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# Recreation Facilities Master Plan

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Created July 2010

**REVISION 1: JANUARY 2011**

**REVISION 2: AUGUST 2016**

**REVISION 3: JANUARY 2019**

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# Resolution

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**RESOLUTION NO. 5  
(Series 2019)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO, ADOPTING THE REVISED RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN OF 2016.**

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 the Town of Buena Vista adopted a recreation facilities master plan reflecting an analysis of the current conditions of recreation facilities and the goals and desires of the Town for future recreational opportunities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Recreation Advisory Board provided direction to the recreation master plan formation and ongoing revisions; and

**WHEREAS**, recreation advocates have proposed additions and revisions at Recreation Advisory Board meetings, which have been added to the 2019 Recreation Facilities Master Plan; and

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

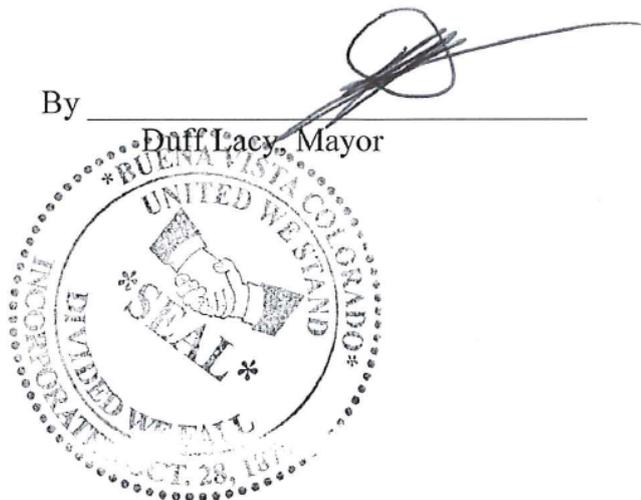
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees finds and determines that it would be in the best interests of the Town of Buena Vista and its residents to approve the revised Recreation Facilities Master Plan of 2019.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO that the Recreation Facilities Master Plan of 2019, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit 1, is hereby approved and adopted.**

**RESOLVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of January 2019.**

**TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Duff Lacy, Mayor



ATTEST:

*Paula Barnett*

Paula Barnett, Town Clerk

# Contributors

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Many thanks to those who assisted in the development  
of this Master Plan.

## **Board of Trustees**

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## **Staff**

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Recreation Director Emily Osborn  
Recreation Program Coordinator Shane Basford  
Town Administrator Phillip Puckett

# Executive Summary

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The desire to offer more opportunities within Town for numerous popular forms of recreation is addressed within this plan. The scope of the Recreation Facilities Master Plan is to manage the proposals, prepare cost estimates, and determine suitable locations for the proposed amenities. The Recreation Advisory Board proposes that current recreation facilities be properly maintained prior to spending Town resources on new facilities.

The Master Plan is divided into four sections: existing facilities, short-term proposed improvements, long-term proposed improvements, and financial information. The short-term proposed improvements identified in this report are expected to be completed within two to three years. The long-term proposed improvements will require special budgeting and planning due to the higher cost and will, therefore, require a longer time period to complete. The financial section of the Master Plan addresses the Town acting as a fiscal agent for advocacy groups that raise funds for new projects and discusses the use of staff time for recreation projects.

The cost estimates in this plan are at full market value. Expenses to the Town could potentially be decreased or offset if outside resources are pursued and utilized. This could include grants, volunteer workers, partnerships, and other avenues.

Each of the listed projects requires different funding and resource needs, and will be completed based on the availability of funds from the Town, grants, and/or advocacy group support and donations. Therefore, some items may be built before their priority if, for instance, an advocacy group has raised the needed funds to complete the project.

# Master Planning Process

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The Recreation Facilities Master Plan is the culmination of local input through community surveys, public meetings, and recommendations from the Town's Recreation Advisory Board.

Surveys were completed in 2015 to gathering information from 319 community members regarding their desired recreation programs and facilities. Every year, the Recreation Advisory Board listens to proposals from the public for suggested facility improvements and new projects. The Recreation Advisory Board is then charged with making recommendations to Staff and the Board of Trustees.

This Master Plan is expected to serve as a guiding document for the Board of Trustees and Town Staff while preparing capital improvement budgets and annual operating budgets. Additionally, the Recreation Advisory Board believes that it is important to integrate the proposed and existing facilities in this Master Plan document with the proposed and existing facilities in corresponding Advisory Boards' plans, such as the Trails Board.

# Community Context

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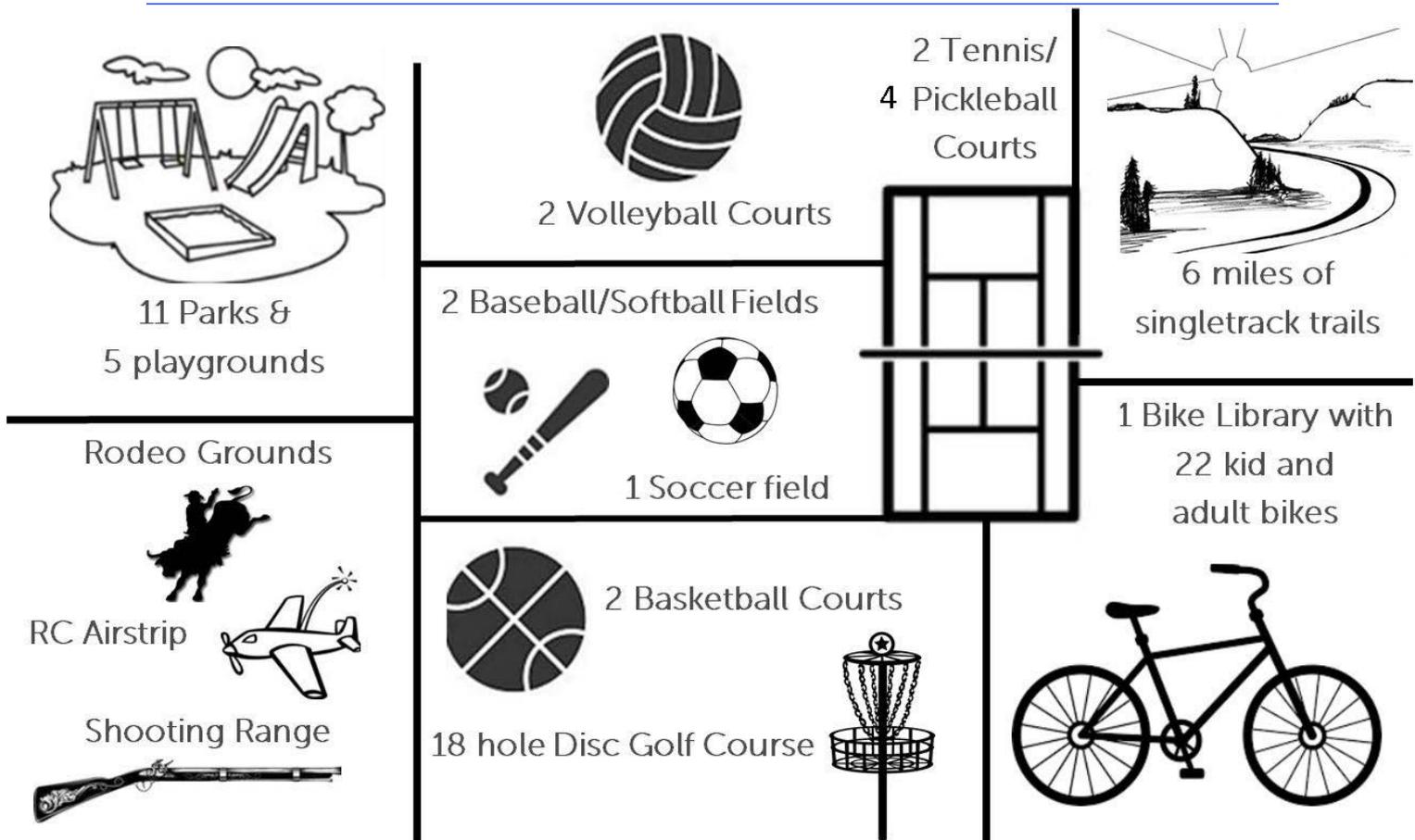
Buena Vista has a population of 2,617 people as of the 2015 census. Over 90% of the population is white with a median household income of \$42,405. The largest segment of the population is over 50 years old, yet younger families and individuals are migrating to Buena Vista in larger numbers than ever before.

The area is blessed by an array of beautiful natural resources that support a thriving outdoor recreation economy. The Sawatch Mountain Range lies directly to the west, with 153 peaks over 13,000 feet in elevation. Trailheads to four 14,000ft peaks are located in Chaffee County, and the Continental Divide Trail and Colorado Trail are located less than a thirty minute drive from the center of Town. Opportunities for hiking, bicycling, 4x4 off-roading, camping, fishing, and rock climbing are everywhere. Winter activities nearby include downhill skiing, snowmobiling, and back-country snowshoeing and skiing. The Arkansas River forms Buena Vista's eastern border and is the most commercially rafted river in the country. At the end of main street, a pedestrian bridge crosses the river connecting the River Park with public land. Fourmile Recreation Area and Browns Canyon National Monument provide endless opportunities for outdoor recreation and are enjoyed by locals and tourists alike.

The Buena Vista Recreation Department facilitates nearly 50 recreation programs annually including sports leagues, music and running events, arts, games and fitness classes for adults and children. More than 1,000 unique participants enjoy the programs of the Recreation Department each year.

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# Existing Infrastructure



The Town of Buena Vista has a variety of outdoor recreation options. In addition to traditional parks with picnic tables and playgrounds, there is also a Whitewater Park with five in-river features, two dog parks, a pump track, a boulder park, skate park, and Splash Park. Various town trails connect neighborhoods to open space and lead directly to continuous singletrack trails on our adjacent public lands. The Town Community Center hosts many of the Department's recreation programs while other recreation programs utilize school gym space.

# Parks and Trails Map

## west side

### Buena Vista Community Trails, Parks and Recreation



--- Bike/pedestrian lane

— Trail *nonmotorized*

... Stage & Rail Trail *proposed*

— Highway crossing

■ Town park

■ Sports fields

■ Parking

■ Buena Vista

■ Chaffee County

Public restrooms

Bike/pedestrian bridge

Interpretive kiosk

1 BV Visitor Center

2 Railroad Depot Museum

3 BV Community Center

4 Ball fields

5 Soccer fields

6 Basketball courts

7 Volleyball courts

8 Tennis courts

9 Boulder climbing areas

10 Disc golf course

11 Bicycle pump track

12 Skateboard park

13 Fitness court

14 Playground

15 Splashpark

16 Dog park

17 Boat launch/take-out

18 Radio control airfield

© 2017 map design Katherine McCoy

see other side for **West Main Area** map

CR 306

CR 350

Cottonwood Creek

Yale

James

N Pleasant

S Pleasant

Connie

Windwalker

Peaks View Trail

Red Tail

Foden Rd

Rodeo Grounds

Gregg

Off-leash dog play area

Gregg Drive Trail

Colorado Mountain College

Steele

# Parks and Trails Map east side



# Safety Concerns

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The first priority is to maintain current facilities to function at a level that is safe for all users. The Town's insurance company has noted the following safety concerns at the Rodeo Grounds and circuit workout equipment.

FACILITY	EXPENSE
Rodeo Grounds	\$10,000
Circuit Workout Equipment	\$7,000

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## 1. Rodeo Grounds

- \*Replace chicken wire behind the top row of the grandstands with wooden backing
- \*Install hand railings in the grandstands
- \*Replace broken boards in grandstand benches
- \*Weld gates and fencing within the arena
- \*Replace door to the announcer stand

## 2. Circuit Workout Equipment

- \*Replace all wooden components with treated timber
- \*Add surfacing to improve fall absorption

# Short Term Projects

The desired timeline for completion of short term projects is 3-5 years. The following projects are prioritized as follows.

FACILITY	EXPENSE
1. Skate Park Boarder	\$12,000
2. Volleyball Court Sand and Nets	\$12,000
3. Community Center Improvements	\$20,000
4. Trail Expansion	\$10,000
5. Whitewater Park	\$7,000 annaully
6. Sunset Vista Park	\$50,000
7. Pickleball Courts	\$32,125
8. Splash Park	\$15,000
9. Rodeo Grounds Master Plan	
10. Youth Baseball Field Scoreboard	\$15,000

# Short Term Projects

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1. The Skate Park was relocated in 2012 and upgraded with new equipment and features. It has since been a highly trafficked facility. The old skate park had all the equipment removed in 2014, which resulted in a lack of space for beginners to skate. The Recreation Advisory Board proposes adding a flat boarder to the west and south of the features to serve as a beginner area, as well as an easy-entry area for dropping into the park features. These changes will improve the safety and usability of the facility.
2. The Sand Volleyball Courts are enjoyed by both locals and visitors. The space has fallen into disrepair. New sand and new nets are needed to serve the growing popularity of the sport and to meet the needs of the large local volleyball constituency.
3. The Community Center is the home-base for many Recreation activities. Recreation offices are in this space and the rooms are used for programs such as cooking, youth/adult dance, Yoga, PiYo, martial arts and more. The building is also available to be rented for private events and meetings. Some areas in need of improvement are Aspen Room flooring, new chairs and tables, and ongoing maintenance of the facility.
4. Six additional miles of singletrack trails are necessary to provide connections with greater loop options between the Whipple Trails, the Collegiate Peaks Overlook area and Midland Hill trail system without merging motorized and non-motorized traffic on County Road 304. If a (pending) grant is awarded in 2019, the 6 miles of new trail construction will be completed with the \$10,000 contribution from the town. If the grant is not awarded, additional funding will need to be secured.
5. The Buena Vista Whitewater Park is a wonderful resource to the community and draws event goers and recreationists to the area for whitewater fun. Annually, the Whitewater Park advocacy group raises \$3,500, which the Town has committed to matching. Wave and shore maintenance will be a continuing task throughout the coming years. Due to the expensive nature of hydraulic maintenance, this money, when unused, will rollover from one year to the next.

# Short Term Projects

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6. The Sunset Vista Park is a sorely needed recreation space in an area of town that lacks recreation amenities. The project has been on the docket for many years and infrastructure improvements, such as water main installation, will enable the project to move forward. \$50,000 has already been contributed towards the project.

7. Pickleball is a growing national sport that has seen persistent growth in Buena Vista and Chaffee County. The tennis courts are currently being used as combined Pickleball/ Tennis courts with 4 Pickleball courts painted on the east Tennis Court. The Peak to Peak Pickleball Club proposes to construct six dedicated Pickleball courts. The plan calls for expanding the existing concrete slab west of the Community Center, installing a vapor barrier and new surface for the courts along with windscreens, fencing, and equipment. Other financial contributors are needed, as the total project cost is estimated at \$177,500. Grants, Chaffee County, the Peak to Peak Pickleball Club, and private funding are potential sources to offset the project cost.

8. The Buena Vista Optimist Square Splash Park was constructed with help from various organizations and individuals throughout the community, as well as state grants. A shade structure at the facility would complete the project by providing shade in the hot summer months. The project will include installation of footers into the concrete to anchor the shade sails.

9. The Rodeo Grounds area consists of an arena, grandstands, announcers booth, livestock holding pens, chutes, roping area, practice arena, trap-shoot facility, and off leash dog park. The nearly 100 year old grandstands are listed on the State Registry of Historic Structures and the condition of the structure continues to deteriorate. The facility is home to the annual Collegiate Peaks Rodeo, the Contin-Tail Gem and Mineral Show, trap shoots, and events during the Chaffee County Fair. It is the recommendation of the Recreation Advisory Board to coalesce the various interest groups into a cohesive advisory board that oversees the development of this facility and surrounding lands. The first task of the newly formed board will be to develop a master plan to organize and prioritize the needs of the area and direct the growth as it best serves the various interests and user groups.

10. The Youth Baseball Field scoreboard was struck by lightning and the manufacturer has insisted that if broken again, it will not be repaired. It is proposed that the Buena Vista Baseball Association share in the expense of a new scoreboard.

# Long Term Projects

The desired timeline for completion of long range projects is 5+ years. The following projects are prioritized as follows

FACILITY	EXPENSE
1. Forest Square	\$60,000
2. Rodeo Grounds	TBD
3. Ice Rink	\$150,000
4. Millie Crymble Park	\$50,000
5. Gym Space	TBD

1. Forest Square Park is host to a half basketball court that is showing large cracks due to strong tree roots growing under and into the surface. This slab needs to be removed or re-located further to the east in the park where tree roots are not as prominent. If replaced, the court should be a 100'x60' slab that could accommodate full court basketball play and an additional hoop need to be installed.

2. With a newly formed Rodeo Grounds advisory group and well developed Master Plan, a prioritized project list will detail necessary improvements to the area. This need will become more urgent as we reach the 100 year anniversary of the Collegiate Peaks Stampede Rodeo.

3. The Community Skating Rink has been a vision from community members for years. In 2014, a small, grass-roots effort was put forth to freeze a section of the softball field to use for skating. In 2016, the boards from the "Miracle on Ice" team's practice rink were purchased. Minimal fundraising has been successful in obtaining roughly \$5,000. A post tension slab is required for the foundation and a shade structure is necessary to uphold the integrity of the ice. This project will be phased with long term goals of refrigeration and programming. The current cost estimate is projected to cover the foundation, installation, and shade. Additional outside funding will need to be secured for each phase of the project.

# Long Term Projects

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4. Millie Crymble Park is located in the subdivision near Buena Vista High School. The park is designed for young children and the equipment is very outdated. Safety is not currently a concern, however, if not replaced in coming years it will definitely begin to show more wear and tear. Additional fill is needed as well as a shade structure as the equipment is too hot to use mid-day in the summer months.

5. The Town has no indoor recreation facilities besides the Community Center rooms. The Recreation Department is fortunate to be able to utilize the gym space within the School District buildings and Darren Patterson Christian Academy, though scheduling conflicts can be limiting. It is not imperative that the indoor recreation facility be owned by the Town. The following proposals are potential solutions to increase indoor recreation space for the Recreation Department

A. The creation of a Recreation District would allow funding for a Recreation Center.

B. With a large financial commitment from the Town and State Historic Funds, and a prolonged phased approach, the old McGinnis Middle School gym could be restored and used for recreation programs and events.

C. Continued partnerships with other local organizations to share space.

# Financial Information

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A. Fiscal Agent: Numerous advocacy groups have been raising funds and support for their particular interest. Some groups, such as the Community Ice Rink group and the Dog Park group, have received pledges of money or construction items in preparation for the potential project. Currently, the Town acts as a fiscal agent for these projects, helping to receive donations, assisting in designing facilities, and helping manage expenses. As Town grows and develops, there is always a possibility that facilities created by community groups and donations may need to be relocated. The Recreation Advisory Board requests that these facility relocations be funded with financial assistance from the Town.

B. Staff Time: In order to save money on these projects, these groups and/or departments may be able to utilize Public Works personnel where practical and possible. Prior to construction of each specified projects, the Board of Trustees shall approve the expenditure of money and the level of in-kind work to be provided by the Town.

Maintenance of the existing facilities is the responsibility of Public Works staff, which over time may require additional personnel. Some community groups help to maintain Town facilities and as such, there needs to be clear lines of communication with these groups so that facilities may be maintained properly. An agreement must be written up for each facility outlining maintenance responsibilities and upkeep from the private group as well as Town Staff.

# Conclusion

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The Recreation Advisory Board and the Recreation Department Staff have invested much attention and care in order to create a comprehensive Recreation Facilities Master Plan for the Town of Buena Vista. This Recreation Master Plan should be used, in conjunction with the complimentary guiding documents, as a road map to make decisions about budgets and capital projects that will best serve the needs and desires of the community.

## Related Documents

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Trails Master Plan  
River Park Master Plan  
Buena Vista Comprehensive Plan  
Town of Buena Vista Economic Assessment