



**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN  
APRIL 2025**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

4

## SECTION 2: EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

8

## SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

20

## SECTION 4: STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

32

## APPENDICES

50

<b>A</b>	RECREATION ASSESSMENT	<b>H</b>	RESULTS FROM FIRST COMMUNITY SURVEY (SPANISH)
<b>B</b>	BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS	<b>I</b>	RESULTS FROM SECOND COMMUNITY SURVEY (COMBINED ENGLISH & SPANISH VERSIONS)
<b>C</b>	TRENDS REPORT	<b>J</b>	RESULTS FROM SECOND COMMUNITY SURVEY (ENGLISH)
<b>D</b>	GRASP ANALYSIS	<b>K</b>	RESULTS FROM SECOND COMMUNITY SURVEY (SPANISH)
<b>E</b>	VISITATION ANALYSIS	<b>L</b>	RESULTS FROM THIRD COMMUNITY SURVEY (COMBINED ENGLISH & SPANISH VERSIONS)
<b>F</b>	RESULTS FROM FIRST COMMUNITY SURVEY (COMBINED ENGLISH & SPANISH VERSIONS)	<b>M</b>	RESULTS FROM THIRD COMMUNITY SURVEY (ENGLISH)
<b>G</b>	RESULTS FROM FIRST COMMUNITY SURVEY (ENGLISH)	<b>N</b>	RESULTS FROM THIRD COMMUNITY SURVEY (SPANISH)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Greg Swiatkowski, Mayor  
Paul Velasco, Mayor pro tem  
Hal McNerney  
Troy Hinkhouse  
Adrian Hernandez  
Mark Burghart  
Kamron Weisshaar

## CITY OF BURLINGTON STAFF

Jim Keehne, City Administrator  
Georgia Gilley, City Clerk  
Mike Konecne, Public Works Director  
Tyson Weisshaar, Activities Coordinator  
Nate Hill, Chief of Police  
Rol Hudler, Economic Development Director  
Nick McCarty-Daniels, Library Director

## BUILDING BURLINGTON STEERING COMMITTEE

Jim Keehne, City Administrator  
Georgia Gilley, City Clerk  
Mike Konecne, Public Works Director  
Tyson Weisshaar, Activities Coordinator  
Nate Hill, Chief of Police  
Rol Hudler, Economic Development Director  
Nick McCarty-Daniels, Library Director  
Shane Walkinshaw, Superintendent, Burlington Public Schools  
Christine Fischer, FPM Grants  
Jenna Zimbelman, Owner of Zimbelmans Jewelry and The Dish Room  
Dustin Skarphol, Owner, Skarco Design + Build  
Lisa Shryock, Manager, HHG Real Estate, LLC

## CONSULTANT TEAM

RICK (Project Lead) – Englewood, CO

Britt Palmberg, AICP, Director of Planning, Rocky Mountain Region

Rob Fitch, PE, Principal

Sabrina Sessarego, Associate Planner

Sydney Rankmore, Associate Planner

Grace Dyess, Planning Technician

Kim Nelson, Principal Landscape Architect

Keath Flint, Principal Urban Designer

Berry Dunn (Parks and Recreation) – Windsor, CO

Jason Genck, Senior Manager / Practice Lead

Ryan Hegreness, CPRE, Senior Consultant

Project Vision 21 (Bilingual Community Engagement) – Aurora, CO

Francisco Miraval, Owner

FPM Grants (Implementation and Grant Funding) – Woodland Park, CO

Christine Fischer, Owner

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the people of Burlington and surrounding communities for participating in the **Building Burlington** process and helping to create the **Burlington Comprehensive Plan** and **Parks and Recreation Plan!**

# 1



## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

*View of Outback Territory Park, March 2025  
Credit: RICK*

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1: COMMUNITY SETTING: BURLINGTON

The City of Burlington, Colorado is located on the Eastern Plains, 12.5 miles from the Colorado-Kansas state line. It is the largest community along the I-70 corridor east of Denver and serves as the county seat for Kit Carson County. Burlington provides a commercial, recreational, and cultural hub for a large portion of Colorado's Eastern Plains. Known as the "gateway" community into Colorado along I-70 from the east, Burlington provides a welcome stop for travelers along the I-70 corridor and accommodates thousands of visitors at its parks, commercial and recreational gathering spaces, local hotels, restaurants, and businesses throughout the year. Burlington is self-described by residents as a small, caring, multi-generational, rural agricultural community where roots run deep. This is a place where residents know and greet one another on the street, at the market, or playing at the park. It is a community proud of its heritage, with more than 100 years of history in the area.

As the county seat, Burlington serves as an economic and agricultural hub in eastern Colorado, which is why the demographic data for the city alone can be deceiving when evaluating parks and recreational amenities and services. Existing city boundaries encompass a 2.3 square mile area of approximately 3,500 residents. Within a five-mile radius of Burlington, the population is 4,826, and within a 10-mile radius that number grows to 5,619. As an agricultural community, a significant portion of households well beyond the city limits rely on Burlington's amenities because they are the closest and, by extension, where their children play their baseball games, gather for a baptism or birthday party, go to school, etc. Burlington is much more diverse than Kit Carson County as a whole, with a much greater mixture of ethnicities and races than other communities on Colorado's Eastern Plains. According to the most recent statistics from the State Demographer's Office, one-quarter of residents identify as Hispanic. Many of the migrant farm workers are Spanish-speaking, and this population is not always reflected in the statistical data gathered by the state. Furthermore, this portion of the population often lives in apartments or mobile homes without yards and are frequent users of Burlington's parks. Around 13% of Burlington residents in 2023 identified as "two or more

racess" and around 12% identified as "some other race alone", according to data from ESRI Business Analyst, a national database of demographic data derived from U.S. Census data. Almost half of all students in the school district (47%) identify as "Hispanic."

Median household income in Burlington reflects the economic disparities experienced by the town's residents. The most recent data (from ESRI Business Solutions) places this number at \$55,560, as compared to the state median income of \$85,656. One-third of all households earn less than \$35,000 annually. The free and reduced lunch rate for the school district of 66% reflects these economic disparities, which disproportionately impact Hispanic and Spanish-speaking households. Most work in Burlington is low paying. Agriculture is by far the most significant economic driver for the community and accounts for half of its base industry. This number is important in terms of showing the economic vulnerability of Burlington. A less diversified industry base would be subject to significant economic fluctuations. For example, when the price of commodities falls, so too does farm income, which translates into job loss in the community and/or families with much less money to spend on the necessities of food and housing and on other consumer goods and services, such as recreational programs.



*Blast Ball, 2015  
Credit: City of Burlington*

## INTRODUCTION

Burlington is relatively isolated geographically, which can be challenging for those on the economic margins. On the other hand, the community is closely knit and bands together to provide services, amenities, and infrastructure to improve the quality of life for its residents. Burlington's parks, recreational facilities, and programs play an essential role in enhancing the quality of life by building community connections and supporting economic growth. As such, Burlington has a steadfast dedication to maintaining its beloved parks and recreational facilities.

Burlington has invested significantly in its largest recreational amenities: Parmer Park, the city swimming pool, and Outback Territory Park. In addition, Burlington is host to several well-known destinations: The Kit Carson County Fairgrounds, the historic Kit Carson County Carousel, and the Old Town Museum along I-70, which hosts a variety of events year-round. Burlington regularly hosts a variety of sporting and recreational activities along with recreational programs for local residents. Burlington's parks, recreation facilities, and programs play an essential role in enhancing quality of life, building community connections, and supporting economic growth.



*Summer Day Camps 2016  
Credit: City of Burlington*

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.2: GOALS OF THE BURLINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

The goal of this document, Burlington’s first formal Parks and Recreation Plan, is to establish a roadmap for the development, maintenance, and enhancement of parks, facilities, and programs over the next 10 to 20 years. This plan identifies priorities for addressing gaps in infrastructure, facilities, and programs while outlining actionable steps, timelines, and cost estimates to support city leaders in decision-making and budgeting. The main areas of focus for the **Parks and Recreation Plan** include:

- ★ Delivering a community-driven plan representing input from the entire community, including a range of partners and stakeholders
- ★ Enhancing existing parks, facilities, and programs
- ★ Promoting health, wellness, and community connections
- ★ Supporting Burlington’s status as a regional hub of activity and economic activity
- ★ Providing an actionable and adaptable plan that can be reviewed and updated as needed

## 1.3: COMMUNITY VISION AND MISSION

The Burlington community provided significant and transparent input on the creation of this document as well as the overall **Burlington Comprehensive Plan** that guides the community across a wide range of topics through a joint planning process in 2024 and early 2025 known as “**Building Burlington**”. Drawing from the joint community engagement process, the **Building Burlington** effort generated the following community “Vision Statement” that transcends both the **Comprehensive Plan** and the **Parks and Recreation Plan**.

### COMMUNITY VISION:

Burlington thrives as a full-service community for Kit Carson County and the surrounding region in Colorado and Kansas. It offers good schools, good parks and recreational opportunities, and growing economic development possibilities. Burlington features a vibrant, historic Downtown, regional attractions, and a diverse range of businesses and services. The community has

quality housing for the full range of households and offers everyone, of all backgrounds, great things to do as part of a high quality of life.

### MISSION OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN BURLINGTON:

The mission of the City of Burlington and its various partners is to collaboratively provide high quality and appealing parks and recreational facilities, programs, and related amenities that serve all residents and visitors of all ages, incomes, backgrounds, and abilities. Burlington works to creatively provide indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities that exceed those typically provided by small towns of its size. Burlington strives to serve as one of the best examples of parks and recreation facilities and activities across the Great Plains region.



*Concert at Kit Carson County Fair, 2024  
Credit: RICK*



*Cornhole Games at Celebration of Summer, 2024  
Credit: RICK*

# 2



## SECTION 2: EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## 2.1: EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

For a community of its size, Burlington offers a wide variety of recreation programs, several community events, community rooms, public parks, shared school playgrounds and fields, an outdoor pool, and a nearby privately-run golf course. Burlington values and invests in park and recreation amenities more than many communities of its size.

Burlington offers multiple flexible community spaces for rentals, events, and programs. The city's outdoor pool provides swimming lessons, aquatic fitness programs, and recreational swimming in the summer. The privately-run local golf course serves as a recreational outlet for players of all abilities in the local area.

The city offers a robust selection of youth sports programs, martial arts and dance instruction, summer camps, and several seasonal special events. The majority of programming is geared toward youth and is athletic in nature.

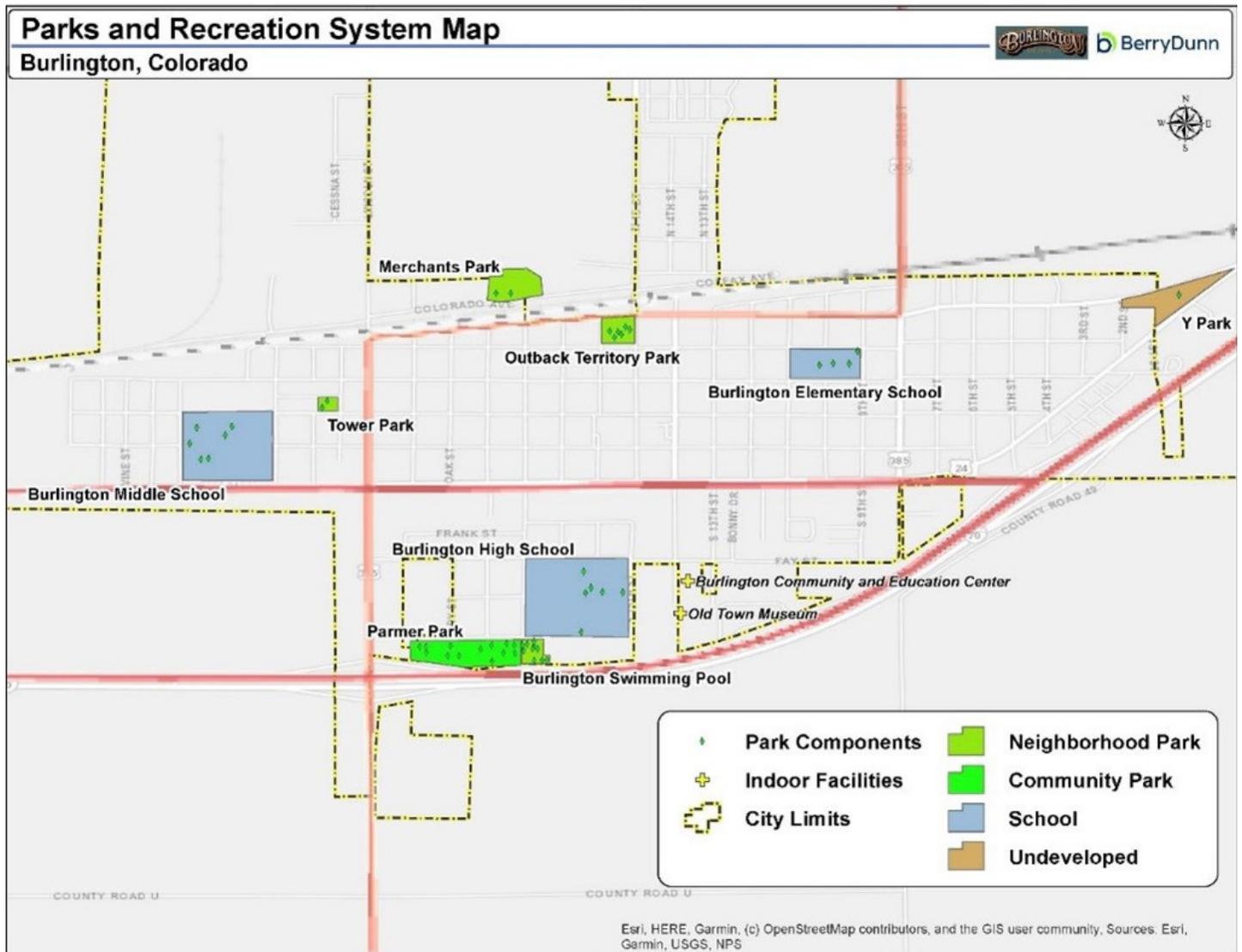
In addition, the City of Burlington has a well-established partnership with the Burlington School District allowing for the sharing of facilities and amenities during non-school hours.

Figure 1 illustrates the relative size and distribution of the parks within the City of Burlington.

The appendices include a table of existing recreational locations and definitions for each amenity type identified at each location during site assessments. They also include Placer.ai and visitation data that can serve as a reference when considering expansions or enhancements of amenities and programming for the future.

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

**FIGURE 1: MAP OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DESTINATIONS**



*Credit: Berry Dunn*

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

**SITE ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY OF PARK AND FACILITIES INVENTORY**

In June 2024 the project team conducted site assessments of all outdoor facilities owned by the City of Burlington and geo-referenced data from the site assessments using GIS technologies. The site assessments collected data concerning:

- ★ Amenity type and geo-location
- ★ Amenity functionality
- ★ An overall assessment score for each facility or feature, based upon its condition, size, site capacity, and overall level of quality

The project team used the following four-tier rating system to evaluate or score the different components or features of parks and facilities in Burlington:

- ★ 0 = Non-functioning
- ★ 1 = Below Expectations
- ★ 2 = Meets Expectations
- ★ 3 = Exceeds Expectations

**TABLE 1: ASSESSMENTS OF AMENITIES BY FACILITY**

Facility	Facility Classification	Acres	Amenities	Scores
Burlington Pool	Aquatic Facility	1.7	Lap Pool, Leisure Pool, Water Slide, Kiddie Pool, Shelter, Basketball Court, Pickleball Court, Tennis Court, Concessions, Food Truck Parking	Pools: 2; Shelter: 2; Concessions: 2; Food Truck Parking: 2; Pickleball Court: 3; Basketball Court: 1; Tennis Court: 1
Parmer Park	Community Park	7.9	Large Shelter, Fitness Area, Educational Experience, Event Space, Small Shelters, Open Turf, Volleyball Court, Playground (Destination), Public Art, Historic Feature, Aquatics (Spray Pad), Loop Walk	All: 2
Merchants Park	Neighborhood Park	4.2	Diamond Field, Batting Cage	Batting Cage: 1; Diamond Field: 2
Outback Territory Park	Neighborhood Park	2.6	Playground (Destination), Small Shelter, Open Turf, Loop Walk, Water Feature, Large Shelter	Water Feature: 1; Others: 2
Tower Park	Neighborhood Park	0.8	Small Shelter, Open Turf	All: 2
Y Park	Undeveloped	5.2	Natural Area	Natural Area: 1
Burlington Elementary School	School Facility	N/A	Playground, Open Turf / Field, Walking Path Around Perimeter	Playground: 3; Open Turf / Field: 2; Walking Path: 2
Burlington Middle School	School Facility	N/A	Open Turf, Two Baseball Fields, Football Practice Field, Playground	Playground: 3; Baseball and Football Fields: 2; Open Turf: 2
Burlington High School	School Facility	N/A	Baseball Fields, Football Field with Bleachers and Track, Open Turf	Baseball Fields: 1; Football Field with Bleachers and Track: 2; Open Turf: 2

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS (LOS) OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The LOS analysis evaluates the different recreational facilities in Burlington in terms of their unique features, abilities to host community gatherings, and the suitability of each facility for various activities. This evaluation process reveals strengths and weaknesses of each facility that help inform the recommendations for future improvements outlined in Section 4.

**TABLE 2: ASSESSMENTS OF AMENITIES BY FACILITY**

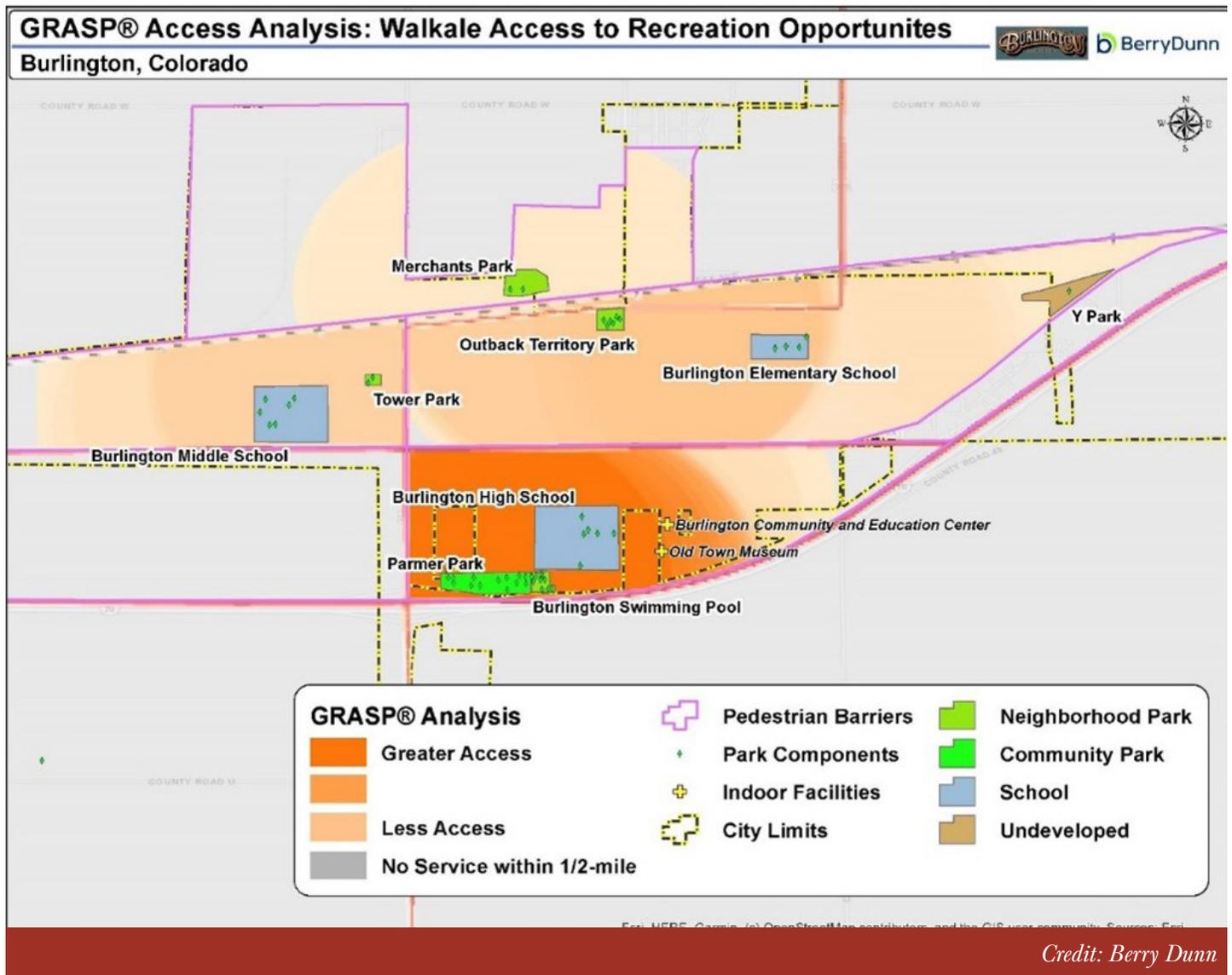
Facility	Service Level
Burlington Swimming Pool	High service level; features more than aquatic amenities, including basketball and pickleball courts, a tennis court, and concessions, alongside pools and splash pads.
Parmer Park	Highest service level; extensive amenities catering to recreation, fitness, education, and community events. Features include a themed playground, public art, an amphitheater, and a spray pad.
Merchants Park	Moderate service level; suitable for sports-focused activities; however, the amenities are limited and aging.
Outback Territory Park	High service level; diverse amenities, including a unique destination playground and lighted loop walk. Some features might require maintenance, such as the water feature.
Tower Park	Low service level; limited amenities focused on basic recreation and open space.
Y Park	Lowest service level; small, undeveloped lot with minimal infrastructure and natural features.

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## WALKABILITY ANALYSIS – EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The walkability analysis of outdoor recreation opportunities in Burlington, shown in Figure 2, highlights areas with greater and lesser access to parks and amenities within a half-mile walk (a metric generally used to approximate the maximum desired distance from any resident in a community to a nearby park facility). The map notes potential pedestrian barriers such as major roadways. The orange regions on the map, particularly around Parmer Park, Outback Territory Park, and Tower Park, represent areas with high access to parks within a short walk, offering greater convenience for residents. In contrast, the lighter shaded areas, such as near Y Park and toward the northern city limits, indicate areas with limited access to parks and amenities within a half-mile walk. The analysis suggests that installation of additional park facilities in these areas of town, or the upgrading of pedestrian or bike access from these areas of Burlington to the main park and recreation areas, would improve quality of life and provide for more equitable park access.

FIGURE 2: WALKABILITY ACCESS TO EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA) TRENDS:

The type and number of facilities and parks an agency can manage vary greatly. However, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review for 2023 provides insight into what most agencies offer across the nation.<sup>1</sup>



*Picnic shelter in Parmer Park, October 2023  
Credit: RICK*



*Exercise station within Parmer Park, October 2023  
Credit: RICK*

TABLE 3: NRPA NATIONAL DATA: PERCENTAGE OF PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCIES OFFERING VARIOUS FACILITIES

Type of Facility	% of Agencies Offering
Playgrounds	95%
Basketball Courts	86%
Baseball Fields (Youth)	79%
Tennis Courts (Outdoor)	76%
Multi-purpose Fields	69%
Dog Parks	68%
Softball Fields (Adult)	63%
Softball Fields (Youth)	62%
Baseball Fields (Adult)	55%
Community Gardens	52%
Swimming Pools (Outdoor)	51%
Soccer Fields (Youth)	50%
Multi-Use Courts	49%
Tot Lots	48%
Soccer Fields (Adult)	42%
Skate Parks	41%
Football Fields	35%
Pickleball Courts (Outdoor)	31%
18-Hole Golf Course	29%
Multi-Use Courts (Outdoor)	27%
Synthetic Fields (Multi-purpose)	25%
Ice Rink (Outdoor)	18%
Cricket Fields	14%
Lacrosse Fields	11%

<sup>1</sup> NRPA. 2023. NRPA Agency Performance Review. National Recreation and Park Association. Accessed April 8, 2024. [NRPA Agency Performance Review](#)

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## TAKEAWAYS – REVIEW OF EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES:

The following key findings inform the recommendations for action items discussed in Section 4 of this plan.

### **Park Facilities and Amenities**

- ★ The City of Burlington manages six park facilities, covering approximately 23 acres and offering 49 amenities.
- ★ Parmer Park offers the highest service level with a wide range of amenities, including a swimming pool, fitness areas, event spaces, and a themed playground.
- ★ Merchants Park and Tower Park provide moderate and low service levels, respectively, with limited or aging amenities.
- ★ The city's partnership with the Burlington School District allows for additional programming locations (ex. basketball courts for youth programs) and additional outdoor recreation and playground space for the community to use during non-school hours.

### **Walkability Analysis**

- ★ The neighborhoods surrounding Parmer Park and Outback Territory Park benefit from high levels of access to parks, schools, and community spaces within a short walk.
- ★ Areas near Y Park and toward the northern city limits have limited access to existing parks, suggesting the need for further park development in these areas and/or improvements to bike or pedestrian connections from these areas to existing parks and recreation spaces.

### **Park Acreage and Benchmark Comparison**

- ★ Burlington provides 7.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is slightly above the low-quartile benchmark (6.0 acres per 1,000 residents) but below the median (12.6 acres per 1,000 residents) for similar sized communities, based upon national benchmarks.
- ★ Burlington meets NRPA median standards for playgrounds, basketball courts, and tennis courts but lacks sufficient rectangular and diamond fields, requiring one more of each to meet the median (for similar sized communities, nationally).
- ★ The Burlington Middle School supplements the system with two additional diamond fields.
- ★ Burlington exceeds NRPA standards for pickleball courts and spray pads.

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## 2.2: EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Beyond providing the physical facilities needed for recreational activities such as parks and sports facilities, programming is a very important component of quality parks and recreation systems for any community. The classes, sports leagues, and various activities provided by local governments and local parks and recreation departments are crucial to community quality of life. Factors such as facility space, staff expertise, the degree of programming offered by partner agencies or entities in a community, and demand for different types of programs impact the scale and nature of parks and recreation programming offered in communities. This section outlines the existing parks and recreation programming and capacities offered by the City of Burlington and other entities.

### PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING OFFERED IN BURLINGTON

**Sports Programming:** This continues as a strong focus in Burlington, with sports options for all ages of residents, including adult co-ed softball, martial arts, youth soccer, summer baseball and softball, youth basketball, volleyball, and skills camps.

**Summer Day Camp:** The City of Burlington organizes summer day camps for two age groups (5-7 year olds, and 6-7 year olds). The city provides programmatic themes for these summer camps, held on various days between mid-June and mid-July.

**Dance Classes:** The City of Burlington provides these classes twice a week through a partnership with Soul Steppin’ Studio. The studio provides a variety of recreational and competitive dance classes for people of all ages, with a focus on children ages 3 to 18.

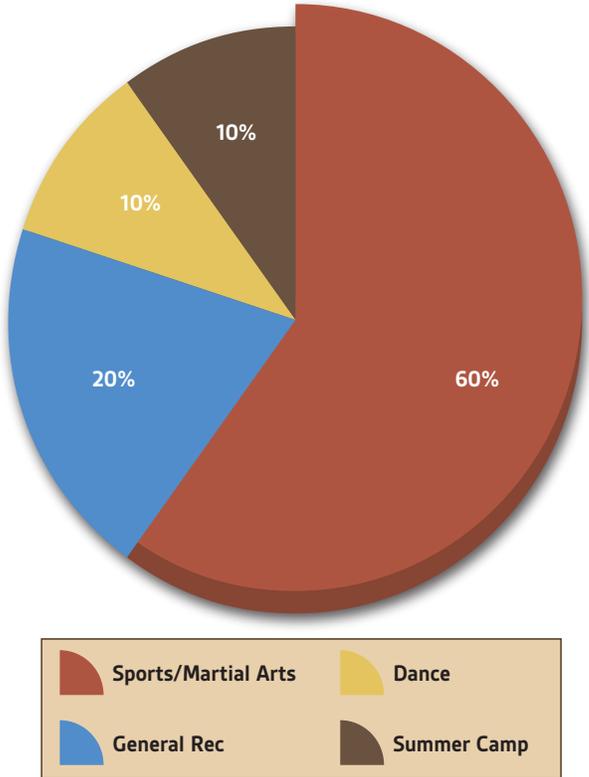
**General Recreation:** This category includes offerings such as Blast Ball, flag football, and splash pad activities. However, these programs are generally not considered core programs due to limited participation locally, or a focus on a relatively narrow age range.

**Special Events:** The City of Burlington helps lead several community events each year, including Breakfast with Santa, the Craft Fair, Gift Gala, and Spring Fling.

**Other Services:** The city has traditionally provided public, night, and lap swimming at the Burlington outdoor swimming pool and hosted swim team practices.

As illustrated in the figure below, sports and martial arts represented the largest share (60%) of parks and recreation programming in Burlington in 2024. General recreation accounted for 20% of all programs, while dance programs and summer camps each accounted for 10%.

**FIGURE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING BY CATEGORY, 2024, CITY OF BURLINGTON**

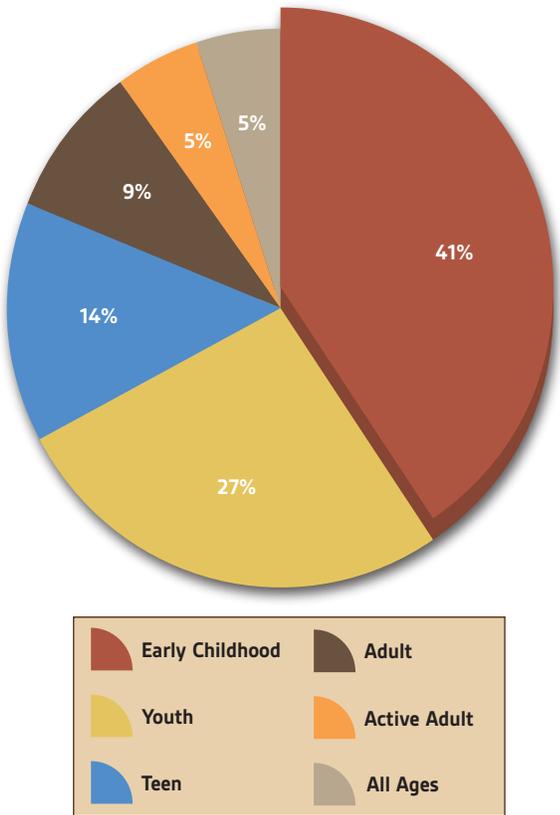


*Credit: Berry Dunn*

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

As outlined in the following figure, most of Burlington’s current programs are designed for young children or youth, leaving a large programming gap for adults.

**FIGURE 4: AGE SEGMENTATION OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED IN BURLINGTON, 2024**



*Credit: Berry Dunn*

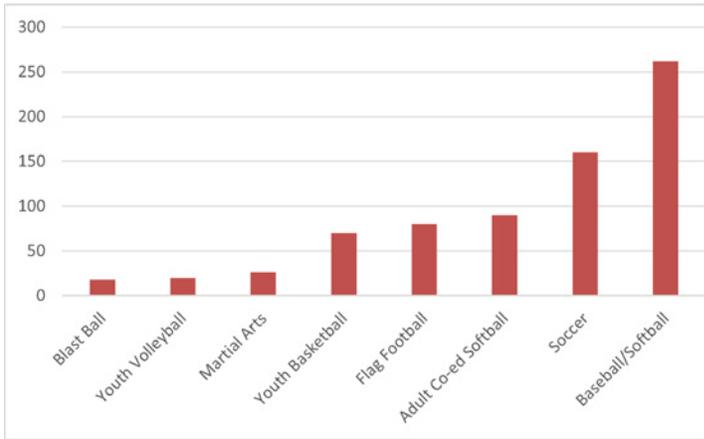
## PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

The success of various parks and recreation programming can be measured by enrollment, financial performance and cost recovery, the demographic makeup of program participants, cancellation rates, wait lists for programs, and program reach.

Total enrollment in Burlington’s programs was 821 people in 2024. Sports accounted for 726 participants, followed by dance with 65 and camps with 30 participants.

Taking a closer look at sports enrollment, baseball/softball (which includes seven different programs for both youth and adults) had the highest participation with 262 participants, followed by soccer at 160 participants and adult co-ed softball at 90 participants.

**FIGURE 5: BREAKDOWN OF SPORTS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION IN 2024, CITY OF BURLINGTON**



*Credit: Berry Dunn*

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## VARIATIONS IN PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The availability of different recreation programs depends on:

- ★ Capacities of alternative program providers in a community
- ★ Availability of facility space, staff, and instructors
- ★ The projected benefits of different programs to a community
- ★ Projected program demand

Many parks and recreation agencies nationwide provide activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities. These programs may be offered through a variety of mechanisms.

In addition, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) trends can serve as an important gauge when looking at addressing programming gaps, such as Burlington’s current gap in adult programming. While national trends may not fully reflect a community’s immediate interests, needs, or demands for programming, they can serve as a guide for strategic planning conversations and additional community outreach to determine what type of programming adjustments could, and should, be made to enhance programmatic offerings.

Per the NRPA Agency Performance Review for 2023, a typical parks and recreation agency offers approximately 200 programs annually.<sup>1</sup> The following table depicts the most common types of programs offered by parks and recreation agencies and the percentage of agencies nationwide offering those programs.

**TABLE 4: NATIONAL PROGRAMMING TRENDS**

Type of Program	% of Agencies Offering
Themed Special Events	89%
Social Recreation Events	88%
Team Sports	86%
Summer Camps	82%
Fitness Enhancement Classes	81%
Health and Wellness Education	80%
Individual Sports	77%
Older Adults	77%
Safety Training	71%
Racquet Sports	71%
Aquatics	69%
Teens	65%
Programs for People With Disabilities	63%
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Programs	58%
After-School Programs	53%
Preschool	33%
Before-School Programs	19%
Full Day Care	7%
Racquet Sports	71%

*Credit: Berry Dunn*

<sup>1</sup> NRPA. 2023. NRPA Agency Performance Review. National Recreation and Park Association. Accessed April 8, 2024. [NRPA Agency Performance Review](#)

# EXISTING INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

## TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION

This section aims to identify and analyze current sports and recreation trends, focusing on participation trends derived from the Sport and Fitness Industry Association 2024 Report.<sup>2</sup> Understanding the latest trends in sports is crucial to effectively plan and develop programs and use space in a way that reflects participation data.

- ★ Basketball is the most popular team sport nationwide, with 29.7 million participants.
- ★ Tennis is the most popular racquet sport, with 23.8 million participants.
- ★ Pickleball participation grew by 51.8% in 2023.
- ★ Walking for fitness is the most prevalent form of aerobic exercise.
- ★ Tai chi saw a 16.3% increase in participation in one year. However, yoga continues to lead in popularity for conditioning activities.



*Fall Gymnastics  
Credit: City of Burlington*

## TAKEAWAYS – REVIEW OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING:

The following key findings inform the recommendations for action items in this plan related to programming.

- ★ Burlington has an opportunity to expand its programming to serve adults, as there are currently significant gaps in adult programming opportunities.
- ★ Burlington’s programs are heavily focused on sports. There is opportunity to further diversify the types of programming offered to include a wide range of non-sport programming.

<sup>2</sup> SFIA. February 27, 2024. SFIA’s Topline Participation Report Shows Strong Positive Trends Across All Sports and Fitness Categories. Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Accessed April 8, 2024. [SFIA’s Topline Participation Report Shows Strong Positive Trends Across All Sports and Fitness Categories](#)

# 3



## SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

*Playground at Outback Territory Park, October 2023  
Credit: RICK*

## 3.1: THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS – “BUILDING BURLINGTON”

The City of Burlington and the consultant team conducted an extensive community engagement process between April 2024 and January 2025 to gather community input in the development of the city’s new **Comprehensive Plan** and the **Parks and Recreation Plan**. This effort, branded as “**Building Burlington**”, provided a thorough, transparent, and easy-to-understand way for community members to provide input on their vision for Burlington over the next twenty years. Importantly, **Building Burlington** gathered and encouraged wide-reaching demographic and geographic input from residents of the city, surrounding towns and counties in Colorado and Kansas, business and property owners, people who work or attend school in Burlington, and anyone else who has an interest in the future of the city.

A Steering Committee of 11 individuals, representing key community stakeholders, the business community, the school district, different city departments, and the Burlington City Council, met on nine occasions in 2024 and early 2025 to steer the **Building Burlington** project, with specific emphasis on a comprehensive and inclusive community engagement effort. Members of the Steering Committee helped the project team to:

- ★ Identify contacts to engage to help spread the word about the plan and community engagement efforts
- ★ Inform the messaging and content for community engagement publicity throughout the process
- ★ Shape the development of alternative ideas and concepts for parks and recreation to share with the community
- ★ Review input from the community throughout the process
- ★ Help formulate the recommended action items and goals included in Section 4 of the Parks and Recreation Plan

Three community surveys (available online and in paper format and advertised widely by the Steering Committee and community partners) served as the primary engagement method for community outreach. These surveys incorporated bilingual (English and Spanish) content. To ensure broad awareness of the surveys, and to provide opportunities for more direct community engagement, the project team pursued a “pop-up” outreach method throughout the process. Pop-up outreach included the following Burlington venues and events in 2024 and early 2025 and included bilingual translation services:

- ★ Coffee with a Cop at Ziggi’s Coffee
- ★ The Post VFW Restaurant (two times)
- ★ Tequila’s Restaurant
- ★ Burlington High School Spring baseball games
- ★ Celebration of Summer, June 2024
- ★ Kit Carson County Fair (two full days, in July 2024)
- ★ Burlington Craft Fair, December 2024
- ★ Winter Wonderlights, December 2024
- ★ Breakfast with Santa, December 2024
- ★ Food Bank Distribution at Prairie Family Center Food Pantry (three times)

The team also managed a project website, [www.buildingburlington.com](http://www.buildingburlington.com), that included background documents and information concerning alternatives, concepts, drafts and final versions of the Parks and Recreation Plan to gather online input from the community.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

Two Steering Committee meetings included discussions focused specifically on parks and recreation. The meetings held in September and November of 2024 involved broad engagement with attendance from the overall community and provided the team with the following findings or desired outcomes for Burlington that informed the draft and final versions of the Parks and Recreation Plan.

- ★ The desire to make better use of the Burlington Community & Education Center to increase indoor recreation programming.
- ★ The desire to develop trails and bike lanes to increase connectivity and safety for those walking and bicycling around town.
- ★ A preference toward utilizing or expanding existing buildings rather than building new ones for indoor recreation opportunities.
- ★ The desire to expand opportunities for affordable, flexible, climate-controlled, and non-organized spaces (e.g., drop-in spaces) for teens to feel comfortable and safe to “hang out.”
- ★ An interest in partnering with businesses (for example, working with local hotels that have indoor pools to offer swim lessons or drop-in pool use when the city’s outdoor pool is closed).
- ★ An interest in providing skatepark amenities for all ages and abilities.

In addition to the Steering Committee meetings, the project team conducted several stakeholder meetings to discuss various aspects of the **Comprehensive Plan** and **Parks and Recreation Plan**, including meetings with the Burlington School District, the Burlington Rotary, Prairie Cultural Revitalization (a group focused on revitalization of Downtown Burlington), and the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

At the Celebration of Summer in June 2024, the team created a pop-up exercise with a dot-voting activity geared toward children. This engagement provided anecdotal insights from the youngest children in the community and provided an additional way to engage people in the planning process, especially those with young children. The following summarizes the “dot voting” exercise in which participants placed dots on images or ideas related to parks and recreation they preferred to have in Burlington in the future.

#### Dot-Voting Exercise Results (by number of dots placed on the presentation boards):

- ★ Playgrounds (23)
- ★ Amenity Improvements (20)
- ★ Parks (17)
- ★ Programs for Kids (15)
- ★ Programs for Young Adults (13)
- ★ Summer Camps (13)
- ★ Baseball Fields (12)
- ★ Child Care (11)
- ★ Programs for Seniors (10)
- ★ Community Center (10)
- ★ Preschool Play Areas (10)
- ★ Community Gardens (8)
- ★ Soft Surface Trail (7)
- ★ Bike Trails (6)
- ★ Other:
  - ☆ Fishing Pond (4)
  - ☆ Dog Park (4)
  - ☆ Disc Golf (2)
  - ☆ Race Car Track (2)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

In addition, the project team included focused engagement with students at the Burlington Middle and High Schools to provide opportunities for conversational and interactive input from the youth in the community.

The three rounds of community engagement, including in-person and online community input, generated significant and valuable input that guided the development of the Burlington Parks and Recreation Plan. The three community surveys gathered a total of 1,800 responses from the community. **Building Burlington** succeeded in reaching the various demographic groups in Burlington. Altogether, including visits to the project website, stakeholder meetings, the survey input, and other discussions, **Building Burlington** included around 3,000 unique “touches” with community members through the life of the project.



*Dot Exercise at Celebration of Summer, June 2024  
Credit: RICK*



*Dot Exercise at Celebration of Summer, June 2024  
Credit: RICK*



*Outreach session at Burlington High School,  
September 2024  
Credit: RICK*

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

## 3.2: FIRST ROUND OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNITY VISIONING

The first survey focused on identifying the most important issues and concerns of the community across the range of topics addressed in both the **Comprehensive Plan** and the **Parks and Recreation Plan**.

Question 4 highlighted the most important issues facing Burlington, across various categories. In terms of parks and recreation, the survey results indicated that the Burlington community had the highest concern about the condition and amenities of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, as opposed to the number of parks.

<b>First Survey, Question 4 - Which of the following are the biggest issues facing Burlington? (Rank each option from “very important” to “very unimportant”)</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Somewhat Unimportant</b>	<b>Very Unimportant</b>
Job creation / economic opportunities in the community	59.0%	22.2%	11.4%	4.1%	3.2%
Availability or cost of child care	57.8%	17.2%	18.4%	1.9%	4.7%
Programming and activities for children and families	47.8%	26.5%	18.5%	4.8%	2.3%
Condition of local streets and roads	64.4%	20.0%	8.7%	3.8%	3.1%
Condition or lack of sidewalks and trails	39.9%	26.6%	19.5%	8.0%	6.0%
The condition and amenities of the parks in the community	40.2%	30.2%	18.6%	7.2%	3.7%
The number of parks in the community	18.0%	24.3%	32.0%	15.2%	10.5%
The condition and amenities of the ball fields in the community	24.3%	24.8%	31.2%	9.9%	9.7%
The condition and amenities of the swimming pool complex in the community	37.2%	31.2%	17.9%	8.6%	5.1%
The condition and amenities of the indoor recreational facilities in the community	46.0%	28.6%	15.7%	5.1%	4.6%
The cost and availability of housing	70.5%	16.5%	9.8%	1.6%	1.6%
Water and sewer infrastructure cost or quality	61.9%	18.5%	14.8%	2.4%	2.4%
Cost or quality of other infrastructure (electricity, Internet, etc.)	62.8%	21.4%	11.1%	2.8%	1.9%
Quality or availability of different kinds of businesses	46.1%	31.0%	15.3%	4.5%	3.1%
Having enough things to do / enough entertainment	46.0%	29.1%	15.1%	5.8%	4.0%

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

Question 7 in the first survey highlighted the most important areas of focus specific to parks and recreation. Survey results indicated that the highest priorities include: providing indoor recreation facilities to meet the needs of residents; providing family programming and activities; providing diverse recreation activities to meet the needs of residents; improving existing parks; and, improving the swimming pool complex.

<b>First Survey, Question 7 - Which of the following are most important for Building Burlington to focus on, for parks and recreation? (Rank each option from “very important” to “very unimportant”)</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Somewhat Unimportant</b>	<b>Very Unimportant</b>
Providing diverse recreation activities to meet the needs of Burlington residents	45.5%	30.2%	15.5%	3.5%	5.3%
Providing new parks	11.0%	16.7%	33.7%	19.5%	19.0%
Improving existing parks	43.9%	33.0%	13.1%	4.9%	5.1%
Establishing a network of trails around the community to provide places for people to walk and bike	33.8%	30.2%	19.4%	7.9%	8.8%
Providing special events, such as concerts and rodeos, for local and regional enjoyment in Burlington	37.1%	32.6%	20.0%	5.9%	4.5%
Providing indoor recreation facilities to meet the needs of Burlington residents	51.6%	24.4%	13.5%	5.7%	4.8%
Improving the swimming pool complex	41.5%	30.1%	17.0%	4.8%	6.6%
Improving the ball fields in the community	24.4%	28.3%	30.4%	6.4%	10.5%
Improving outdoor court amenities	24.3%	26.1%	33.3%	8.5%	7.8%
Providing family programming / activities	47.9%	27.0%	16.0%	3.2%	5.9%

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

Question 8 focused on understanding the reasons why people may not be participating in park and recreation amenities or programming. The results show that the vast majority are unaware of program offerings, leading to an opportunity for better messaging and communication from the city, while also understanding that those who are not participating may not be seeking out information about available offerings.

<b>First Survey, Question 8 - Which of the following are reasons you DO NOT participate in community programs or visit a park in Burlington (if applicable)?</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
I am not aware of program offerings	45.7%
I don't have time	27.0%
I am just not interested	17.9%
Lack of quality programs	16.8%
The times of programs offered are not convenient	14.1%
Other (please specify)	12.7%
Costs are too high	11.4%
Lack of quality parks	8.7%
I live too far away	6.4%
I don't know locations of parks	0.8%

**TAKEAWAYS FROM FIRST ROUND OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** These survey results, coupled with the written comments included in the surveys, input from the Steering Committee, and discussions with stakeholders, suggest the following as major takeaways from the initial round of community outreach:

- ★ The community input suggests a need to focus on providing more places and activities for indoor recreation, particularly during the winter months.
- ★ Results indicate that enhancing the amenities and facilities in the existing parks should take priority over creating new parks in Burlington.
- ★ Results indicate that improving the existing swimming pool complex should remain a priority for the city.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

## 3.3: SECOND ROUND OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCEPTS

The second survey dug deeper into the initial results from the first round of community engagement by presenting a series of options, concepts, and ideas for the community’s consideration. Questions 2, 3, and 4 focused specifically on parks and recreation.

Question 2 followed up on the desire expressed in the first survey for Burlington to create more places for indoor recreation and entertainment and presented four options for consideration. The option to build a new indoor recreation center (as a separate, new building) received the greatest support, despite the higher levels of funding that would be required for this strategy. In addition, the survey indicated significant support for the other options presented in this question, including converting the Community Center on 14th Street to recreation uses, having the city collaborate with a business or partner to open an indoor family entertainment center, and attracting a private sector operator to open an indoor recreation facility in Burlington.

<b>Second Survey, Question 2 - The first survey expressed strong support for creating more places for indoor recreation and entertainment in Burlington. Which of the following would you favor to pursue this goal? (Please select all that apply) - Note: The dollar signs next to each option represent the relative level of cost for each option.</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Build a new indoor recreation center, separate from the existing Community Center (\$\$\$)	47.4%
Convert parts of the existing Burlington Community Center on 14th Street to recreation functions (\$)	31.4%
Have the city buy a building or partner with a private business to open an indoor family entertainment center (\$\$)	31.2%
Attract a private sector operator to open an indoor family entertainment center in Burlington (\$)	28.3%
Other (write in your vision for what you would want in a recreation center in Burlington)	9.0%

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

Question 3 provided a menu of choices for the prioritization of outdoor parks and recreation facilities in Burlington. The feedback was strongest for improvements to the outdoor swimming pool, creating enhancements to the Parmer Park area, and improvements to Merchants Park and Outback Territory Park.

<b>Second Survey, Question 3 - Which of the following would you prioritize for improvements for outdoor parks and recreation facilities in Burlington? (Please select your top 5 choices)</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Improvements & repairs to the outdoor pool: (upgrade bathhouse / locker room, upgrade / creation of zero entry toddler wading pool, repairs to pool surface and mechanical equipment, adding / improving seating and concessions, adding shade) *Note: All upgrades would be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant to meet state and federal regulations.	52.5%
Create additional recreational activities in and around Parmer Park (putt-putt golf course, tennis court, basketball court, cornhole, frisbee golf, etc.)	49.7%
Improvements to the ballfield complex at Merchants Park (lighting, fencing, restrooms, dugouts, press box, locker room facility, concessions, batting cages / pitching area, designated parking areas, field upgrades)	34.5%
Upgrades / repairs to Outback Territory Park (playground, picnic shelter, etc.)	33.6%
Create additional amenities in the area between the splash pad and the pool (i.e., pavilions and tables for picnics / family gatherings, artificial turf (pet friendly) for sunbathing, picnicking, family outings, etc.)	31.6%
Larger shade structures in Parmer Park, including shade structures for the amphitheater in the park	31.1%
Add playground equipment and surfacing at Parmer Park specifically designed for preschoolers and small children	23.0%
Development of a dog park	18.9%
Replacement of existing rubber mulch surfacing at Parmer Park to alternate, ADA-compliant surfacing	14.4%
Add a small neighborhood park to serve residential areas east of Downtown	13.7%
Add a small neighborhood park to serve residential areas north of the railroad tracks	12.8%
Upgrades to Tower Park (seating areas, etc.)	12.8%

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

Question 4 focused on the prioritization of options for programming in Burlington, using NRPA trends to provide a gauge as to what interests the community. Notably, the top two areas of interest included more community programming (bingo, book clubs, gardening clubs, etc.) and adult fitness classes.

<b>Second Survey, Question 4 - Which of the following would you prioritize for new or improved parks and recreation programs in Burlington? (Please choose your top 5)</b>	<b>Percentage of Responses</b>
Community programs (bingo, book clubs, gardening clubs, etc.)	33.8%
Adult Fitness classes	30.2%
Aquatics programs - lifeguarding, learn to swim, water safety, etc.	28.1%
Additional Sports classes and camps / leagues	25.7%
Youth Fitness classes	25.3%
Summer camps	24.2%
Culinary classes	23.1%
Arts and Crafts	21.6%
T-ball, baseball, softball	20.4%
Music programs	20.1%
Tennis / pickleball	17.0%
Dog training	16.3%
Archery programs	15.7%
Gymnastics classes	15.3%
Football	13.7%
Walking groups	11.2%
Adult dance classes	11.0%
Other (please specify)	10.9%
Biking	10.3%
Hiking	9.0%
Cheerleading	5.4%

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING THE PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

### **TAKEAWAYS FROM SECOND ROUND OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

The survey results, coupled with input from steering committee conversations, discussions with stakeholders and various written comments made in the surveys and online, suggest the following as major takeaways from the second round of community outreach regarding indoor and outdoor programming and facilities:

- ★ **Indoor recreation:** The community responses demonstrated the most support for the option of building a new indoor recreation center. Other options, such as converting existing space for recreation use, or partnering with the private sector to provide more indoor recreation space, also received substantial levels of support.
- ★ **Outdoor recreation:** Community feedback provided the strongest support for improvements to the outdoor swimming pool, creating enhancements to the Parmer Park area, and improvements to Merchants Park and Outback Territory Park. Respondents provided minimal support for the creation of new park areas on the fringes of the city (to the east or west), in line with community feedback from the first round of outreach indicating support for enhancing and improving existing amenities versus building new ones.
- ★ **Programming:** The community's response was definitive and strongly stated the need for expansion into the adult programming sector, a current area of programming deficit in Burlington.



*Outreach at Breakfast with Santa, December 2024  
Credit: RICK*

## 3.4: THIRD ROUND OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: REVIEW OF DRAFT PLAN

The project team drew from the quantitative and qualitative input from the community in the first two rounds of engagement and used this information to outline a draft strategy that was shared with the community during the final round of engagement. The plan includes programmatic elements as well as proposed plans for improvements to indoor amenities at the Community Center and outdoor improvements to amenities at Parmer, Outback Territory, and Merchants Parks.

The Burlington community strongly supported the proposed strategy in the final survey, with 84% supporting the Parmer Park improvements, 85% supporting the Outback Territory Park improvements, and 83% supporting the strategy (as outlined in Section 4 and within the third survey) to enhance indoor recreation opportunities in Burlington. These surveys, along with discussions with the Steering Committee and various stakeholder groups, informed and refined the strategic initiatives for parks and recreation outlined in Section 4.



*Outreach at Craft Fair, December 2024  
Credit : RICK*

# 4



## SECTION 4: STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Burlington's parks, recreation facilities, and programs play an essential role in enhancing quality of life, building community connections, and supporting economic growth in the community.

This is Burlington's first formal Parks and Recreation Plan, establishing a roadmap for future development, maintenance, and enhancement of parks, facilities, and programs. This plan intends to serve as a roadmap for Burlington parks and recreation, providing clear direction and support for the future, emphasizing a measured and responsible approach that aligns with long-term community goals, as demonstrated through comprehensive community engagement and feedback.

There are four strategic initiatives for this plan:

- 1. Maximize the benefits of existing indoor facilities to provide enhanced indoor recreational offerings**
- 2. Maximize the benefits of existing outdoor facilities to provide enhanced outdoor recreational offerings**
- 3. Maximize and expand existing programming offerings to provide enhanced year-round programming for all ages in the community**
- 4. Benchmarking: Keeping current with parks and recreational trends**



*Burlington Community & Education Center  
Credit: City of Burlington*

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ONE: MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF EXISTING INDOOR FACILITIES TO PROVIDE ENHANCED INDOOR RECREATIONAL OFFERINGS

Community feedback provided clear direction for maximizing indoor facilities to provide enhanced indoor recreational offerings for the community. As such, the plan includes these action items for consideration:

### EXPLORE THE CONVERSION AND/ OR EXPANSION OF PORTIONS OF THE EXISTING BURLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER INTO INDOOR RECREATION SPACE

Community feedback was consistent and clear in directing the City of Burlington, and partners, to work collaboratively to convert existing indoor space to provide enhanced indoor recreation and activities. The most likely candidate for conversion or expansion of space to indoor recreation uses is the Burlington Community & Education Center on 14th Street. This building hosts various events on a rental basis, including events held in the large event hall or in the separate meeting rooms within the facility. The community center includes a full service, institutional-level kitchen and some office space for city staff. Morgan Community College occupies office space in the northern portion of the building.

Most of the existing rooms and spaces within the Community Center will need to retain their current uses, including the meeting rooms at the front of the building, the office space for city staff, and the facilities of Morgan Community College. However, the large event space in the middle of the facility could be converted to allow for indoor recreational use within the space while retaining the ability to host larger events and meetings. The space could be converted to include basketball courts and sports playing surfaces that can be removed for larger events. The city could also use the large event space for more sports programming and activities, including classes, intramural programs, and adult programming.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The city could also explore expanding the existing Community Center facility to include additional recreational rooms and spaces.

**Indoor Action 1:** The city will explore the feasibility of converting or expanding the Community Center to provide spaces for indoor recreation (most likely, the large event space in the middle of the building).

## **NEED FOR INDOOR GATHERING SPACE FOR YOUTH IN THE BURLINGTON AREA**

The youth in Burlington strongly indicated during the engagement process that they need places to hang out indoors, especially during non-school hours.

Various organizations in Burlington could collaborate to secure a dedicated indoor space for youth. Organizations in Burlington could secure an empty storefront in the Downtown area, along Rose Avenue, or along Lincoln Street and convert it to an indoor recreation lounge or facility. Many students noted that the old Safeway building on Rose Avenue could serve as a great spot for an indoor hangout location. The Burlington State Armory could also provide space for a youth indoor area.

The private sector and various community groups and organizations could help provide the space and facilities for indoor recreation and entertainment in Burlington. For example, a private sector operator could include indoor entertainment (such as video games, billiards, or other indoor games or sports) within a restaurant, or could open a business dedicated to indoor games or entertainment (such as an arcade). Other organizations in the community, such as faith-based institutions, neighborhood or parent organizations, Boys and Girls Club, etc. could also secure and sponsor space for indoor recreation or entertainment. Eighty-four percent of respondents to the third and final community survey supported the strategy of collaboration with partners to provide indoor recreation and entertainment in Burlington.

**Indoor Action 2:** Encourage collaboration with community groups and/or the private sector to provide indoor gathering spaces for youth in the community.

## **OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR EVENTS AND GATHERING SPACES IN BURLINGTON**

Community groups could continue to explore additional facilities to host events and gatherings in Burlington to supplement the event space at the Community Center. An alternate location could provide more space for community events (such as wedding receptions, parties, business or trade events, etc.). Securing additional event venues could also free up the event space within the Community Center for additional recreation programs and schedules. Discussions during the comprehensive planning effort suggested that the Burlington State Armory on 14th Street, which held a variety of community events prior to its closure, could again serve as the location for community events and event rentals following a refurbishment and modernization of the armory building. Other suggestions for indoor event space included the old gymnasium for the Burlington Elementary School on 11th Street and the old Safeway building on Rose Avenue. The renovations of any of these spaces would involve substantial investment and would require the collaboration and pooling of resources of various community organizations.

**Indoor Action 3:** Encourage collaboration with community groups to develop and implement plans to provide additional event and gathering spaces in Burlington.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INDOOR RECREATION SPACE / OPPORTUNITIES IN BURLINGTON

Organizations in Burlington could collaborate in partnership with the city to provide additional facilities for indoor recreation in the community.

The Burlington area does not have a public indoor pool facility and constructing one would involve an unrealistic level of funding for construction and long-term maintenance for a community of Burlington's size. However, Burlington has two hotels that provide indoor pool facilities (the Fairfield Inn and the Best Western Carousel). Collaboration with these private businesses could provide an opportunity to expand pool usage to the public. Many communities in Colorado have found this to be an ideal solution for both parties: the public pays a small fee for use of the facility, increasing revenue for the private party, and the general public gains a new recreational opportunity to use existing facilities without their municipality taking on the financial burdens of building an indoor pool space.

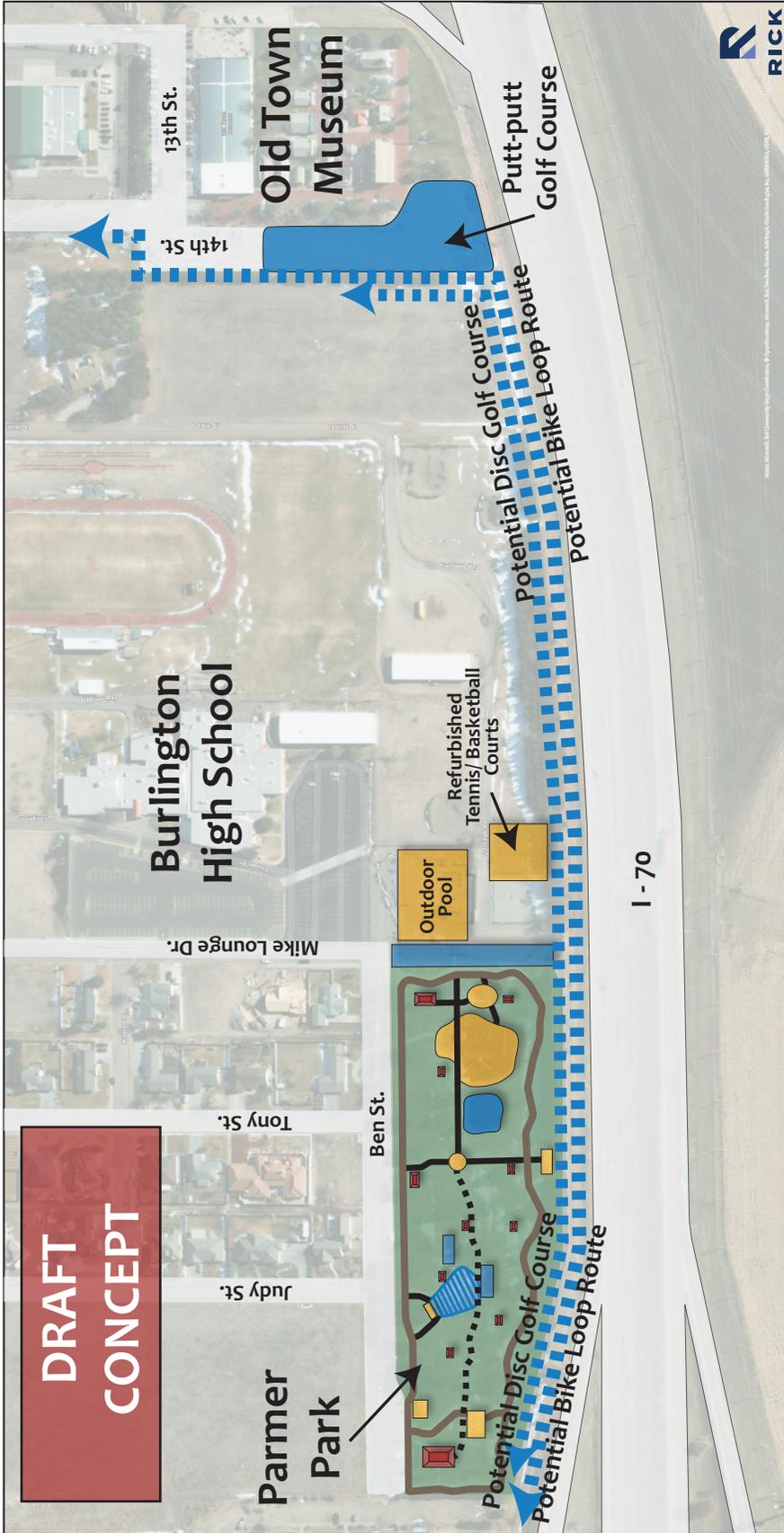
The City of Burlington and the Burlington School District have a long-standing and productive relationship to optimize the use of the indoor recreational space at the schools during non-school hours. Many of the recreational activities offered (such as youth basketball) are only possible due to this invaluable partnership. This plan calls for the continuation of this strategic and beneficial partnership for the community.

Ideas generated during the Steering Committee meetings and community engagement indicated the following as the most likely opportunities for this type of collaboration:

**Indoor Action 4:** Collaborate with the hotels in Burlington to provide indoor pool facilities during selected hours for Burlington area residents.

**Indoor Action 5:** Continue to collaborate with the Burlington School District to provide various indoor recreation facilities.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



## Parmer Park to Old Town Museum Concept

City of Burlington Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Recreation Plan

- Potential New Features
- Potential New Features



# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVE TWO: MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF EXISTING OUTDOOR FACILITIES TO PROVIDE ENHANCED OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OFFERINGS

Community feedback provided clear direction for Burlington to maximize the value of existing outdoor facilities to provide enhanced recreational offerings for the community. As such, the plan includes these action items:

### ENHANCE THE PARMER PARK RECREATIONAL COMPLEX

Parmer Park is the largest and most prominent park in Burlington, providing recreational offerings to residents and visitors alike. Through enhancing and improving upon the existing co-located facilities such as the Burlington High School field space, the swimming pool, basketball and pickleball courts, and open space between the pool and the park, the community can create a more robust ‘recreational complex’ at Parmer Park. In addition, connector trails from Parmer Park to the Old Town Museum would provide for increased and safer transportation between these highly valued community amenities. In fact, 84% of respondents to the third and final community survey supported the draft plan for the Parmer Park area.

- ★ The City of Burlington is already working on improvements and repairs to the outdoor pool including upgrading the bathhouse and locker room, upgrading and creating a zero-entry toddler wading pool, repairing the pool surface and mechanical equipment, adding and improving seating and concessions, and adding shade areas. The current upgrades will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and meet state and federal regulations.
- ★ The City of Burlington has already completed the refurbishment of some of the court space into a new pickleball area for the community. Conversion of the remaining court space into an improved and resurfaced basketball court and tennis court would complete the renovation of this court area.

- ★ An existing concrete space located adjacent to the courts area provides an excellent opportunity for the installation of an intergenerational and inter-ability pump track. These tracks are created for use by all types of wheeled apparatus and allow for participation at all levels of ability. They provide enhanced recreational opportunities for individuals in a wheelchair or special needs stroller, and for those utilizing a scooter, skateboard, bicycle, or roller or in-line skates.
- ★ A large concrete area with a shade pavilion currently occupies the space between the swimming pool and Parmer Park. This space is often overrun with families using the space. Conversion of the area to a green space (using artificial turf) to provide better surfaces for picnic and family gathering space would be ideal. Artificial turf provides an ideal solution for long term maintenance and sustainability as it would not increase the need for watering or mowing grass.
- ★ Due to the popularity of Parmer Park, the current playground is frequently packed with children. Preschool age kids (ages 0-5) are sometimes unintentionally hurt or scared off by the chaotic and energetic play of older children and are often intimidated by the sheer number of larger and older children on the playground at any one time. Over time parents have hesitated to bring their young children—or stopped bringing them altogether—because the play space (being overrun by bigger kids) has become increasingly unsuitable for the youngest children in the community. This is a significant problem for intergenerational households that come to the park together to recreate. Parmer Park in its current iteration is not sufficiently addressing the needs of a multi-generational family utilizing the park. Installation of a playspace designed for children ages 0-5 with Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) safety surfacing would fill this gap.
- ★ The existing playground area for children ages 5-12 has rubber mulch surfacing that requires replacement with Engineered Wood Fiber to improve safety for users. Community feedback clearly indicated that the existing rubber at the playground is too hot in the summer, even when children wear shoes.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- ★ The existing amphitheater area lacks shade, thus limiting its usability during the middle of the day, particularly in the hot summer months. Currently many patrons bring their own pop-up tents to provide shade, thereby unintentionally crowding an already busy area. Installation of a permanent shade feature, such as an open-air roof or tent-like feature, would improve comfort and safety for all patrons.
- ★ Cornhole and horseshoes remain popular activities during the Celebration of Summer each year at Parmer Park; a permanent and dedicated location for these types of games would be a valuable improvement to the park.
- ★ Sufficient space is present along the north side of the fence along I-70 to extend a multi-purpose trail for walking and biking from Parmer Park over to the parking lot for Old Town Museum. This bike trail would provide a safe route for people walking and biking to Parmer Park and would also link the park to the network of bike lanes around Burlington, which includes a key route extending south along 14th Street through the downtown area and to the Old Town Museum.
- ★ The Old Town Museum parking lot remains largely unused during the year and has sufficient extra space to accommodate a putt-putt golf course, which was a desired amenity from community input in the second survey.
- ★ The draft concept shows the addition of a small multi-purpose building for use during inclement weather. The building could provide features such as a small concession stand or indoor gathering space.
- ★ The draft concept shows a potential location for a disc golf course adjacent to Parmer Park with potential expansion to the Old Town Museum.
- ★ During community engagement, youth in Burlington requested the consideration of adding some new games and amenities, such as four-square, batting cages, a bike track with jumps, and a small soccer or dodgeball area. The city could explore integrating these additional uses into Parmer Park in the future.
- ★ The draft concept for Parmer Park presented to the community in the third survey also highlighted the possibility of creating a central promenade or more prominent sidewalk extending east-west across the middle of the park. While the Longhorn Trail provides walking paths around the outside of the park, Parmer Park currently lacks a central sidewalk in the middle of the park, connecting the playground areas and the pool area to the western portion of the park. The city could consider incorporating this improvement in future planning for Parmer Park.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Outdoor Action 1:** Ensure completion of pool renovations and improvements

**Outdoor Action 2:** Prioritize the refurbishment of the outdoor tennis and basketball courts at Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 3:** Installation of an intergenerational and inter-ability pump track

**Outdoor Action 4:** Creation of an open green space to connect the swimming pool to Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 5:** Installation of a playground for toddlers at Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 6:** Replacement of safety surfacing for the existing playground at Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 7:** Installation of a shade structure over the outdoor amphitheater at Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 8:** Construction of a cornhole or horseshoe area at Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 9:** Installation of a bike trail along the north side of I-70 from Parmer Park to Old Town Museum

**Outdoor Action 10:** Installation of a putt-putt golf course in the parking lot for Old Town Museum

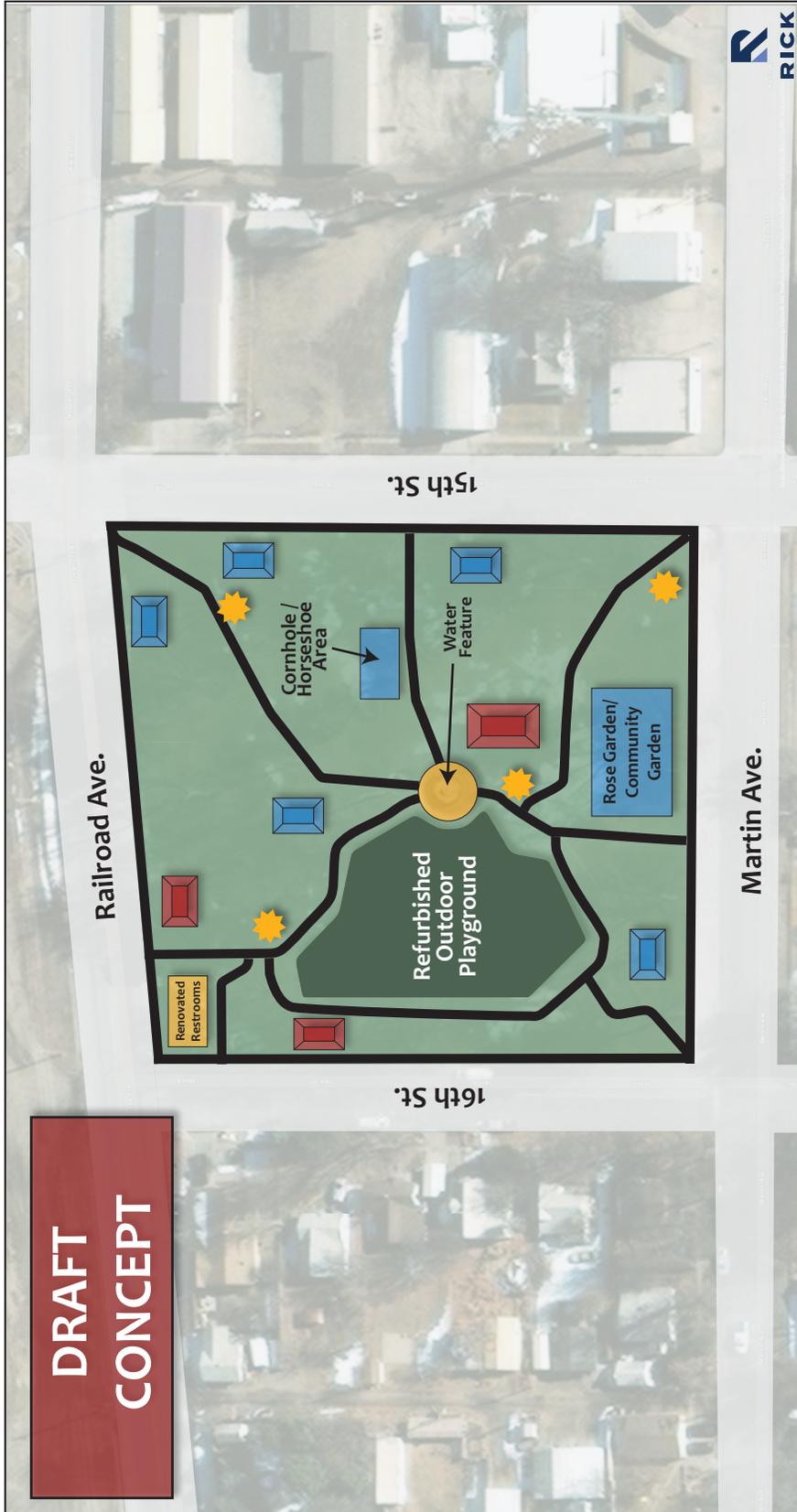
**Outdoor Action 11:** Consider adding an indoor multi-purpose building at Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 12:** Consider adding a disc golf course adjacent to Parmer Park

**Outdoor Action 13:** Explore the ideas of adding new games and amenities in Parmer Park based on youth feedback

**Outdoor Action 14:** Consider creation of a central promenade within Parmer Park

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



**DRAFT  
CONCEPT**

## Outback Territory Park Concept

City of Burlington Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Recreation Plan

- Existing Shelter
  - Existing Features
  - Potential New Features
  - Potential New Small Shelters
  - New/ Refurbished Walkways/ Trails
  - Public Art
- ↑ 1in  
50ft
- ↑ N



# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## IMPROVEMENTS TO OUTBACK TERRITORY PARK

Eighty-four percent of respondents to the third and final community survey supported the draft plan for Outback Territory Park. This park, encompassing an entire city block to the northwest of 15th and Martin, just to the west of Downtown Burlington, is the oldest park in Burlington and traditionally served as the “city park” before the construction of Parmer Park. Today, the park features a large wooden playground constructed over 30 years ago, a single picnic shelter, and restroom facilities.

The location of Outback Territory Park within a walk of a few minutes from 14th Street presents the opportunity for the park to serve as a complementing area for community gathering that will help the downtown district. This park could serve as a great location for people to have lunch after shopping or doing business in the downtown area and could host a larger number of events in conjunction with Downtown Burlington merchants and organizations.

- ★ Sidewalks do not currently exist around most of the perimeter of the park. A sidewalk currently connects from Martin Avenue past the outdoor playground and to the restroom facilities in the northwest corner of the park, but the middle of the park lacks access to the eastern edges. Thus, the draft plan illustrates concepts to install attractive walkways or sidewalks around the edges of Outback Territory Park and from all sides of the park to the middle of the park. These improvements should invite greater visitation to the park from the downtown area and enhance safety for visitors.
- ★ Participants throughout the community engagement process emphasized that the playground requires a rehabilitation project, including sanding and treating the wood to prevent splinters and increase safety for children.
- ★ The addition of some smaller shelters, accommodating one to two picnic tables within each shelter, would serve as facilities for families or individuals to have lunch or gather in the park and complement the existing, larger picnic shelter. The smaller shelters could serve people visiting the downtown area or having lunch at the park.
- ★ Due to its proximity to Downtown Burlington, this park could accommodate several locations for public art in partnership with Prairie Cultural

Revitalization and other organizations. These features could enhance the attractiveness of Outback Territory Park to visitors and make the park more unique in the community and the local region.

- ★ Due to the park’s proximity to Downtown Burlington, partnerships with local businesses or a gardening group to create a community garden could help to add diversity to the park’s offerings and enhance the beauty of this park in the middle of town.
- ★ During community engagement, many residents noted that they had never seen the water feature in operation. Refurbishment or repurposing the feature could provide an opportunity to create a unique feature that differentiates Outback Territory Park.
- ★ During community engagement, youth requested the consideration of adding some court space, such as space for basketball, four square, or other court games, at Outback Territory Park. The city could explore integrating these additional uses into Outback Territory Park in the future.
- ★ The **Burlington Comprehensive Plan** outlines a proposed network of dedicated bike and walking lanes around town, connecting the local schools and civic destinations to the various neighborhoods around the community. While the **Comprehensive Plan** outlines this network in its transportation section, these bike lanes and routes also enhance outdoor recreation in the community. Installing well-designed and comfortable lanes for people walking, biking, or using a stroller would encourage more residents to exercise in their immediate neighborhoods.



*Adult craft classes  
Credit: Shutterstock*

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Outdoor Action 15:** Install new and improved sidewalks and walkways in Outback Territory Park

**Outdoor Action 16:** Refurbishment of the wooden playground at Outback Territory Park

**Outdoor Action 17:** Consider installation of additional, smaller picnic shelters around Outback Territory Park

**Outdoor Action 18:** Partner to install public art around Outback Territory Park

**Outdoor Action 19:** Installation of a small community garden or rose garden at Outback Territory Park

**Outdoor Action 20:** Refurbishing or repurposing the water feature in the middle of Outback Territory Park

**Outdoor Action 21:** Explore the idea of adding new games and court space in Outback Territory Park per youth feedback

**Outdoor Action 22:** Completion of biking and walking routes throughout Burlington

## IMPROVEMENTS TO OTHER OUTDOOR PROPERTIES

- ★ Merchants Park, the baseball park on the north side of the railroad tracks, just to the west of the Kit Carson County Fairgrounds, serves as the home for local baseball and softball teams, including those of Burlington High School. The park currently lacks modern restrooms, has substandard concession facilities, and lacks paved parking areas. The Parks and Recreation Plan calls for these improvements at Merchants Park, as well as enhanced landscape and seating areas and signage to direct visitors to the park.
- ★ Tower Park is a very small park that surrounds the water tower on the west side of Burlington and currently includes a small park shelter. Improvements to this park could include additional seating areas, a small playground area for the surrounding neighborhood, and additional shady areas.

**Outdoor Action 23:** Completion of various improvements to Merchants Park

**Outdoor Action 24:** Completion of various improvements to Tower Park



*Senior tennis  
Credit: Shutterstock*



*Splish Splash Day Camp in Burlington  
Credit: City of Burlington*

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE THREE: MAXIMIZE AND EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMMING OFFERINGS TO PROVIDE ENHANCED YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING FOR ALL AGES IN THE COMMUNITY.

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOUR: BENCHMARKING - KEEPING CURRENT WITH PARKS AND RECREATIONAL TRENDS

The community's voice was clear: Burlington has a significant deficit in adult programming options at this time. In addition, analysis of existing programming highlighted that the majority of current recreational offerings in Burlington are sports-related, leaving a gap in non-sports programming.

**Programming Action 1:** The Parks and Recreation Plan recommends the city make a prioritized and intentional effort to create new programming for adults and non-sports related options, thereby closing this deficit, within the next year.

**Programming Action 2:** Recognizing that staffing resources are limited, the Parks and Recreation Plan recommends that the City of Burlington join the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), allowing city staff to leverage the shared knowledge of multiple park and recreation departments across the state. By accessing this knowledge base within CPRA, the city will be able to reach out and learn from other departments across the state regarding the types of programming offered and what has, and has not, worked well. This knowledge and insight will help the city and its partners implement new and effective programming options for the Burlington community.

Staying current with parks and recreational trends is crucial for the staff responsible for programming recreational services. This plan recommends the annual benchmarking of park and recreation trends to ensure that the programming being offered is as robust and effective as possible for the residents of Burlington and the surrounding area.

**Benchmarking Action 1:** The City of Burlington should leverage its membership in the CPRA to stay up to date on the latest trends impacting recreation across the state. City staff should attend professional development training sessions, conferences, and related offerings to remain on top of new trends and innovations in recreational programming. This knowledge can help the city maintain a great program of facilities and services for residents and visitors.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## BURLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SUMMARY OF TOP PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

The following provides a quick snapshot of the top priorities for the Burlington community resulting from the **Comprehensive Plan** and **Parks and Recreation Plan**. The Implementation matrices within the two documents (including the Implementation matrix for parks and recreation that begins on the next page) contain additional details concerning the entities involved in implementation, potential funding sources, and the anticipated timing of specific action items.

### YEARS 1 - 5

- ★ Complete streetscape improvements on 14th St (and intersecting streets) in the heart of Downtown
- ★ Improved signage for Downtown
- ★ Civic plaza in the Downtown area
- ★ Code updates / zoning changes to expand Downtown to the south
- ★ Updates to the city's Land Use Codes, tied to the Comprehensive Plan
- ★ Change the name of 14th Street to "Main Street"
- ★ Paint bike lanes around town (to denote temporary bike lanes) and pursue funding for permanent bike lanes (through Safe Routes to Schools and related funding sources)
- ★ Pursue options to increase indoor recreation facilities
- ★ Complete a new child care facility
- ★ Secure Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) funding for Parmer Park improvements
- ★ Lead a community rehab day for the wooden playground at Outback Territory Park
- ★ Work with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to complete upgrades to Rose Avenue

### YEARS 6 – 10

- ★ Complete additional streetscape enhancements Downtown (Main Street to the south, and parallel streets in the heart of Downtown)
- ★ Complete streetscape improvements along Rose Avenue and Lincoln Street
- ★ Complete permanent bike lane facilities around town (building from the installation of temporary, painted bike lanes during years 1 – 5)
- ★ Complete improvements at the north end of Downtown (clock tower, water tower refurbishment, etc.)
- ★ Explore the creation of a business park to the south of I-70
- ★ Explore the creation of additional job training or skills training programs at the high school, with Morgan Community College, or with another provider
- ★ Create a stormwater plan and implement drainage improvements at select locations

### YEARS 10 – 20

- ★ Explore the feasibility of a local trolley or shuttle service (connecting Downtown Burlington with local hotels and other destinations)
- ★ Explore the development of housing on city-owned properties over time.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY / MATRIX

The following implementation matrix outlines each of the action items in this section, along with their priority as determined by the Steering Committee, potential partnerships to achieve each action item, likely funding sources, general cost estimates, and estimates of the timeline for completion of each action item.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

PARKS AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX	Priority (Low, Medium, High)	Cost (Order of Magnitude)	Potential Partners with the City	Potential Funding Sources	Timing: 1-5 Years	Timing: 5-10 Years	Timing: Over 10 Years
<b>Indoor Action 1:</b> The city will explore the feasibility of converting or expanding the Community Center to provide spaces for indoor recreation (most likely, the large event space in the middle of the building).	Medium/High	\$\$\$		GOCO grants; Lodging tax; Fees from attendees and programs			
<b>Indoor Action 2:</b> Encourage collaboration with community groups and/or the private sector to provide indoor gathering spaces for youth in the community.	Medium	\$\$	Community groups and the private sector				
<b>Indoor Action 3:</b> Encourage collaboration with community groups to develop and implement plans to provide additional event and gathering spaces in Burlington.	Medium	\$\$	Local community groups				
<b>Indoor Action 4:</b> Collaborate with the hotels in Burlington to provide indoor pool facilities during selected hours for Burlington area residents.	Medium	\$	Local hotels				
<b>Indoor Action 5:</b> Continue to collaborate with the Burlington School District to provide various indoor recreation facilities.	High	\$	School district				

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

PARKS AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX	Priority (Low, Medium, High)	Cost (Order of Magnitude)	Potential Partners with the City	Potential Funding Sources	Timing: 1-5 Years	Timing: 5-10 Years	Timing: Over 10 Years
<b>Outdoor Action 1:</b> Ensure completion of pool renovations and improvements	High	\$\$		GOCO grants	In Process		
<b>Outdoor Action 2:</b> Prioritize the refurbishment of the outdoor tennis and basketball courts at Parmer Park	High	\$\$			In Process		
<b>Outdoor Action 3:</b> Installation of an intergenerational and inter-ability pump track	Low	\$\$		GOCO grants; private fundraising			
<b>Outdoor Action 4:</b> Creation of an open green space to connect the swimming pool to Parmer Park	High	\$\$		GOCO grants; General fund			
<b>Outdoor Action 5:</b> Installation of a playground for toddlers at Parmer Park	Medium	\$\$		GOCO grants			
<b>Outdoor Action 6:</b> Replacement of safety surfacing for the existing playground at Parmer Park	High	\$					
<b>Outdoor Action 7:</b> Installation of a shade structure over the outdoor amphitheater at Parmer Park	High	\$\$					
<b>Outdoor Action 8:</b> Construction of a cornhole or horseshoe area at Parmer Park	High	\$					
<b>Outdoor Action 9:</b> Installation of a bike trail along the north side of I-70 from Parmer Park to Old Town Museum	Low	\$\$					

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

PARKS AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX	Priority (Low, Medium, High)	Cost (Order of Magnitude)	Potential Partners with the City	Potential Funding Sources	Timing: 1-5 Years	Timing: 5-10 Years	Timing: Over 10 Years
<b>Outdoor Action 10:</b> Installation of a putt-putt golf course in the parking lot for Old Town Museum	Medium	\$\$		GOCO grants; Revenues from fees and rentals			
<b>Outdoor Action 11:</b> Consider adding an indoor multi-purpose building, at Parmer Park	Low	\$\$	Rotary, other civic organizations	Fees from rentals; Private fundraising			
<b>Outdoor Action 12:</b> Consider adding a disc golf course adjacent to Parmer Park	Low	\$		GOCO grants			
<b>Outdoor Action 13:</b> Explore the ideas of adding new games and amenities in Parmer Park based on youth feedback	Low	\$\$					
<b>Outdoor Action 14:</b> Consider creation of a central promenade within Parmer Park	Low	\$\$					

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

PARKS AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX	Priority (Low, Medium, High)	Cost (Order of Magnitude)	Potential Partners with the City	Potential Funding Sources	Timing: 1-5 Years	Timing: 5-10 Years	Timing: Over 10 Years
<b>Outdoor Action 15:</b> Install new and improved sidewalks and walkways in Outback Territory Park	Medium	\$\$		GOCO grants			
<b>Outdoor Action 16:</b> Refurbishment of the wooden playground at Outback Territory Park	High	\$	Volunteers in the community	GOCO grants			
<b>Outdoor Action 17:</b> Consider installation of additional, smaller picnic shelters around Outback Territory Park	Low - Medium	\$\$		GOCO grants			
<b>Outdoor Action 18:</b> Partner to install public art around Outback Territory Park	Low	\$	Prairie Cultural Revitalization	General fund / fundraising			
<b>Outdoor Action 19:</b> Installation of a small community garden or rose garden at Outback Territory Park	Low	\$	Community groups and volunteers	General fund			
<b>Outdoor Action 20:</b> Refurbishing or repurposing the water feature in the middle of Outback Territory Park	Medium	\$\$		GOCO grants			
<b>Outdoor Action 21:</b> Explore the idea of adding new games and court space in Outback Territory Park per youth feedback	Medium	\$		GOCO grants, private fundraising			
<b>Outdoor Action 22:</b> Completion of biking and walking routes throughout Burlington	Medium	\$\$		Safe Routes to School grants. Other state and federal grants and funding			
<b>Outdoor Action 23:</b> Completion of various improvements to Merchants Park	Medium	\$\$	School district	GOCO grants			
<b>Outdoor Action 24:</b> Completion of various improvements to Tower Park	Low	\$\$					

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

PARKS AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX	Priority (Low, Medium, High)	Cost (Order of Magnitude)	Potential Partners with the City	Potential Funding Sources	Timing: 1-5 Years	Timing: 5-10 Years	Timing: Over 10 Years
<p><b><u>Programming Action 1:</u></b> The Parks and Recreation Plan recommends the city make a prioritized and intentional effort to create new programming for adults and non-sports related options, thereby closing this deficit, within the next year.</p>	High	\$		Fees from classes and programs; general fund			
<p><b><u>Programming Action 2:</u></b> Recognizing that staffing resources are limited, the Parks and Recreation Plan recommends that the City of Burlington join the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), allowing city staff to leverage the shared knowledge of multiple park and recreation departments across the state. By accessing this knowledge base within CPRA, the city will be able to reach out and learn from other departments across the state regarding the types of programming offered and what has, and has not, worked well. This knowledge and insight will help the city and its partners implement new and effective programming options for the Burlington community.</p>	High	\$		General Fund			
<p><b><u>Benchmarking Action 1:</u></b> The City of Burlington should leverage its membership in the CPRA to stay up to date on the latest trends impacting recreation across the state. City staff should attend professional development training sessions, conferences, and related offerings to remain on top of new trends and innovations in recreational programming. This knowledge can help the city maintain a great program of facilities and services for residents and visitors.</p>	High	\$		General Fund			