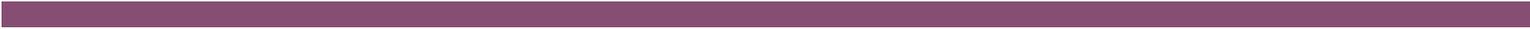


**MASTER PLAN  
REPORT**  
ADOPTED MARCH 2017

  
**NORRIS DESIGN**





## CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	4
SEVERANCE FACTS .....	5
INTRODUCTION .....	6
RELEVANT PLAN REVIEW .....	15
DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS .....	20
PROGRAMMING ANALYSIS .....	28
INVENTORY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS .....	32
RESOURCE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS .....	65
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ANALYSIS .....	68
TRENDS ANALYSIS .....	71
RECOMMENDATIONS .....	76
APPENDIX .....	86

# Acknowledgments

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- Bruce Florquist, Trustee
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- Mike Kinney, Trustee
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- Nicholas J. Wharton, Assistant Town Administrator
- Jim Birdsall, Town Planner
- Mitch Nelson, Town Planner
- Brad Trujillo, Public Works Director

Special thanks to the many Severance residents who contributed their valuable input and time through the community questionnaire, public open houses and other meetings to contribute to the Town of Severance’s Parks Master Plan.

This project was funded in part by a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado.



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# Severance Facts



3.650 RESIDENTS  
IN SEVERANCE

17

MEETINGS &  
PRESENTATIONS  
HELD

76 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED  
IN PUBLIC OUTREACH



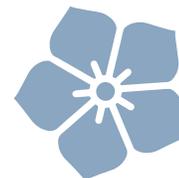
5  
PARKS



223  
PEOPLE IN  
ATHLETIC  
PROGRAMS



9000 SQ FT  
COMMUNITY  
GARDEN



# INTRODUCTION

1

## Introduction

In the summer of 2016, the Town of Severance embarked on the development of the community's first parks master plan. The Plan will establish a five year plan informed by community input, demographic analysis, review of existing parks and trails, and future land use plans and policies.

Severance, Colorado is located in the northern Front Range in Weld County. It is a growing community of approximately 3,700 residents. Currently, the community is experiencing an annual growth rate of 5.46%. This robust growth has led to the development of numerous residential subdivisions, roads, and the planning for future school sites. Parks and trails have also been an essential part of the planning process, but mainly the expansion of the parks and trail system has been considered on a case by case basis with the approval of specific subdivisions.

Currently, many residents rely on organizations and facilities in adjacent communities to help meet their recreation needs, such as league sports and fitness programs. As the Town continues to grow, community leaders recognize a comprehensive parks master plan is warranted that will meet the needs of today's residents as well as anticipate the opportunities of tomorrow. The adoption of this Plan provides a tool for decision makers to evaluate and prioritize the growing park and recreation needs of the community.

The master plan process started with obtaining public input during the annual Severance Days community event. This event was an essential opportunity to gain initial feedback from community members about their ideas for future park and recreations facilities and programs. Subsequent public input sessions were held as well as presentations to appointed and elected officials. This plan builds on the parks and trails already developed within the community as they have proved to be valuable community assets. It is also informed by existing Town policies, practices, and collaborative processes with partner organizations.

The Parks Plan is a non-regulatory document to be used by decision makers, boards, staff, and developers when considering future parks and recreation needs. It is intended to be a living document that reflects the ideas and conditions of the community. Over time, new opportunities will become apparent and the plan will need to be adjusted to reflect evolving community priorities.



## Purpose

Parks and recreation are an essential component of any community. In the Town of Severance, the established parks and trails serve an important purpose for the community. They provide a place for community events, informal gatherings for families to utilize playgrounds, bicycle and pedestrian connections, reflect the wide open spaces and agricultural heritage, and values inherent to the community. They enhance the quality of life, increase economic value, provide environmental and habitat benefits, and support health and wellness.

The purpose of this report is to help the Town of Severance understand its existing assets and their conditions as well as projecting the future needs of the community. It will inform appointed and elected officials of the Town's desire for park facilities while also providing a prioritized action plan for reinvestment, improvements, and capital priorities.

It will provide a tool for decision makers to prioritize resources for existing and future parks and recreation facilities, programs, and sustainable operations and maintenance. Furthermore, the Master Plan will serve as a resource to:

- Incorporates the vision and priorities of residents and community leaders to determine the future direction of parks and recreation facilities and programs;
- Assess the level of service that is provided to the community;
- Evaluate available resources and how to most strategically invest;
- Guide capital improvements;
- Builds on the policies and goals of the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan;
- Support economic development and public health.

## Approach

The Town of Severance Parks Master Plan consists of a series of objective evaluation tools as well as community outreach processes. The combination of these approaches results in a plan that is built on community ideas as well as informed by existing land use policies, demographics, operations, capital and budgetary priorities. The various components incorporated into the Master Plan include:

- Demographic analysis: Review of local and county level current and future population projections and relevant statistics.
- Relevant plan review: Assessment of municipal policies and ordinances that support the Parks Master Plan.
- Inventory and analysis: Review of the existing parks, trails, and facilities throughout the Town and adjacent communities.
- Level of service analysis: An evaluation of the Level of Service being provided to the community compared with local, regional, and national standards. Identify the potential gaps in existing parks and recreation facilities, and programming.
- Resource and funding analysis: Identification of trends in operating and capital budgets.
- Operations analyses: A review of service, management and operations trends and approach. An analysis of the potential for improvement to existing parks and public trails development recommendations.
- Recommendations: Identify goals and recommendations for future park and recreation facilities, services, and programs.

## Planning Process and Community Engagement

Public involvement was a significant component of the master plan process. Engagement with community members, key stakeholders, appointed and elected officials, and Town staff resulted in a plan that responds to the ideas and priorities of the community and has created the foundation to move forward.

The engagement process involved utilizing various formats to gain feedback and provide project updates to the community, such as articles in the Town newsletter and website, a questionnaire, and over sixteen in-person meetings and presentations.

On August 13, 2016 the Parks Master Plan Team attended Severance Days. An informational table with maps and project information was set up. This provided an opportunity for community members to learn about the master plan process, answer the questionnaire and share their ideas for future park and recreation facilities and programs.

Two public open houses were held at the Town Hall. Meeting announcements were posted in the Town newsletter and website.

The first public meeting was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016. The focus of the meeting was to gather baseline input from residents about future park and recreation ideas and needs. Approximately 21 people attended this meeting.

Key topics that were discussed at the meeting were:

- Consider the development of pickle ball courts;
- A representative of the Clearview Library District brought up ideas how library initiatives, such as "story walk" or programmed reading spaces could be included into park spaces;
- Participants commented that current trail surfaces are not conducive to running or bicycling and surfaces should be enhanced to improve safety;
- Consider the addition of a Frisbee golf course and fitness stations along a trail;
- Sports programs for the youth, such as little league, basketball, football, soccer, and field sports;
- Lighting in the parks should be improved.

The second public meeting was held on Thursday, January 26, 2017. At this meeting, the consulting team presented a summary of the planning process findings.

A complete summary of both public meetings is included in the appendix.

### Stakeholder

Stakeholder meetings were held with representatives from the various organizations listed below. These organizations were recognized as important contributors to this planning process. Many of the services they provide align and support the development of parks and recreation facilities and programs within the Town of Severance.

The stakeholders include:

- Northern Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO)
- Town of Eaton Recreation District
- Windsor Parks, Recreation, and Culture
- Great Western Trail Authority
- Weld RE-4 School District
- Weld County Planning
- Weld County Public Health
- Tailholt Community Garden

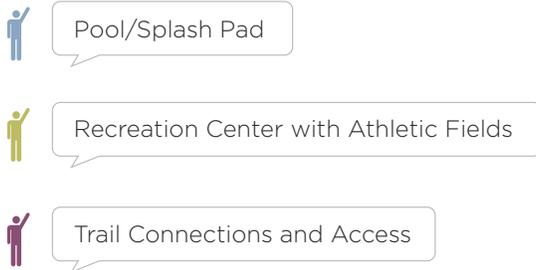
## Survey

A questionnaire was developed asking participants ten questions about the current status of parks and recreation within Severance as well as their ideas for the future. In total, 45 participants completed the questionnaire. The top ideas to be considered for future park and recreation needs were:

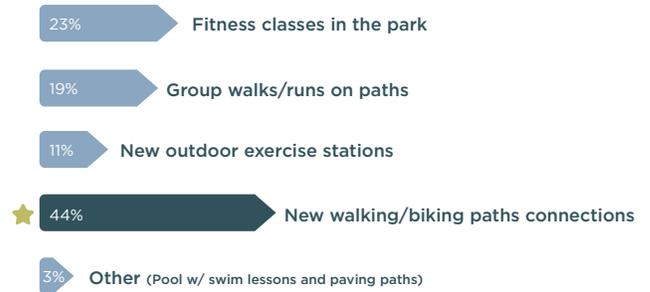
- Community pool
- Youth athletic programs
- Walking and bicycling trails

The complete survey, survey infographic, and survey results are located in the Appendix.

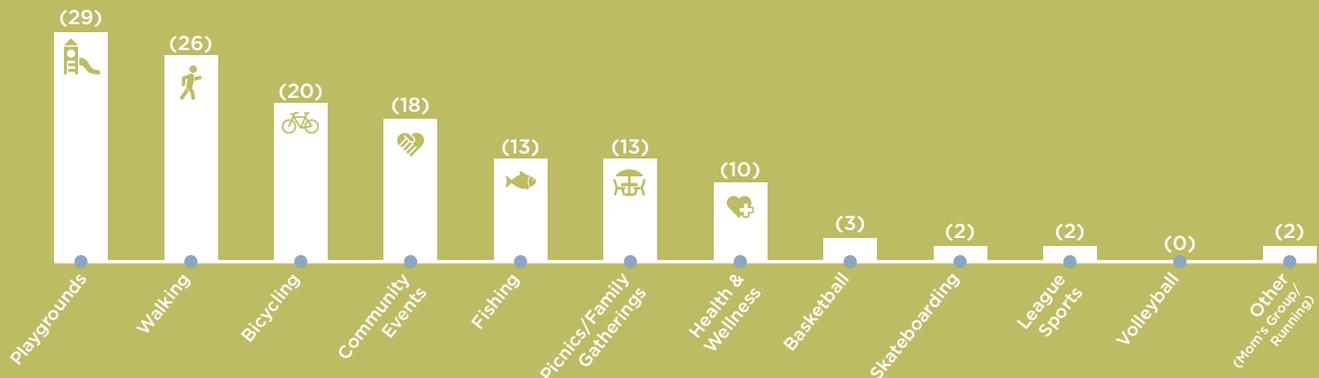
### WHAT ADDITIONAL IDEAS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE TOWN OF SEVERANCE'S FIRST PARKS MASTER PLAN?



### TYPE OF INVESTMENT IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKELY UTILIZE:



### PRIMARY USES OF THE CURRENT PARKS:



### FUTURE PARK, RECREATION AMENITIES, AND PROGRAMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE MASTER PLAN:



## Parks and Community Events

### Community Events

Community events are an important component of the Town of Severance. There are numerous events throughout the year, such as:

- Severance Days
- Clean Up Days
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas Open House

Some of these events are held in community parks, such as The Easter Egg Hunt and Severance Days. In this capacity, parks provide the spaces to celebrate the community and build relationships. This demonstrates the value parks provide to enhance the quality of life and bring the community together.



SEVERANCE DAYS

## Local Food Production

Community gardens and access to locally grown food has become a trend in communities throughout Colorado. Severance has a strong connection to its agricultural heritage and today it remains an important industry to the region. Throughout this planning process, the association between local food production and parks and open space was a common theme. The community has recently taken steps to incorporate local food production, such as:

- Community members worked with representatives from the Windsor-Severance Fire District and the Town of Severance to develop the Tailholt Community Garden. This 9,000 square foot community garden is located on the grounds of the Fire Station. This garden has proved to be very successful as there are already plans for expansion.
- Discussions are planned with the elementary and middle schools about the development of community gardens on school grounds that would provide educational opportunities for students and faculty.
- Community residents have expressed interest in the development of a farmers market.

These efforts demonstrate an opportunity how local food production can support future parks and recreation, enhance economic development, and provide easy access to fresh fruits and vegetables.



TAILHOLT COMMUNITY GARDEN

## Benefits of Parks and Recreation

The existing park and trail amenities within Severance significantly support the quality of life within the community. The adoption of this Parks Master Plan will provide a comprehensive framework for future parks and recreation, but it will also contribute and enhance economic development, environmental considerations, sense of place and public health and well-being.

To better support the goals and objectives of the Town of Severance Parks Master Plan and to help community leaders understand and leverage the value of existing parks, the following includes a list of benefits that parks and recreation facilities can offer the community:

- Park and recreation facilities are shown to increase economic value. They enhance neighborhoods and provide focal points for communities.
- Park and open space design can enhance environmental conditions, such as improve stormwater, restore habitat, cool overall temperature and provide opportunities for residents to engage with nature.
- Trails, parks, and school amenities bolster greater demand for home ownership<sup>1</sup> in a neighborhood.
- Open space and trail networks with public accessibility promotes an overall healthier community by providing areas for people to walk, jog, run, bike, and engage in daily exercise.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) physical activity is important to the well-being and health outcomes for all age groups. As an NRPA article entitled *Quantifying the Contribution of Public Parks to Physical Activity and Health* states, “Urban green space and public recreation areas, or “parks,” are often viewed as key factors in increasing physical activity, thereby preventing obesity and reducing the incidence of chronic medical conditions, not to mention improving mental health and overall quality of life. Parks may also improve public health by increasing social interaction, reducing stress through exposure to nature, and more”.<sup>2</sup> Connecting and linking the age groups of all users to parks and/or particular elements of parks will contribute to improved community-wide health.

## Benefits of Urban Forestry

Urban forestry defines the care and maintenance of Town-owned trees, including street trees and trees in parks and open spaces.

Benefits of urban forestry include:

- Healthy trees remove pollutants such as carbon dioxide and methane from the air, creating a safer environment for all;
- Trees provide shade and natural windbreaks that helps to lower energy consumption as well as reducing the heat island effect caused by solar heating of pavement;
- Street trees help to slow traffic, making neighborhoods more walkable;
- Large, healthy trees increase property values, as well as make communities more desirable;
- Trees and tree lawns help capture and purify water helping to prevent floods and pollution in bodies of water;
- Trees provide much needed wildlife habitat that is usually deficient in built environments.

---

<sup>1</sup>“Trails are the No. 1 amenity potential homeowners cite when asked what they would like to see in a new community, ahead of public parks and outdoor pools, according to the National Association of Home Builders. Trails were cited by 57 percent of prospective buyers in a 2004 survey by the association” New York Times Bradley Melekian (2006)

<sup>2</sup>Han, B., Cohen, D., & McKenzie, T. L. (2013). Quantifying the Contribution of Neighborhood Parks to Physical Activity. *Preventive Medicine*, 57(5), 483–487. doi:10.1016/j.ypmed.2013.06.021



**RELEVANT PLAN  
REVIEW**

**2**

## Relevant Plan Review

The Town of Severance has a good foundation of policies and ordinances that support the development and regulation of parks. Also, there are regional plans that address parks, open space, and trails within the community and the surrounding area and they are listed below. This section provides a review of these documents as they have helped inform this planning process.

### Severance: Hometown Vision (2011 Comprehensive Plan)

Severance: Hometown Vision provides a comprehensive outline of the plans and policies for future growth and sets the overall vision for the community. This Plan focuses on land use, infrastructure, transportation, community services, and, most relevant to this report parks, recreation, and open space.

Severance: Hometown Vision specifically addresses parks, recreation, and open space in the four below categories:

#### i. Town Core

- New development should be oriented to facilitate connection to the Greenway. New development adjacent to and/or overlooking the Greenway should also recognize the present and ultimate aesthetic and public values of this space and incorporate site and architectural design elements to compliment these values.

#### ii. Sub-Urban Perimeter

- Connection from new sub-urban perimeter developments to the Greenway and Trail corridor is the highest priority of Severance: Hometown Vision with the intent of linking new and existing neighborhoods to this expansive open space area.
- Major east-west roadways, select internal roadways or off-road trails will be used as connectivity corridors, accommodating vehicular and/or pedestrian access.
- If properly executed, connectivity corridors could satisfy the minimum parks, recreation and open space requirements of new developments. Additional amenities or features within subdivisions may not be required but are encouraged to enhance each neighborhood.

#### iii. Rural Residential

- Connection from rural residential lands to the town core is desirable and may require on-road or off-road enhancements for vehicle and/or pedestrian uses. The intent is to provide a network of roadways, sidewalks and trails ultimately linking the outlying neighborhoods to other areas of the community.

#### iv. Development Notes

- Given the uncertainty of land uses, densities, intensities and other development issues that may be associated with these areas. Specific criteria for parks, recreation and open space can be tailored to the development proposals for each property.

## SEVERANCE MUNICIPAL CODE:

The Town of Severance municipal code contains ordinances that specify the development and regulation of parks, trails and open spaces. Articles 12 (Parks and Open Space) and 13 (Public Sites and Dedications) of Chapter 16 (land Use Code) are the main sections that address parks, trails and open space.

### Article 12 – Parks and Open Space

#### Sec. 16.12.130. - Neighborhood Parks.

- i. Neighborhood parks provide places within walking distance (approximately one-third [1/3] of a mile) of residential units for supervised play for young children and unstructured activities for neighborhood residents. Developers must either provide the land and develop a one-to-two-acre park for every five hundred (500) people (two hundred [200] residential units) or demonstrate proximity to existing parks and provide a cash-in-lieu equivalent. Neighborhood parks shall be owned and operated by a homeowners' or business association. Development agreements shall provide the Town with the right to own and operate such parks in the future. At a minimum, a neighborhood park shall include live groundcover, trees and irrigation, plus one (1) of the following: playground equipment, contemplative garden, community garden or other active or passive recreation opportunities for the neighborhood.
- ii. These parks shall not stand alone but shall be integrated within the community's park and trail system. Each park should reflect the distinctive characteristics and needs of the neighborhood and shall be unique.

#### Sec. 16.12.140. - Community Parks.

- i. In the Town, community parks serve the residents of the entire Town. The parks should maximize frontage by active public streets and can include multiple-use lawn areas, picnic areas, playground equipment, court game facilities, ball fields and community gardens. These parks should be located so as to be within walking and biking distance of the maximum number of residents. Community parks are to be located and landscaped so as to minimize the impact of organized recreational activities such as lighted ball fields. Every residential development shall either provide land for a community park, provide a fair share, cash-in-lieu contribution for a community park or have a combination of the two.

#### Sec. 16.12.150. - Trails.

- i. The trail system shall link neighborhoods, parks, schools, open spaces, employment centers, community facilities and neighboring communities and thus provide important transportation connections, as well as recreational opportunities and access. Developers must provide trails in the vicinity of all areas designated "Parks and Trails" on the Town's Parks and Trails Map, as well as connections to the Town's trail system and destinations within the neighborhood. The developer shall dedicate a public right-of-way of twenty (20) feet for trails, with the eight-foot trail maintained by the Town and remainder maintained by an owners' association. Trails are not included in the land dedication requirements.

#### Sec. 16.12.160. - Regional Open Space.

- i. The Town's open space system will include private and public land legally recorded and dedicated as "open space" in order to preserve natural areas, natural area buffer zones, wetlands and other environmental resources or to act as a buffer between land uses. Open space may support passive recreation uses, including but not limited to trails, picnic areas, fishing areas or observation points for wildlife or vistas. The Town's Future Land Use Map identifies particular open space corridors. Drainageways are included but may only count toward land dedication requirements if designed appropriately and specifically permitted by the Board of Trustees.

Sec. 16.12.180. - Private Open Space.

- i. Open space with limited access shall not relieve a developer of obligations to contribute to the public parks and open space requirements. However, such space may count toward meeting the recreation needs of the neighborhood. Upon approval of the Board of Trustees, such an exchange may take place with a fee in lieu of a neighborhood park paid to the Town for development of public parks.

Sec. 16.12.190. - Purpose of Open Space.

- i. Open space should serve as the neighborhood focus. Open space, such as buffers, drainageways and developed parks, squares and plazas, shall be used to organize and focus lot, block and circulation patterns and to enhance surrounding development. Street, block, lot and building patterns shall respond to the views, landscape and recreational opportunities provided by the open space.

Sec. 16.12.200. - Public Access.

- i. Areas designated as public open space shall be both visibly and physically accessible to the community. Public access shall be provided to all public open space, natural and developed, directly from the public street and trail system. Open space areas, including parks, shall be bounded along at least fifty percent (50%) of the perimeter by a street, except for plazas and private open space, unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Trustees. Neighborhood parks, community parks, plazas and squares shall be integrated into the neighborhood design, be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists and be handicapped accessible.
- ii. Buildings shall front public open space. Development adjacent to open spaces shall front onto the area as much as possible so that the areas are not enclosed by back yards. In the case of conservation subdivisions, open space frontage shall be appropriate to the design and character of the development. Open space and adjacent trail areas shall have a minimum of three hundred (300) feet of street frontage unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 13 - Public Sites and Dedications

Sec. 16.13.10. - Public Sites and Dedication Requirements.

The developer shall dedicate public sites for open space, parks or other civic purposes in accordance with the following requirements:

- i. Percentage dedication. Dedication of such sites and land areas to the Town or to the public. This land dedication will be credited toward the minimum fifteen percent (15%) of overall open space required for each subdivision; or
- ii. Fee in lieu of dedication. As determined by the Board of Trustees, the subdivider shall pay a fee in lieu of land dedication in those cases where dedication of land is not the preferred alternative. Such payment shall be based on the fair market value of the entire property, to be determined after completion of the platting process. Such payment shall be held by the Town for the acquisition of sites and land areas by the Town. At the option of the Board of Trustees, the subdivider may meet the dedication requirements of this Section through a combination of fee-in-lieu and land dedication.

## Severance Transportation Plan

The Severance Transportation Plan is a multi-modal network plan that is intended to accommodate projected growth through 2035. The Plan focuses on the growth management area as identified in the Severance Hometown Vision, 2011 Comprehensive Plan. The Plan includes short, mid, and long term transportation goals. Below are specific goals that address future bicycle and pedestrian connections and how they correspond with current and future parks and recreation amenities.

Goal 2: Provide a safe and efficient transportation system that serves all modes of travel.

- Objective 2-3: Promote alternative modes of transportation by providing options for bicycle and pedestrian travel including sidewalks, bike lanes or other on-street accommodation, and trails.
- Objective 2-4: Identify areas of the Town where pedestrian facilities and amenities should be enhanced, particularly near schools, parks, business districts, etc.
- Objective 2-5: Support implementation of the trail system identified in the Comprehensive Plan to provide transportation connections and recreational opportunities.

The Plan recommends various approaches to improve bicycle and pedestrian access along arterial roads, such as bicycle lanes, widened shoulders, and detached sidewalks. The following locations are identified for future bicycle lanes and shared-use trails:

i. Proposed Bike Lanes:

- WCR 74
- WCR 72
- WCR 70
- WCR 21
- WCR 23
- WCR 25
- Timber Ridge Parkway

ii. Proposed Shared-use Trails:

- At the extension of Ponderosa Drive to WCR 21;
- At the bridge between the Great Western Trail and Lakeview Park to 1st Ave;
- From 1st Ave east to the Baldrige Neighborhood on both the north and south side of Franklin Lake;
- From the GWT to the new high school planned at WCR 23 and WCR 70;
- Connections around the Windsor Reservoir on both the north and south side are also proposed.

## North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO): Regional Bicycle Plan

This Plan is a regional bicycle plan that identifies existing and proposed bicycle facilities in the North Front Range area. This plan provides guidance on how to connect local trails, parks and open spaces to the identified regional trails.

**DEMOGRAPHIC  
ANALYSIS**

**3**

## Demographics And Community Profile

### The Importance of Local Demographic Projections

A demographic and community profile analysis is an effective tool to aid in the planning of the facilities and services for the Town of Severance's parks and recreation. Projections of Severance's demographics for the years 2016 and 2021 (extrapolated from the 2010 Census data) help guide policy makers and staff in effectively allocating money and resources, prioritized to the needs of the community.

Severance's local demographic projections are also useful in supplementing information related to regional and national trends in parks and recreation. Overlaying an analysis of local, regional, and national trends with Severance's demographic projections provides a focused perspective on how to plan for Severance's future parks and recreation needs as well as how Town policy makers may best approach those needs based on budgets and staffing levels.

### Data Source

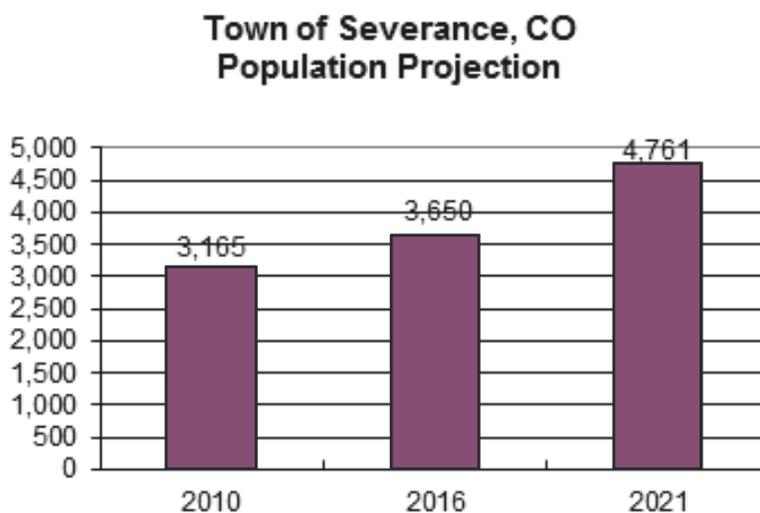
Unless otherwise noted, the raw data used for the demographic analysis that follows was compiled by evaluating data from Esri. Esri, a supplier of geographical information systems (GIS), uses projections from the 2010 census for the 2016 and 2021 numbers which makes them a reliable source of population data.

The 2016 and 2021 updates also include an additional database from Metrostudy that more than doubles Esri's geographic coverage and the number of units planned and completed. The addition of this database gives the housing unit update a finer level of granularity and insight into smaller housing markets across the nation. Tracking residential development since 2010 with Esri's enhanced demographic and spatial analysis tools also provides better information for the five-year forecasts than past trends.

### Population Forecast

The Town of Severance, Colorado appears to be growing at a much faster rate than Weld County, Colorado and the United States. Severance is projected to experience a 5.46% annual population growth rate for the five year period between 2016 and 2021, from 3,650 to 4,761 residents. This rate of growth is above the rate projected for Weld County (2.34%), Colorado (1.45%) and the U.S. (0.84%) for the same period. The projected population for Severance is illustrated in Figure 3.1, which depicts Severance's population from the 2010 Census and population projections for 2016 and 2021.

Figure 3.1: Population Projection

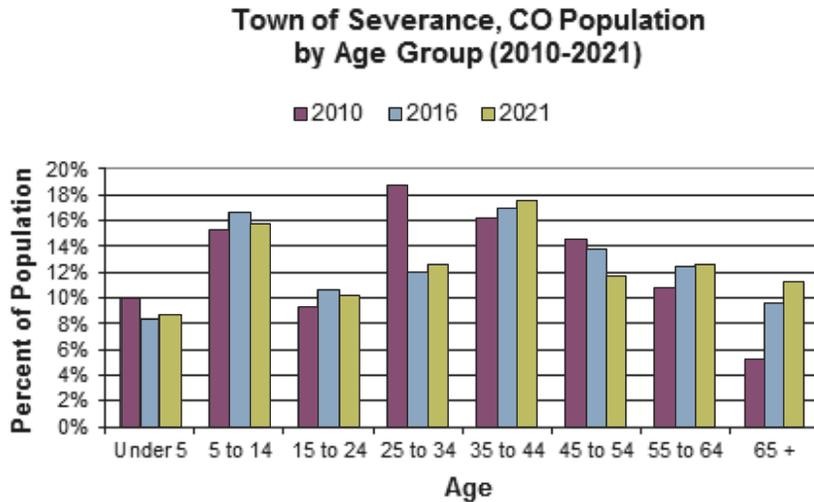


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2016 and 2021. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography (downloaded by Norris Design July 2016).

## Age Distribution

A profile of the distribution of age ranges within Severance is critical to parks and recreation planning because different age groups can have different needs and usage patterns for facilities and programs. Figure 3.2 illustrates the population trend of the Town of Severance by age groups. The trend depicted in the chart indicates a decline between 2010 and 2021 in the percentage of the population of those aged 5 and under, 25 to 34, and those 45 to 54. These age groups together typically indicate families with school aged children, families with children moving out of the house, and parents of older children or early empty-nesters. An increase in the next oldest age group of 35 to 44, 55 to 64, and 65+ suggests that many from the previous set of age groups may be staying in Severance and aging in place. These trends indicate that as the population increases, the percentage of young families in the Town of Severance will likely remain relatively stable, while those who are empty-nesters or retirees are becoming a higher percentage of the population overall.

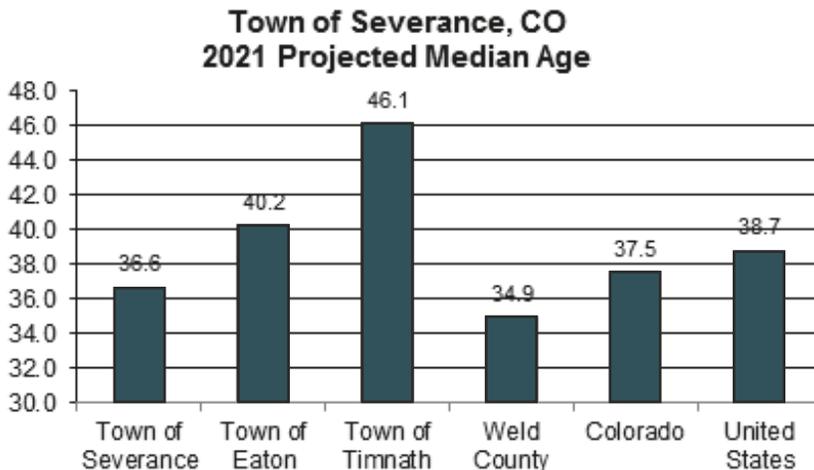
**Figure 3.2: Age Distribution**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2016 and 2021. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography (downloaded by Norris Design July 2016).

Severance’s median age is relatively similar to those in Weld County, Colorado and the United States (Figure 3.3). This figure illustrates that the Town of Severance’s projected median age in 2021 will be 36.6 years, similar to the projected median age of Weld County (34.9), Colorado (37.5) and the nation (38.7). Severance’s median age, however, is much younger when compared to the neighboring communities of Eaton (40.2) and Timnath (46.1).

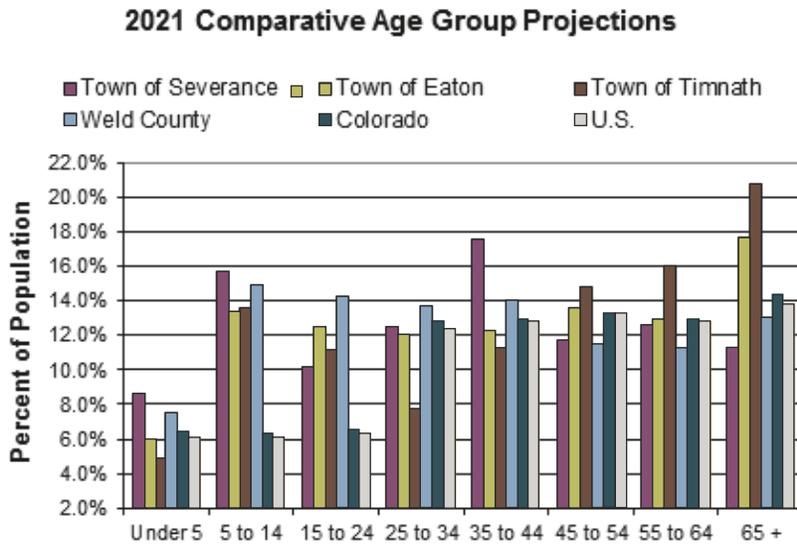
**Figure 3.3: Projected Median Age**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2016 and 2021. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography (downloaded by Norris Design July 2016).

Despite the decreasing growth of children represented by the 5 and under category in Figure 3.2, Severance has a higher percentage of the population within that category than Eaton, Timnath, Weld County, Colorado and the United States (Figure 3.4). The 5 to 14, and 35 to 44 year old age groups also represent a higher percentage of the population within that category than any of the other comparison jurisdictions, the county, state, or country. Despite the growth in the 65+ age category as seen in Figure 3.2, Severance has a lower percentage of the population within that category as compared to Eaton, Timnath, Weld County, Colorado and the United States (Figure 3.4). However, confirming the growth of those 25 to 34 and over 65 shown in Figure 3.2, Figure 3.4 shows those age groups represent a greater portion of the population than the region, state and nation. This data means that while there are a substantial number of young people and young families within Severance, it will be important to meet the needs not only of those families, but also the older adults within the community as well. Also, see Household Makeup for a more detailed breakdown of household makeup and trends.

**Figure 3.4: 2021 Comparative Age Group Projections**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2016 and 2021. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography (downloaded by Norris Design July 2016).

**Table 3.1 – Town of Severance, Colorado’s Demographic Groups and Recreation Needs**

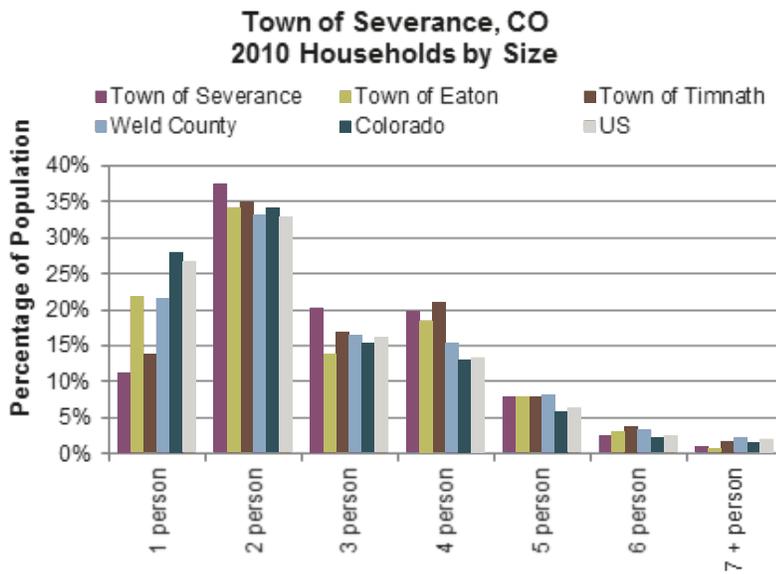
Age Group	2010	2016	2021	Characteristics and Recreation Needs
Under 5	10.0%	8.4%	8.6%	Preschool and toddler programs
				Playground users
				Experience park and recreation facilities and programs with an adult
5 to 14	15.3%	16.6%	15.7%	Youth athletics and after-school programs
				Growing interest in non-traditional, individual activities
15 to 24	9.2%	10.6%	10.1%	Teen and young adult programs
				Extreme sports and adventure-related activities
25 to 34	18.7%	12.0%	12.5%	Adult program participants
				Young families
35 to 44 and 45 to 54	30.7%	30.6%	29.2%	Adult program participants
Combined age groups - have similar needs and demands for recreation programs and facilities				
Families range from preschool to early empty-nesters				
55 to 64	10.8%	12.4%	12.6%	Active older adult programming
				Empty-nesters approaching retirement
				Often have grandchildren who use facilities and programs
65 and older	5.2%	9.6%	11.2%	Older adult programs
				Social networking and healthcare related programs
				Range from healthy and active to more physically inactive

The data above points to a growth in the 55 years and over population in the Town of Severance. As a result of this growth, providing services for the recreational needs of older adults including active & passive facilities and programming will become increasingly important. This should happen alongside the continued provision of services and spaces for children and young people.

## Household Makeup

In 2016, Severance's average household size of 2.87 persons per household is greater than its neighboring jurisdictions (Eaton 2.73, Timnath 2.83), Weld County (2.79), Colorado (2.52), and the United States (2.59). Figure 3.5 shows a small segment of the households consist of only one person, whereas households with two to four persons is a much larger segment (compared to Weld County, Colorado and the United States). In 2010, 45.5% of the households in Severance included children. This is 6.5% more than the percentage of households with children in Weld County (39.0%) and 12.8% more than households in Colorado (32.7%). All of these statistics indicate larger families with more children living at home. However, it is also important to note that the population over the age of 65 is expected to increase significantly in the next five years, which will increase both the number of one and two person households, and/or multi-generational households. The larger household size and households with children, as well as the increase in the mature demographic shows a divergent need of programming to meet the needs of the community.

**Figure 3.5: 2010 Households by Size**



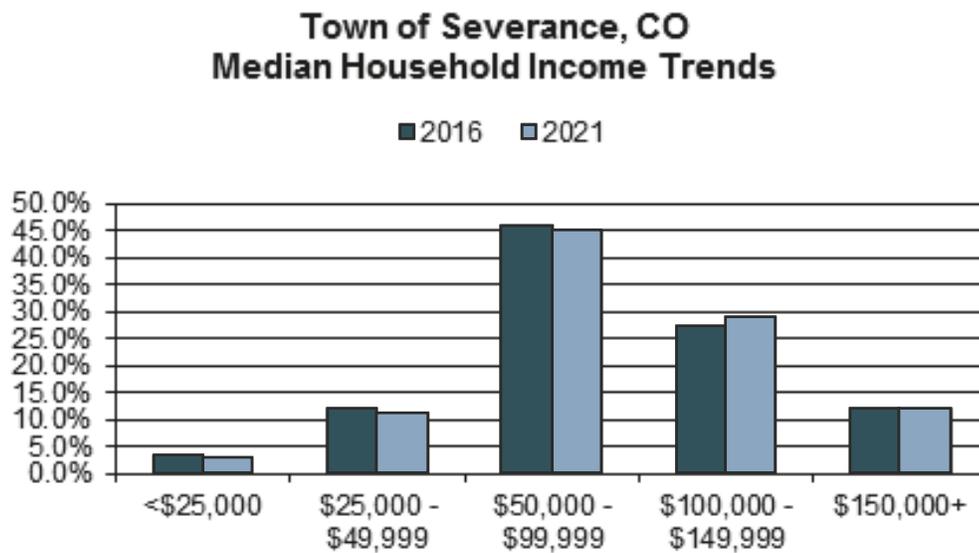
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2016 and 2021. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography (downloaded by Norris Design July 2016).

## Household Income

Figure 3.6 shows an increase in household income over \$100,000 and decreases in household incomes below \$100,000 between 2016 and 2021. It is important to keep in mind when reviewing household income data that the higher number of people in a household impacts the amount of disposable income. When evaluating this trend against the local and state projections, Weld County and Colorado also see an increase in household incomes over \$50,000 and a decrease below \$50,000, which is consistent with national trends.

Data shows that income and physical activity are positively correlated; when one rises, the other rises. The number of households in Severance with low income levels is expected to decrease whereas those with moderate and higher income levels are expected to increase by 2021 (see Figure 3.6). For parks and recreation, income levels often influence programming, facilities, and fee structures. For example, operations and maintenance costs will increase as the Town takes on more parks, and when considering fee increases or additional programs or facilities, it will be important to evaluate those programs and facilities for community vs. individual benefit. Additionally, despite an upward trend in income, there may still be residents within the community that may not have the ability to pay, but may be most in need of the Town's services.

**Figure 3.6: Median Household Income Trends**



Data Note: Income represents the preceding year, expressed in current dollars. Household income includes wage and salary earnings, interest dividends, net rents, pensions, SSI and welfare payments, child support, and alimony.

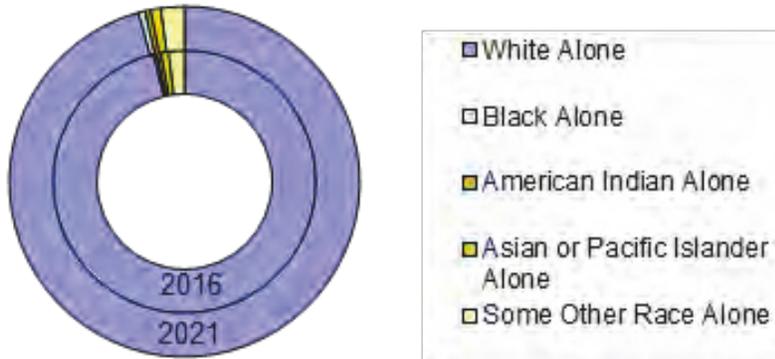
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2016 and 2021. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography (downloaded by Norris Design July 2016).

## Race and Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity influence cultural trends and play a role in park and recreation needs and desires. Trends can be found in the ways that different ethnic groups use parks, recreation facilities, and the types of programs they seek. As Figure 3.7 illustrates, the Town of Severance’s racial makeup is predominately “white alone”<sup>2</sup> and will remain so over the next five years. Overall, the Town of Severance is less racially diverse than Weld County, Colorado and the United States as a whole. The percentage of the population in 2021 that is anticipated to be “white alone”<sup>3</sup> will be lower in Weld County (80.3%), Colorado (78.8%) and the United States (68.9%) than within the Town of Severance (92.8%).

**Figure 3.7: Projected Population by Race**

### Town of Severance, CO 2016 and 2021 Projected Population by Race



Data Note: Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race. The Diversity Index measures the probability that two people from the same area will be from different race/ethnic groups.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2016 and 2021. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography (downloaded by Norris Design July 2016).

## Key Findings

The Town of Severance is growing at a faster rate than the communities around it. The age breakdown shows a decrease in young families and an increase in residents over 65. However, the percentage of young people and families is still greater than other communities in the region. Therefore, this split in growth data means that while there are a substantial number of young families within Severance, it will be important to meet the needs not only of those families but the older adults within the community as well. The focus on additional services, facilities, and programs should continue to serve a broad cross-section of the population. Connecting residents to facilities and establishing facilities in proximity to residents will be important as the community grows.

<sup>3</sup> According to U.S. Office of Management and Budget, “White” refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. The White racial category includes people who marked the “White” check-box. It also includes respondents who reported entries such as Caucasian or White; European entries, such as Irish, German, and Polish; Middle Eastern entries, such as Arab, Lebanese, and Palestinian; and North African entries, such as Algerian, Moroccan, and Egyptian. People who responded to the Census questionnaire on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the “race alone” population, or the group who reported only one race. For example, respondents who marked only the “White” category on the census questionnaire would be included in the White alone population. This population can be viewed as the minimum number of people reporting White.

**PROGRAMMING  
ANALYSIS**

**4**

## Introduction

For the purpose of strategic planning for future agency organizational structure, programming levels are projected for 2021 based on the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park Metrics. These projections are based on a comparison to communities of similar size to Severance.

As Severance grows, the need for future parks and recreation programming will be important to serve the Town's population. The analysis provided within this report of comparable park metrics creates insight into the projected programming needs for the Town of Severance. This analysis also facilitates a data-driven perspective to develop recommendations and best practices for a 5-year horizon.

## Methods

Data from NRPA's Park Metrics database is analyzed to estimate future programming levels allocated for the future parks and recreation system for the Town of Severance 2021 operating budget. 2015 data from NRPA's Park Metric database of parks and recreation agencies across the nation are the most complete compared to data from 2016. Because of the completeness of the 2015 data and the availability of Severance's budget actuals, 2015 data from NRPA's Park Metrics are used to project operations staffing levels across a five-year forecast.

NRPA's Park Metric data is analyzed to identify jurisdictions that have a total population between 3,500 and 5,050 residents. Data from these jurisdictions provide insight into Severance's future operating expenses because these jurisdictions are similar in size to Severance's projected 2021 population of 4,761 residents. Parameters of these jurisdictions' programming data are analyzed to identify trends. The trends provide a guide for Severance's 2021 programming budget allocated to its future parks and recreation system.



LAKEVIEW PARK



SEVERANCE DAYS

## Results

Within the NRPA's Parks Metric database, nine jurisdictions within the continental United States have a population between 3,500 and 5,050 residents in 2015. A summary of the programming levels for these jurisdictions is provided below.

**Table 4.1 Town of Severance 2021 Programming Budget Guidelines | Projected Programming Impacts based on NRPA's Park Metric Data**

	Town of Severance	# of Jurisdictional Respondents	Percentage	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Revenue per capita	-	5	-	\$9	\$16	\$132
Total revenue to total operating expenditures	-	5	-	9.8%	14.0%	43.0%
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	4.5	5	-	4.3	4.6	6.7
Number of participants per program	-	3	-	70.3	83.3	1,003.20
<b>Percentage of total full-time equivalents (FTEs) involved in the following operational areas:</b>						
Programmers	-	5	-	12.5%	20.0%	21.5%
<b>Number of volunteers and number of annual hours worked by the volunteers at the agency</b>						
a. Number of volunteers	-	4	-	5.5	10.5	61.3
b. Total hours worked by volunteers	-	4	-	350	950	2,500
<b>Number of individual parks or non-park sites the department/agency maintains and/or has management responsibility over:</b>						
a. Total park acres	16.5	5	-	16.8	20	32
<b>Agency Responsibilities</b>						
a. Provide recreation programming and services	-	3	60.0%	-	-	-
b. Operate, maintain, or manage trails, greenways, and/or blueways	3	3	60.0%	-	-	-
<b>Jurisdiction population per facility or activity areas within facilities:</b>						
a. Recreation centers	-	2	-	4,149.80	4,366.50	4,583.30
b. Community centers	-	1	-	4,800	4,800	4,800
c. Fitness center	-	1	-	4,800	4,800	4,800
d. Gyms	-	2	-	4,149.80	4,366.50	4,583.30
<b>Percentage of agencies offering the following activities:</b>						
a. Health and wellness education	-	1	25.0%	-	-	-
b. Safety training	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
c. Fitness enhancement classes	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
d. Team sports	-	4	100.0%	-	-	-
e. Individual sports	-	1	25.0%	-	-	-
f. Racquet sports	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
g. Martial arts	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
h. Aquatics	-	1	25.0%	-	-	-
i. Social recreation events	5	2	50.0%	-	-	-

j. Cultural crafts	-	1	25.0%	-	-	-
k. Performing arts	-	1	25.0%	-	-	-
l. Visual arts	-	1	25.0%	-	-	-
m. Themed special events	-	3	75.0%	-	-	-
n. Trips and tours	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
<b>Percentage of agencies offering the following Out-of-School Time (OST) activities?</b>						
a. Summer camp						
Y	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
N	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
b. Before school programs						
Y	-	1	33.3%	-	-	-
N	-	2	66.7%	-	-	-
c. After school programs						
Y	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
N	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
d. Preschool						
Y	-	1	33.3%	-	-	-
N	-	2	66.7%	-	-	-
e. Full daycare						
Y	-	0	0.0%	-	-	-
N	-	3	100.0%	-	-	-
f. Specific teen programs						
Y	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
N	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
g. Specific senior programs						
Y	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
N	-	2	50.0%	-	-	-
h. Programs for people with disabilities						
Y	-	1	33.3%	-	-	-
N	-	2	66.7%	-	-	-

## Key Findings

### Guidelines for Projecting Programming Impacts in 2021

Based on the NRPA's Park Metric Data, the following guidelines contribute to Severance's strategic planning for programming impacts in 2021:

- The percentage of Full Time Equivalents in the future parks and recreation operating budget allocated to programming is projected to be between 12.5% and 21.5%.
- Volunteers should be utilized to support parks and recreation programming.
- Severance should aim to provide between 4.3 to 6.7 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents.
- Team sports, themed special events, safety training, fitness enhancement classes, racquet sports, martial arts, and social recreation events are the most popular programs offered by jurisdictions of a similar size.
- Out-of-school time (OST) activities are often offered by jurisdictions of a similar size including summer camp, after school programs, specific teen programs, and specific senior programs.

**INVENTORY  
AND LEVEL  
OF SERVICE  
ANALYSIS**

**5**

## Introduction

The Town of Severance provides numerous types of parks and recreation related spaces throughout the community. Currently, there are five established public parks and when combined total 16.5 acres. Many of the outlying subdivisions include open space tracts that are owned and maintained by home owners associations. There are a series of shared-use paths that provide connections throughout the community. The Town is bisected by a large greenway that has been identified as a location for future parks and open space. A section of the Great Western Trail runs through the greenway. A more in-depth description and analysis of these community assets is included in this section.

This system of parks, open spaces, and trails provide a good foundation for the Town to continue enhancing these community resources as well as expand this system as the community grows. In order to support these processes, this master plan effort includes a level of service (LOS) analysis that reviewed existing Town and regional facilities.

The first step was to establish what the current LOS that the Town of Severance is currently providing. To accomplish this, Norris Design conducted a GPS inventory, GIS mapping, and a conditional assessment of all existing Town of Severance park assets. The result was an accurate and comprehensive accounting of all park assets, from the largest assets such as park parcels and land holdings, to smaller support assets such as playground structures and drinking fountains, including the current conditions of these assets. Additionally, we reviewed proposed parks and amenities that are currently going through the approval process as they will likely be built in the near future and will influence the current LOS service of the community. The second part of the LOS analysis included a review of regional park and recreation facilities to determine what amenities and services are available.

### Home Owners Associations / Open Space

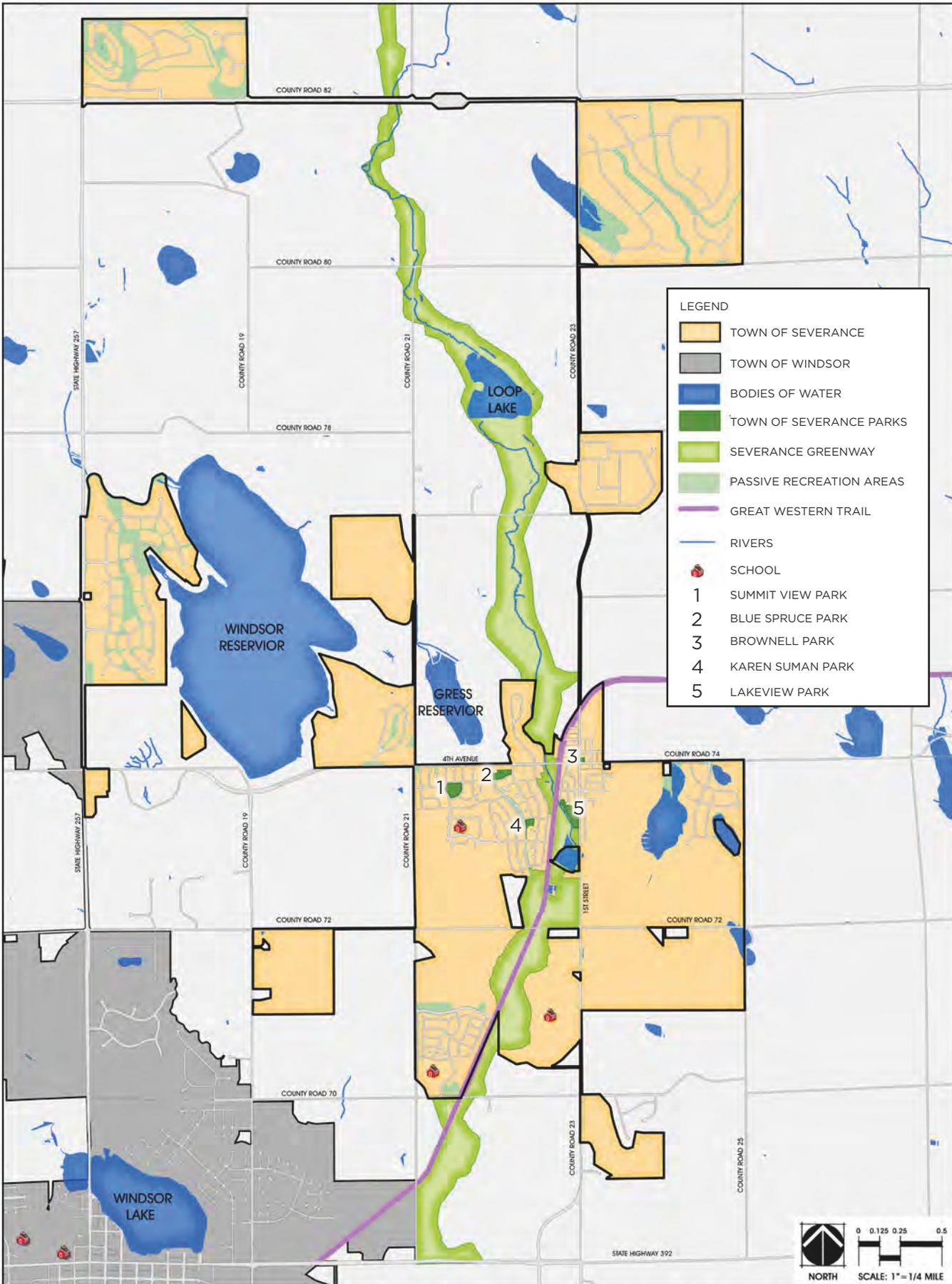
Many of the passive recreation areas and open spaces within newer subdivisions located on the fringe of the community are owned and maintained by Home Owners Associations (H.O.A) within their respective subdivision. Though they are not part of the Town's park system, they do provide green space to the surrounding homes. The H.O.A. parks and open spaces consist predominately of gravel trails, stormwater ponds, and provide open space buffers throughout the subdivisions.



**BELMONT FARMS**



**FOX RIDGE**



**OVERALL PARK MAP**

## **Weld County School District RE-4**

Schools often are one of the primary institutions of a community. Routinely, schools provide athletic and wellness programs that can influence the level of physical activity of students, parents, and the community at large. In many situations, joint use agreements are put in place to allow the general public to utilize the athletic and playground facilities that are located on school grounds. This relationship can expand the access to opportunities beyond public parks and recreation facilities. The current schools in Severance provide the following recreational and athletic facilities:

### **Range View Elementary School**

- Playground
- General multi-purpose field

### **Severance Middle School**

- Informal baseball/softball field
- Track
- Football field

A second high school for Weld County School District RE-4 was recently approved to be developed in Severance. The 76 acre school site will be located west of County Road 23 and north of the proposed extension of Hidden Valley Parkway, and east of the Great Western Trail. The site will provide the following recreational and athletic facilities:

- Two softball fields
- Two baseball fields
- Two multi-purpose fields
- One football/soccer field
- One track
- Four tennis courts

## **Great Western Trail**

The Great Western Trail (G.W.T.) is a trail that connects the towns of Windsor, Severance, and Eaton along the route of the former Great Western Railroad. An Intergovernmental Agreement between Windsor, Severance, and Eaton created the Great Western Trail Authority in 2006 in order to accept the donation of the historic rail right-of-way. This donation was made available by the “railbanking” provision in the National Trails System Act. The trail currently consists of 3.3 miles of crusher fine trail with native grasses planted on both sides. The existing crossings have been upgraded with concrete pads and railings for pedestrian and cycling use. The trail currently ends at 1st Street in Severance, but roughly \$750,000 has been earmarked for the 7 mile connection from Severance to Eaton, and is currently in development; construction expected to be completed in 2018.

## **Law Reservoir**

The Law Reservoir is located on the west side of 1st Street/Weld County Road 23 south of Lakeview Park. The reservoir has been identified as a potential community amenity. Its location adjacent to the Greenway and north of the future high school provides opportunities to potentially connect it to the surrounding open space. Some ideas that have been considered to be developed are a fishing pier, walking trails, and landscape improvements.

# PARKS INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

The parks inventory was completed and compiled in three steps:

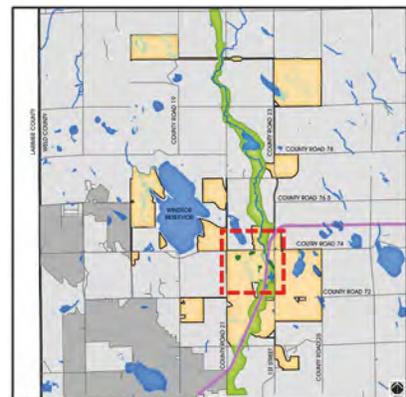
- Collection and assessment of existing GIS data.
- Site visits (in the fall of 2016) and re-evaluation of the existing, quantitative, and qualitative conditions of parks and recreation facilities.
- Processing and evaluating the results of site visit evaluations by utilizing GIS programs.



## TOWN CORE PARK MAP

### LEGEND

- |   |                          |   |                  |
|---|--------------------------|---|------------------|
|  | BODIES OF WATER          |  | SUMMIT VIEW PARK |
|  | TOWN OF SEVERANCE PARKS  |  | BLUE SPRUCE PARK |
|  | SEVERANCE GREENWAY       |  | KAREN SUMAN PARK |
|  | PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS |  | LAKEVIEW PARK    |
|  | GREAT WESTERN TRAIL      |  | BROWNELL PARK    |
|  | RIVERS                   |   |                  |





**List of Assets**

- 1 Picnic Tables (4)
- 2 Benches (3)
- 3 Dog Station (1)
- 4 Trash Cans (3)
- 5 Parking Lot (1)



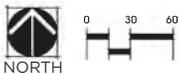
**A. Blue Spruce Park (3.2 Acres)**

Blue Spruce Park is located to the north of Blue Spruce Drive between Timber Ridge Parkway and Foxtail Way. Consisting of approximately three acres, it is directly across the street from the Severance Town Hall building and shares a parking lot with Tiny Cabin Coffee, a coffee and tea shop. This parking lot contains thirteen standard and two handicap parking stalls and has a minor issue with pooling water to the southeast. The center of the park is a pond with an aerator that is ringed on the north side by a five foot walking path. Three picnic tables that have a moderate amount of damage are located on pads attached to the walking path. These three picnic tables are currently in direct sunlight, but the young trees next to them will provide more shade as they mature. Two additional picnic tables in almost new condition are located on concrete pads under the two large trees on the west side of the park. This park is used predominately for walking, passive recreation, and as a spot to eat or drink goods from the coffee shop. There is a moderate amount of noise from Weld County Road (WCR) 74 / W 4th Avenue located to the north of the park.



### List of Assets

- 1 Multi-Use Field
- 2 Playstructures (5)
- 3 Picnic Tables (2)
- 4 Benches (2)
- 5 Dog Station (1)
- 6 Grills (2)
- 7 Trash Cans (3)



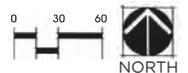
### B. Karen Suman Park (1.7 Acres)

Karen Suman Park is located on the south east corner of the intersection of Pinon Pine Drive and Timber Ridge Parkway. This park is distinct because of its six foot wide loop walk that creates a perfect circle around a central passive green and play area. Karen Suman Park is located directly on the north/south greenway and trail located on the east side of Timber Ridge Parkway. Two quiet areas with faded picnic tables and outdoor charcoal grills are adjacent to the main loop of the park. The benches should be reconfigured to face the play area. There is no off street parking; parking is provided by on-street parking to the north. Trees on the west side of the park provide some shade, but over-watering prevents this area from being utilized as it is muddy. The evergreen and aspen trees on the south east side of the park provide some shade and a sense of enclosure.



### List of Assets

- 1 Multi-Purpose Field (1)
- 2 Shade Structure (1)
- 3 Playstructure (1)
- 4 Picnic Tables (2)
- 5 Benches (9)
- 6 Dog Station (3)
- 7 Trash Cans (3)



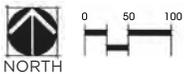
### C. Summit View Park (4.5 Acres)

Summit View Park is on the east side of Audubon Boulevard between Evans Street and Summit View Road. It is bounded on the north by Snowmass Drive. There is no off street parking; parking is provided by on-street parking on all sides except Audubon Boulevard to the southwest. The park is primarily a large central green with a five foot wide loop walk. Many of the benches and trash receptacles along this loop walk have been damaged, but are currently still in usable conditions. The playground equipment in the northeast corner of the park is starting to show signs of wear. Adjacent to this, the picnic tables under the shelter have been damaged. Many of the trees in this park are still relatively young, so they do not currently provide much shade. Most of the park is in direct sunlight.



### List of Assets

- 1 Bathroom (1)
- 2 Shade Structure (2)
- 3 Courts (2)
- 4 Skate Park (1)
- 5 Playstructures (5)
- 6 Picnic Tables (8)
- 7 Benches (7)
- 8 Dog Station (3)
- 9 Trash Cans (4)
- 10 Grills (2)
- 11 Parking Lots (4)



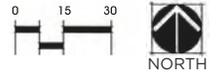
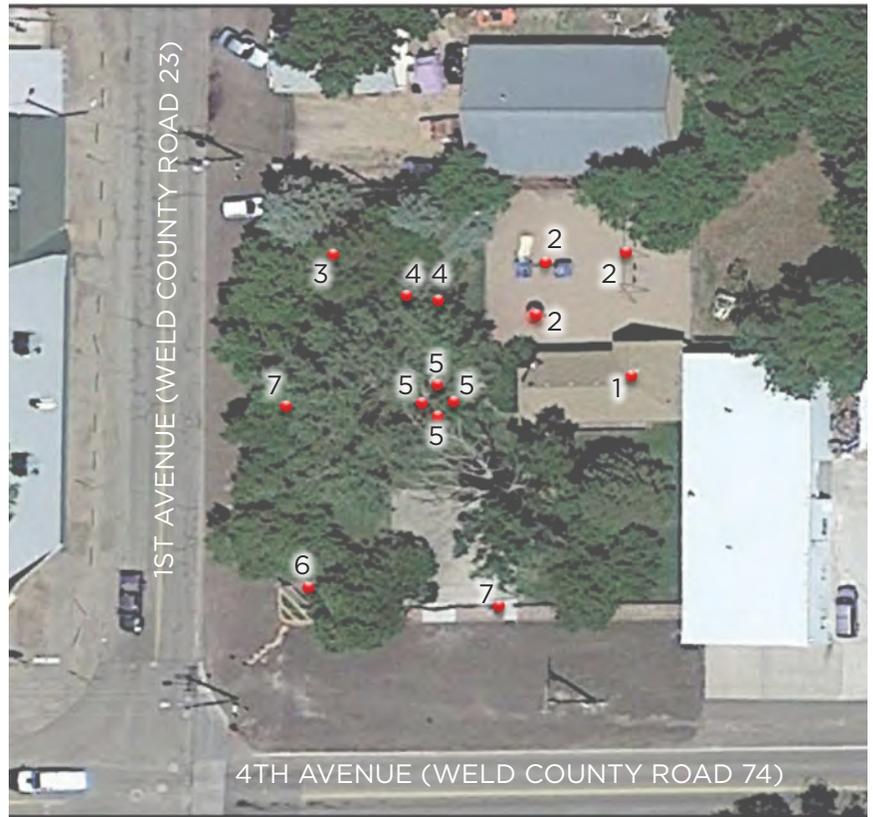
### D. Lakeview Park (6.5 Acres)

Lakeview Park is a wedge shaped park extending from the end of Lakeview Drive east to the intersection of Broadview Drive and 1st Street and south to Law Reservoir. A natural water channel forms the west edge of the park and separates it on the south from Law Reservoir. An existing stream crossing over this channel provides a connection to the Great Western Trail. Off-street parking is provided at Lakeview Drive (two handicap and eleven standard), Mallard Drive (two handicap and six standard), off of Broadview Drive (28 standard), and a large gravel lot north of the dog park. The park provides two shelters, a restroom facility, and many play equipment pieces that are all in good condition. The picnic tables under these shelters have been vandalized. The park includes a skate park and a basketball court that are both in good condition next to the Broadview Drive parking area. The sand volleyball court to the west of the skate park is in disrepair and was missing a net entirely. Large trees provide shade throughout the park. The dog park has a single tree that provides some shade with a plastic bench under it.



### List of Assets

- 1 Building (1)
- 2 Playstructures (3)
- 3 Shade Structure (1)
- 4 Picnic Tables (2)
- 5 Benches (4)
- 6 Sign (1)
- 7 Trash Can (2)



### E. Brownell Park (0.5 Acres)

Brownell Park is roughly half an acre located on the northeast corner of 1st Street and 4th Avenue. This park is in the heart of Severance’s downtown core and is directly east of Bruce’s Bar. Large trees provide shade for almost all of this park. The “Old Town Hall” is located within the center of the park, separating the playground from 4th Avenue to the south. 4th Avenue has a high volume of traffic, which can occasionally generate traffic noise. The play equipment is old and shows many signs of wear. A concrete pad that appears to have once been half a basketball court does not have a basketball hoop.

## Trails/Connections

Improving pedestrian and bicycle connections to community parks and facilities was an important issue raised during the public outreach process. This desire by community members reinforces the idea that a successful parks system needs to be well-connected for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Currently, there are many segments of trails and sidewalks that do not connect and portions that need to be reconstructed to a condition that supports people of all ages and abilities.

Recognizing the importance of a well-connected and safe pedestrian and bicycle system that supports parks and open spaces, the project team analyzed the conditions of approximately seven miles of existing walks and trails. We evaluated the conditions, gaps, and identified opportunities for improvement. This included the Great Western Trail that cuts directly through the middle of Severance, which has the potential to be a major pedestrian and bicycle corridor throughout the community and region.

Through this process a connectivity map was developed to highlight existing pedestrian and bicycle routes, potential shared use path locations, and specific infrastructure improvement areas.

The main pedestrian and bicycling shared use paths through the Town include:

- Ponderosa Drive
- Mahogany Way
- Blue Spruce Drive / North of Fire Station

The following sidewalks were reviewed as potential locations for future share use paths that would accommodate pedestrian and bicyclists:

- Timber Ridge Parkway
- Audubon Boulevard
- Scotch Pine Drive
- WCR 21
- 4th Avenue
- 1st Street



TRAIL NORTH OF THE FIRE STATION



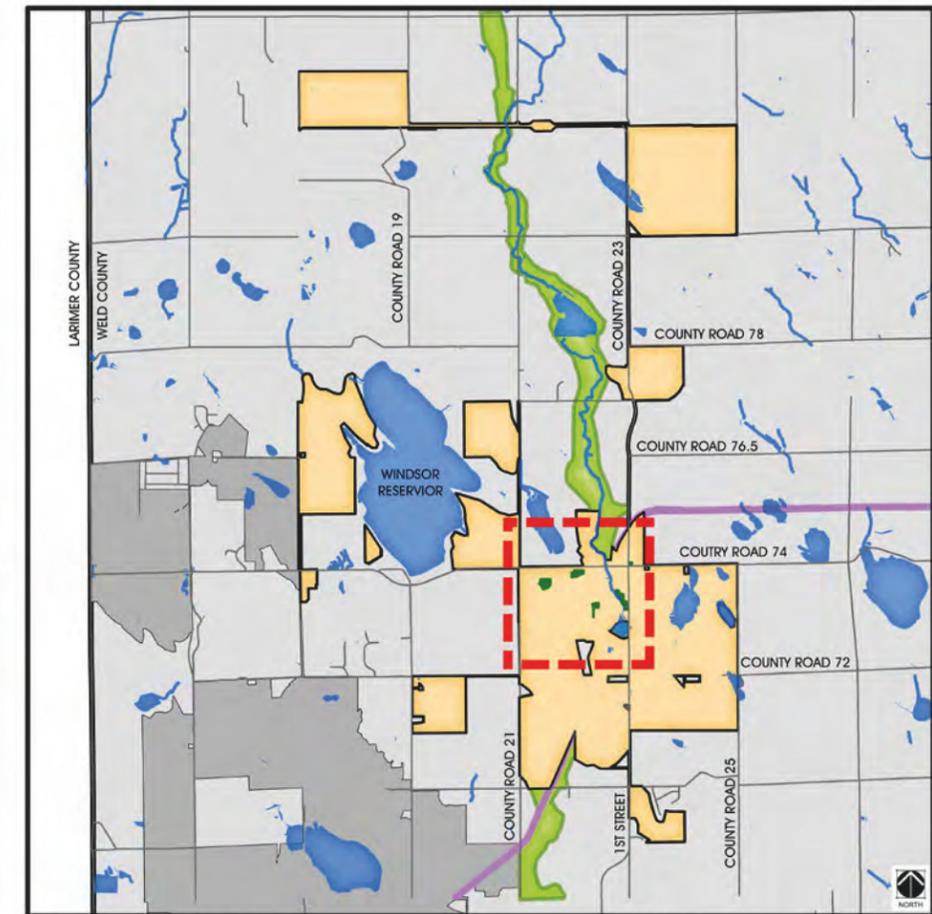
TRAIL ALONG MAHOGANY WAY



GREAT WESTERN TRAIL

Potential infrastructure improvements were identified that would improve connectivity and safety. These connectivity improvement areas are identified on the Connectivity Map.

- As the Town of Severance expands, the intersection of WCR 21 and WCR 74 will become a significant intersection. Pedestrian and bicycle connections should be examined at this intersection to determine the need for safety enhancements such as striping or signage.
- The existing shared use path north of the fire station currently ends into Arapahoe Street. The current connection to Summit View Park is either on street or on a five-foot-wide attached sidewalk. Safety enhancements such as signage and striping should be studied to provide a safe connection for people of all ages and abilities.
- Consider extending the sidewalk and the incorporation of an accessible ramp in the northeast intersection of W. 4th Avenue and Mahogany Way.
- The Great Western Trail at 4th Avenue is planned to be a major crossing point for bicyclists and pedestrians. This intersection should be studied to make certain the appropriate safety measures are in place for people of all ages and abilities.
- As the Great Western Trail is built out across 1st Avenue / WCR23, a safe connection will be required for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road to continue on to Eaton.
- An informal connection between the existing shared use path on the west side of the Great Western Trail and Lakeview Park currently exists. This connection provides a strong east/west active transportation connection from the western portion of Severance to the Severance Greenway and the Great Western Trail as well as the eastern portion of the Town. This connection should be studied to determine if enhancing it with a paved surface and landscaping will improve the overall usage.
- An existing shared use path extends from Mahogany Way to Prairie Clover Way, and the Transportation Plan calls for a future shared use path along Ponderosa Drive west of Audubon Boulevard. The existing trail continues as an eight-foot-wide walk on the north side of Ponderosa Drive west of Windflower Way. Providing a connection between these two pieces of trail would provide a strong east / west connection between the Great Western Trail and Range View Elementary.
- The southern end of the existing multiuse trail that parallels Mahogany Way and the great Western Trail provides an opportunity to connect the existing path to the Great Western Trail as well as a future connection to the proposed high school site.



LOCATION MAP

SCALE: 1" = 3/4 MILE

**LEGEND**

- TOWN OF SEVERANCE
- TOWN OF WINDSOR
- BODIES OF WATER
- TOWN OF SEVERANCE PARKS
- SEVERANCE GREENWAY
- GREAT WESTERN TRAIL
- RIVERS
- EXISTING SHARED USE TRAIL
- FUTURE SHARED USE TRAIL
- EXISTING SIDEWALK
- FUTURE SIDEWALK
- EXISTING BIKE LANE/BIKE PATH
- FUTURE BIKE LANE/BIKE PATH
- POTENTIAL CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS

**TOWN OF SEVERANCE PARKS**

- 1 - SUMMIT VIEW PARK - 4.5 acres
- 2 - BLUE SPRUCE PARK - 3.2 acres
- 3 - KAREN SUMAN PARK - 1.7 acres
- 4 - LAKEVIEW PARK - 6.5 acres
- 5 - BROWNELL PARK - 0.5 acres



## REGIONAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

The regional context inventory analyzes Severance in relationship to the surrounding communities of Fort Collins, Loveland, Timnath, Windsor, Greeley, and Eaton. The following facilities were mapped in each of these communities with corresponding radii around them to show the coverage areas of expected users.

### Regional Parks

Regional parks are the largest type of park provided by local municipalities. They are over 100 acres in size and contain a wide variety of active and passive amenities. They serve large areas of a city or multiple smaller communities. These parks have a service radius of 7 miles. Regional parks provide multiple destination amenities such as ice rinks, skate parks, splash pads and sports complexes. There are three regional parks in the vicinity of Severance - two are in Fort Collins and one is in Greeley. Severance is not served by these three regional parks since Severance is outside of the service radii for each.

### Community Parks

Community parks are between 50 to 100 acres in size and serve a group of neighborhoods. They have a service radius of 1.5 miles. Community parks contain both passive and active recreation and one or more destination amenities, such as ballfields, play grounds or splash pads. These parks generally have a mixture of primary and support assets to serve individuals and large groups. Community parks tend to be located in urban areas. There are multiple community parks in Fort Collins, Loveland, Windsor and Greeley. There are no community parks serving Severance, Timnath or Eaton.

### Sports Complexes

Sports Complexes are facilities containing four or more lighted, competition-level sports fields or twelve or more lighted courts. They are typically dedicated to a single sport, i.e. soccer. Sports complexes can be stand-alone parks or part of a larger regional or community park. They have a service radius of 2.5 miles. There are sports complexes in Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley. Severance is not served by these existing Sport Complexes since Severance is outside their service radii.

### Community Centers

A community center is any building that offers programming such as classes and activities to residents. These include senior centers, recreation centers, art centers or neighborhood centers. Community centers have a service radius of 2.5 miles. Windsor is the closest provider of community centers. They have two that serve the southwest portion of Severance.

### Aquatics

Aquatics facilities are recreational or therapeutic swimming pools. They do not include stand-alone splash pads. Aquatics facilities are found in community centers or larger parks. These facilities have a service radius of 2.5 miles. There are two Aquatics facilities in Windsor that serve the southwest portions of Severance.

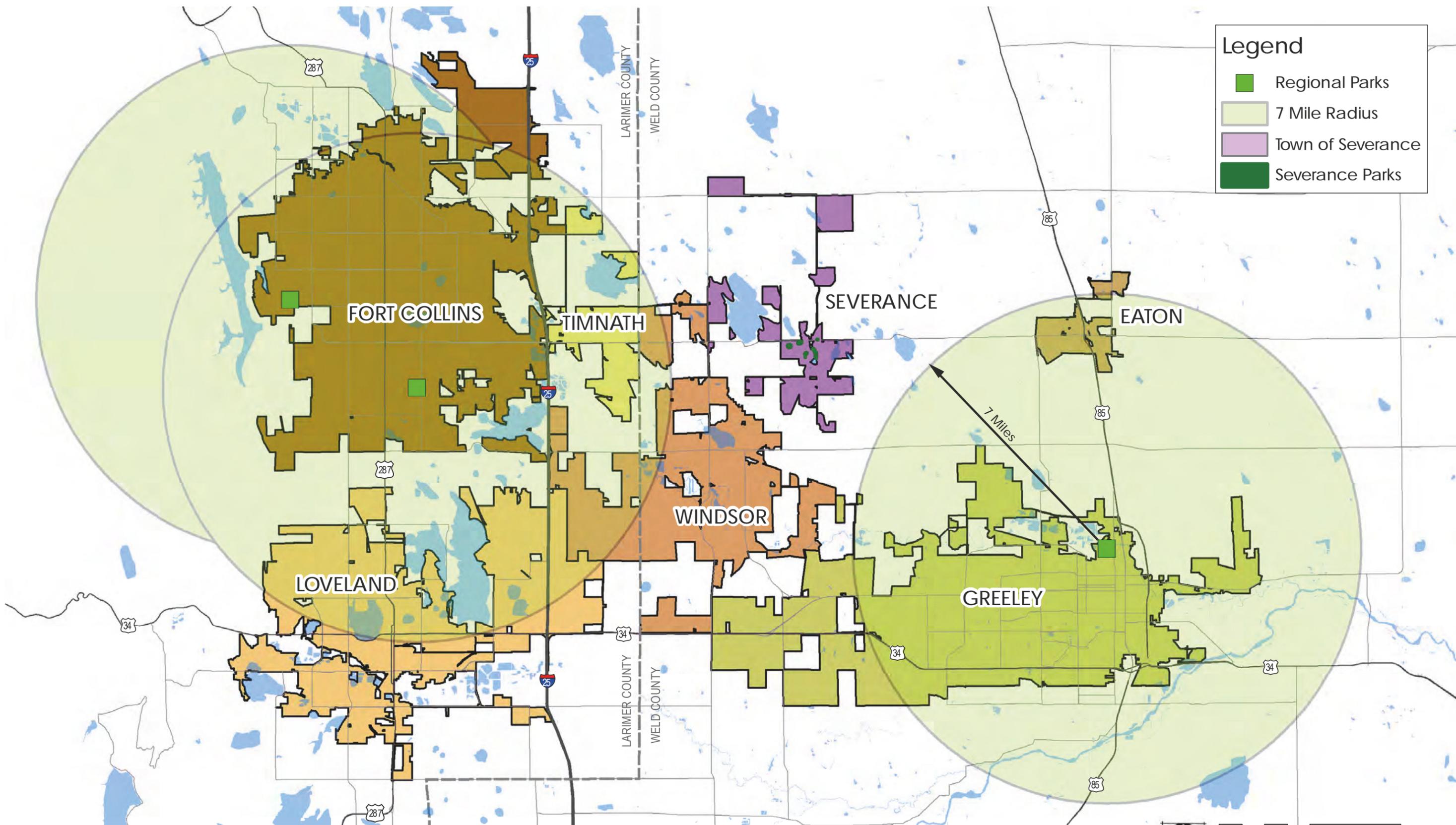
### Open Space

Open space consists of land that is either undeveloped or has minimal, passive amenities. Open space is dedicated land that is set aside for the purpose of conservation and sometimes is located within a park or residential development. Open space has few amenities other than trails, seating or bathrooms, and is typically used for passive recreation. Open space in the Town of Severance consists of dedicated spaces in subdivision communities throughout the town.

### Regional Trails

The regional trails network connects communities in the region through pedestrian and bicycle trail improvements. The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) oversees the planning of regional trail network. The NFRMPO Bicycle Plan, which was adopted as a part of the regional transportation plan, shows the existing and future development of regional trails. The majority of the region trial network is to the south and west of Severance. Severance connects to the regional trail network via the Great Western Trail. This trail currently runs adjacent to Lakeview Park in Severance. Future development of the Great Western Trail will connect to the Town of Eaton to the east and the Town of Windsor to the south.

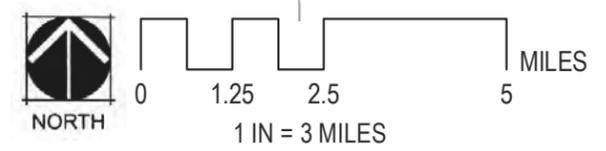




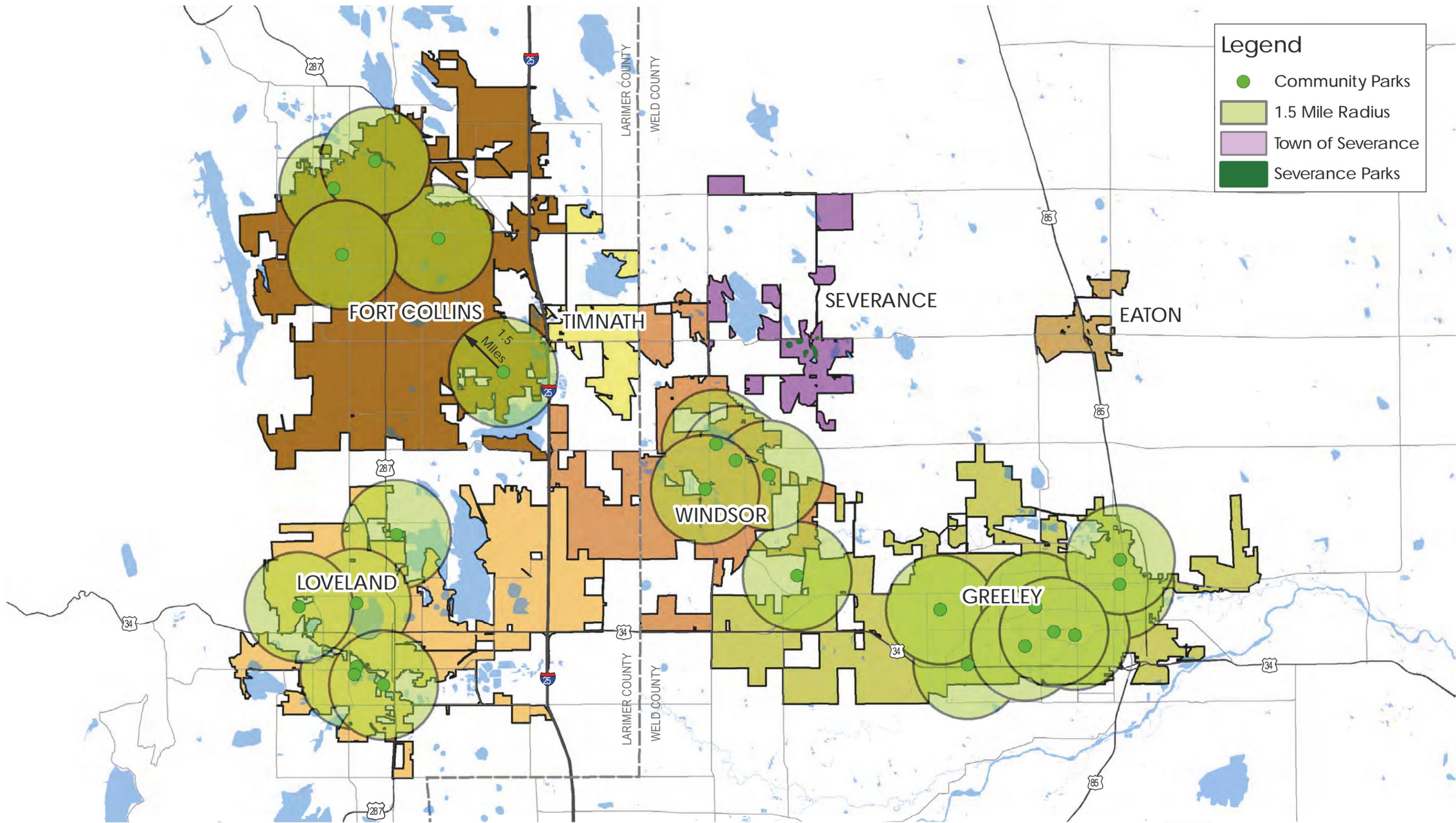
**Legend**

- Regional Parks
- 7 Mile Radius
- Town of Severance
- Severance Parks

REGIONAL CONTEXT : REGIONAL PARKS



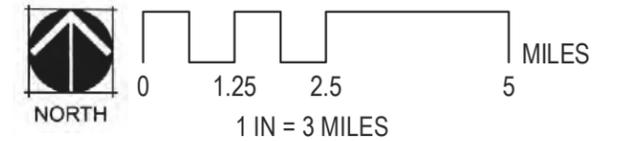




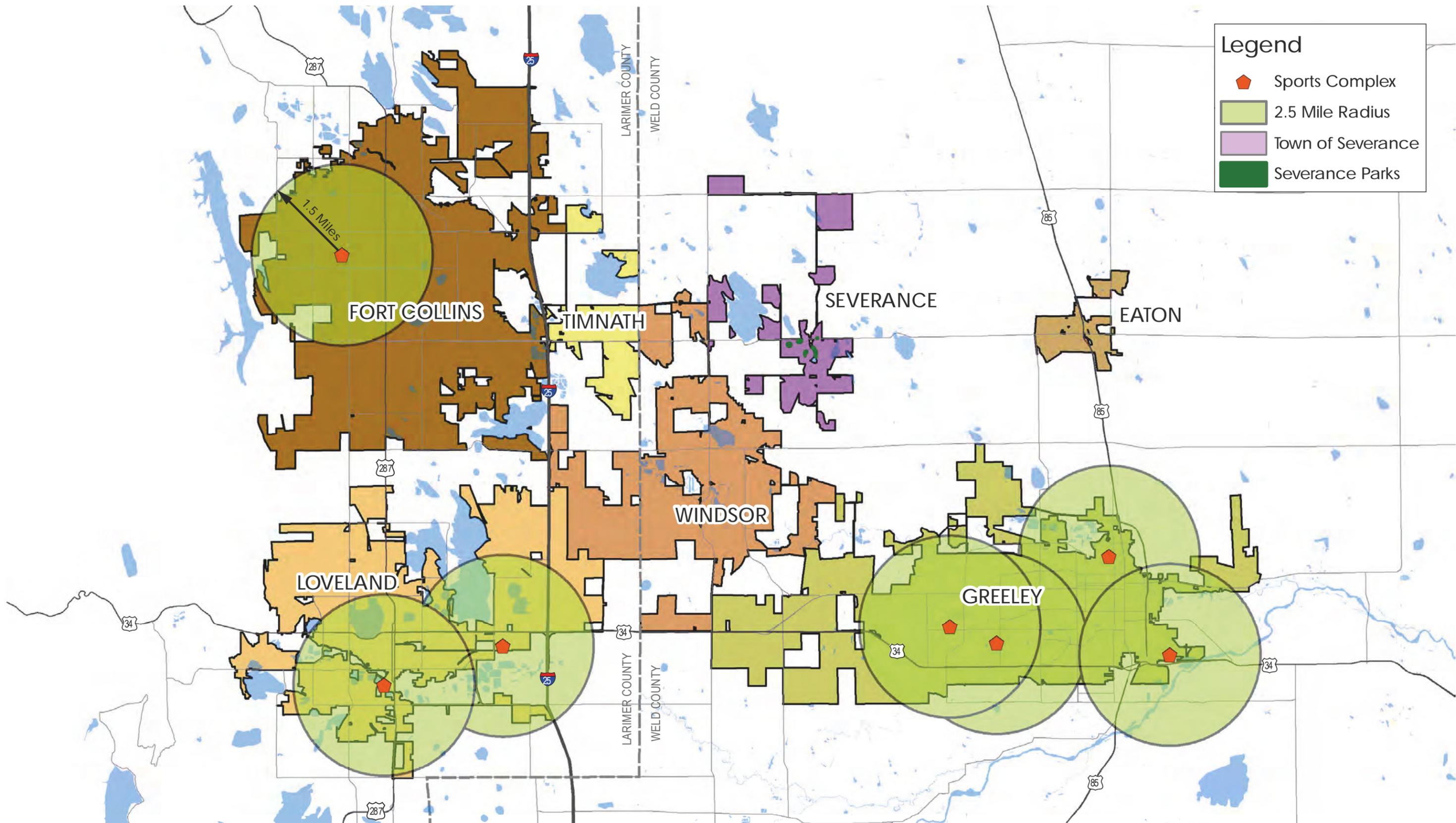
**Legend**

- Community Parks
- 1.5 Mile Radius
- Town of Severance
- Severance Parks

REGIONAL CONTEXT : COMMUNITY PARKS



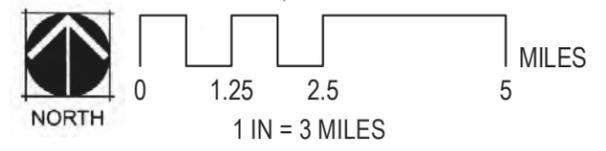




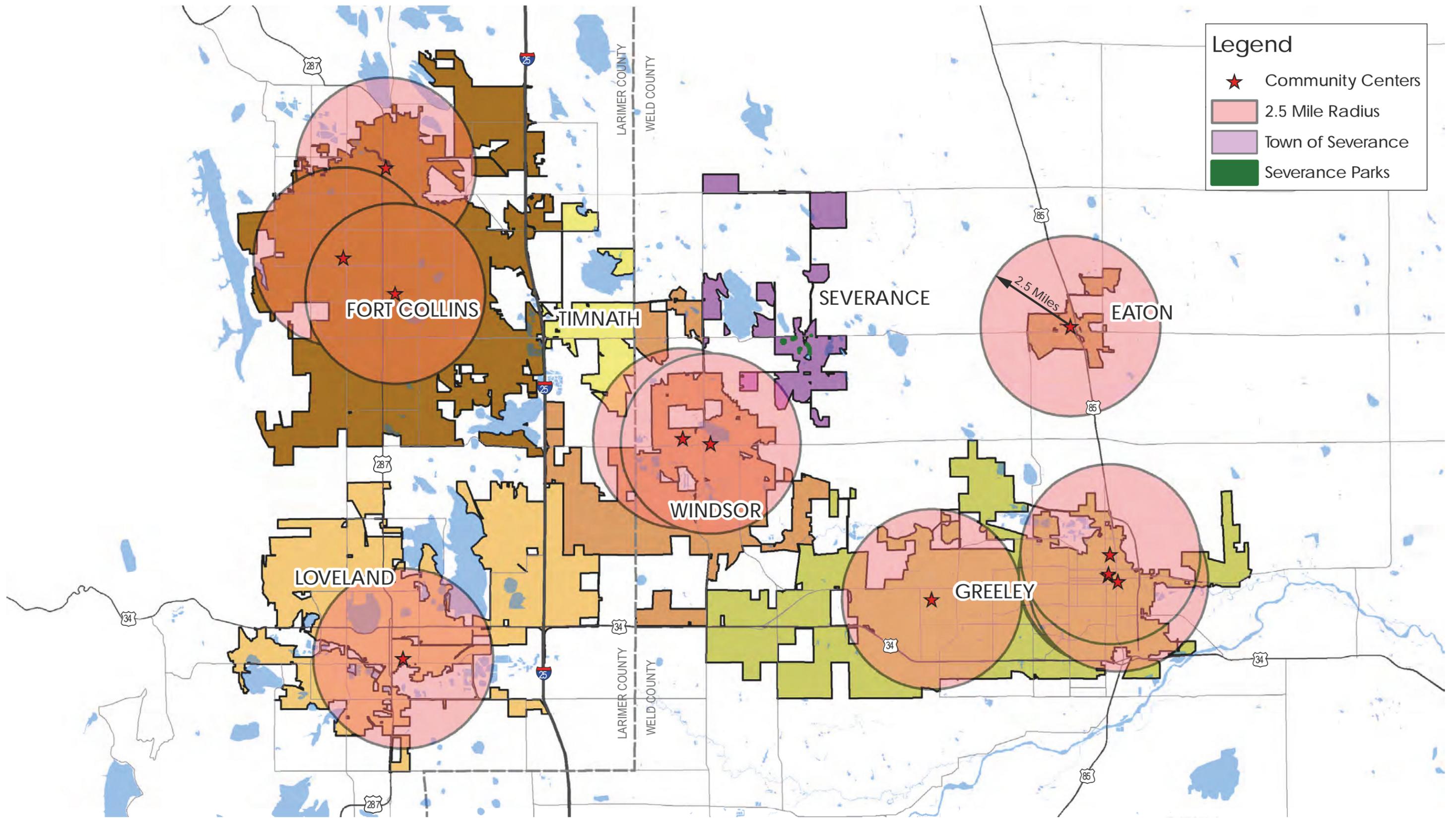
**Legend**

- ◆ Sports Complex
- 2.5 Mile Radius
- Town of Severance
- Severance Parks

REGIONAL CONTEXT : SPORTS COMPLEX



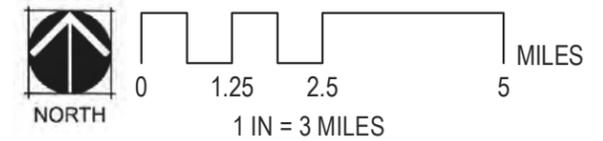




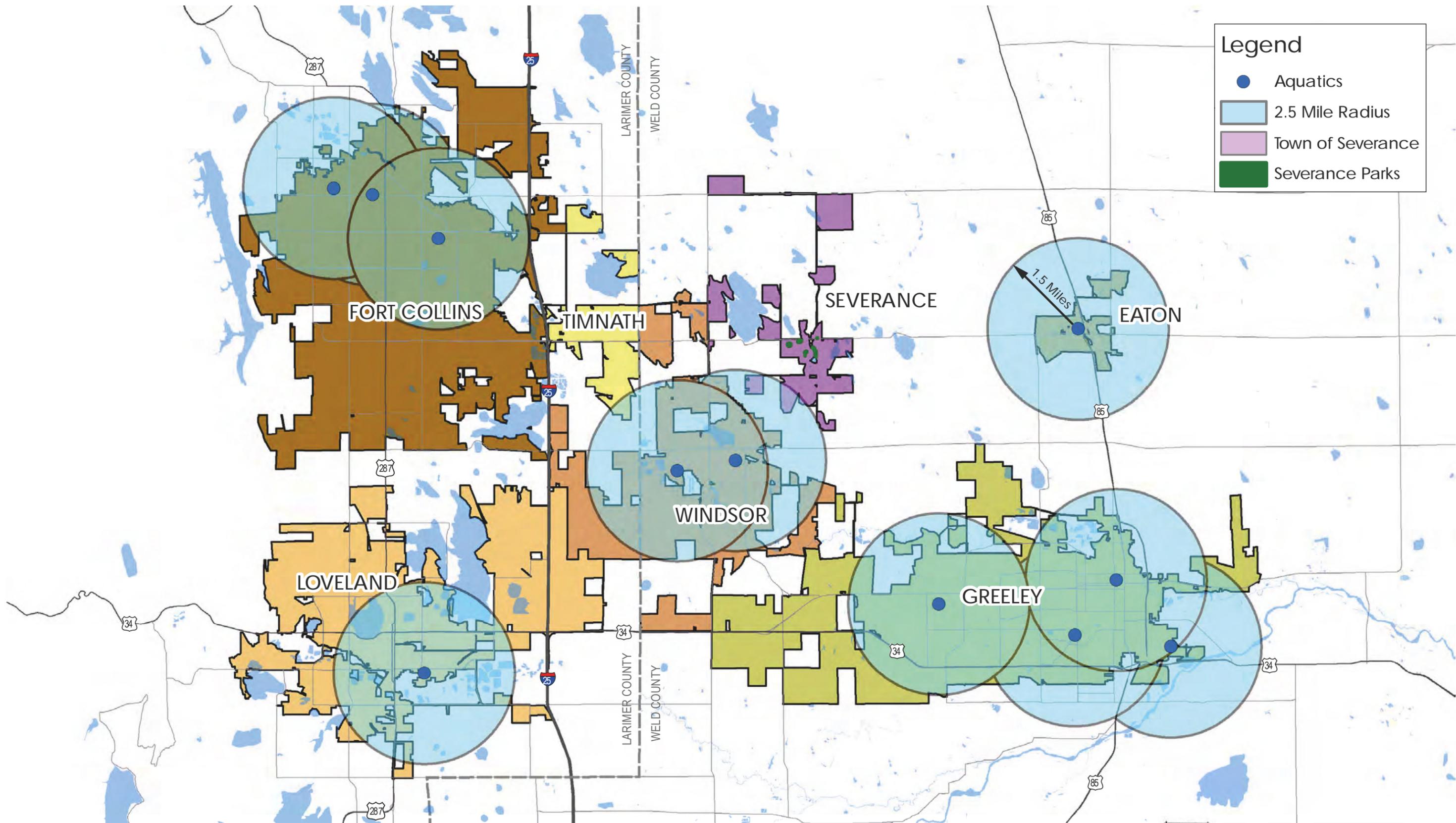
**Legend**

- ★ Community Centers
- 2.5 Mile Radius
- Town of Severance
- Severance Parks

REGIONAL CONTEXT : COMMUNITY CENTERS

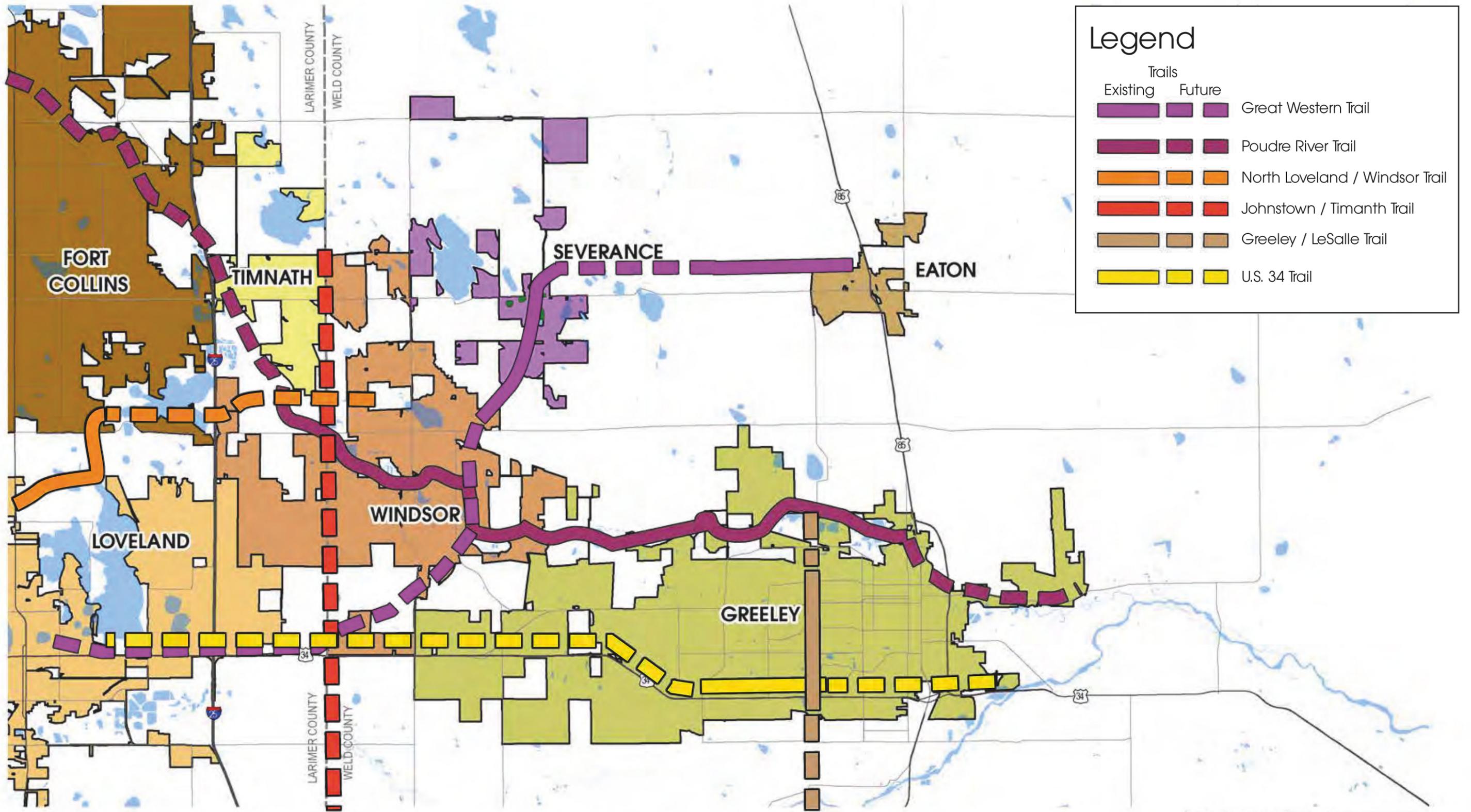




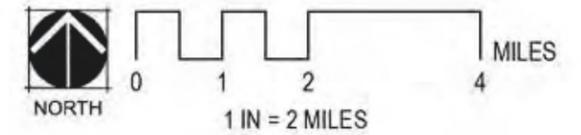


REGIONAL CONTEXT : AQUATICS





REGIONAL CONTEXT : TRAIL NETWORK





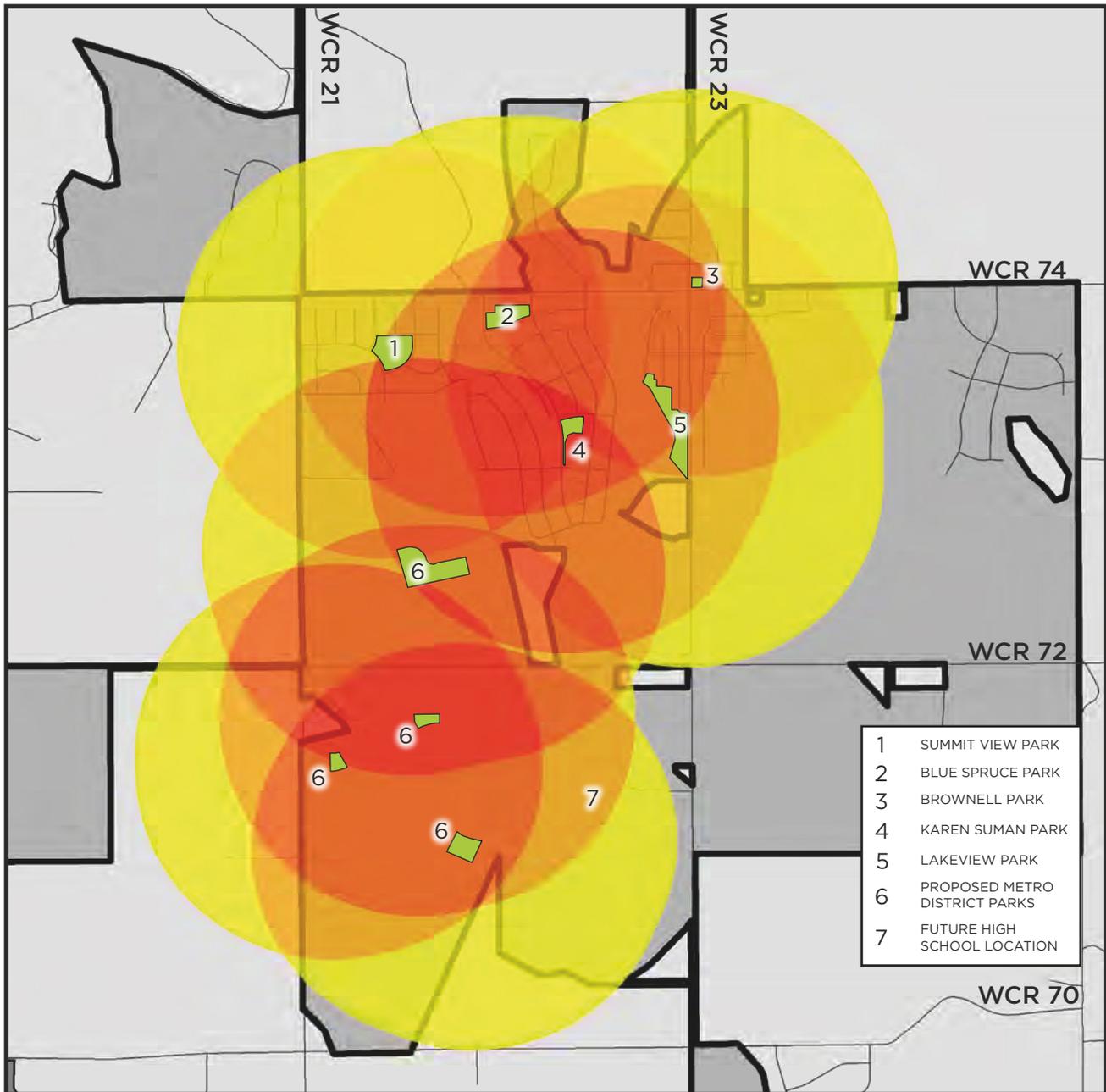
## Level of Service

An inventory and analysis of the existing and proposed public parks was done to determine the current Level of Service (LOS). The LOS is a method used to determine whether the parks and recreation needs of the existing and proposed parks will meet the current needs of the community. The below rating descriptions are used to evaluate the existing and proposed site features to help determine the LOS.

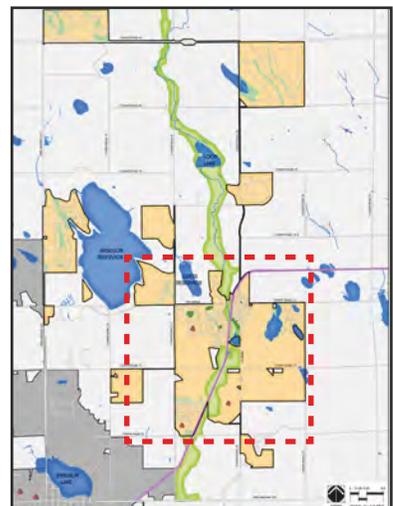
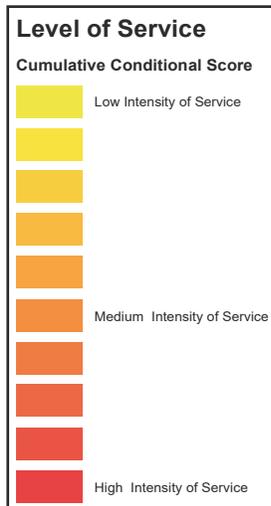
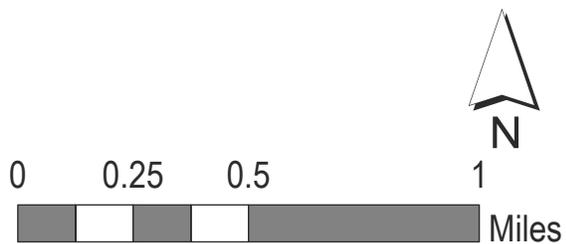
- 5** - A Primary Asset which meets the needs of the community in a manner significantly above the average of park amenities in Severance and is of excellent quality and condition. A Support Asset which more than adequately serves the needs of the users of the facility, based on condition and/or quantity. No additions or enhancements are necessary in either asset level; however, continued maintenance to maintain this elevated level of service is required.
- 4** - A Primary Asset which provides above-average service to the community and is of great quality and condition. A Support Asset which serves the needs of the users of the facility in an above-average manner, based on the condition and/or quantity.
- 3** - A Primary Asset which adequately meets the needs of the community and is of average quality and condition. A Support Asset which adequately serves the needs of the users of the facility, condition and quantity are at an acceptable level. Enhancements or additional quantities may be appropriate for either asset level, but are not necessary.
- 2** - A Primary or Support Asset which is nearly inadequate at meeting the needs of the community and is of below-average quality and condition.
- 1** - A Primary Asset which is significantly below average in meeting the needs of the community, and is significantly below average in quality and condition. A Support Asset which does not adequately serve the needs of the users of the facility. In both categories, the amenity may be unusable or already removed but not replaced with this ranking. For support assets, in most cases, additional quantities or improvements are recommended.

## Cumulative Level of Service Map

The LOS analysis was utilized to develop the Cumulative Level of Service Map. The map illustrates the range of LOS provided to the community by the existing five parks as well as the four proposed parks that will be located on the south end of the Town.



- 1 SUMMIT VIEW PARK
- 2 BLUE SPRUCE PARK
- 3 BROWNELL PARK
- 4 KAREN SUMAN PARK
- 5 LAKEVIEW PARK
- 6 PROPOSED METRO DISTRICT PARKS
- 7 FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL LOCATION



**CUMULATIVE LEVEL OF SERVICE MAP**

## NRPA Guideline Comparison Charts

The following charts compare the Town of Severance both today and with a projected population in 2021 to the National Recreation and Parks Associate (NRPA) recommended guidelines. The first two columns depicted in gray show the minimum and maximum recommended acreage for each park type as defined by NRPA. Open Space and Greenways are not standard NRPA park classifications, therefore guidelines are not available. The Town of Severance Open Space and Greenway data has been included for reference. The areas in green depict the current park acreage and the future acreage following the addition of four proposed metro district parks.

Town of Severance 2016 Population - 3,650								
Park type (Per NRPA Guidelines)	Minimum NRPA Guideline		Maximum NRPA Guideline		Severance Current Service Level		Severance Service Level w/ Proposed Parks	
	Min. Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Required	Max. Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Required	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided
Mini Park	0.25	0.9	0.5	1.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5
Neighborhood	1.0	3.7	2.0	7.3	4.4	16	5.9	28.0
Community	5.0	18.3	8.0	29.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	-	22.8	-	38.3	-	16.5	-	28.5

	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided
Open Space (H.O.A. Parks)	75.8	276.8	94.2	343.8
	Current Mi/1,000 pop.	Miles Provided	Current Mi/1,000 pop.	Miles Provided
Greenways	0.74	2.7	0.74	2.7

Town of Severance 2021 Projected Population - 4,761								
Park type (Per NRPA Guidelines)	Minimum NRPA Guideline		Maximum NRPA Guideline		Severance Current Service Level		Severance Service Level w/ Proposed Parks	
	Min. Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Required	Max. Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Required	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided
Mini Park	0.25	1.2	0.5	2.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5
Neighborhood	1.0	4.8	2.0	9.5	3.4	16	5.9	28.0
Community	5.0	23.8	8.0	38.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	-	29.8	-	50.0	-	16.5	-	28.5

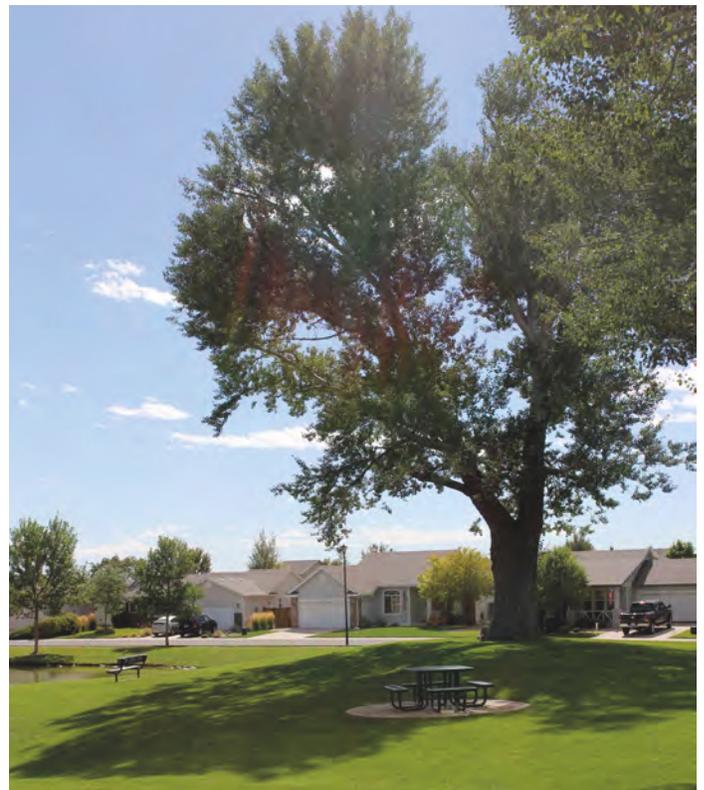
	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided	Current Ac/1,000 pop.	Acres Provided
Open Space (H.O.A. Parks)	58.1	276.8	72.2	343.8
	Current Mi/1,000 pop.	Miles Provided	Current Mi/1,000 pop.	Miles Provided
Greenways	0.57	2.7	0.57	2.7

## Key Findings

1. The core portion of the community is well served by the five existing parks. This is due to proximity of parks to neighborhoods, existing pedestrian connections, and a high level of maintenance that is provided to the existing parks and amenities.
  2. The four proposed parks are appropriately located to provide good access within the future residential development.
  3. The existing and proposed park locations are located within a five minute walk of each other. This supports a high LOS and additional parks should be located to be within a five minute walk of existing facilities.
  4. The east side of the community that is located west of First Street/Weld County Road 23 has a low LOS. This area of the Town is rapidly developing and public park facilities should be considered to serve this area of the Baldrige Subdivision and surrounding areas.
  5. The area around Karen Suman Park has the highest LOS within the Town based on the current condition of the park amenities. The playground is good condition, the park has good access from the surrounding neighborhoods and it includes a multi-purpose field, which provides additional recreation uses within the park.
  6. The highest LOS throughout the community aligns somewhat along the west side of the Greenway/ Great Western Trail. This reinforces the idea that the Greenway and Great Western Trail should be enhanced as it will provide good connections to the various parks and facilities throughout the community as well as neighboring communities.
  7. The future high school and athletic fields will raise the LOS around the southeast portion of the Town.
- The Level of Service data tables that were developed to evaluate the park spaces are included in the appendix.



LAKEVIEW PARK



BLUE SPRUCE PARK

**RESOURCE  
AND FUNDING  
ANALYSIS**

**6**

## **Funding and Budgeting Overview**

### **Budget Process**

The Town of Severance operates on a standard calendar year (January 1st – December 31st) for their fiscal year (FY) and develops a balanced budget on a one year cycle. The Town maintains a long-range fiscal perspective through the use of an annual operating budget and multi-year financial forecasting. The Board of Trustees adopt the Town's annual budget after public hearing(s). The Town's budget preparation and approval is an ongoing process that begins immediately after the budget adoption with monthly financial reporting of revenues and expenditures with financial projections for the current and subsequent fiscal years. Severance's budget sets the Town's financial framework to provide quality community services and to determine services, projects and facilities for the community.

### **Funding Sources**

The Town's General Fund is comprised of general property taxes, sales taxes, fees associated with licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenue sources, charges for current services, fines and other taxes and revenues. These specific revenue sources fund the Town's services and expenditures. Severance is experiencing a consistent increase in General Fund revenues and has maintained a level of stability with its funding sources mainly relying on taxes, most notably property taxes, intergovernmental revenues and building permits comprising 95% of the General Fund revenues in the adopted FY 2017 budget.

The Town is continuing to experience consistent economic growth with the FY2017 budget projection projects 1% growth from FY2016. The Town continues to balance investment in the community to meet the needs of the existing and growing community through FY 2017 and beyond. With the growth in new residential and commercial development, FY 2016 actual compared to the budget reflects the increase in Town revenues. The budget anticipates an increase in revenues to continue through FY2017.

Severance levies a Park, Trail and Recreation Fee via a residential development impact fees that specifically provide an additional source of revenue for the Parks Fund. The Town is managing the Park, Trail and Recreation Fee as new development continues in the community. The Park has a starting balance of \$513,351 for FY2017. The fund will continue to generate new revenue through the Park, Trail and Recreation Fee is collected for residential development. Based on the past budgets, the fund has been leveraged for park related services and investment in equipment. The fee is critical to maintain the current investment as well as invest in future park facilities to meet the needs of the community.

### **Parks & Green Space Budget**

The Town of Severance's Parks Fund total FY 2017 budget is \$440,878, which is a significant increase from the FY2016 budget. Capital investment in the community accounts for approximately 50% of the FY2017 budget. The Town is preparing for future investment in the community. As such, park's departments are experiencing a trend with a higher portion of funding is going to operations and maintenance of existing facilities. It will be necessary to increase funding for operations and maintenance as facilities are developed and existing facilities continue to age and require reinvestment. It is also important to note the civic services the Town provides through current community events and future programming. As the community grows, the delivery of current and future programming will require future funding commitments and/or partnerships.

### **General Financial Outlook**

Severance is in a similar position to many of its peer cities in Colorado. The overall economic outlook for Colorado remains vibrant. Assessed valuations are expected to increase in FY2016 and FY2017 and result in the growth of property tax collection. The Town is projecting 30% population growth over the next 5 years which will increase the tax base and continue to supplement the Parks Fund.

## Key Findings

It is important to recognize the many benefits that parks and recreation provides the community, including economic (business attraction and recreational tourism), health, environmental and quality of life advantages. The value that the community places on parks, recreation and leisure is reinforced by the public input from the community. Considering these values, as well as the Town's future needs for parks and facilities, the increasing costs for utilities and maintenance, and the growing demand for health and wellness, the Town should develop a capital improvement plan and budget for increasing future maintenance and operational costs.

The core funding for parks and green space has remained fairly consistent, it is evident that in the future, in order to keep the Town on pace with other progressive community service providers and to provide recreation opportunities to the residents of the community, increases will need to be made to current funding levels. The Town should continue to proactively plan for long-term funding sources which may include a review of the Park, Trail and Recreation Fee and dedicated parks and recreation user fees for programming and special use. The Town should continue identifying, collaborating with partners and supporting matching funds for grants and alternative funding (refer to the funding resource summary).

As the Town advances the programming and events, staff should develop cost recovery policies, detailed reporting, and tracking. Each program area should track direct and indirect costs, establish a philosophy on a program's benefit to the community, determine cost recovery goals, and set pricing based on the community's values and Town's goals.



**BLUE SPRUCE PARK**

**OPERATIONS AND  
MAINTENANCE  
ANALYSIS**

**7**

## Introduction

For the purpose of strategic planning for future agency organizational structure, operations and maintenance staffing levels are projected for 2021 based on the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) Park Metrics. These projections are based on a comparison to communities of similar size to Severance.

According to U.S. Census Data, the Town of Severance is expected to experience over 5% annual population growth for the five years between 2016 and 2021. This growth suggests a need for future parks and recreation facilities and personnel. The analysis provided within this report of comparable park metrics creates insight into the projected operations and maintenance staffing needs for the Town of Severance. This analysis also facilitates a data-driven perspective to develop recommendations and best practices for a five-year horizon.

## Methods

Data from NRPA's Park Metrics database is analyzed to estimate future operations staffing levels allocated for the future parks and recreation system for the Town of Severance 2021 operating budget. 2015 data from NRPA's Park Metric database of parks and recreation agencies across the nation are the most complete compared to data from 2016. Because of the completeness of the 2015 data and the availability of Severance's budget actuals, 2015 data from NRPA's Park Metrics are used to project operations staffing levels across a five-year forecast.

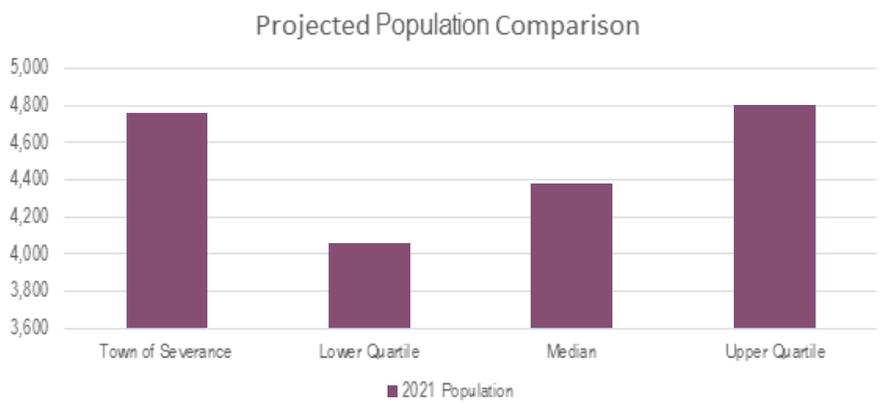
NRPA's Park Metric data is filtered to pinpoint jurisdictions that have a total population between 3,500 and 5,050 residents. Data from these jurisdictions provide insight into Severance's future operating expenses because these jurisdictions are similar in size to Severance's projected 2021 population of 4,761 residents. See Figure 7.1 below. Parameters of these jurisdictions' operations budgets are analyzed to identify trends in operations staffing levels. The trends provide a guide for Severance's 2021 operations budget allocated to its future parks and recreation system.

Jurisdictions Used in Severance Proragis Data Search: 2015 Data

- Acme Township, Acme, MI
- Town of Belleair Parks and Recreation Department, FL
- Town of Burgaw, NC
- City of Camdentron, MO
- Grafton Parks and Recreation, ND
- Northfield Park District, IL
- Rosemont Park District, IL
- Straban Township Parks and Recreation, PA
- Vermont Recreation and Park Association, Colchester, VT

## Results

**Figure 7.1 Projected 2021 Population of Severance, Colorado Compared to Respondent Jurisdictions in NRPA Park Metric Data**



Source: NRPA's Park Metrics

Within the NRPA's Parks Metric database, nine jurisdictions within the continental United States have a population between 3,500 and 5,050 residents in 2015. A summary of the operations and maintenance staffing levels for these jurisdictions is below.

**Table 7.1 Town of Severance 2021 Operating Budget Guidelines | Projected Operations Impacts based on NRPA's Park Metric Data**

	Town of Severance Data	# of Jurisdictional Respondents	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Square mileage of incorporated jurisdiction	-	9	4	5	25.3
Square mileage of Severance	6.93	-	-	-	-
Population of jurisdiction	3,650	9	4,060	4,375	4,800
Projected Population of Severance in 2021	4,761	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage of agency's total operating expenditures for the following categories:</b>					
a. Personnel services	61%	4	35.8%	41.5%	47.3%
b. Operating expenses	39%	4	38.3%	44.0%	52.3%
c. Capital expense not in CIP	*(see below)	4	6.5%	13.0%	18.0%
<b>Number of funded employees at your agency:</b>					
a. Number of full-time employees	1	4	3.8	5	6.8
b. Number of non-full-time employees	2	5	3	11	12
<b>Percentage of total full-time equivalents (FTEs) involved in the following operational areas:</b>					
a. Operations	3	5	23.8%	27.5%	30.8%
b. Maintenance		5	30.0%	33.0%	60.0%
c. Programmers	0	5	12.5%	20.0%	21.5%

\* FY2017 Budget projects a significant capital investment in the Parks / Green Space Budget. Previous FYs indicate a trend of 10% capital expense in the budget.

### Key Findings

Based on the NRPA's Park Metric Data, the following guidelines contribute to Severance's strategic planning for operation and maintenance impacts in 2021:

- The percentage of operating budget allocated to operating expenses is projected to be between 38.3% and 52.3%
- The number of full time employees supporting parks and recreation is projected to be between 3 and 7.
- The number of part-time employees supporting parks and recreation is projected to be between 3 and 12.
- The percentage of Full Time Equivalents in the future parks and recreation operating budget allocated to operations and maintenance is projected to be between 53.8% and 90.8%.

## TRENDS ANALYSIS

8

## Trends Analysis

Results of data-driven analyses that provide insight into the operations, i.e. the analyses of programs, operations, benchmarking, funding and resources, facility inventory, and level of service, all found in other chapters, mirror many of the trends that the parks and recreation industry is experiencing nationally. A review of national trends informs the interpretation of the local analyses.

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides research reports on timely topics and challenges in the parks and recreation industry. Over the last five years, the NRPA has identified key trends in the industry:

- Public Health and Wellness;
- Social Media Marketing for Public Parks and Recreation Departments;
- Conservation;
- Active Transportation;
- Economic Impact of Parks;
- Social Equity;
- Broad Support for Parks and Recreation;
- Doing More with Less; and,
- Trends in Sports.

### Public Health and Wellness

Public health and wellness is one of the three pillars of NRPA's program for impacting communities. Public park and recreation agencies create healthy communities and play a fundamental role in enhancing the physical environments in which we live. Through facilities, outdoor settings, and services provided, they support good health for people of all abilities, ages, socio-economic backgrounds, and ethnicities. They foster change through collaborative programs and policies that reach a vast population to:

- Help reduce obesity and incidence of chronic disease by providing opportunities to increase rigorous physical activity in a variety of forms;
- Provide a connection to nature which studies demonstrate relieves stress levels, tightens interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health;
- Aid in reducing hunger in America and increasing access to nutritious food options; and,
- Foster overall wellness and healthful habits, such as becoming tobacco-free and engaging in enrichment opportunities that add balance to life.

### Social Media Marketing for Public Parks and Recreation Departments

Social Media Marketing is a tool that public parks and recreation departments use to maximize communication with the public within the context of constrained operating budgets. A communication and marketing effort that builds a strong connection between the department and its community will support program participation, facility use and community engagement that helps to inform policy and budget decisions by elected officials.

A cost-effective marketing approach is one that is based on social media marketing. Social media can generate new users, increase a community's awareness of what is offered and spread a positive impression of the department. Social media marketing works because:

- 70% of the U.S. population has at least one social network profile
- All age groups are active on social media
- Humanizing the department's brand creates a connection with the community that increases brand loyalty

The immediacy of content distribution positions the department to communicate announcements like field closures, public meetings and community events. Being able to control content results in increased public awareness. Departments can promote reinvestment and expansion of the parks system that is underway or rally support for volunteer campaigns. The on-going communication with the community builds relationships that support the department in the long term.

## Conservation

One of the NRPA's three pillars for impacting communities is conservation. It is the NRPA's mission that:

“The mission of public parks and recreation at all levels should support the conservation and stewardship of land, water, and natural resources.

Parks and public lands serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitat, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current and future generations. Parks provide an essential connection for Americans of all ages and abilities to the life-enhancing benefits of nature and the outdoors.

As the largest source of open space land in the country, parks and public lands are critical to the quality of life for all Americans. The quality of life for every person in every community is improved by clean, green, and accessible parks and open space.

Parks are key to ensuring the health of our environment because they play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, providing clean water and clean air, and enabling conservation of natural resources. Park and recreation professionals should become leaders in protecting open space for the common good, and actively lead in sustainably managing and developing land and resources for public use and environmental conservation for the benefit of the public and the resources. In addition, park and recreation professionals should provide education and interpretation of the value of conservation to the public, connect children and youth to nature and the outdoors, and coordinate environmental stewardship with other public and nonprofit entities.”

## Active Transportation

NRPA's report, 'Active Transportation and Parks and Recreation', addresses the national trend of multi-purpose paths being part of a larger community interest in multi-modal transportation. Community-wide systems to advance multi-modal transportation require collaboration between transportation departments and parks and recreation departments. The benefits of this collaboration are consistent with the mission of the parks and recreation industry the benefits are:

- Active transportation stimulates local economies through job creation, commercial business development and real estate values;
- Active transportation infrastructure builds healthy communities by encouraging physical activity as part of daily life;
- Active transportation promotes conservation and environmental sustainability by reducing air and water pollution and minimizing congestion; and,
- Active transportation provides transportation access to all citizens regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status or disability.



**GREAT WESTERN TRAIL AT LAKEVIEW PARK**



**BIKE LANE ON W 4TH AVENUE**

## Economic Impact of Parks

NRPA's study, 'Economic Impact of Parks', responds to a national trend toward quantifying the benefits of parks and recreation to the economic health of a community. According to NRPA, "America's local and regional public park agencies generated nearly \$140 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1 million jobs from their operations and capital spending alone in 2013. When the spending at local and regional parks is combined with that of national and state parks, public parks are responsible for more than \$200 billion in annual economic activity."

Key findings from the report include:

- Local and regional public park agencies directly provided more than 356,000 jobs in the United States during 2013, equating to nearly \$32.3 billion in operations spending;
- Operations spending by park agencies generated nearly \$80.0 billion in total economic activity, boosted the gross domestic product (GDP) by \$38.8 billion and supported nearly 660,000 jobs that paid in excess of \$24 billion in salaries, wages and benefits;
- Local and regional park systems spent an estimated \$22.4 billion on capital programs, leading to about \$59.7 billion in economic activity, a contribution of \$29.2 billion to the GDP, \$19.6 billion in labor income and more than 340,000 jobs; and
- In total, the nation's local and regional public park agencies spent nearly \$54.7 billion in 2013, leading to \$139.6 billion in economic activity, just under \$68.0 billion in contributions to the GDP, and nearly 1 million jobs that generated labor income of \$43.8 billion in 2013.

## Social Equity

Social equity is one of the NRPA's three pillars for impacting communities. The NRPA's position is:

"Our nation's public parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies. Social equity is a critical responsibility borne by every public park and recreation agency and the professionals that operate them. It is a right, not just a privilege, for people nationwide to have safe, healthful access to parks and recreation. The NRPA believes park and recreation agencies, through the provision of equal access to parks and recreation, should cultivate community ties through programs and services for all which produces public benefits by connecting people more deeply to the fabric of the community. This sense of connectedness makes communities livable and desirable."

## Broad Support for Parks and Recreation

The NRPA's report, 'Americans' Broad-Based Support for Local Recreation and Park Services', is part of a national trend to document the strong public support that exists for parks and recreation.

Key findings from the report are:

- An overwhelming majority of Americans assert that they personally benefit from local parks and that their communities benefit from local parks;
- Americans are in agreement that NRPA's Three Pillars—Conservation, Health & Wellness and Social Equity—are chief priorities for local parks;
- Parks are a great value: 4 in 5 Americans concur that local parks are well worth the tax dollars spent on them;
- This passion for local parks has gone unabated over the past 25 years, even with dramatic demographic shifts in the United States and the ways technology transformed how we interact with others and entertain ourselves;
- Support for local parks is widespread, spanning different age groups, income strata, household types and political affiliations.

## Doing More with Less

Parks and recreation agencies across the nation are being asked to do more with less. Agencies are asked to oversee the operation and maintenance of diverse facilities and responsibilities in addition to their traditional role. Some of these new responsibilities include performing art centers, historic preservation and street-side and median landscaping. With limited resources, parks and recreation departments are increasingly collaborating with other departments and agencies to provide proactive solutions to challenges in other agencies and support the solutions with economic impact analyses.

## Trends in Sports

### Soccer

Youth soccer has risen in popularity over the past forty years. As of 2014 US Youth Soccer reports membership over 3 million. The trend in youth soccer did see a dip at the same time as the recession. From 2000 to 2008 membership in US Youth Soccer rose. Membership peaked in 2008 at 3.15 million members. From 2008 to 2013 membership declined to a low of 2.8 million in 2013. Membership has increased as of 2014 to back over 3 million. Youth soccer should continue to recover from this dip in membership. Nationally the gender breakdown of boys and girls playing soccer has come close to evening out. In 2008, 52% of participants were boys, and 48% of participants were girls.

### Pickleball

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing recreational sports in the country. Membership in the United States of America Pickleball Association (USAPA) doubled between 2010 and 2013. It is extremely popular among seniors. Over 70% of players nationwide are over the age of 60. Many seniors transition from tennis because pickleball reduces strain on the body. The number of pickleball courts has also increased to meet the growing demand. Places to play the sport have tripled from under 1,000 in 2010 to over 3,000 currently.

## Key Findings

National and local trends inform the interpretation of operations and programming analyses and lead to effective recommendations for strategic action. Many national trends are mirrored by local parks and recreation changes over time. Programming is an aspect of the parks and recreation industry that evolves over time with national and community interests in sports and other activities. It's important to track trends to best deliver facilities and programs that most effectively meet the needs of the Severance community and are the most effective investment in public funding.



PICKLEBALL



"STORY WALK" IN GREEN SPACE

# RECOMMENDATIONS

9

## Recommendations

The recommendation of the Town of Severance Parks Master Plan are a result of understanding the needs and ideas of the community, a review of existing Town policies and regulations, and an on-the-ground inventory and analysis of the existing conditions of community parks. A regional review of existing park and recreation facilities was conducted to identify gaps in services.

Furthermore, these recommendations were informed by analyses that reviewed demographics and growth projections, resources and funding, regional and national parks and recreation trends, and future programming opportunities.

The recommendations are intended to provide the Town with a series of initial steps in the development of a comprehensive approach to future parks and recreation facilities with the ultimate goal of the development of a Parks Department as part of the municipal government structure. The following recommendations are presented as two parts: General Recommendations that apply to all parks and specific Focus Area recommendations.

### General Recommendations

This analysis of the Town of Severance's park system has brought about the following recommendations that pertain to all of the existing facilities, as well as future facilities:

- Improve park area lighting to help extend the hours of use within the currently allotted park hours;
- Integrate sports field lighting to increase the hours of operations to accommodate programming of fields;
- Review existing irrigation systems to determine any improvements that will increase efficient water use;
- Consider the use of smart irrigation controllers and centralized water management systems;
- Develop specifications for the irrigation systems to improve the ease of long term maintenance and operations;
- Develop preferred park site furnishings to enhance long term maintenance and operations including life cycle replacement planning;
- Institute a program for the replacement of park amenities that are aging or damaged. Include a funding reserve to plan for reinvestment in parks;
- Develop a parks marketing plan that promotes and brands the park system, including park monumentation and wayfinding signage;
- Utilize social media to promote and communicate with the community about park related activities and events.

## Community Park

As stated in the Level of Service section, community parks are between 50 to 100 acres in size, serve a group of neighborhoods, contain both passive and active recreation, and have one or more destination amenities. Currently, there are no community parks serving Severance, Timnath, or Eaton. As this area grows in population, a community park will become a necessity to meet the needs of the Town. Based on the population projections and NRPA guidelines, a community park may not be feasible in the next 5 years, but may be appropriate in the next 10 years if the growth rate remains consistent.

Possible amenities in the community park may include:

- Pool/Splash Park/Splash Pads
- Athletic Fields
- Amphitheater
- Frisbee Golf
- Play Structures
- Basketball Courts
- Dog Park
- Shade Structures/ Gathering / Picnic Locations



**LANDSCAPE AMPHITHEATER**



**ARCHITECTURAL AMPHITHEATER**



**FORMAL GATHERING AREA**



**INFORMAL GATHERING AREA**



**FARMERS MARKET IN PARK**



**FISHING PIER**



**FRISBEE GOLF BASKETS**



**FRISBEE GOLF TEE BOX**



**SPLASH PARK**



**SPLASH PAD**

## Focus Areas

The master plan process resulted in the identification of six focus areas, and they are as follows:

- Partnerships
- Guidelines and Regulatory Policies
- Connectivity
- Improvements for Existing Parks
- Tree City USA
- Town of Severance Parks Department

### Partnerships

Through the master plan process, various organizations expressed an interest in collaborating with the Town of Severance on future parks and recreation related opportunities. Many ideas were identified that could be developed to foster strong partnerships as this process moves forward. These organizations include the stakeholder groups listed in the Introduction Section.

- Consider partnerships with the Town of Eaton Recreation District and the Windsor Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department on future recreation and athletic related facilities and programs.
- Work with Weld RE-4 School District to continue to implement joint-use agreements at future school sites and collaborate on wellness programs and activities that may involve public parks.
- Engage the support of Weld County Public Health on grant opportunities that would benefit the development of park related improvements and programs that support health and active living of all ages and abilities.
- Involve the NFRMPO on future pedestrian and bicycle planning efforts and work with them on potential grant funding opportunities.
- Continue to work with the Great Western Trail Authority to complete the trail and potential landscape and infrastructure enhancements along the corridor. Consider this future amenity as an opportunity for future park connections and as a tool for economic development.
- The current collaboration between the Town of Severance, the Windsor-Severance Fire District, and the Tailholt Community Garden members has resulted in the development of a community garden. Consider future possibilities that leverage these relationships to provide additional community gardens, a possible farmers' market, as well as other endeavors that support local food production.
- The Clearview Library District has taken an active role in this master plan process. Consider implementing their ideas for a story walk and reading and learning spaces in existing and future parks.

## Guidelines and Regulatory Policies

The Town of Severance currently has a comprehensive set of policies and regulations that guide future park development. The following are suggestions of what the Town could consider incorporating into the municipal code and other policy documents:

- Consider a comprehensive signage plan for the Town's parks, open spaces, and trails. A standard theme for park monumenation, trail markings, and wayfinding signage could be instituted for both future and existing facilities as the Town grows.
- Consider adding education placards or informational kiosks to promote learning and community involvement in both future and existing parks.
- Future park designs and updates to existing parks should consider design elements to create a sense of place and identity. One such idea suggested by a community member was showcasing Severance's agricultural heritage.
- The Town should consider adding policies that require the implementation of xeric and low water plantings in future parks and trail areas to help minimize water usage by the Town.

## Connectivity

Through the inventory and analysis process, the project team identified recommendations for potential pedestrian and bicycle enhancements.

- Consider the intersections of the Great Western Trail and roadways.
- Consider the connectivity of exiting shared use trails. Trail connections should be added where possible to create a connected loop throughout the Town to allow access for people of all ages and abilities.
- Bike lanes and other safety features such as sharrows should be considered as the Town grows to provide safe connections for alternative transportation modes.
- Gaps in existing sidewalks such as the intersection of W. 4th Avenue and Mahogany Way and south on WCR 23 should be filled in to allow for pedestrian connectivity.

## Improvements for Existing Parks

Through the inventory and analysis process, the project team identified recommendations for potential site improvements within the five existing parks. The following charts provide itemized lists for each park:

Blue Spruce Park			
#	Potential Improvement	Cost	Priority
1	The irrigation controller box is beginning to rust. Consider repairing or replacing it.	\$	Short Term
2	The southeast corner of the parking lot collects water. Consider regrading this area to allow water to move freely.	\$\$	Short Term
3	Some (3) of the picnic tables are beginning to rust and some have been damaged. These should be repaired or replaced.	\$\$	Short Term
4	Neighbors of the park explained that the benches (2) are taken apart occasionally by vandals. Tamper-proof hardware should be considered to prevent this.	\$	Short Term
5	The trash receptacles (3) are dented and rusting and should be replaced.	\$	Short Term
6	Vegetation on the southeast corner of the site is beginning to grow into the trail. This should be trimmed or replaced with a smaller plant that will prevent it from overgrowing into the trail.	\$	Short Term

Karen Suman Park			
#	Potential Improvement	Cost	Priority
1	The benches (2) should be rotated 180 degrees in place to focus onto the play area and the central green space.	\$	Short Term
2	The red picnic tables (2) and trash can (1) have begun to fade in the sun. Consider repairing or replacing as necessary.	\$\$	Short Term
3	The irrigation for the trees on the west side of the park should be checked because the sod in this area was saturated and damaged by the wheels of the mower.	\$	Short Term

### COST

\$ = \$2,500 or less  
 \$\$ = \$2,500 to \$5,000  
 \$\$\$ = \$5,000 or more

### PRIORITY

Short Term = Within 3 years or less  
 Long Term = After 3 years or more

### Summit View Park

#	Potential Improvement	Cost	Priority
1	Some of the benches (2) and trash cans (2) at Summit View Park have been bent and are beginning to rust at these bends. The benches should be repaired or replaced.	\$\$	Short Term
2	The picnic tables (2) have been damaged and should be repaired or replaced.	\$	Short Term
3	Some of the paint on the play structure is beginning to wear off. This should be repainted to prevent corrosion.	\$	Short Term
4	The dog walk station signs (2) are beginning to fade in the sun. These should be replaced.	\$	Short Term
5	The loop walk to the south east of the emergency siren has a low point that collects water. This should be remedied to prevent the sidewalk from deteriorating and to eliminate a slipping hazard.	\$	Short Term

### Lakeview Park

#	Potential Improvement	Cost	Priority
1	Repair the volleyball net and rake the sand to provide favorable playing conditions.	\$	Short Term
2	Provide amenities such as benches or shaded areas in the dog park.	\$\$	Short Term
3	Consider paving the crusher fines trail to provide a loop and to act as an extension into the park from the Great Western Trail, as well as improving ADA compliance.	\$	Long Term

### Brownell Park

#	Potential Improvement	Cost	Priority
1	The play structure in Brownell Park is beyond its useful lifespan and should be considered for replacement.	\$\$	Short Term
2	The basketball half-court no longer has a basketball hoop. Due to the proximity to 4th Avenue, the Town should consider removing this court completely.	\$\$	Short Term
3	A new masterplan for this park should be considered to help integrate it more into the framework of a central gathering space for the town located in the town core. This may be an ideal location for a farmers' market.	\$\$\$	Long Term

## Tree City USA

Tree City USA is a national program that recognizes communities that are committed to creating a greener and healthier community by recognizing the vital role trees provide to the community. The program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

This master plan recommends the Town should consider these standards to become part of Tree City USA. These four standards include:

- i. A Tree Board or Department
  - Consider to whom tree care decisions for community trees should be delegated.
  - Consider a citizen led tree board.
  - Consider the addition of a professional forester or arborist.
- ii. A Tree Care Ordinance
  - Develop an ordinance creating a tree board or forestry department.
  - Create a plan for documenting annual tree care.
- iii. A Community Forestry Budget with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 per Capita
  - At the current population of 3,650 people means the Town would need an annual budget of \$7,300 minimum.
  - Based on population projections that place the town at 4,761 people in 2021, this minimum budget amount would need to be raised to \$9,522 annually.
- iv. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation
  - Hold a yearly Arbor Day Ceremony.
  - Develop and recite an official Arbor Day proclamation.
  - Consider tree planting events, tree care activities, or an award ceremony.
  - Consider partnerships with utility companies or the Windsor- Severance Fire District to give presentations on tree safety.



TREE CITY USA FLAG



TREE CITY USA ROADSIDE SIGN

## Town of Severance Parks and Recreation Department

The operations and maintenance of parks are currently the responsibility of the Public Works Department. As the Town continues to grow, a separate Parks and Recreation department within the municipal government structure should be considered. Providing staff that are dedicated to park planning, programming, and maintenance will raise the significance of parks within the community, which will improve the level of park-related services and activities. Based on National Park and Recreation Association (NPRA) data, the following assumptions align with the anticipated growth within Severance in the year 2021

- The percentage of operating budget allocated to operating expenses is projected to be between 38.3% and 52.3%.
- The number of full time employees supporting parks and recreation is projected to be between 3 and 7.
- The number of part-time employees supporting parks and recreation is projected to be between 3 and 12.
- The percentage of Full Time Equivalents in the future parks and recreation operating budget allocated to operations and maintenance is projected to be between 53.8% and 90.8%.



TOWN OF SEVERANCE AERIAL PHOTO

# APPENDIX

## I

## Grant Resources

There is a variety of local, state, and federal grant opportunities to help finance the improvement, planning, design and construction of new parks and recreation facilities for smaller communities all over Colorado. Small towns like Severance, with a collaborative spirit and willing to partner with other organizations, can seek out grant funding through strategic partnerships. The list below includes a variety of organizations and agencies that offer these type of grant programs.

- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- USDA Colorado Rural Development
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Bicycle Colorado
- LiveWell Colorado
- Colorado Creative Industries

The following primer describes a select number of available grants that the Town of Severance should explore.

### Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

GOCO-funded projects increase outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado, preserve open spaces, protect and manage wildlife, and enhance state parks. The types of projects GOCO funds are broad in nature and are an attractive funding source for smaller Colorado towns and cities. GOCO offers three different grant types including annual local government grants, annual open space grants, and special initiative grants with various grants under each.

### Annual Local Government Grants

- Local Park and Outdoor Recreation Grants - help construct and enhance community parks, outdoor recreation amenities, and environmental education facilities.
- Planning Grants - develop strategic plans for the creation, protection, or enhancement of open space, wildlife habitat, parks, and trails.
- School Yard Initiative - upgrade school playgrounds and create student-designed outdoor play and learning environments.
- Youth Corps Grants - create hundreds of jobs for youth in the outdoors on projects like building trails, erosion control after forest fires, and eradicating invasive species.

### Annual Open Space Grants

- Conservation Easement Transaction Costs Grants for closing costs associated with conserving properties with donated conservation easements.
- Conservation Excellence Grants to improve best practices at land conservation organizations and study issues affecting the conservation community. - Applications are due June 9, 2017.
- Habitat Restoration Grants to improve and restore Colorado's rivers, streams, wetlands, and critical habitat.
- Open Space Grants to preserve Colorado's open spaces, including land along river corridors, urban parcels, agricultural lands, and wildlife habitat.

### Special Initiative Grants

- The Protect Initiative developed as part of GOCO's 2015 strategic plan, funds large land conservation projects.
- The Connect Initiative, the second part of our strategic plan, funds projects that help connect regional and local trail networks and provide more bikeable and walkable access to outdoor recreation.
- The Inspire Initiative is the third prong of our strategic plan and was developed to address the growing disconnect between youth and the outdoors.

- Connect Initiative Trail Planning grants fund the hiring of a professional planning consultant to engage in trail planning efforts.

### **Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)**

DOLA's Local Government Financial Assistance section manages grant and loan programs within the Department of Local Affairs specifically designed to address public facility and service needs. Through coordination and outreach with the department's field offices, grant and loan resources are distributed on both a formula and discretionary basis depending upon applicable state statutory provisions, federal requirements, and program guidelines. Below is a list of relevant funding programs that could be leveraged for parks and recreation improvements in the Town of Severance.

- Energy/ Mineral Impact Assistance Fund Grant (EIAF) - assist political subdivisions that are socially and economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels.
- Conservation Trust Fund - finance acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites or for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site.
- Community Development Block Grant - finance acquisition, design/engineering, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of public improvements or public facilities.

### **Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

There are several programs with CPW to help fund projects developed or led by other organizations or groups. Various programs exist to assist with habitat conditions, build trails or improve fishing opportunities, reduce conflicts with big game. Some as those listed below could be utilized to capture funding for parks and recreation improvements in Severance.

- Outdoor Classroom Grant - Matching grants up to \$1000 towards outdoor spaces designed for student learning and leisure.
- Fishing is Fun Grant - A three-way partnership with CPW, the Federal Sportfish Restoration Act, and Local Communities.
- Non-Motorized Trails Grant - Colorado state grant that funds planning and construction for large and small recreational trail projects.
- Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program (CWHPP) - provides sustainable wildlife-related recreational public access.

CPW also offers grants for habitat partnerships, off-highway vehicle (OHV), ranching, shooting range, snowmobile trails, and wetlands.

### **USDA Colorado Rural Development Funding for Community Facilities**

Loan and grant funding available to public bodies (including Special Districts) and Non-Profits in incorporated areas of less than 20,000 in population. Funding for repairs and development of essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and may include hospitals, libraries, fire protection, safety, as well as many other community-based initiatives. Funding can be used to replace equipment and for the restoration/repair/rebuild of structures.

### **Colorado Health Foundation**

CHF's has a community outcome goal they call "Healthy Living" that includes a key strategy for creating healthy communities where it is easy to access affordable, healthy food and safe, affordable options for physical activity for kids. Through the Foundation's Grantmaking program, individual grants are created to support select projects or to offer general operating support and capacity building. Sometimes the Grantmaking program provides capital to help improve an organization's facilities or infrastructure.

### **Other Resources**

Beyond those mentioned in greater detail above, other state and non-profit organizations like Colorado Creative Industries, Bicycle Colorado, and LiveWell Colorado offer additional resources in funding and advocacy groups that can help expand partnership opportunities.

## Town of Severance Parks Master Plan Public Outreach Questionnaire

The Town of Severance is in the process of creating a community-wide Parks Master Plan. This planning process will result in a Master Plan that will identify future locations for parks, trails and recreational amenities.

Your input and ideas are critical to the success of this planning process. Please take a moment to fill out the below survey questions. We appreciate your willingness to provide comments that will help inform this Master Plan. Thank you!

1. What are the primary reasons that you use the current parks within the Town of Severance?

(Check all that apply.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds   | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness   | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate boarding                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> League sports (softball, baseball, basketball, little league) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking   | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnics / family gatherings                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling   | <input type="checkbox"/> Community events (festivals, concerts, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> None   |

2. The Town of Severance is embarking on developing the Town's first Parks Master Plan. What future park and recreation amenities and programs should be considered to be included in the Master Plan?

(Check all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic fields            | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth athletic programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking and biking trails  | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult athletic programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic areas               | <input type="checkbox"/> Community pool          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds                | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash pad              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor exercise equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> None                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community gardens          |  |

3. How many times PER MONTH total do you and members of your household use the existing trails within the Town of Severance? (Check One.)

- Never
- Less than 1
- 3 to 5
- 5 to 10
- 11 to 20
- More than 20

4. Where do you see opportunities to create trail connections between community facilities and destinations within the Town of Severance?

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5. What types of investment in health and wellness programs or facilities would you likely utilize? (Check all that apply.)

- Fitness classes in a park
- Group walks/runs on existing walking/biking paths
- New outdoor exercise stations
- New walking and biking paths to connect parks, schools, and neighborhoods
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Including yourself, how many people in your household are?

Under age 5	___	Ages 20-24	___	Ages 55-64	___
Ages 5-9	___	Ages 25-34	___	Ages 65-74	___
Ages 10-14	___	Ages 35-44	___	Ages 75+	___
Ages 15-19	___	Ages 45-54	___		

7. Is your residence located within town/city limits?

- Yes
- No

8. How long have you resided in Severance or the surrounding area? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What do you feel would improve the overall quality of the current and future parks, trails and programs within the Town of Severance?

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## Questionnaire Response Document

This document provides a summary of public comments and total number of questionnaire responses per category.

### **1. What are the primary reasons that you use the current parks within the Town of Severance?**

---

- Playgrounds (30)
- Health and wellness (10)
- League sports (2)
- Walking (27)
- Bicycling (20)
- Basketball (3)
- Volleyball (0)
- Skateboarding (2)
- Fishing (13)
- Picnics / family gatherings (13)
- Community events (18)
- Other (2)
  - Moms Group (1)
  - Running (1)
- None (0)

### **2. What future park and recreation amenities and programs should be considered to be included in the Master Plan?**

---

- Athletic fields (15)
- Walking and biking trails (30)
- Picnic areas (13)
- Playgrounds (22)
- Tennis courts (9)
- Outdoor exercise equipment (4)
- Community gardens (7)
- Youth athletic programs (30)
- Adult athletic programs (13)
- Community pool (35)
- Splash pad (27)
- Other (3)
  - Frisbee Golf Course (1)
  - Restrooms (1)
  - Softball/Baseball (1)
- None (0)
- Notes (1)
  - “Tailholt community garden by firehouse already exists.”

**3. How many times per month total do you and members of your household use the existing trails within the Town of Severance?**

---

- Never (4)
- Less than 1 (10)
- 3 to 5 (6)
- 5 to 10 (10)
- 11 to 20 (4)
- More than 20 (5)
- Notes (1)
  - “Would use [trails] more if paved, too soft for our bikes.”

**4. Where do you see opportunities to create trail connections between community facilities and destinations within the Town of Severance?**

---

Loose Responses:

- “Not certain yet – May[be] walking trails? – Bike trails.”
- “I walk a lot with neighbors – no complaints right now. Lots of sidewalks to walk on.”
- “Connecting schools and East and West sides of town.”
- “Bring trail East to Baldrige, would love to be able to bike to town!”
- “Pave trails, Great Western.”
- “Between all schools, Windsor.”
- “Connect Great Western to Poudre Trail.”
- “Trails are good – just better picnic areas, splash pads.”
- “Connect trails to Windsor.”
- “Between neighborhoods.”
- “Trail to Windsor and downtown area.”
- “Old town to communities’ (housing).”
- “Great Western Trail.”
- “Trail to new high school and Severance Middle School easy safe access between all schools.”
- “From the Town of Severance to the Baldrige neighborhood.”
- “Great West Trail into Windsor, GWT – all connections to parks/sub divisions, make more sidewalks.”

**5. What type of investment in health and wellness programs or facilities would you likely utilize?**

---

- Fitness classes in a park (16)
- Group walks/runs on existing walking biking paths (13)
- New outdoor exercise stations (8)
- New walking and biking paths to connect parks, schools, and neighborhoods (31)
- Other (2)
  - Pool with swim lessons (1)
  - Update and pave current paths (1)

**6. Including yourself, how many people in your household are?**

---

- Under age 5 (20)
- Ages 5-9 (36)
- Ages 10-14 (14)
- Ages 15-19 (3)
- Ages 20-24 (1)
- Ages 25-34 (28)
- Ages 35-44 (27)
- Ages 45-54 (14)
- Ages 55-64 (3)
- Ages 65-74 (5)
- Ages 75+ (0)

**7. Is your residence located within town/city limits?**

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- Yes (42)
- No (2)

**8. How long have you resided in Severance or the surrounding area?**

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- Under 1 (2)
- 1 (1)
- 2 (6)
- 3 (3)
- 5 (2)
- 6 (5)
- 7 (3)
- 8 (2)
- 9 (3)
- 10 (3)
- 11 (1)
- 12 (2)
- 13 (4)
- 19 (1)
- 35 (1)
- 100 (1, referring to family)

**9. What do you feel would improve the overall quality of the current and future parks, trails and programs within the Town of Severance?**

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- “Recreational sports and pool.”
- “Biking trails, pool, able to run around community off streets.”
- “More trails.”
- “Smart growth! Too many developments-roads will need to be expanded. We like our ‘small’ town. Youth athletics would be great – also community pool!”
- “Restrooms and benches on the Great Western Trail. More family areas, splash parks, etc.”
- “Programs for seniors.”

- “More playgrounds and picnic areas, more trails connecting neighborhoods. Would love Severance to be more bikeable/walkable. Would love a pool or community center.”
- “Splash park or community pool.”
- “Keep doing what you’re doing.”
- “More events.”
- “Again just more kid areas so we don’t have to go to Fort Collins (i.e. splash pad).”
- “Splash pad.”
- “Swimming pool.”
- “Community pools, new park equipment, splash pad.”
- “Right now Severance doesn’t feel like a complete community, but has incredible possibility.”
- “A recreation center.”
- “Great Western Trail – Pave, hard to ride on.”
- “More connection to subdivisions, more outdoor community areas.”
- “Splash Park.”
- “More biking paths into Windsor and a swimming pool.”
- “Splash Park, pool, soccer and Tee Ball.”
- “Some water features, bigger parks.”
- “More paved trails between neighborhoods, safe travel for kids.”
- “Connected bike and hiking trails to all the neighborhoods in Severance.”
- “Redevelop Brownell Park – Make it more kid and neighborhood parl.”
- “Increased amenities/variety. Not all parks just need slides/swings... The park off Wilson/22<sup>nd</sup> in Loveland is an amazing example.”
- “Paved trail to Windsor Lake.”
- “Put a pool in for our kids!”
- “Keeping people engaged and interested.”

**10. Sticky note Comments. “Please provide input on the Town of Severance’s first Parks Master Plan.”**

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- “Trail Connections.”
- “Softball/baseball water parks, pool.”
- “Splash pad please!”
- “Sledding.”
- “Baseball fields in Severance.”
- “Community Pool.”
- “Dog water fountains.”
- “Woods Lake access and beach access.”
- “Pool Recreation Center.”
- “Splash pad please!”
- “No vehicles on the trail.”
- “Ice skating rink.”
- “Golf course x2.”



# TOWN OF SEVERANCE PARKS MASTER PLAN | PUBLIC OUTREACH SURVEY RESULTS | 09.27.16



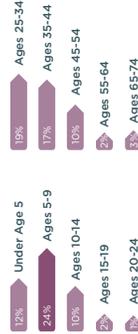
RESIDENCE LOCATED WITHIN TOWN/CITY LIMITS:



LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN SEVERANCE OR SURROUNDING AREA (YEARS):



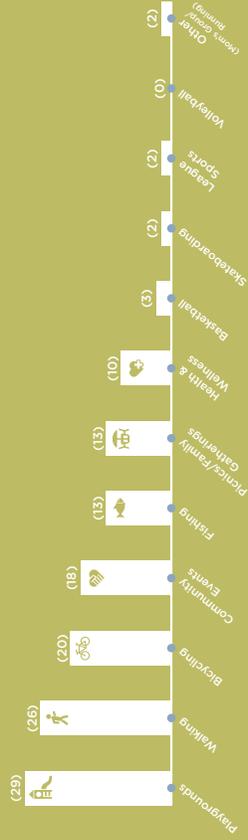
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS BASED ON AGES:



TYPE OF INVESTMENT IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKELY UTILIZE:



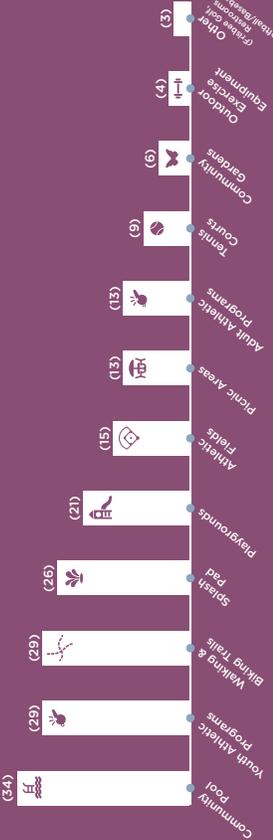
## PRIMARY USES OF THE CURRENT PARKS:



WHERE DO YOU SEE OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE TRAIL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND DESTINATIONS?

- Connecting Schools
- Connecting to Great Western Trail
- Connect to Baldridge Neighborhood and Windsor

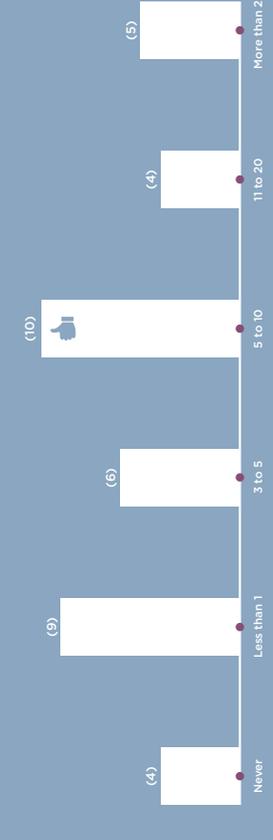
## FUTURE PARK, RECREATION AMENITIES, AND PROGRAMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE MASTER PLAN:



WHAT DO YOU FEEL WOULD IMPROVE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THE CURRENT AND FUTURE PARKS, TRAILS AND PROGRAMS?

- Community Pool and/or Splash Pad
- More Paved Trails
- Family Community Center

## TIMES PER MONTH USING EXISTING TRAILS:



WHAT ADDITIONAL IDEAS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE TOWN OF SEVERANCE'S FIRST PARKS MASTER PLAN?

- Pool/Splash Pad
- Recreation Center with Athletic Fields
- Trail Connections and Access

## Comments from September 2016 Public Meeting

The following is a list of public comments from the public meeting held on September 27, 2016:

- i. Pickle ball courts are a popular amenity among the older demographic. It was stated that residents are currently using courts in Ft. Collins and Greeley.
- ii. A comment was made that Windsor will be getting 6 pickle ball courts.
- iii. Residents stated that they are currently using the Greeley pool for kids. It was also stated that Windsor will be opening a pool soon as well.
- iv. Residents currently use schools as practice areas for children's sports.
- v. Art in the Park, such as chainsaw sculptures, could be used to bring cultural elements into the parks and trails.
- vi. Library
  - A story-walk maintained by the library would have placards in the parks that would give children an interesting way to promote reading.
  - A story-time space for the library to use to provide programming to children is desired.
  - Shade Structures for could be added to parks for outdoor reading. Having a nearby spot to park the bookmobile would help enhance this amenity.
- vii. Great Western Trail
  - The gravel paving is difficult to ride bikes on, so much so that one mother doesn't allow her son to ride it.
  - Need special stroller to use the trail, so it deters parent with young children.
  - Concerns about safety on trail
    - People often run alone
    - The Town has very little crime, but residents are worried about injuries in sparsely used areas.
  - Running on Great Western Trail is difficult because of the current paving.
  - Residents desire a packed gravel, crusher fines, or paved trail.
- viii. Frisbee Golf courses are very popular in Northern Colorado and could be a great amenity in Severance.
- ix. Exercise equipment along trails could provide additional amenities to users.
- x. It was stated that the parks are pretty much only used in the daylight hours due to lack of lighting. Adding lighting to some of the parks would help extend the use of the parks.
- xi. Youngsters/teenagers hang out at Blue Spruce Park have raised concerns with the community about vandalism.

## Comments from September 2016 Public Meeting (Cont.)

- xii. People fish in Blue Spruce Park.
- xiii. Wildlife appreciation as well as hunting/ fishing programming is desired. It was suggested to look into a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant.
- xiv. 3 big hockey rinks in neighboring communities are currently used by Severance residents.
- xv. Residents expressed interest in having a sledding hill.
- xvi. Severance currently has Christmas firework, but designated city bonfire nights or movies on the green are desired.
- xvii. Community gardening is well perceived by residents, especially if they are getting kids involved. Show / Demonstration gardens in parks could help expand on these ideas by having master gardeners adopt gardens in parks to keep them maintained.
- xviii. Too much sod at parks raises concerns about water usage. One resident suggested that the Town should replace sod with basketball courts, splash pad.
- xix. Skate park graffiti and vandalism in parks brought about the suggestion of park ambassadors for community patrols/ policing.
- xx. Spring Canyon in Ft Collins is a desirable type of park.
- xxi. Volleyball court at Lakeview currently not maintained.
- xxii. Benches face the wrong direction at Karen Suman Park.
- xxiii. Mom's group currently exists that gets together to walk at Karen Suman.
- xxiv. One Resident expressed an interest in themed play / parks. Because Severance is a small agricultural town, this could be the theme used.
- xxv. Dog Park to the south of Lakeview is used heavily, even by neighboring communities.

## Comments from January 2017 Public Meeting

The following is a list of public comments from the public meeting held on January 26, 2017:

- i. The best connections to the Great Western Trail in Severance, Eaton, and Windsor were discussed. The trail is currently entering into design and engineering phase for the portion between Severance and Eaton. The plan is to have the trail implemented in 2018.
- ii. A representative from Clearview Library District discussed the ideas of a "story walk" and similar ideas to encourage reading and learning in parks and open space. The "story walk" was described as a picture book broken up into individual pages that would be placed along a path to get children outside and engaged in nature.
- iii. Representatives from the Tailholt Community Garden attended the meeting to discuss the potential to expand community gardens into areas throughout the community. Potential involvement with CSU and the elementary/middle/high school in Severance were brought up. Having a connected system of gardens as opposed to separate small entities is desired to build community relationships and long term sustainability.
- iv. The idea of having a farmer's market was discussed.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS DATA

BLUE SPRUCE PARK					
ASSET	COMMENT	QTY	COND	SHADE	FEATURE
TRASHCAN	DENTS	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN	DENTS	1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN	DENTS	1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
DOG STATION	RUSTING	1	2	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH	RUSTING	1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH	RUSTY	1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH	VANDALISM	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	VANDALISM	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	VANDALISM	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	STARTING TO RUST	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	VANDALISM	1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PARKING LOT	DRAINAGE ISSUES	1	4	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	2 VALVES	1	3	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	CONTROLLER RUSTING	1	2	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	CONTROL VALVE	1	4	-	UTILITY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	BOULDER AND SAND PIT DIGGING AREA FOR KIDS	1	3	YES	PRIMARY ASSET
BODY OF WATER	FISHING POND	1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
FOUNTAIN	IN FISHING POND	1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BROWNELL PARK					
ASSET	COMMENT	QTY	COND	SHADE	FEATURE
TRASHCAN	OLD	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
SHADE STRUCTURE		1	4	YES	PRIMARY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	WATER CONNECTION	1	3	YES	UTILITY ASSET
SIGN	SEVERANCE SIGN WEEDS	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
FLAGPOLE	NO FLAG	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
COURT	HALF COURT NO HOOP	1	1	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	BALL GAME	1	3	YES	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND		1	3	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	OLD	1	1	-	PRIMARY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT		1	5	YES	UTILITY ASSET
LIGHTPOLE		1	2	-	SUPPORT ASSET
LIGHTPOLE	BROKEN	1	1	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BUILDING		1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET

KAREN SUMAN PARK					
ASSET	COMMENT	QTY.	COND.	SHADE	FEATURE
PICNIC TABLE	FADED AND RUSTY	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	FADED	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PLAYGROUND		1	5	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	CLIMBER	1	5	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	MONKEY BARS	1	5	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	SLIDE	1	5	-	PRIMARY ASSET
BENCH		1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD	DRY SPOT	1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
TRASHCAN		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
DOG STATION	FADING	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	STARTING TO RUST	1	4	-	UTILITY ASSET
TRASHCAN	FADED	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN		1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
SIGN	PLANTS COVERING	1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
GRILL	RUST	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT		1	4	YES	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT		1	4	-	UTILITY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	HORSE ROCKER	1	3	-	PRIMARY ASSET
BENCH		1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
GRILL	STARTING TO RUST	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
LAKEVIEW PARK					
ASSET	COMMENT	QTY.	COND.	SHADE	FEATURE
PARKING LOT	13 SPACE STANDING WATER	1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE	CULVERT	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE	DRAINAGE CROSSING	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
DOG PARK		1	3	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT		1	5	-	UTILITY ASSET
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT		2	3	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	WATER MANHOLE	1	4	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT		1	4	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	WATER METER AND HOSE CONNECTION	1	3	-	UTILITY ASSET
BENCH	PLASTIC	1	1	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN	OLD	1	2	-	SUPPORT ASSET

LAKEVIEW PARK (CONTINUED)

ASSET	COMMENT	QTY.	COND.	SHADE	FEATURE
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PARKING LOT		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
SIGN	DOG PARK RULES	1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
DOG STATION		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	2	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH	OLD	1	2	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
GRILL	WELL USED	1	3	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	VANDALISM HANDICAPPED	1	2	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	GREEN	1	4	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PARKING LOT	8 SPACES	1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
SHADE STRUCTURE		1	5	YES	PRIMARY ASSET
DOG STATION		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN	BENT	1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
RESTROOM		1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	SLIDE	1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	2 TO 5	1	3	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	STRUCTURE	1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
SHADE STRUCTURE		1	5	YES	PRIMARY ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE		1	5	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
GRILL		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PLAYGROUND		1	5	-	PRIMARY ASSET
BENCH		1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PLAYGROUND	JUNGLE GYM	1	5	-	PRIMARY ASSET
SIGN	SKATE RULES	1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN	VANDALISM	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
COURT	SAND	1	2	-	PRIMARY ASSET
DOG STATION		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
PARKING LOT		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
COURT		1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	5	-	SUPPORT ASSET
COURT		1	5	-	PRIMARY ASSET
BENCH		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET

SUMMIT VIEW PARK					
ASSET	COMMENT	QTY.	COND.	SHADE	FEATURE
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD		1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	VANDALISM	1	2	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
PICNIC TABLE	VANDALISM	1	2	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	4	YES	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
DOG STATION	FADED	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	RECLAIMED WATER CONNECTION	1	4	-	UTILITY ASSET
PLAYGROUND		1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
PLAYGROUND	SWINGS	1	4	-	PRIMARY ASSET
SHADE STRUCTURE	STARTING TO RUST	1	4	YES	PRIMARY ASSET
TRASHCAN	VANDALISM	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
LOOP WALK	WET SPOT ON WALK	1	2	-	PRIMARY ASSET
DOG STATION	FADED	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	CONTROL VALVE	1	5	-	UTILITY ASSET
TRASHCAN	BENT	1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH	BENT AND RUSTY	1	2	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
DOG STATION		1	3	-	SUPPORT ASSET
TRASHCAN		1	4	-	SUPPORT ASSET
BENCH	BENT	1	2	-	SUPPORT ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT		1	4	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	BROKEN COVER	1	1	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	WET	1	3	-	UTILITY ASSET
IRRIG EQUIPMENT	CONTROL VALVE	1	5	-	UTILITY ASSET

