball outfields. Two of these are lighted. Coeur d'Alene should maintain these fields and upgrade them as needed.
- *New Community Parks P-11 and P-36.* Soccer fields are the highest priority for inclusion in the new community parks. If possible, a flexible field layout should be provided, as at CdA Soccer Complex where different configurations are possible.
- *New Sports Complex.* The new sports complex should focus on soccer, providing multiple fields and a variety of configurations. This complex should include room for multiple full-sized fields, and be designed to accommodate tournaments. Lighting and artificial turf should be considered for at least some of the fields.
- *School Fields.* Collaborate with the School District to make the all-weather facility available for summer use by the City.

### **Outdoor Basketball Courts**

There are basketball courts at most neighborhood and community parks in the City, including some very popular courts at City Park. Coeur d'Alene should continue to incorporate basketball courts into the design of community and neighborhood parks, making these facilities available at most sites.

### **Tennis Courts**

Coeur d'Alene has an excellent tennis complex at Cherry Hill Park, as well as other courts in the city. Follow the recommendations for the tennis courts in the McEuen Field master plan. Tennis courts should also be considered at future community and neighborhood parks.

### **Disc Golf Courses**

Coeur d'Alene has a course around the perimeter of Bluegrass Park. This course is currently being revised to reduce conflicts with other park users. Disc golf should be considered as an element to incorporate into community parks, especially those with interesting terrain and trees. Coeur d'Alene should target building a top quality disc golf course at one

of the new community parks, or at a future regional park or one of its existing parks, i.e. Cherry Hill.



*Cherry Hill BMX Track*

### **Skateboard and BMX Freestyle Facilities**

The City has an existing skate park near Memorial Field. This site is well-located, highly visible and near food and services. This facility is currently being expanded to add BMX freestyle elements.

A community-scale skate park should remain at this site. However, the existing skate facility should be redesigned and potentially expanded to incorporate more challenging elements, in addition to the current BMX freestyle expansion. If the Four Corners Plan affects the skate park, it should be relocated near its current location to retain the high visibility and proximity to services.

To supplement the community-scale skate park, “skate spots” should be incorporated into selective neighborhood parks to provide close-to-home opportunities for beginning skaters.

### **BMX Track**

Coeur d’Alene’s existing BMX track is serving the community well, and appears to be capable of filling BMX track needs into the future. The recommendations for Cherry Hill Park call for reserving space around the BMX track for future expansion if it is needed. The City should continue to coordinate with track users to determine when improvements to the track are needed, or whether an expansion is needed in the future.

## **Outdoor Recreation Facilities**

### **Dog Park**

Chapter 5 of this Plan recommends a change to the City’s current regulations that prohibit dogs from public parks, even when on a leash. As part of the changes to the regulations, it is recommended that Coeur d’Alene review its current policies and consider expanding on-leash activity to other pathways in parks. It is also recommended that Coeur d’Alene pursue development of a site exclusively for off-leash use.

Site considerations should include size, proximity to traffic, fencing potential, drainage, parking and amenities (water access, trees, etc.). Signage clearly indicating park rules (off-leash hours, “scooping” rules etc.) as well as amenities to encourage compliance with park rules (trash bins, bag stands etc.) should be provided.

If the off-leash site works, the City should look for other sites to provide off-leash sites, especially one that would allow for water access for dog

training. Water access is a request made by many local off-leash advocates.

### **Community Gardens**

Gardening is one of the most popular and preferred recreation activities in Coeur d'Alene, according to the *2006 Recreation Survey*. The City should establish a community garden at an existing site, with at least 20 plots. The back area at Jewett House is a potential location for the community garden site, since there is adequate space and sunlight as well as a location relatively close to downtown. Other parks with level ground, good solar aspect and available water could also support a community garden.

### **Indoor Recreation Facilities**

#### **The Kroc Center**

As noted in Chapter 3, the addition of the Kroc Center to Coeur d'Alene will meet many community recreation needs. Because this full-service center will include classrooms, gymnasiums, swimming pools, fitness rooms and gathering spaces, the need for indoor recreation space will be met for the foreseeable future. This facility is one of only seven of the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers in the nation, and the grand opening is expected by the fall of 2008. Capital costs and operating expenditures will be paid by the Joan Kroc bequest, and the Salvation Army will operate the facility.

The Center will include a gymnasium (dividable into three courts with a jogging/running track), a swimming pool, a freestanding climbing wall, a dance/aerobics room, a fitness center and other state-of-the-art facilities.

The Kroc Center is a large-scale facility capable of serving all of the community, even with the expected population growth. For this reason, the City does not need to provide an aquatic center or its own indoor recreation center. However, the City should pursue trail system improvements to increase access to the Center, especially construction of the Prairie Trail, including the Prairie Trail linkage to the North Idaho Centennial Trail. Also, the City should link Ramsey Park with the Kroc Center site, potentially adding paths between the two.

#### **Gymnasiums**

Coeur d'Alene does not own any gymnasiums, but the City has provided funding to the school district to build expanded gym facilities at some school sites. In exchange, the City receives use of the gym for recreation programming. This partnership is an effective and efficient use of public resources, and should be pursued at Winton Elementary, if the school is expanded, and at new school sites, especially in northwest Coeur d'Alene.

### **Jewett House**

Jewett House is an historic house located on the lakefront. The structure is currently used for senior activities during the day, and is available for rental at other times. Because of its waterfront location and historic status, it has the potential to be a “crown jewel” venue within the Coeur d’Alene park system, and could be a premier special event site. The master plan for the site, noted earlier in the parks recommendations, should be designed to capitalize on the waterfront location and this site’s potential for use for special events (weddings etc.). The master plan needs to take into consider the restrictions on use of the building that came with the donation, and require that the majority of use be for senior citizens.



*The Jewett House*

## D. WATERFRONT ACCESS

Coeur d’Alene’s waterfronts are highly valued by residents, as public input during the park and recreation planning process has strongly indicated. Maximizing water access is a high priority for residents, and also is supportive of the City’s Comprehensive Plan goals.

When residents were asked what type of park facility was most needed in Coeur d’Alene on the recreation 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 were the top recreation habit for youth respondents to the recreation survey. Beach activities or swimming at the beach or river were among the top recreation activities of adults. Coeur d’Alene’s beaches are also a major regional attraction, bringing visitors to the City and downtown.



*Independence Point*

### Existing Access

The City of Coeur d’Alene’s inventory of waterfront special use sites is concentrated in the downtown area, with some parks of other types, such as Tubbs Hill, also providing water access.

Existing waterfront special use sites include:

- First Street Dock, a 600 sf mooring dock located west of the Coeur d’Alene Resort, in the heart of downtown;
- Commercial Dock, a 8,800 sf dock leased to commercial enterprises to the east of the Resort;
- Launch Dock, a heavily used 4,640 sf public launch dock located adjacent to Tubbs Hill and McEuen Field;
- Mooring Dock, a 5,740 sf mooring dock available adjacent to the launch dock and allowing overnight moorage; and
- Johnson Mill River Park mooring dock, the Parks Department’s newest waterfront access.
- Mill River Dock 640 sf.

In addition, City Park, City Beach, and Independence Point offer water access in the heart of downtown. Tubbs Hill and Jewett House provide City-owned water and beach frontage to the west of the launch dock. Johnson Mill River Park is the City’s newest park with water frontage, and is located on the Spokane River.

Other publicly owned waterfront sites include:

- North Idaho College’s swimming beach, extending from River Avenue to Hubbard Street;
- Kootenai County/North Idaho College’s Lake Coeur d’Alene boat dock;

- Kootenai County/City of Coeur d’Alene’s Third Street Breakwater/Boat Launch;
- The State of Idaho’s Coeur d’Alene Parkway State Park Pathway extending from Coeur d’Alene to Higgins Point; and
- The Bureau of Land Management’s Blackwell Island recreation site.

Although there are a variety of waterfront access sites in Coeur d’Alene, the majority are concentrated in several locations. In addition, most of the sites focus on one or two types of water recreation opportunities, such as swimming at City Beach and Jewett House, and motorized boat access at the launch dock and at BLM’s Blackwell Island site. Public outreach also revealed that residents feel waterfront facilities are overcrowded, indicating a need for more waterfront access and opportunities.

### **Waterfront Access Recommendations**

Coeur d’Alene’s waterfront sites should provide diverse recreation opportunities, ranging from motorized boat access to passive viewpoints, with maximized public access along all water frontages, including Lake Coeur d’Alene, the Spokane River and Fernan Lake.

#### **Public Docks**

Coeur d’Alene’s public docks should be maintained in good condition. The use of the docks as a revenue-generating resource should continue.

#### **Swimming Beaches**

Coeur d’Alene’s swimming beaches at City Beach, Johnson Mill River Park, Independence Point, and Jewett House should be maintained in good condition. The Jewett House beach should be improved to facilitate public access and use, as well as maintaining and renewing public access from the east side of the Jewett House Beach 500 feet east of the Jewett House (refer to “commercial submerged lands lease agreement #B-2022”).

#### **Partnerships for Water Access**

Coeur d’Alene should continue relationships with NIC, the County and others to maintain public access to existing publicly owned sites. If NIC’s focus should shift and they are no longer interested in maintaining the waterfront property along Rosenberry Drive, the City Parks Department should look into the maintenance responsibility to assure continued public access and public use.

#### **Waterfront Access Target Areas**

The waterfront areas in Coeur d’Alene are a precious, highly valued community resource, and the community vision is for maximized access to the water. While some areas of the City have waterfront access

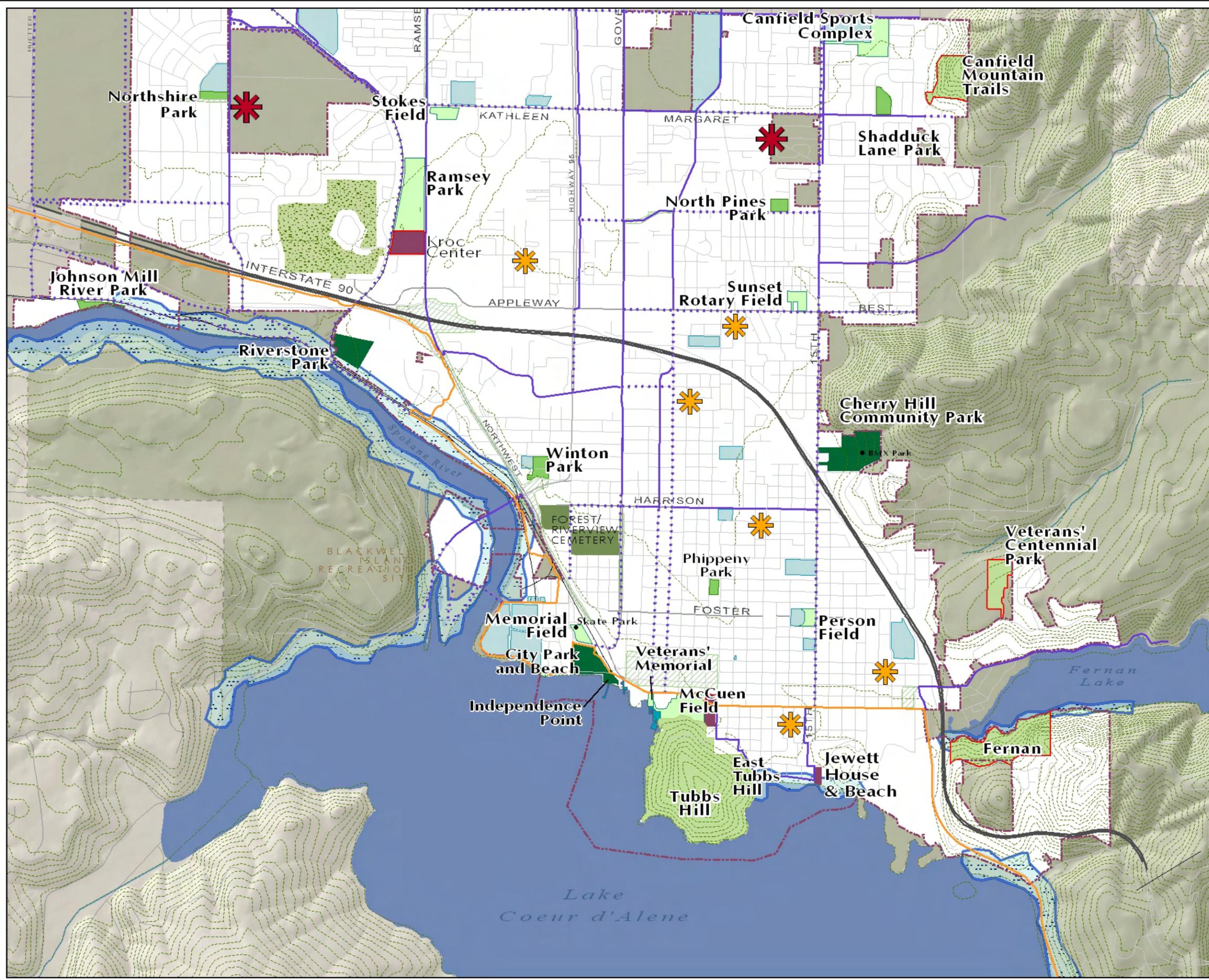
opportunities, other areas lack them. Such areas should be targeted for some type of public access, whether it is boating access, a viewpoint, swimming access, or a trail. Map 3, the waterfront target area map, shows areas that are a high priority for increased public access.

Public waterfront access can take many forms, whether it is an access easement, a dock or part of another park. The waterfront target area map shows the areas of the City where there is currently no public access, but there is a water resource. Over time, the City should target additional public waterfront access, especially in the areas shown on the map.



# Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



- Proposed Community Park
- Proposed Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Natural Park Reserve
- Special Use Area
- Public Dock or Beach
- Public Site
- Future Neighborhood Park
- Future Natural Park Reserve
- Future Public Site
- Cemetery
- Golf Course
- Schools
- Beautification Area
- Planning Area
- Centennial Trail
- Proposed Bicycle Path
- Bicycle Path
- Stream
- Water
- Waterfront Target Area
- 40' Contour
- City Limits
- Interstate
- Highway
- Local Roads
- Railroad



## Map 3: Waterfront Target Areas

**M I G** Data Sources:  
City of Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai County  
October 2007



## E. TRAILS

Coeur d’Alene’s planned trail network, as depicted in the *2006 Trails & Bikeways Plan*, is extensive. When fully developed, the network proposed in this Plan will serve the City well, in terms of service range and resource distribution.

This Plan supports the implementation of the *Trails & Bikeways Plan* to meet community demand for trail-related recreation activities, as well as for transportation. As the City develops, new neighborhoods not addressed in the *Trails & Bikeways Plan* should be provided with a similar network of trail and pathway resources to ensure a complete network.

This Plan also supports the concept of “complete streets”, which means streets designed for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users can safely use a complete street.

The *Park & Recreation Master Plan* process brought to light community concerns about personal safety using trails – something that discourages use of these facilities for more cautious pedestrians and cyclists. The 2006 recreation survey results indicated concerns about conflicts with vehicles for recreation users. To supplement the on-street routes proposed in the *Trails & Bikeways Plan*, it is recommended that alternatives to on-street major roadway bicycle routes be provided in the future. Establishing “bicycle boulevards” paralleling on-street arterial bike lanes may be one alternative method. An increase in signage for existing facilities is also recommended.

Finally, private developments should be required to provide linkages to the citywide system of trails and bikeways. This will ensure connectivity of neighborhoods, and provide multiple means of access to community park and recreation resources.

Recommendations for off-street trails include:

### **Atlas/Kathleen Bike Path**

Continue with routine maintenance. Add more signage directing people to this route. Consider adding benches and other user amenities, such as map kiosks.

### **North Idaho Centennial Trail (Mile 10.5 to 18.0)**

Coeur d’Alene has done an outstanding job of developing the North Idaho Centennial Trail, creating an important local and regional connection. The City should continue to develop this trail according to plan, and continue with routine maintenance.

### **Prairie Trail**

The City of Coeur d'Alene acquired the right-of-way for the Prairie Trail during the preparation of this Plan. The former railroad route offers excellent access northeast, passing from already developed areas out to the prairie. Development of this trail corridor is needed.

- Develop the Prairie Trail master plan. Address user amenities, trailhead facilities, bicycle and pedestrian access points, and signage in the master plan.
- Implement the Prairie Trail as funding is available.

### **Bike Corridors**

Consider the development of “bicycle boulevards” as alternatives to major roadway travel. To do this, the Parks Department will need to work with the Street Department and the Engineering Department to identify parallel routes on low-traffic streets, then to place signs on those streets designating them for shared use. The Trails & Bikeways Plan would need to be revised, to include these routes. A public education campaign to make the public aware of the bike corridor option would then be needed. For example, public bike rides on the corridors could be scheduled, or route maps could be designed and printed.

## CHAPTER 5: POLICY & OPERATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter contains recommendations on strategic directions for policies and operations. Recommendations are organized into five major categories:

- Policy directions;
- Park regulation changes;
- Urban forestry;
- Administration and operations; and
- Funding.

### A. POLICY DIRECTIONS

As Coeur d'Alene continues to grow, the park system will need expansion to keep up with demand. This Plan sets forth the community vision for parks and recreation, and specific policies are needed to ensure that the vision is carried forth. In particular, it is critical that community expectations regarding park provision in newly developed areas be set forth in policies and codes, to provide a level of certainty for residents, developers and city officials. Summary policy directions on park acquisition and development are outlined below. Some of these policy directions recommend changes to other plans, which will require efforts beyond the scope of this Plan.

- **Incorporate the *Parks & Recreation Master Plan* vision into the Comprehensive Plan.** The City is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. The vision, goals, and key directions of the *Parks & Recreation Master Plan* should be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan update.
- **Adopt level of service standards for developed parks.** Coeur d'Alene should adopt a level of service standard of 4 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents.
- **Update the Zoning Code.** The zoning code should be updated to clarify land use regulations for parks, and also specify how land is provided for parks.
  - *Park and Open Space Zoning Designation.* During the next major Zoning Code update, a park and open space zoning designation or overlay should be added. Currently, parks are subject to the underlying zoning; some development standards, such as sign regulations, are inappropriate for meeting the needs of park sites. This can result in a longer land use process and development timeline. The park and open space designation or overlay should be developed jointly by the Parks Department and the Planning

Department, with the goal of clarifying park standards and streamlining the park development process.

- *Land Dedication.* The subdivision and planned unit development codes should be updated to ensure that adequate park land is provided in the areas where this Plan indicates new parks are needed. At minimum, the Zoning Code should require that the City be permitted to purchase needed park land in the areas shown on the park system map (Map 2). Donation of park sites through the Parks Foundation should be encouraged. The code revision could also encourage that developers build parks.
- **Follow the park development guidelines contained in this Plan.** Development guidelines for each type of park are included in Table 5, on the following page. These guidelines should be followed when park land is acquired and new parks are developed.
- **Proactively target acquisition of land and trails identified within this Plan.** Land costs have been increasing rapidly in Coeur d’Alene, and more growth is anticipated. It is important to acquire land while it is still available.
- **Proactively target acquisition of water access and waterfront properties identified in this Plan.** The community highly values water access, and the areas shown on Map 3, Waterfront Target Areas, should be targeted for acquisition of additional waterfront access.
- **Accept only park land, water access and trail rights-of-way (R.O.W.) consistent with this Plan.** Accept only those sites consistent with this Plan, in terms of location as well as site geography.
- **Acquire or protect key natural open space areas consistent with this Plan.** As noted earlier in this document, protecting and preserving natural open space is a high priority for residents. The city should take an active role in protecting key areas, including Canfield Mountain, prairie land, viewsheds and natural areas south of the Spokane River.
- **Where beneficial to the community, partner with other agencies on parks, natural park preserves and trails.** The Coeur d’Alene Parks Department has successfully partnered with other agencies in the past to provide facilities that benefit the public. When opportunities arise, the City should continue to seek partnerships.
- **When state or federal highway funds are secured for road enhancements, assure that pedestrian and bicycle routes are included.** Coeur d’Alene residents highly value pedestrian and

bicycle transportation, and these transportation modes should be represented in enhancement projects.

- **Encourage the planting of native trees wherever possible.** Coeur d'Alene's tree canopy is one of its distinguishing characteristics, and more native trees should be added to the urban forest when possible.



**Table 5: Parks Standards and Guidelines**

Park Classification	Definition	Size and Configuration	Location and Access	Should Include	May Include	Examples
<b>Community Park</b>	Community parks are planned to provide active and structured recreation opportunities, as well as passive and non-organized opportunities for individual and family activities. Community parks generally include facilities that attract people from a large geographic area and require support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. Community parks often have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park.	<p>Current Range: 5 to 30 acres</p> <p>Proposed Size for New Parks: 10-20 acres, 15 acres desirable</p> <p>Configuration: At least two-thirds of the site should be available for active recreation use – relatively level, free of environmental constraints, with adequate buffers to separate active recreation areas from nearby homes.</p>	<p>Access should be available from a public street.</p> <p>Minimum of 400 feet of street frontage along the entrance.</p> <p>Desirable to have street frontage on all sides of the park, except where the park abuts another public facility.</p>	<p>Park sign</p> <p>Playground</p> <p>Baseball, softball, or soccer fields</p> <p>Basketball court</p> <p>Walking paths</p> <p>Picnic shelter</p> <p>Unprogrammed open lawn space</p> <p>Off-street parking</p> <p>Restrooms (permanent or portable)</p> <p>Site amenities (benches, picnic tables, water fountain, bike racks, trash receptacles, etc.)</p> <p>Trees</p>	<p>Tennis courts</p> <p>Skateboarding facilities</p> <p>Other sports facilities (disc golf, horseshoes, etc.)</p> <p>Spraygrounds</p> <p>Public art/fountains</p> <p>Group picnic areas</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>Natural areas</p> <p>Interpretive facilities</p> <p>Water access</p> <p>Amphitheaters</p> <p>Festival space</p> <p>Community garden</p> <p>Recreation buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bluegrass Park</li> <li>• Cherry Hill Community Park</li> <li>• City Park and Beach</li> <li>• Independence Point</li> <li>• Landings Park</li> <li>• Riverstone Park</li> </ul>
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and park, designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size and intended to serve nearby residents, who are intended to mainly arrive by foot or bicycle. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, pathways, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer, softball, and baseball.	<p>Current Range: 1 to 7 acres</p> <p>Proposed Size for New Parks: 3-7 acres, 5 acres desirable</p> <p>Configuration: At least half the site should be suitable for active and passive recreation use – relatively level and free of environmental constraints.</p>	<p>Site should not be located on arterial or collector streets.</p> <p>Access should be available from a public street.</p> <p>The park perimeter should front on public streets on all sides, with no private development abutting the park. A public facility such as a school can substitute for a public street.</p>	<p>Park sign</p> <p>Playground</p> <p>Walking paths</p> <p>Picnic shelter</p> <p>Unprogrammed open lawn space</p> <p>Site amenities (benches, picnic tables, water fountain, bike racks, trash receptacles, etc.)</p> <p>Trees</p>	<p>Basketball courts</p> <p>Tennis courts</p> <p>Skateboarding facilities</p> <p>Other sports facilities (disc golf, horseshoes, etc.)</p> <p>Natural areas</p> <p>Interpretive facilities</p> <p>Water access</p> <p>Community garden</p> <p>Off-street parking</p> <p>Restroom (portable)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawks Nest Park</li> <li>• Legacy Place Park</li> <li>• Mill River Park</li> <li>• North Pines Park</li> <li>• Northshire Park</li> <li>• Phippeny Park</li> <li>• Shadduck Lane Park</li> <li>• Sunshine Meadows Park</li> <li>• Winton Park</li> </ul>
<b>Special Use Area</b>	Special use areas are miscellaneous park lands or stand-alone recreation sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. Some of the facilities in this classification are sports field complexes, docks, community centers, community gardens, aquatic centers, or sites occupied by buildings.	<p>Current Range: 3.7 to 29 acres for sports-oriented special uses, N/A for docks</p> <p>Proposed Size for New Parks: Depends on special use</p> <p>Configuration: Depends on special use</p>	<p>Location and access will depend on type of special use</p> <p>Waterfront special uses must be located on the water. Access may be by trail, drive, or public street.</p> <p>Sports complex special uses should have access from a collector or arterial street, with off-street parking and adequate buffering to residential uses.</p>	<p>Park sign</p> <p>Special use facility, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports complex</li> <li>• Dock or water access facility</li> <li>• Historical site</li> <li>• Botanical garden</li> <li>• Arboretum</li> <li>• Recreation center</li> </ul> <p>Support facilities needed for the special use</p>	<p>Depends on special use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canfield Sports Complex</li> <li>• Coeur d'Alene Soccer Complex</li> <li>• Jewett House</li> <li>• McEuen Field</li> <li>• Memorial Field</li> <li>• Person Field</li> <li>• Ramsey Park</li> <li>• Skateboard Park</li> <li>• Stokes Field</li> <li>• Sunset Rotary Field</li> <li>• City-owned Docks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Street Dock</li> <li>• Commercial Dock</li> <li>• Launch Dock</li> <li>• Mooring Dock</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Natural Park Preserve</b>	Natural park preserves are sites primarily left in a natural state and intended for nature-oriented leisure activities. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, steep hillsides, wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or lands containing unique and/or endangered plant species. Natural park preserves may serve as trail corridors, and generally support only passive recreation. Active recreation that occurs is usually a secondary use.	<p>Current Range: 1 to 120 acres</p> <p>Proposed Size for New Parks: Size varies based on resources and site configuration</p>	<p>Location will depend on presence of resources</p> <p>At minimum, trail access to the site should be provided from a public street.</p>	<p>Park sign</p> <p>Paths or trails</p>	<p>Trailhead with trail sign kiosk</p> <p>Interpretive features</p> <p>Nature center</p> <p>Wildlife blinds</p> <p>Water access</p> <p>Mountain bike trails</p> <p>Equestrian trails</p> <p>Off-street parking</p> <p>Restrooms (permanent or portable)</p> <p>Site amenities (benches, picnic tables, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canfield Mountain Trails Natural Area</li> <li>• East Tubbs Hill</li> <li>• Fernan</li> <li>• Tubbs Hill</li> <li>• Veterans' Centennial Park</li> </ul>



## B. PARK REGULATION CHANGES

Two regulations regarding parks are currently not consistent with community direction.

### Pilot Project: Alcohol Regulations

Currently, the use of alcohol is banned in Coeur d'Alene's parks. However, there have been a number of requests to allow alcohol at special events, such as weddings and fundraisers. To meet the needs of residents and local groups for special events, it is recommended that the City establish a pilot project to test changes to the alcohol regulations by allowing alcohol at certain events, if specific standards are met.

The proposed pilot project should be established as follows:

- Alcohol may only be allowed in selected Coeur d'Alene parks or facilities, such as Riverstone Park, and only during special events.
- Alcohol may only be allowed at special events on a permit basis. Permit fees should apply. Fees should be set to recover costs and generate revenue for park purposes.
- Licensed bar service may be required for events that meet a size threshold.
- Event sponsors or hosts must meet Idaho liquor laws and regulations.
- Patrols or security to monitor the use of alcohol in parks may be required at the discretion of the Parks Director, depending upon the scale of the event proposed. The cost of security should be paid by the event sponsor or host.
- Certificates of insurance with minimum coverage limits may be required from event sponsors or hosts, depending upon the type of event proposed.
- The Parks Department reserves the right to refuse any alcohol permit request.

It is recommended the pilot project be in place as soon as possible, and that it continue for at least one test year, and preferably for two years. At that time, the alcohol policy should be reviewed and adjusted if necessary.

## Regulations on Dogs in Parks

Dogs are currently not allowed in Coeur d'Alene parks, even on a leash, with a few exceptions, including the North Idaho Centennial Trail and Tubbs Hill. One of the biggest areas of comment during the planning process was about the current regulations, and the desire to change them to accommodate people who would like to recreate with their pets.

The regulation changes include establishment of at least one off-leash site. The establishment of an off-leash area will require changes to the existing regulations, because dogs will need to be permitted within the designated off-leash area. If this area is located within another park, the regulation will need to allow dogs on leash outside the off-leash area, so that people can legally take their pets to the designated area.

In addition to regulation changes to allow legal use of the off-leash area, the City should explore allowing dogs on leashes in parks as a pilot project. One way to test out the regulation change is suggested:

- Dogs could be permitted on leashes with their owners on perimeter walking paths in Coeur d'Alene parks of all types, similar to the current policy on the North Idaho Centennial Trail.

## C. URBAN FORESTRY

The Parks Department is responsible for urban forestry efforts in Coeur d'Alene. The tree canopy in the city is one of its defining characteristics, and it includes trees in parks as well as street trees. The tree inventory in Coeur d'Alene is extensive, but staffing is limited.

Recommendations for urban forestry include:

- **Continue to seek Tree City USA designation.** Coeur d'Alene has been a Tree City USA for more than twenty years, showing the City's commitment to forestry.
- **Continue to enforce City Urban Forestry Ordinance, Chapter 12.36.** The City's urban forestry ordinance provides guidelines for the care and maintenance of all public trees and shrubs.
- **Continue to encourage tree planting within public rights-of-way.** The urban forest is a defining characteristic of Coeur d'Alene. The Parks Department should continue to encourage tree planting with public rights-of-way to ensure that the canopy is maintained.
- **Continue public outreach efforts.** The Urban Forester and Urban Forestry Commission have developed excellent materials for the public, including the web page and the approved species list. These efforts should be continued, and resources should continue to be allocated to these important public education campaigns.



*Sherman Avenue Street Trees*

- **Periodically evaluate staffing to meet tree care needs.** Coeur d'Alene's urban canopy is more extensive than that of many cities. The City should periodically evaluate tree inventory and tree care workloads compared with staffing levels. In addition to City employees, the City should consider contracting with forestry professionals to assist with tree care.
- **Evaluate tree care policy in rights-of-way.** Current policy on tree care in rights-of-way may not be meeting the needs of the urban forest's continued health. This policy and its staffing implications should be evaluated.
- **Develop an Urban Forest Master Plan.** An urban forest master plan will address specific management of the urban forest in Coeur d'Alene.

#### D. ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

The Parks Department operates at a very high level of efficiency in terms of services provided, the costs of service and maintenance staff per developed park acre. Due to the diligent efforts of staff, Coeur d'Alene has built a park system that is admired throughout the region. The Parks Department has been creative and dedicated in using varied resources to develop the City's park system to suit the needs of residents.

The main recommendation in terms of operations is to continue on the same successful path. Other recommendations include:

- **Periodically evaluate organizational structure.** The Parks Department is responsible for the development, operations and maintenance of the park system, as well as for urban forestry and the public cemeteries. In the future, the City may need to bring on additional staff with specialized skills such as natural resource management, pool or fountain maintenance or turf specialization, similar to the Trails Coordinator and Irrigation Specialist positions that the City has recently added.
- **Develop a “retention plan” to facilitate replacement of longtime employees and retain institutional knowledge.** The City has many longtime employees whose knowledge of the park system, the City and community issues will be very difficult to replace once they retire. The City has an equitable pay scale and benefits package which helps to retain employees. Some positions may not be easy to replace, and city leaders will have to decide on the depth of the search for suitable candidates.
- **Continue the Parks Department Preventive Maintenance Program.** The Department's program, which includes annual

evaluations of all assets (vehicles, grounds, amenities, buildings) and planning for replacements and repairs with each budget cycle. This program has resulted in efficient operating costs through avoidance of crisis response and lost work time due to equipment failure. It is highly effective, and should be continued into the future.

- **Continue to coordinate with the Recreation Department.** Coeur d'Alene's parks and recreation services are provided by two departments. The Parks Department should continue to coordinate with the Recreation Department to provide comprehensive park and recreation services to the community.
- **Increase staffing to keep up with system growth.** The Parks Department maintenance crews are staffed by both full-time permanent employees and seasonal employees. Additional staffing, whether full-time, seasonal or by contract, should be provided as the park system grows.
- **Evaluate pay scales and benefits for seasonal employees.** Coeur d'Alene has many long-term seasonal employees, who benefit the City by their extensive knowledge of the park system and operations. The City should consider allowing long-standing seasonal employees to participate in the benefits program, or should allow an increased level of pay to encourage their return.
- **Evaluate maintenance shop and yard needs as the park system grows.** As the park system grows, there will be a need for more space for maintenance staff, equipment, and vehicles. The City should consider all options, including acquiring properties adjacent to the existing shop to provide expansion space, relocating the shop to a larger site, or even adding a satellite shop and yard if that would suit operations better. Regardless of how expansion occurs, it will be necessary in the future.
- **Continue to work with community volunteers to implement park and trail projects.** The Parks Department has successfully recruited many volunteers to implement improvements to the park and trail system. These efforts have resulted in new parks at a lower cost to the community, and have also allowed parks to be completed faster.
- **Provide adequate staffing to maintain developed parks to their current level.** In the Pacific Northwest, park agencies with a full range of well-maintained parks average \$5,000-\$6,000 per developed acre of park land. For comparison, the City of Camas, Washington has a high quality park system with excellent maintenance, and is similar to Coeur d'Alene in many respects. Camas allocated on average more than \$7,000 per acre to maintain its developed park land. From a staffing standpoint, industry standard workloads for

park maintenance employees are about 12-14 acres of developed land per employee.

- **Provide adequate staffing to manage and maintain natural park preserve lands.** Many communities are moving toward specialized crews to manage natural areas, because these areas require different maintenance skills than traditional park land. Budgeting for these areas is relatively new for park and recreation agencies. The City of Portland, Oregon spends about \$500 per acre for an extensive natural area management program which includes controlled burns. To begin with, Coeur d'Alene should allocate about \$200 per acre to its natural park preserves to begin its management program and ensure that these areas are maintained for the future. After two to three years of evaluating how well this funding level supports implementation of the Tubbs Hill Management Plan and other natural park preserve management goals, Coeur d'Alene should evaluate whether this funding level is adequate.

## E. FUNDING

The Parks Department has diversified funding. The following recommendations will help the City fund park, trail and other improvements noted in this Plan.

- **Continue the policies in effect for the Parks Capital Improvement Fund.** The City of Coeur d'Alene has established a Parks Capital Improvement Fund within the City budget. This special revenue fund is intended to administer expenditures for acquisition, development and park improvements. The City of Coeur d'Alene has adopted a policy that revenue generated from parks will be allocated to parks capital improvements. These revenues are placed in the Parks Capital Improvement Fund.
- **Continue to pursue grants aggressively.** The Parks Department has been very effective at obtaining grants, mostly through the State of Idaho and federal government. The Department should continue to devote staff time and resources to grants to maintain this excellent track record.
- **Pursue state and federal highway funds for the enhancement of the Coeur d'Alene pedestrian and bicycle system.** Enhancement of the pedestrian and bicycle system is a high priority for City residents, and additional highway funds should be pursued for enhancement of the system to serve these modes.

- **Evaluate the park impact fees at least every two to three years.** The existing fee should be evaluated, because it may not be adequate to offset the impacts new development has on the park system.
- **Explore the possibility of using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.** As of this writing, the City was completing its first Consolidated Plan, directing the use of CDBG funds. In many cities, CDBG funds are used to make park improvements in qualified areas.
- **Establish sports field user fees.** Local sports leagues have made contributions to build sports fields. However, there are no user fees for sports fields to help fund the ongoing maintenance of these facilities. Sports field user fees should be equitable, and applied to all field users. It is recommended that this fee be based on a per team or per player basis.
- **Develop a major event fee policy for events held in public parks.** Major events benefit the City by bringing residents and visitors to downtown and other destinations. When held in public parks, these events cause significant wear and tear, require additional staffing and limit the public's use of the site. Some major events in Coeur d'Alene pay a fee, while some do not. A policy on when major events will pay a fee and how the fee should be established should be developed and implemented as soon as possible.
- **Establish a catering permit fee.** As part of the pilot program to allow alcohol on a permit basis for special events, the City should establish a catering permit fee to cover the cost of additional trash pickup, staffing etc., and potentially to generate revenue for park improvements.
- **Expand efforts to obtain donations.** The Parks Department has been effective at obtaining donations for specific projects. These past successful efforts should be built upon and expanded. A gift catalogue of park furnishings and amenities (benches, trees etc.) would provide ongoing opportunities for donations, to supplement the project-based fundraising that has previously occurred. In addition, corporate sponsorships could be sought, especially from local companies and businesses.
- **Explore a "Proximate Principle" allocation fund.** Research has demonstrated that well-maintained parks increase property values of nearby properties, thus increasing the property taxes generated from these properties. The City should explore allocating a percentage of property tax dollars to the Parks Department, to account for the increased tax value.
- **Consider devoting a share of the Hotel/Motel tax to parks.** Coeur d'Alene's parks, especially City Park and Beach and the dock

facilities, are a key part of the City's attractiveness to visitors. Using some of the funds generated by the visitors through hotel/motel taxes to maintain these parks will ensure that visitors are contributing to the community facilities they use.

- **Consider pursuing implementation of a real estate excise tax (REET) to help fund parks and recreation.** In the State of Washington, local jurisdictions may implement a real estate excise tax, and use the proceeds for qualified types of projects, including parks and recreation. This is a valuable source of park improvement funding in many Washington communities. The City of Coeur d'Alene should consider pursuing this as a future revenue source. State legislative action may be required
- **Consider other funding sources to broaden the parks and recreation funding pool.** Potential funding sources to explore include general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, exchanges of property, public/private partnerships, lifetime estates, utility easement fees, levies for acquisition and development or for maintenance and operations, certificates of participation, land trusts, private grants/foundations and shared facilities.



## CHAPTER 6: FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Plan presents a long-term vision and recommendations for Coeur d'Alene's park system. This chapter presents costs for the improvements recommended in the plan, a short-term capital improvement plan and a funding strategy. This chapter is intended to be regularly reviewed and updated, with annual review of the CIP.

### A. CAPITAL PROJECTS

This section reviews the cost projections for capital projects in the Plan. These are planning level estimates, intended to provide "order of magnitude" costs for major projects. As detailed design work for each project proceeds, more detailed cost estimates should be prepared based on actual site and utility conditions and other factors.

#### Projected Land Acquisition Costs

Land prices in Coeur d'Alene have escalated significantly since the late 1990s, when Canfield, the Soccer Complex, North Pines, and Shadduck Lane Parks were acquired at a cost between \$21,000 and \$26,000 per acre. Appraisals were completed in Spring 2007 by the Parks Department for four different School District sites. These appraisals provide good data about current undeveloped land prices in Coeur d'Alene, and can be used as a baseline for projecting land acquisition costs for the new parks for long range planning purposes.

Based on appraisals completed by the Parks Department in Spring 2007, projected land costs were derived for use in this plan:

- *Land within Developed Areas.* Within closer in, already developed areas, land values are estimated at \$325,000 per acre.
- *Land in Undeveloped Areas.* Closer to the outskirts of the City, land values are estimated at \$175,000 per acre.
- *Natural Park Preserve Land.* Land for natural park preserves that is difficult or costly to develop (steep slopes, wetlands etc.) may have a lower cost than developable land. However, developable natural open space (such as prairie land) or land with water access could be quite costly. Because of these variables, no cost per acre assumption is made for natural park preserve land.

#### Projected Development Costs for New Parks

Coeur d'Alene has developed a number of park sites since the 1995 Parks Master Plan, including Bluegrass Park, Canfield Sports Complex, Cherry Hill Park, the Coeur d'Alene Soccer Complex, North Pines and Shadduck Lane Park.

In general, the City's park development strategy has been very cost-efficient. Efficiencies have been achieved by avoiding permanent restrooms, minimizing park structures such as picnic shelters and buildings and avoiding costly features such as interactive fountains except in strategic locations. The City has also phased development of some parks. Cherry Hill Park is an example of this, where the tennis courts, parking lot, sledding hill and BMX track were developed first, the specialty playground was developed in a second phase, and additional improvements will be developed in future phases.

This Plan recommends that the Parks Department continue its successful policies, and focus on a more basic level of development at neighborhood parks but seek a level of development with additional amenities, as recently done at Riverstone Park, at community parks and other special destinations. Park development costs for newly developed parks are based on the following assumptions:

- *New Neighborhood Parks.* The cost of developing new neighborhood parks is projected to be \$125,000 per acre, based on North Pines Park and other recent neighborhood parks.
- *New Community Parks.* The cost of developing new community parks is projected to be \$300,000 per acre, based on an enhanced level of development with additional amenities, as at Riverstone Park.

## Plan Implementation Costs

This Plan is a long-range document, calling for parks needed to serve growth for the next twenty years, as well as overall park system improvements. Tables 6 and 7 provide costs to implement all the projects in the Plan. As previously noted, these are planning level costs that should be refined as design work is completed. As this table shows, there is more than \$57 million in projects over the twenty years of the plan, with the largest component being \$43 million in acquisition and development of new parks.

Table 6 identifies costs associated with the development of sites already dedicated for new parks, and includes costs of improvements at existing park sites. While some existing parks may not require improvements currently, projects will likely be needed over the next ten to twenty years. The Parks Department does an excellent job of maintaining park assets, including focusing on preventive maintenance and tracking P/M charts. These efforts result in reduced capital expenditure. The City Council has allowed the Parks Department to retain 10% of the revenue generated

through the parks for infrastructure repair and replacement. This has been an excellent practice and should be continued.

Table 7 identifies the costs associated with build-out. There is no specific timeline for these projects, which are anticipated to occur in conjunction with growth. However, some of the parks are in areas where existing neighborhoods are underserved. The City should be positioning itself to act quickly and acquire land in those areas when it becomes available, because there are very few sites that can support parks.

As noted, the Parks Department has been very effective at cost-efficient parks development. Practices regarding level of development, use of volunteers and phasing have been very effective at lowering the cost of development of new parks. While the Department intends to continue these practices, the costs in Table 6 and Table 7 are based on more conservative cost estimates that assume not all of these practices will be able to continue for the next ten to twenty years. While the development of the park system could cost as much as the projections shown, the intent of the Department is to continue its cost-efficient practices and aim for the greatest public benefit at the lowest cost.

Projects listed in Tables 6 and 7 are organized into four categories.

- *Existing Parks.* These are projects at existing park sites. In some cases, the projects are implementation of an existing master plan or known project. In other cases, the cost is an allowance for improvements over the life of this plan to ensure that there is continuing investment in the City's park assets.
- *New Parks.* This category includes land acquisition and development for new sites.
- *New Facilities.* This category includes new recreation facilities, as well as the major upgrade of the skate park.
- *Trails.* This category includes improvement of off-street bike paths and walking trails. It does not include on-street routes, which are assumed to be funded through the transportation capital improvement budget.

**Table 6**  
Projected Costs for Implementation at Existing Parks

Reference #	Park Name	Project Description	Cost
<b>EXISTING PARKS</b>			
P-1	Landings Park	Implement master plan	\$1,200,000
P-2	Sunshine Meadow Park	Master plan update and development	\$276,000
P-3	Legacy Place Park	Irrigation and turf	\$45,000
P-5	Coeur d'Alene Soccer Complex	Property line adjustments and relocations	\$35,000
P-6	Bluegrass Park	Annual Maintenance & WCC	In FY Operating Budget
P-8	Canfield Sports Complex	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-9	Canfield Mountain Natural Area	Trail development	\$75,000
P-10	Shaddock Lane Park	Annual Maintenance & WCC	In FY Operating Budget
P-12	North Pines Park	Picnic Shelter	\$35,000
P-13	Sunset Rotary Field	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-16	Cherry Hill Community Park	Phase III and IV Improvements	\$300,000
P-18	Person Field	Acquisition of 3.7 acres, master plan and redevelopment of entire site	\$1,952,500
P-19	Veterans Centennial Park	Master plan and development	\$400,000
P-20	Fernan	Master plan and development	\$175,000
P-22	Jewett House & Beach	Allowance for minor improvements	\$20,000
P-24	East Tubbs Hill	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-25	Tubbs Hill	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-26	McEuen Field	Major upgrade as per Downtown Plan	\$1,875,000
P-27	Independence Point	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-28	Third Street Dock	Allowance for minor improvements	\$20,000
P-28	Commercial Dock/FirstStreet Dock	Allowance for minor improvements	\$40,000
P-28	City Park and Beach	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-31	Memorial Field	Replace Grandstand 2009/2010	\$850,000

Reference #	Park Name	Project Description	Cost
P-32	Phippeny Park	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-33	Winton Park	Major renovation	\$175,000
P-35	Riverstone Park	Annual Maintenance	Three Year Contract
P-36	Ramsey Park	Annual Maintenance and WCC	In FY Operating Budget
P-37	Jenny Stokes Field	Could Possibly be Relocated	In FY Operating Budget
P-38	Johnson Mill River Park	Annual Maintenance	In FY Operating Budget
P-40	Northshire Park Expansion	Acquisition and development of 7 acres to community park standard	\$4,375,000
P-40	Northshire Park	Replace Playground and Walkway	\$65,000
P-41	Hawks Nest Park	Implement master plan	\$914,760
		<b>Existing Parks Total</b>	<b>\$12,828,260</b>

**Table 7**  
 Projected Costs for Implementation of New Parks,  
 Facility Improvements and Trails

Reference #	Park Name	Project Description	Cost
<b>NEW PARKS</b>			
P-4	New Neighborhood Park	Land acquisition and development	\$1,500,000
P-7	New Neighborhood Park	Land acquisition and development	\$1,500,000
P-11	New Community Park	Land acquisition and development	\$9,375,000
P-14	New Neighborhood Park	Land acquisition and development	\$2,250,000
P-15	New Neighborhood Park	Land acquisition and development	\$2,250,000
P-17	New Neighborhood Park@ Bryan Field	Land acquisition and development	\$2,250,000
P-21	New Neighborhood Park	Land acquisition and development	\$2,250,000
P-23	New Neighborhood Park	Land acquisition and development	\$2,250,000
P-34	New Neighborhood Park	Land acquisition and development	\$1,875,000
P-39	New Community Park @ U.S. Forest Service Nursery	Land acquisition and development	\$7,125,000
N/A	Sports Complex	Development of 40 acres	\$8,000,000
N/A	Waterfronts	Set-aside for waterfront land acquisition	\$1,000,000
N/A	Natural Park Preserves	Set-aside for natural park preserve land acquisition	\$300,000
<b>New Parks Subtotal</b>			<b>\$41,925,000</b>
<b>FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
N/A	Community Garden	Development of community garden site	\$10,000
N/A	Dog Park	Acquisition and development of 5 acre dog park	\$1,500,000
N/A	Skate Park/BMX	Improvement of existing park	\$300,000
<b>Facility Improvements Subtotal</b>			<b>\$1,810,000</b>
<b>TRAILS</b>			
N/A	Prairie Trail	Development of 5 mile trail	\$825,000
N/A	Bike Trails	Ongoing improvements (\$7,500/year)	\$150,000
<b>Trails Subtotal</b>			<b>\$975,000</b>
<b>Table 7 Total</b>			<b>\$44,710,000</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALLPROJECTS FROM TABLES 6 &amp; 7</b>			<b>\$57,538,260</b>

## B. FUNDING RESOURCES

Coeur d'Alene has been making investments in the park system regularly since the 1995 Parks Master Plan. Park improvements have been funded through a variety of sources, each of which is described briefly below.

### Parks Capital Improvement Fund Sources

The following funding sources provide revenue that appears in the Parks Capital Improvement Fund.

- *General Fund.* The General Fund is the City's largest discretionary source of revenue. Revenue comes from a variety of sources, including charges for services (plan check fees, development fees); licenses and permits (building permits, business licenses, franchise fees); property taxes (increasing as development occurs); and other revenues for which a special fund has not been created (intergovernmental revenues, fines, interest, park user fees etc.). General Fund revenues have the greatest flexibility, and are used to fund maintenance and operations as well as parks capital projects. However, given the many financial obligations of the City, the General Fund cannot be depended upon to provide for all capital project funding needs. In the past, this has been a small but regular source of funding.
- *Impact Fees.* Impact Fees are fees imposed on new development to pay for capital projects required to accommodate the impacts of development on the City's infrastructure. The City of Coeur d'Alene charges impact fees on new construction, and these fees are used to fund capital improvements for Parks, Police, Fire and Streets. The Parks portion of the fee is currently \$755.97 and is collected at the time of permit application.
- *Grants.* Many of the grants the City has received are administered by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), and the City has also received transportation enhancement funds through the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). Coeur d'Alene has consistently won grant funding in past years.
- *Parking Revenues.* The City has established a public parking lot enterprise fund that pays for the operations and maintenance of the public parking lots near the downtown waterfront. Fees are charged for parking, and the parking lot generates a profit. Forty percent of the revenues generated from the public parking lot fund are allocated to the Parks Capital Improvement Fund because the parking lots are Parks property and the Parks Department does some maintenance.

- *Dock Rental, Boat Launch Fees and Mooring Dock Fees.* Coeur d'Alene has user fees in place at its boat launch and docks, and dedicates the revenue to park improvements. Fees are generated from leases on commercial docks, from the public boat launches adjacent to McEuen Field and the Coeur d'Alene Resort, and moorage fees at the mooring dock, near the boat launch, which provides overnight moorage (including electricity).
- *Miscellaneous Parks Revenues.* Miscellaneous revenues are those funds generated by shelter reservations, events and fees. For example, the Taste event pays a fee for use of City Park and the increased maintenance staffing required by the event.
- *Concessions.* Concessions revenue is generated through contracts with two food vendors, at Independence Point and Memorial Field. Additional concessions revenue is generated through vending machines at Ramsey Park. With the addition of more field lighting at Ramsey Park, this site may be marketable to a vendor and could generate additional concessions revenue, but this is likely to remain a small source of revenue.
- *Donations.* Donations are pursued on a project-by-project basis. The new playground at Cherry Hill Park was one of the most recent projects with a significant fundraising effort and collection of donations. Donations funding varies depending on which projects are being pursued, and whether local groups have taken interest in a project. The Kiwanis, Rotary Club, BMX Association, Little League and Soccer Association and many others generously donated time, money and materials to promote and enhance the Coeur d'Alene parks system.

## Other Sources of Park Improvement Funding

Other sources are also used in Coeur d'Alene for funding park improvements, and are described below.

- *Redevelopment Funds.* The Lake City Development Corporation is the urban redevelopment agency serving the City of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The LCDC board is chartered by the State of Idaho, and its board is appointed by the Mayor of Coeur d'Alene. The LCDC administers two urban renewal districts: the Lake District and the River District. The Lake District was formed in 1997, and encompasses 729 acres of Coeur d'Alene, including portions of Midtown, Downtown and Northwest Boulevard.

Tax increment is generated within the redevelopment areas, and LCDC uses the funds for a variety of purposes, including some park

improvements. LCDC and the City of Coeur d'Alene have developed a strategy to provide parks in the redevelopment areas through a partnership, where private developers donate land for parks to the Parks Foundation, LCDC builds the parks, and the Parks Department takes ownership and maintains the park once it is complete. Through this partnership, significant capital improvements are being made completely outside the City's budget, resulting in the addition of major new parks for Coeur d'Alene. Two significant park projects have been completed recently through this partnership. These are the Johnson Mill River Park, with a land value of \$2.1 million and a development cost of \$337,000, and Riverstone Park, with a land value estimated at \$1.6 million and a development cost of \$1.5 million.

LCDC has also provided other funding for parks and trails projects, including lending \$2.5 million to the North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation to acquire the railroad R.O.W. for the planned Prairie Trail. LCDC is also assisting by funding some of the project-related public improvements for the Kroc Center. Additional parks improvement projects are located within the two redevelopment districts, and could be eligible for LCDC funding.

- *Public Art Fund.* Ordinance No. 2922 requires that 1.33 percent of the cost of municipal construction projects be used to fund the provision of art in public places. Funds generated from the “percent for art” ordinance are placed in the Public Art Fund. Public art funds have been used for projects within city parks. The public art fund has paid for art elements within parks, such as special art benches at Independence Point, Riverview Cemetery, McEuen Field, and at a North Idaho Centennial Trail trailhead, and numerous chainsaw artwork located in City Park.
- *Tubbs Hill Lease.* Coeur d'Alene leases out the littoral rights associated with the Tubbs Hill property. Littoral rights are concerned with the use and enjoyment of the shore of an ocean, sea or lake. The City generates approximately \$5,000 per year from the lease, allocating funds toward improvements and projects at Tubbs Hill.
- *Parks Foundation.* The Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization established to assist in the expansion and improvement of the Coeur d'Alene park system. The Foundation to date has been primarily a conduit for donated land. By donating land to the Foundation, a private party gains a tax advantage. The relationship between the Parks Foundation, the Parks Department and private parties has been effective and resulted in the donation of park land in developing areas. While the Parks Foundation is not currently directly generating revenue for parks projects, its role as a conduit for land donations provides significant value to the City, with the recently donated

Johnson Mill River Park site (land value of \$2.1 million) a prime example.

- *Tubbs Hill Foundation.* Like the Parks Foundation, the Tubbs Hill Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. This group was formed to assist with the stewardship of Tubbs Hill, and focuses only on that single site. The foundation does directly provide revenue, and has provided about \$30,000 to \$40,000 in funding for larger projects at Tubbs Hill.
- *North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation.* NICTF can also be a means to secure trail improvement, acquisition, and development funds. This foundation is also a 501(c)(3) organization.
- *Service Clubs.* Service clubs such as Rotary and Kiwanis have helped on projects such as the Fort Sherman playground, the band shell at City Park, and the Cherry Hill playground. The efforts of these groups on behalf of the park system have led to great improvements for the community. The service clubs of Coeur d'Alene have proven their commitment and ability to provide for both fundraising and labor needs on previous parks and recreation. The City will look forward to continued support from, and collaboration with these organizations.



*Band Shell at City Park*

## C. PROJECTED 5-YEAR FUNDING PLAN

Based on the history of funding, funding projections for the next 5 years of park development were developed. A 5-year capital improvement plan, focused on priority improvements, was also developed. These projections and improvements are summarized in Tables 8 & 9, and are based on the following funding assumptions:

- *Parks Capital Improvement Fund.* Based on previous funding levels, an average of \$300,000 per year is projected for the Parks Capital Improvement Fund.
- *Tubbs Hill Lease.* It is assumed that the Tubbs Hill lease will continue to average \$5,000 per year.
- *Grants and Donations.* Based on the goal of maintaining the grant track record and increasing donations, \$500,000 per year on average is projected.
- *Parks Foundation.* This projection includes the value of substantial land donations, as well as some cash contributions and, assumes an average of \$300,000 per year.
- *Tubbs Hill Foundation.* It is assumed that the Tubbs Hill Foundation will continue their history of an estimated \$10,000 annual cash contribution per year.
- *The North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation* This projection accounts for anticipated cash contributions for capital expenses, training, implementation, acquisition and development funds in the amount of \$15,000 over five years.
- *Public Art Fund.* It is assumed that the Public Art Fund will continue to support the integration of art into the park system, averaging \$5,000 per year.
- *Other Sources.* It is assumed that Parks Department will continue to fund its parks development through other sources. On average, the Department has funded \$500,000 per year through other sources.

## D. PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

Table 9 presents a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. The CIP is based on the funding projection of \$8,115,000. The priorities include:

- Address needed maintenance upgrades within 5 years to maintain integrity of the park assets;
- Implement existing master plans; and
- Acquire land when it becomes available.

**Table 8**  
Projected 5-Year Funding

Source	5-Year Total
Parks Capital Improvement Fund	\$1,500,000
Tubbs Hill Lease	\$25,000
Grants and Donations	\$2,500,000
Parks Foundation	\$1,500,000
Tubbs Hill Foundation	\$50,000
North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation	\$15,000
Public Art Fund	\$25,000
Other Sources	\$2,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,115,000</b>

**Table 9**  
5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Reference #	Park Name	Project Description	Cost
P-1	Landings Park	Implement master plan	\$1,200,000
P-2	Sunshine Meadow Park	Master plan update and development	\$276,000
P-9	Canfield Mountain Natural Area	Trail development	\$75,000
P-18	Person Field	Acquisition of 3.7 acres, master plan and Phase I redevelopment of entire site. Future phases to be completed later	\$1,761,740
P-31	Memorial Field	Replace Grandstand 2009/2010	\$850,000
P-33	Winton Park	Major renovation	\$175,000
P-41	Hawks Nest Park	Implement master plan	\$914,760
N/A	Land Acquisition	Opportunity-based acquisition of park land	\$200,000
N/A	Dog Park	Acquisition and development of 5 acre dog park	\$1,500,000
N/A	Skate Park/BMX	Improvement of existing park	\$300,000
N/A	Prairie Trail	Development of 5 mile trail	\$825,000
N/A	Bike Trails	Ongoing improvements (\$7,500/year)	\$37,500
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,115,000</b>

## E. CONCLUSION

The Coeur d'Alene area is blessed with a natural environment that includes forests, rivers, lakes and mountains. Our moderate climate provides four distinct seasons, each lending its own activities and beauty. As a growing resort town, Coeur d'Alene's parks are a precious asset that must be properly managed and developed for many visitors from both near and far.

As the population increases and land becomes more valuable, natural spaces will tend to become increasingly marginalized in the face of development. This document demonstrates the belief that we must stand steadfast in the defense of the countless virtues of our many parks, which promote an active, healthy lifestyle and provide recreation for residents of our city.

Our parks provide beauty and serenity, and they offer challenges and recreation. The goals as set forth in this document seek to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Coeur d'Alene, by insuring that its parks are managed and utilized to the best and most complete capacity.