



BUENA VISTA RECREATION MASTER PLAN

CREATED JULY 2010

Revision 1: January 2011

Revision 2: August 2016



Table of Contents

I.	Resolution for Revised Master Plan.....	2
II.	Vision/Mission Statements.....	3
III.	Executive Summary.....	4
IV.	Introduction.....	5
V.	Master Plan Process.....	5
VI.	Existing Facilities.....	8
	a. Safety Concerns.....	9
VII.	Short-Range Improvements.....	10
	a. Community Center Playground	
	b. Community Skating Rink	
	c. Rodeo Grounds	
	d. Community Center Improvements	
	e. Skate Park	
	f. Whitewater Park	
	g. McPhelemy Park Shade Structure	
VIII.	Long Range Improvements.....	12
	a. Rodeo Grounds	
	b. Gym Facility	
	c. Sunset Vista IV	
	d. Community Center Upgrades	
IX.	Economic Information.....	14
	a. Fiscal Agent	
	b. Staff Time	
X.	Conclusion.....	14

List of Tables

a.	Table 1--List of Existing Recreation Facilities.....	8
b.	Table 2--List of Current Safety Concerns at Facilities.....	9
c.	Table 3--Short-Range Proposed Improvements.....	10
d.	Table 4--Long-Range Proposed Improvements.....	12

TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 98

Series 2016

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 2011 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 2016 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 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO that the Recreation Facilities Master Plan of 2016, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit 1, is hereby approved and adopted.

RESOLVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of October, 2016.

TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

BY: _____

Joel Benson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janell Sciacca, Town Clerk



Recreation Advisory Board Mission/Vision Statements

The Recreation Board is a volunteer group of local citizens who voice the community's recreation needs to the Town administration and Board of Trustees. Their vision is based on the belief that physical well-being is a cornerstone to a vibrant community and a high quality of life.

Their mission is to enrich the lives of the Buena Vista residents and guests through recreation. They aim to accomplish this goal through programming, advising on new facilities and upkeep of existing facilities, facilitating communication and collaboration with citizens/town staff, and supporting community events.

Buena Vista Recreation Mission/Vision Statements

The Buena Vista Recreation Department's vision is to serve the local community by facilitating affordable and inclusive recreation opportunities.

Our mission is to support individual's well-being by:

- providing recreation programs that inspire a variety of interests, including sports, music and fine arts
- organizing special events that promote community development through positive social interactions
- facilitating stewardship of our outdoor recreation resources
- communicating with the Recreation Advisory Board to address the evolving needs of the community

I. Executive Summary

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. This Master Plan is expected to be a guiding document for the Board of Trustees while preparing capital improvement and annual operating budgets, as well as guiding Town Staff to the needs of the community from a recreation stand-point.

The Master Plan is divided into four sections: existing facilities, short-term proposed improvements, long-term proposed improvements, and financial information.

The Recreation Advisory Board proposes that current recreation facilities be properly maintained prior to spending Town resources on new facilities. The short-term proposed improvements identified in this report should be able to be completed in a short time-table, especially those that address safety concerns and insurance issues. 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. 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.

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 off-set if outside resources are pursued and utilized. This could include grants, volunteer workers, partnerships, and other avenues.

II. Introduction

From its inception, Buena Vista has marketed its beautiful setting for natural recreational facilities. The Sawatch Mountain Range lies directly to the west, with 153 peaks over 13,000 feet in elevation. Trailheads to four “fourteeners” are located in Chaffee County, and the Continental Divide Trail and Colorado Trail are found within a twenty to thirty minute drive from the center of Town. Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, camping, and rock climbing on all sides of town are very popular. The Arkansas River forms Buena Vista’s eastern border, providing rafting, kayaking, and fishing opportunities. A pedestrian bridge across the Arkansas River connects to mountain biking and hiking trails on Town-owned and BLM land. Winter activities nearby include downhill skiing, snowmobiling, and backcountry snowshoeing and skiing.

Existing recreation opportunities within Town include amenities such as the 93-acre River Park containing softball and baseball fields, a soccer field, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, and an 18-hole disc golf course. Town also brags half a dozen parks with playground equipment, picnic tables, and grills, as well as a beautiful fishing pond, Rodeo Grounds, basketball courts, a skate park, dog parks, pump track, and a boulder park.

Proposals within this report include maintaining current facilities to meet CIRSA safety guidelines as well as upgrading the Community Center, Rodeo Grounds, and Skate Park. There are also proposals for creating new facilities, such as the Community Skating Rink, a recreational gym facility, and a park in the Sunset Vista IV subdivision.

III. Master Plan Process

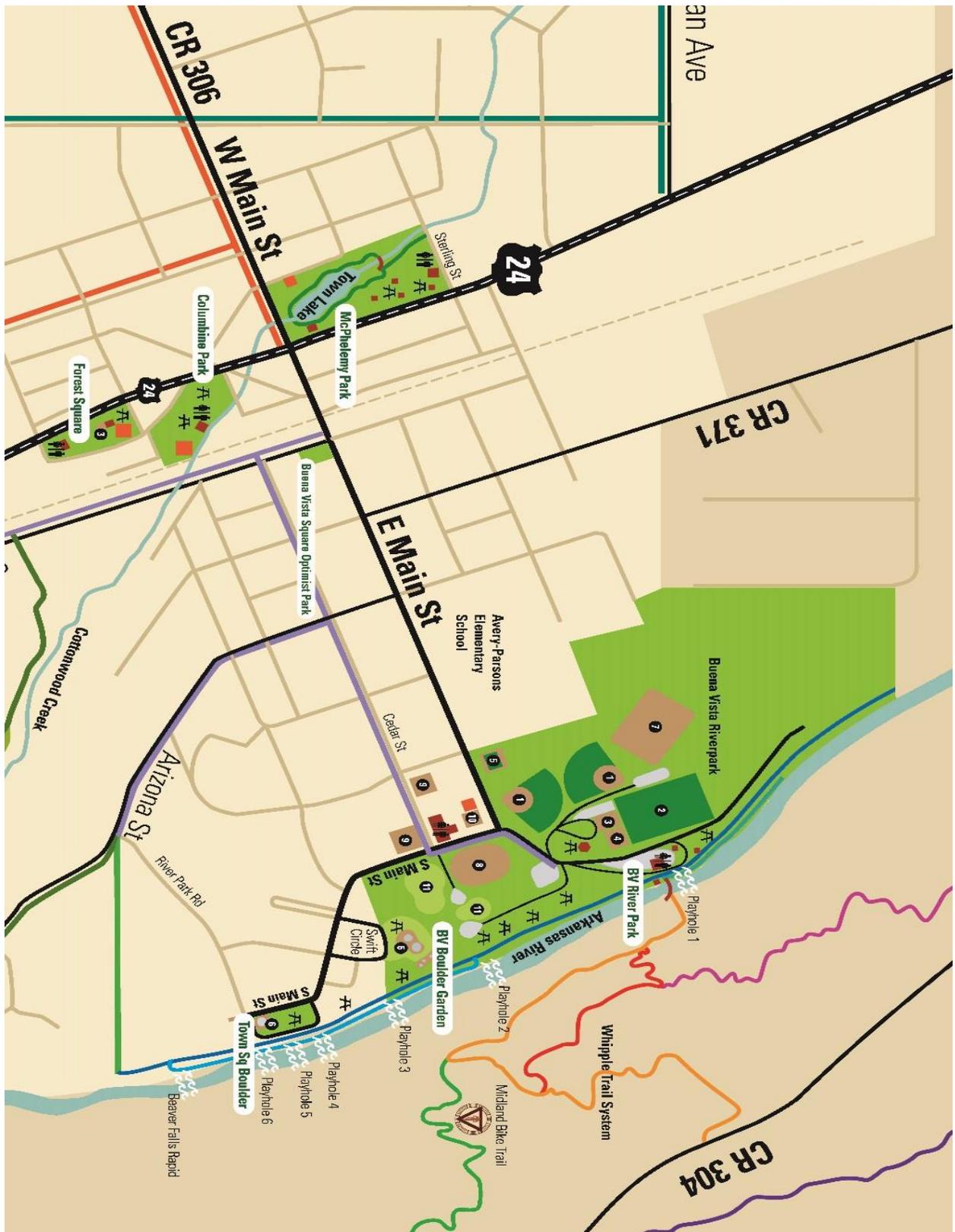
The Recreation Advisory Board was formed in the mid 1990’s, and is composed of dedicated volunteers that were charged in 2010 with advising development of a master plan for recreation facilities. In conjunction with the master plan, the Recreation Advisory Board has been hearing proposals from the public for suggested improvement regarding recreational amenities in the Town of Buena Vista, and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The scope of the Recreation Master Plan is to manage the proposals, prepare cost estimates, and determine suitable locations of the proposed amenities.

This Master Plan report is expected to be 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.

As part of the current process, the Recreation Advisory Board did an inventory of recreation facilities around Town which included physical amenities as well as available programming opportunities. From the gathered information, decisions were made on priority projects to maintain current facilities as well as expand opportunities for community members.

The 2016 update of the Recreation Master Plan includes detailed proposals for maintaining and constructing facilities with locations, design detail, and estimated costs presented herein. This plan is intended to become the guiding document for the Town of Buena Vista when determining grant applications, budgets, and public land use for future years.

IV. Existing Facilities



*This map does not include Rodeo Grounds, Trap Shoot, or Millie Crymble Park.

Table 1: 2016 Existing Park/Recreation Facilities- listed alphabetically

Current Facilities	Amenities
BV Boulder Garden	Climbing features
Community Center	Meeting Space Kitchen Picnic Tables (2) Playground Workout Equipment Bathrooms & Showers (seasonally) The Slab Recreation Offices
Columbine Park	Playground Picnic Tables (4) Bathrooms (seasonally)
Disc Golf Course	18 holes Trail
Dog Park	Large dog park Small dog park
Forest Square Park	Basketball Court Picnic Tables and Pavilion (1) Swings
McPhelemy Park*	Concert Slab Picnic Tables and Pavilions (4) Playground Bathrooms (seasonally) Pedestrian Bridge Town Pond
Millie Crymble Park	Playground
Pump Track	Bike Course
Remote Control Airstrip	Paved Runway
River Park*	Bathrooms (seasonally)Basketball Courts Basketball Courts Baseball Field Sand Volleyball Courts Soccer Field Softball Field Tennis Courts Pavilion and Picnic Tables (x2) Trail System
Rodeo Ground	Grandstands and Arena
Skate Park	Bowls and Rails Bleachers Gazebo
South Main Square	Boulder
Splash Park	Bathrooms (year round) Splash Pad
Trap Shooting Range	Tran House
Whitewater Park	Seven Play Holes

*Special Event camping allowed at these locations by permit only.

Currently, the Buena Vista Public Works Department maintains most of the above listed facilities, as well as the trail systems located throughout Town. The Recreation Advisory Board proposes that existing facilities are maintained properly prior to spending Town resources on new facilities.

During a parks safety assessment by CIRSA, the insurance company for Town, there were two areas that need to be updated for safety reasons. These projects are listed below, along with the cost needed to remedy each situation.

Table 2: Safety Priorities/Concerns

Location	Assessment Issue	Cost to Remedy
Rodeo Grounds	Grand Stand Railings Grand Stand Enclosure	\$10,000
Community Center Playground	Surface material depth	Determined by Fronterra Group*
	Border replaced	Determined by Fronterra Group
	ADA accessibility	\$60,000

*Fronterra Group is the design company for the RFP to include Community Center Playground, Sunset Vista IV, Baseball Field, and Community Garden.

- A. The Rodeo Grounds Grandstand area was built in 1936 and is home to the annual Collegiate Peaks Stampede Rodeo, which has completed its 95th year in existence. In 2015, this area was designated as a state historical site due its rich history. The railings in the grandstand are in disrepair, causing a fall hazard to individuals walking up the stands. There is fencing material on the back of the grandstand in the last row which has also fallen into disrepair, lacking strength and causing possible lacerations to individuals due to broken wires. If this was to be replaced, it was requested that the back row of the grand stands be enclosed with a solid material to help alleviate issues with wind blowing. The entire back area of the stands, from ground to seating area, must be enclosed for safety reasons as well. There are also issues with the metal corral fencing around the chutes, which could pose a hazard to participants and their livestock. Grants are available to remedy some of these issues, however, a partnership with the Town is needed. The Recreation Advisory Board feels that this is a very important partnership since the land is Town-owned and should be cared for in the same way other amenities are.

- B. The playground at the Community Center is currently included with the Fronterra Group's designs for community improvements. The play equipment at the Community Center needs to be updated in order to remedy safety issues, and needs to be replaced in the near future. The surface material depth is insufficient for the play equipment, the border is cracked and dilapidated, and there is no ADA accessibility.

V. Short-Range Proposed Improvements

Conversations about current short-range proposed improvements were sparked by the development of a Recreation Event Center feasibility study and many ideas were brought forth from community members, Town staff, and Advisory Boards. Public Meetings were held as the feasibility study was being put together, and through those meetings the Recreation Advisory Board was able to gather ideas and input from the Community on improvements and facilities Town members would like to see in Buena Vista.

These items have been ranked by the Recreation Advisory Board by priority. Table 3 shows the name of the project, location, and cost of completing the project. Some of these items have been requested in the 2017 budget and, depending on importance, will have the possibility of being completed within the next few years.

In addition to the safety concerns in the proceeding section, these line items are for different improvements and should be thought of separately. Although the table below displays priority, the items should be constructed 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 the needed funds have been raised by the special interest group.

Table 3: Short Range Proposed Improvements

Priority Number	Item	Estimated Cost to Town
1	Community Center Playground	Cost Determined by Fronterra (Additional \$60,000 for ADA accessibility needed)
2	Community Skating Rink	\$70,000*
3	Rodeo Grounds	\$10,000
4	Community Center Upgrades	\$50,000
5	Skate Park Extensions/Entry	\$12,000
6	Whitewater Park Improvements- Changing Room and Wave Maintenance	\$7,000 Annually
7	McPhelemy Park Shade Structure	<\$5,000
8	Splash Park Shade Structure	<\$5,000

*This line item is larger than budget requests due to change in site location and uncertainty of donations.

1. The Community Center Park has been on the list of proposed parks to replace/improve since 2010. Pieces of the equipment were removed due to safety concerns, however, the current pieces also need to be updated. Currently, the lack of base material and the cracked border create a concern with the insurance company for the potential risk of injuries. The park is also non- ADA accessible. The workout equipment in the northeast corner of the park needs boards replaced, needs to be painting, and the informational kiosk should be updated. The Recreation Advisory Board has proposed to replace the equipment in this park, add a fence to increase security and safety for children from the road, replace the border, and add sufficient fill material. This is part of the design plan with the Fronterra Group and funding will be dependent upon what they propose.

If the Town was to replace the material for ADA compliance and surfacing, it would be quite an increase in cost. The park totals about 3,000 square feet and there would be a required concrete base prior to the compliant surfacing being installed. Concrete costs would be about \$5/sq.ft, and surface material is about \$15/sq. ft. The total increase would be about \$60,000. The Recreation Advisory Board advises that the park be rebuilt, and ADA surfacing be added in the future.

2. 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. After an unsuccessful attempt, it was tabled until a second group came forth, acquiring the "Miracle on Ice" Practice Rink. The group drove to Arizona, loaded the rink, and brought it back to Buena Vista. So far the group has raised \$5,012 in monetary donations, and conversations are in process for concrete and labor donations. The rink could be installed based on these numbers, however, in order to have an ice rink in the winter a shade structure would need to be purchased. This is going to be a phased installation approach with Phases 1 and 2 happening in the short-range time table. Larger portions of this project will be included in the Long-Range Improvements, which will include a refrigeration system.

3. The Rodeo Grounds area is a town-owned piece of property located to the south-west of downtown Buena Vista. This area is home to the annual Collegiate Peaks Rodeo, the Contin-Tail Gem and Mineral Show, and is used by various other groups throughout the area. This facility is almost 100 years old and has fallen into disrepair. The current Rodeo Grounds annual budget is \$750, which is completely insufficient for maintaining this property, let alone improving it. Because this is Town-owned land, the Recreation Advisory Board would like to see the issues remedied and the facility be kept up well in the future. \$6,000 of this total would be for welding to fix the corral and chutes to keep participants and livestock safe. The remaining \$4,000 would be split to purchase speakers and potentially re-build the concession stand area to get it up to code standards.

4. The Community Center is the home-base for all Recreation activities. Recreation offices are in this space and the rooms are used for all types of classes ranging from cooking, to youth/adult dance, Yoga, PiYo, and so much more. This area is also able to be rented for private events and has been used for anything from lectures, to rehearsal dinners, to weddings, and graduation parties. Some items in this area that need to be improved are flooring, window coverings, and roof replacement. Due to the large number of recreation amenities close to the Community Center, it is crucial that there is a year-round bathroom facility available. This could be accomplished at the Community Center with minimal financial burden.
5. The skate park was moved in 2012 and was completed with new equipment and features. It has since been getting a lot of regular use. 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 is proposing to add two areas for use as a flat, beginner area, as well as an easy-entry area for getting into the park features.
6. The Buena Vista Whitewater Park serves as an attraction to locals and tourists alike and facilitates Special Events as well as daily use. Annually, the Whitewater Park advocacy group raises \$3,500, which the Town has committed to matching. This year, improvements will include a changing area for river users, as well as improvements to the pocket wave. Wave and shore maintenance will be a continuing task throughout the coming years.
7. BV Concerts in the Park take place at McPhelemy Park weekly during the summer months. A slab was poured three years ago to help accommodate set up for the performers. However, with a lack of covering, performers are subject to last minute location changes due to inclement weather. This usually results in a smaller audience and less donations as compensation for their performance.
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. The original inspiration and design came from the Recreation Advisory Board and was to include a shade structure for relief from direct sunlight.

VI. Long-Range Proposed Improvements

Priority Number	Item	Estimated Cost to Town
1	Rodeo Grounds Master Plan	\$5,000
2	Indoor Courts (basketball, volleyball, pickleball etc)	\$2,000,000
3	Community Center	\$15,000
4	Community Skating Rink	\$70,000
5	Millie Crymble Park	\$15,000
6	Forest Square Park	\$60,000
7	Sunset Vista IV	Cost determined by Fronterra Group

1. This \$5,000 would be allocated to development of a Rodeo Grounds Master Plan. This does not include any of the costs to complete the improvements, which would most likely include bathrooms, a pavilion, and a potential day-use area. Once the Master Plan has been completed, tasks will be designated based on financial need.
2. Many BV REC programs take place in the local school facilities. This causes issues with scheduling as well overcrowding due to program growth. With higher participation rates, a new facility will be essential to accommodating the need for more space. Scheduling within the bounds of the school district is limiting and having a separate facility would allow BV REC Programs to fall within time slots that are more desirable for users. It would also allow for the schools to use the facility when needed for their activities. Because multi-use is so important in this community, this space could also be used for various other special events. Historical grants are in process to restore the old McGinnis Gym site. This could potentially off-set the cost of a new gym by a large amount. The Recreation Advisory Board recommends that we pursue this avenue before building a new facility.
3. The Community Center is in need of some other updates as it moves into being used more frequently. The west entryway needs to be updated and perhaps designated as a front desk area for the Recreation Department. There is also a need for connectivity of sidewalks in the area. By having a path lead completely around the block, seniors could utilize it for walking during the winter months, and it could be used as a warm-up area for BV REC Special Events.
4. Phase 3 of the Community Skating Rink includes purchasing and installing a refrigeration system for year-round ice. Lights would also be an important amenity at the skating rink to allow for evening skating as the days are shorter in the colder months.
5. Millie Crymble Park is located in the subdivision near Buena Vista High School. This is the only access to a park in the main subdivisions with young families in Town and the equipment is very old and outdated. Safety is not a currently a concern, however, it not replaced in coming years it will definitely begin to show more wear and tear. There is also a lack of fill material and mounting posts are sticking out of the ground.
6. Forest Square Park currently has a basketball court that is dilapidated from tree roots and is only half of a regulation size court. This slab needs to be removed and located further to the east in this park where tree roots are not as prominent. The court should be a 100'x60' slab that could accommodate full court basketball or Pickleball courts if the sport continues to grow in the same manner it has during 2016.
7. The design for Sunset Vista IV will be coming from the Fronterra Design Group in October 2016. The recommendation from the Recreation Advisory Board is to wait on construction until infrastructure has been installed.

VII. Financial Information

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 and proposed facilities would be the responsibility of Public Works staff, which over time may require additional personnel. Because some recreation facilities are managed by community groups, there need 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.

VIII. Conclusion

The Recreation Advisory Board has invested much attention and care, while hearing public input and involving the community, in order to create a complete Recreation Master Plan for the Town. More important to the Recreation Advisory Board than the conscientiousness of the plan, however, is the implementation of this plan and seeing the plan become a reality. This Recreation Master Plan should be used a road map to move forward in order to increase the plentiful recreational opportunities within the Town of Buena Vista, which have made this town thrive, and will keep it growing in the future.