

ELKO MASTER PLAN - PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

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The purpose of the Parks and Recreation element of the Master Plan is to assist the City of Elko in planning for and providing parks, recreation, open space and trails to meet the needs of the community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal: *Provide a range of high quality park spaces, recreational facilities, cemetery, golf course, and programs to meet the entire community's recreational and maintenance needs.*

Objective 1: Protect existing park spaces, and identify new park spaces, to ensure that residents have convenient access to high quality, outdoor green spaces and open spaces.

Objective 2: Utilize natural topographic and physical features in the community as opportunities for the creation of park and recreation space. This may include flood plains, storm water retention areas, creeks, ravines, and pocket parks.

Objective 3: Pursue partnerships to develop a regional facility to address underserved and indoor recreational needs in the region, and to serve as a community landmark and gathering place.

Objective 4: Enhance existing and develop additional year-round recreational programs for all ages to more completely meet the existing needs.

Objective 5: Develop new and improve existing trails and pathways to provide opportunities for alternative transportation and recreation, and to promote a healthy active community.

Objective 6: Highlight the Humboldt River corridor as a valuable resource to the City, and coordinate activity and land uses along it to ensure protection and restoration of the river's natural systems.

Objective 7: Coordinate planning with adjacent federal, state, county, school district, college, and tribal lands to ensure best use of open spaces, trailheads, access points, and visual resources.

Objective 8: Develop a short and long-term parks and recreation maintenance plan to ensure that the City's investment in these assets is preserved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Elko places a high priority on recreation and has beautiful natural resources for recreation such as the Humboldt River Corridor which passes through the heart of the community. The City offers excellent recreational programs and maintains a variety of park spaces. As the community looks to the future, residents have a variety of concerns and priorities; however, four main themes were consistently expressed by participants in the master plan process. These priorities are:

- Development of a recreation center with expanded aquatic amenities
- Increased recreational opportunities for teens
- Need for additional fields for sports
- Expand existing trail network to include:
 - o Trails along the Humboldt River
 - o Connectivity between existing and future trails
 - o Development of a “walkable” community

A separate Recreation Center Feasibility Study was completed in January 2011 which recommends that the facility contain the following:

- Aquatics – leisure swimming pool and eight-lane pool
- 2-3 gyms that could serve a variety of purposes including basketball, volleyball and wrestling
- Indoor track
- Flexible programming space

A level of service analysis was used in order to assist the City in determining not only the number of gymnasiums for a recreation center, but also the number of ballfields and other recreation facilities that would be beneficial to the community. One of the major concerns reflected in this analysis, and also expressed by residents of the community, is that most athletic fields are at nearly full capacity just through scheduled game times alone, thereby leaving little, if any, field usage for practice times or for “drop-in” use.

A new ballfield complex is recommended as part of this plan. The southern portion of the City should be considered as a suitable location for the new ballfields. Future park locations in the City are included on the maps that are part of this Plan. No immediate expansion of the golf course is recommended.

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Summary of Needs	Existing LOS/ Population per Component	Desired LOS per Component	Existing Facilities	Additional Number Needed at 2011 to Reach Desired LOS	Additional Number Needed at 2020 to Reach Desired LOS
Baseball/Softball Fields	2,143	1,667	14	4	6
Football Fields	10,000	7,500	3	1	1
Soccer Fields	3,333	3,000	9	1	2
Outdoor Basketball	6,000	3,700	5	0	1
Indoor Basketball	10,000	5,000	3	3	4
Tennis Courts	3,750	3,750	8	0	1
Volleyball Courts	30,000	15,000	1	1	1

The cost of the above facilities is shown below. Gymnasium space for basketball and volleyball has been included in the costs for the recreation center, and is not included separately below.

Amenities	Cost to Build/Acquire per unit	Maintenance & Operating Costs
Baseball/Softball Fields	\$550,000-\$580,000/field	\$17,385-\$18,525/field
Football Fields	\$360,000-\$390,000/field	\$11,285-\$12,025/field
Soccer Fields	\$360,000-\$390,000/field	\$11,285-\$12,025/field
Tennis Courts	\$60,000-\$90,000/court	\$6,000-\$7,000/court

The following table demonstrates the costs that would be involved in order to reach the desired levels of service for the following facilities.

Building Cost	Totals	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts
Cost per Unit		\$550,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$60,000
Cost to Attain Desired Levels, 2011	\$2,920,000	\$2,200,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$0
Cost to Maintain Existing Levels, 2020	\$970,000	\$550,000	\$0	\$360,000	\$60,000
Cost to Attain Desired Levels, 2020	\$4,440,000	\$3,300,000	\$360,000	\$720,000	\$60,000
Recreation Center	\$28,000,000				

The cost of capital facilities required to maintain existing service levels for new development can be paid for through impact fees. However, impact fees cannot be used to pay for the costs of increased service levels. In order for the City to obtain its desired service levels, it is imperative that partnerships be formed with other entities including but not limited to Elko County, Elko School District, businesses, Great Basin College and that other resources such as grants and capital campaigns be utilized.

The City will also need to acquire parkland to serve the needs of future development. Currently the City has nearly 116 acres of parks. This parkland serves not only the City of Elko itself, but also surrounding areas. Therefore, depending on the area that is served, this is the

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equivalent of approximately four to six park acres per 1,000 residents. With population growth projected at 2,000 – 3,000 persons over the next decade, the City will need to consider acquiring an additional 12 to 18 park acres. However, park development is also influenced by the location of development and if development occurs in areas without existing parks, then parkland will need to be acquired in these locations.

Specific park improvements identified as part of this process include:

Table 4	
Park	Improvements Needed
Main City Park	Restrooms Cleanliness Lighting and safety features
Johnny Appleseed Park	Cleanliness Picnic facilities
Angel Park	Lighting and safety features Restrooms
Mountain View Park	Measured walk/jog paths Picnic facilities Trees
5 th Street Park	Playground equipment Cleanliness Lighting and safety features Picnic facilities Trees
Greenbelt	Lighting and safety features Measured walk/jog paths Trees
Peace Park	Picnic facilities Trees
Southside Park	Cleanliness Trees

3/14/11
Delete

Best Practices are a critical component of this plan and provide guidelines to achieve overall community goals that include the preservation of natural resources, an equitable distribution of parks throughout the community, better connections and walkability through trail connections in the community and the establishment of partnerships with key players that will allow for shared use of resources and additional funding options for recreation development.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Background and History

Throughout the years, Elko has developed many community parks. The oldest park in the city is Main Park, built in 1921. This park was originally an old Chinese Camp for the Chinese Ranch. Many additional parks have been created, the majority of which have been built since the 1980's.

Recreation is an important element of the quality of life found in Elko and is intended to meet the varying needs of all of the different demographic

segments of the population. The City Parks and Recreation Department states that:

The City of Elko takes great pride in being able to provide the community with such diverse recreation programs and facilities to meet the needs and interests of all. Community Parks are intended to serve a broader representation of the general public, centrally located and accessible by a variety of public transportation routes, and may consist of swimming pools, athletic fields, community recreational centers, and a complex of indoor and/or outdoor recreational facilities and activity areas that have community wide orientation.

In order to serve this wide variety of needs, the City utilizes the resources of several different recreation-related funds which are discussed in greater detail later in this section. These funds include the General Fund, Recreation Fund, and Golf Fund. These three funds form the basis of support for the parks department, recreation department, swimming pool operations, golf department and capital projects (parks and recreation related).

Approach

In order to evaluate the needs and desires of the community in regards to recreation, the following approach was taken:

Needs Assessment and Public Involvement:

- Review of previous planning efforts and City historical information;
- Consideration of the profile of the community and demographics, including anticipated population growth;
- Community involvement effort including focus groups, meetings with key stakeholders, a community-wide public meeting, meetings with the Planning Commission, and a statistically-valid community interest and opinion survey; and
- Research of trends related to national programming to help guide the efforts of programming staff.

Level of Service Analysis:

- Interviews with staff to provide information about parks and recreational facilities and services; and
- Interviews with staff of similar communities to provide comparable level of service analysis addressing parks, recreation, open space, trails, and related services.

Inventory:

- Inventory of parks and facilities using existing maps and staff interviews to verify and assess the condition of the amenities and surrounding areas.

Assessment and Analysis:

- Review and assess relevant plans;
- Measurement of the current delivery of service and allowing for a target level of service to be determined that is feasible and united with the desires of the City of Elko citizens; and

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- Exploration of finance and funding mechanisms to support development and sustainability of the system.



Ernie Hall Field

Best Practices:

- Identification of and an explanation of each Master Plan objective;
- Development of recommendations including identifying funding sources and regulatory tools available to help implement the Master Plan's stated objectives; and
- Development of an action plan for recommendations and capital improvements including cost and timeframe to support the implementation of the plan.

Current Trends

Understanding trends in park and recreation use and preferences is an important element of making appropriate planning decisions for the future. Knowing what activities and facilities can expect increases in demand helps prioritize resource expenditures and focuses efforts on the services which offer the community the largest benefit.

Sports Participation Trends

According to the National Sporting Goods Association, the four sports that had the highest participation ranking in 2009 were exercise walking, exercising with equipment, camping and swimming. While participation in the first three sports (exercise walking, exercising with equipment, and camping) has continually increased throughout the years, participation in swimming, while still high, has slowly decreased since 2005.¹ The national trend toward exercise walking is apparent locally in the high level of interest for an indoor track and trails expressed by Elko residents in their response to the community survey conducted Summer 2010.

Details on current trends for various selected sports pertinent to the City of Elko are highlighted below:

- **Exercise Walking** – seems to be the most popular sport with 93.4 million participants in 2009, 60 percent of which were female. Participation in exercise walking increased 4 percent from 2008 to 2009 and has had an average increase of approximately 1.5 percent annually since 1999.
- **Exercising with Equipment** – is the next most popular sport at 57.2 million participants. Participation of individuals in exercising with equipment has increased at an average annual rate of approximately 2.4 since 1999, with an increase of four percent between 2008 and 2009. Exercising with equipment is most popular for men and women between the ages of 25 and 34.
- **Aerobic Exercising** – had approximately 33.1 million participants in 2009 with a participation rate increase of three percent from 2008 to 2009.
- **Baseball** – had approximately 11.5 million participants in 2009, 81 percent of which were male. Participation in baseball has

¹ National Sporting Goods Association
 (<http://www.nsga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3346>)

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decreased at an average rate of approximately 3.4 percent annually since 1999. From 2008 to 2009 participation decreased 13.5 percent.

- **Basketball** – had approximately 24.4 million participants in 2009 but saw a decrease in participation of 5 percent from 2008 to 2009. Roughly 70 percent of all participants were male, with the highest percent between the ages of 12 and 17.
- **Bicycle Riding** – approximately 38.1 million people participated in bicycle riding in 2009. The number of participants in bicycle riding has decreased slightly from 42.4 million in 1999 to 38.1 million in 2009.
- **Football (tackle)** – had approximately 8.9 million participants in 2009. Participation in tackle football increased from 1999 to 2005 and then decreased from 2005 to 2009 with a 6.2 percent decrease from 2008 to 2009.
- **Golf** – had approximately 22.3 million participants in 2009. Participation in golf has slowly decreased at an average annual rate of approximately 1.9 percent since 1999. Golf is most popular for males between the ages of 25 and 54. 35 percent of all golf participants have a household income of \$100,000 or more.
- **Hiking** – had approximately 34 million participants in 2009 with a pretty equal participation rate for men and women. Participation in hiking has increased 2.8 percent from 2008 to 2009.
- **Running/Jogging** – had approximately 32.2 million participants in 2009 with an average annual increase in participation of 3.7 percent from 1999 to 2009. The age group with the highest participation is 25 to 34.
- **Soccer** – had approximately 13.6 million participants in 2009. Participation in soccer has fluctuated throughout the years, but currently has approximately the same number of participants as it did in 1999 (13.2 million). Children age seven to eleven account for the highest percent of participation.
- **Softball** – had approximately 11.8 million participants in 2009 with a decrease of 7.9 percent from 2008 to 2009. Participation in softball has slowly been decreasing since 1999.
- **Swimming** – had approximately 50.2 million participants and was the fourth most popular sport in 2009. Nevertheless, participation in swimming decreased 6.1 percent from 2008 to 2009 and has seen an overall decrease from 1999 to 2009 of 13.3 percent. All age groups between the ages of seven and 54 participate equally, though there is a slight drop in participation in the 18-24 age group.
- **Tennis** – had approximately 10.8 million participants in 2009 and has roughly the same number of participants as in 1999 (10.8 million). The largest percent of participants is made up of individuals between the ages of 25 and 44.

Parks and Recreation Trends

Top features currently included among parks and recreation facilities include:

1. Playgrounds
2. Park structures, such as shelters, restroom buildings, etc.
3. Open spaces, including gardens, natural areas, etc.
4. Outdoor sports courts, such as basketball, tennis, etc.
5. Trails
6. Bleachers and seating
7. Natural turf sports fields for baseball, soccer, etc.
8. Concession areas
9. Classrooms and meeting rooms
10. Community or multipurpose center

Top features parks and recreation managers plan to include in the near future include:

- Splash play areas
- Park structures
- Dog parks
- Trails
- Playgrounds
- Open spaces
- Natural turf sports fields
- Bleachers and seating
- Skate parks

Recreation Program Trends

According to *Recreation Management's* State of the Industry Report, top current recreation programs include:

- Holiday events and other special events
- Youth sports teams

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Top Ten Programs Planned for the Next Few Years Include:

1. Teen programs
2. Fitness programs
3. Environmental education
4. Educational programs
5. Active older adult programs
6. Mind-body/balance programs
7. Day camps and summer camps
8. Holiday events and other special events
9. Arts and crafts
10. Adult sports teams

- Day camps and summer camps
- Adult sports teams
- Arts and crafts
- Educational programs
- Active older adult programs
- Sport training (such as golf instruction or tennis lessons)
- Sports tournaments or races
- Festivals and concerts
- Fitness programs
- Swimming programming
- Mind-body/balance programs like yoga, tai chi and pilates
- Teen programming

Many of the top ten programs planned for the future (found in the box to the right) have grown in popularity since last year's Recreation Management report. Desire for teen programming has moved from number five in last year's survey to number one, fitness programs are up from number seven last year, and active older adult programs have jumped from number ten to number five. Clearly, the desire for teen programming, fitness programs, and active older adult programs has grown significantly.

Community and Stakeholder Input

Community and stakeholder input were derived from three main sources:

1. Feedback from public meetings;
2. Survey results and highlights; and
3. Planning Commission & City Council Meetings.

Summary of Public Input

- Issue #1 – Walking paths/trails/track
 - Walking has highest participation ranking
 - Seniors need place to walk
 - Elko wants to become a “walkable” community – they will need paths
 - Potential to develop trails/paths along the river
- Issue #2 – Teen programs
 - Teens need more activity opportunities
 - Ideas include: rock wall, arcade, skate parks, BMX track, martial arts, skating rink, etc.
- Issue #3 – Recreation Center or aquatic needs
 - Need more indoor and family-friendly pools (i.e. lazy river, beach entry, slides)

What We Have Now – An Analysis of Public Programs and Spaces

The following includes useable and workable definitions for parks, recreational facilities, and open space followed by an analysis of these existing facilities and the programs that use the facilities. See ATLAS Map 14.

Special Purpose Parks

Special Purpose parks are intended to provide or commemorate a unique recreational, cultural or historic amenity within the community, and may consist of open spaces, passive park areas, public gathering spaces, greenways, or formal landscaped areas that interrupt and soften the continuous pattern of urban development.

- Location: Location can be widespread throughout the City depending upon purpose, need and special circumstance.
- Size: Normally, size can be up to three (3) acres depending on location and function.

There are four existing special purpose parks in Elko:

- Greenbelt Park ("Train Park") (0.90 acres);
- Fir Street Pocket Park (0.26 acres);
- Skate Park; and
- Peace Park.



Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are intended to be the most localized features of the park system, convenient and accessible to residents within one of the City's designated neighborhoods, and may consist of improved or grassed open space, tot lots, playground equipment, playfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic areas and other recreation features determined to serve the needs of the local neighborhood.

- Location: Location central and convenient to the neighborhood and within one of the City's designated neighborhoods.
- Size: Normally, size is between three (3) acres and ten (10) acres, depending on location and function.

There are three existing neighborhood parks in Elko:

- Angel Park (2.58 acres);
- Southside Park (7.40 acres); and
- 5th Street Park (2.53 acres).



Community Parks

Community Parks are intended to serve a broader representation of the general public, centrally located and accessible by a variety of public transportation routes, and may consist of swimming pools, athletic fields, community recreational centers, and a complex of indoor and/or outdoor recreational facilities and activity areas that have community wide orientation.

- Location: Location central and convenient to the community or accessed by a classified collector or arterial roadway.
- Size: Normally, minimum size is ten (10) acres, depending on location and function.

There are three existing community parks in Elko:

- Elko Main Park (21.21 acres); and
- Johnny Appleseed Park (4.89 acres).



Recreational Facilities

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Recreational facilities are intended to accommodate a wide variety of recreational, athletic and educational pursuits and consist of swimming pools, golf courses, playfields, basketball and tennis courts and similar type facilities.

- Location: Location distributed throughout the entire City.
- Size: Size may vary depending upon the specifications of the recreation purpose or activity being provided.



The City's major recreational facilities include:

- Newton Field;
- Wornek Complex;
- Ernie Hall Fields;
- Herrera Sports Complex;
- Kump Fields (Upper and Lower);
- Skate Park;
- Aquatic Center; and
- Ruby View Golf Course.

Open Space

Open space areas are intended to set aside lands for preservation of natural resources, remnant landscapes and to preserve natural settings that are unsuitable for development such as steep slopes, unstable soils, floodways, wetlands or similar physical features for active and passive recreation opportunity. Such open space areas can provide passive recreational opportunity and contribute to the quality of life of the community by protecting views, vistas and panoramas; by protecting air, water, soil, plant and wildlife habitat; by protecting against natural hazards related to floodways and flooding, unstable soils or areas of geological instability; and by protecting airport approach and takeoff areas.

- Location: Widely distributed throughout the City.
- Size: Size may vary considerably depending upon purpose, function and physical characteristics.

Outdoor Facilities Analysis

Parks and Field Inventory

The City of Elko has numerous parks available for community use. Many of these parks include the following amenities: playgrounds, playing fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball nets, handball courts, and even a skate park. ATLAS Maps 14 and 15 show existing and future planned park spaces. The table on the following pages outlines existing park and facility inventory.

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Natural Areas and Trails

Elko's current trail system consists of roadways signed as bike routes and roads with bike lanes. A number of the bike lanes lead to the area of Great Basin College, The City of Elko Cemetery, and Elko High School. The current system lacks a comprehensive method for connecting people and destinations throughout the city. The current system also provides limited recreation opportunities as there are no auto-separated shared use trails.



The City of Elko has a small section of improved trail along the Humboldt River. This trail runs approximately one mile. In addition to this trail, gravel walking paths, set to be surfaced this summer, are currently in construction at Peace Park. These paths meander through gardens and groves in an eight-acre parcel. Since few improved trails exist in the City of Elko, the one outdoor track located at Elko High School is used frequently as weather allows. See ATLAS Map 13 for existing and future planned trails and bicycle routes.

Golf Course

The City of Elko currently operates Ruby View Golf Course. This golf course offers 18 holes and has previously been rated in the top 40 of 2000 public golf courses as surveyed by Golf Digest Magazine.²

Current fees are as follows:

Table 6	
Resident Weekend Green Fees (Sat-Sun and Holidays)	
9-hole (before 3pm)	<i>\$20.00</i>
9-hole (after 3pm)	<i>\$17.00</i>
18-Hole	<i>\$33.00</i>
Conversion 9 to 18 holes	<i>\$16.00</i>

Table 7	
Resident Weekday Green Fees (Mon-Fri)	
9-Holes	<i>\$17.00</i>
Conversion 9 to 18 Holes	<i>\$13.00</i>
9-Holes Senior (65+)	<i>\$12.00</i>
Conversion 9 to 18 Holes Senior	<i>\$8.00</i>
9 Hole Junior (5-18 yrs)	<i>\$10.00</i>
Conversion 9 to 18 Holes Junior	<i>\$5.00</i>
18 Holes	<i>\$28.00</i>
18 Holes Senior (65+)	<i>\$17.00</i>
18 Holes Junior (5-18 yrs)	<i>\$13.00</i>

² The City of Elko Parks and Recreation

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Table 8		
Punch Card		
24- 9 hole rounds		\$304.00

Table 9		
Season Passes		
Adult Single		\$550.00
Senior Single (65 +)		\$425.00
Young Adult (19-20)		\$225.00
Junior (unrestricted)		\$125.00

Expenses and revenues for the Ruby View Golf Course can be found in the following table. Cost recovery is expected to be 116 percent in the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

Table 10				
	2008/2009 Actuals	2009/2010 Original Budget	2010/2011 Final Budget	Anticipated 2010/2011 Cost Recovery
Revenues	\$600,200.00	\$631,008.00	\$740,701.00	116%
Expenses	\$622,216.00	\$627,717.00	\$640,074.00	

Source: The City of Elko

According to the National Sporting Goods Association’s recent survey on sports participation trends nationwide, golf had approximately 22.3 million participants in 2009. Participation in golf has slowly decreased at an average annual rate of approximately 1.9 percent since 1999. Typically, golf is most popular for males between the ages of 25 and 54 and approximately 35 percent of all golf participants have a household income of \$100,000 or more.

In 1994, the City of Elko commissioned a *Market and Financial Evaluation of the Ruby View Golf Course Expansion Potential* from Economics Research Associates (ERA). In 2005, the City of Elko retained ERA once more to conduct an update of market conditions and potential to expand the existing golf course. ERA concluded that the annual expenses at Ruby View would increase from \$426,000 annually at present with 18 holes to \$550,000 with 27 holes and \$670,000 with 36 holes. It was also found that additional revenue of approximately \$325,000 per year would be required to economically justify the expansion of the course. In order to generate \$325,000 more revenue per year, daily fee rounds would have to increase by 15,000. ERA concluded that this does not appear possible in the foreseeable future. However, ERA did recommend a number of ways to increase operating revenues including: increasing green fees, tournament fees, annual pass fees, pass holder greens fees, trail fees, and concessionaire rent.



Fairgrounds

Community Recreation Programs and Facilities Analysis

Special Events

The following table shows the special events hosted by the City of Elko Recreation Department. These events are held at different locations approximately one time each year. Since the events are only held once each year and at differing locations, there are currently no issues with capacity.

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Table 11			
Special Events	Location	Dates	Attendance/Participation
Indoor Garage Sale	Fairgrounds	July	600
Nevada Day Parade	Idaho Street	October	whole town
Pumpkin Patch	Fairgrounds	October	1500-2000
Santa's Workshop	Folklife Center	December	1500-2000
Family Friday Night "Dive In"	Elko Pool	August	150

Source: The City of Elko Recreation Department

The table below shows revenues, expenses and cost recovery for special events.

Table 12				
	# of Participants	Revenue	Expense	Cost Recovery
Special Events	Approximately 3,000	\$4,727	\$3,722	127%

Source: City of Elko Parks and Recreation Department

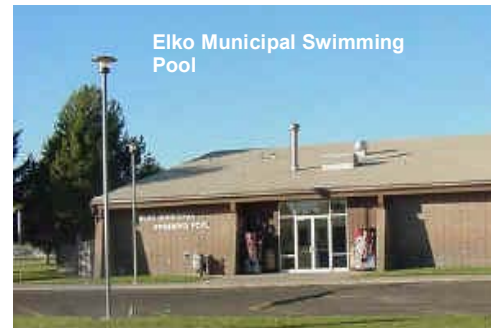
Aquatics

The City of Elko's swimming pool houses three separate pools with a total pool capacity of 450 to 500 individuals. The three pools include:

- An outdoor 25-meter six-lane pool complete with a diving tank and a water slide;
- An outdoor wading pool for children six and under; and
- An indoor six-lane 25-yard pool.

The municipal swimming pool is currently used for:

- Deep and shallow water exercise classes;
- Swimming lessons;
- Swim team practice;
- Lap swimming; and
- Open public swimming.



The total number of participants for the three primary programs at the municipal pools is shown below:

- Deep water exercise classes – 171 (Jan – Dec 2009);
- Shallow water exercise classes – 224 (Jan – Dec 2009); and
- Swimming lessons – 6,332 (Jan – Dec 2009).

Peak usage times include the summer months. Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons are particularly busy during the summer as Day Care, the Boys and Girls Club, and City Parks and Recreation Camp students visit during this time.

The pool is available in the summer for lap swimming and swim team practice in the early morning, followed by swimming lessons from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Some deep and shallow water exercise classes, as well as an additional hour of lap swimming, are available between morning swimming lessons and public swimming hours. Public swim hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A few

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additional swimming lessons are held during the evening hours, along with deep and shallow water exercise classes, and lap swimming.

A more detailed outline of pool hours and programs can be found in the following tables.

Table 13 Summer Pool Hours						
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6:00						
7:00						
8:00						
9:00						
10:00						
11:00						
12:00						
1:00						
2:00						
3:00						
4:00						
5:00						
6:00						
7:00						
8:00						

	Open Swim
	Lap Swim
	Swim Lessons
	Deep/Shallow Water Classes

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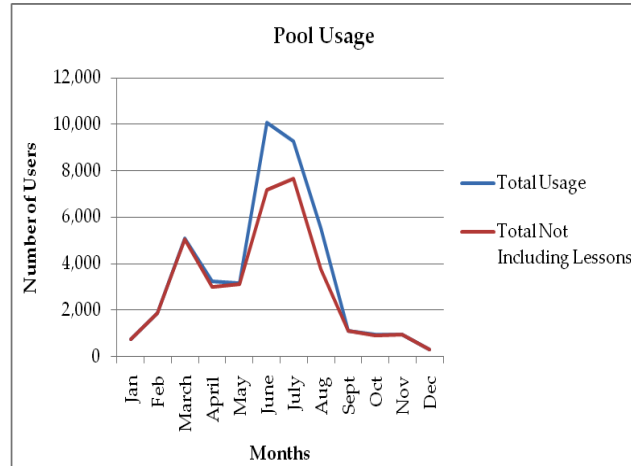
Table 14 Spring/Fall Pool Hours						
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6:00						
7:00						
8:00						
9:00						
10:00						
11:00						
12:00						
1:00						
2:00						
3:00						
4:00						
5:00						
6:00						
7:00						
8:00						

	Open Swim
	Lap Swim
	Swim Team Use (Sept 7-Nov 24), (Jan 3-June 3)
	Shallow Water Classes

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The graph below shows historic pool usage and illustrates that pool usage peaked in 2009 during the months of June and July.



The table below shows annual pool availability for each of the three municipal swimming pools. Currently the swimming pool is limited in programs that can be offered during the fall and winter months because the swim team occupies the only indoor lanes available during the afternoon and early evening hours (see "Swim Team Pool Use" tables).

Table 15
Average Peak Capacity during Summer

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	231
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	248
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	250
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	80

Source: City of Elko Pool, LYRB

Table 16
Annual Pool Availability

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Indoor												
Outdoor												
Wading												

	Open
	Closed

Table 17						
Swim Team Pool Use						
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6:00						
7:00						
8:00						
9:00						
10:00						
11:00						
12:00						
1:00						
2:00						
3:00						
4:00		**		**		
5:00		**		**		
6:00						
7:00						
8:00						

	Outdoor Pool/Summer
	Indoor Pool/Spring and Fall
**	4:15-5:30 p.m. time used only during meet weeks in the summer

In addition to the lack of availability of the pool in the fall and winter months, the facility is also dated and in need of considerable repairs in the near future. The City must decide whether to invest additional funds in repairs of the older facility or in construction of a new pool. If a new facility is built, the City will not want the expenditures associated with two aquatic complexes. A new aquatic center would likely be constructed as part of a new Recreation Center. Potential sites for the Recreation Center are discussed in a separate study entitled *Recreation Center Feasibility Study*.

If a new aquatic center is built, as part of a new Recreation Center, the City must make a decision what to do with its existing 40-year-old aquatic center. One option is to bring in an excavating company to remove the existing pool structures and fill the original site. One community cut costs by advertising "Free Fill Wanted," recognizing that

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lots of building sites are looking for places to dump rocks and gravel when excavating. The site was then covered with topsoil.

Issues involved with an old pool site include:

- High cost of pool demolition, including hauling off concrete, removal of underground structures such as steel struts, etc.;
- Soil settling issues. The site may need additional soil within a few years, and may not be suitable for building any permanent structures for 10-20 years; and
- If the community desires to remodel the existing pools, the configuration must be such that the new pool, or configuration, is larger than the existing pool. A pool cannot safely be made smaller, and virgin ground must be used when excavating a new pool site.

Non-Sports Programming

Not including organized sports teams, the City of Elko offers approximately 90 programs and classes; 53 of which are only offered one day a year.

The tables below list all programs offered through the City of Elko. The first table lists all programs offered only one day each year and the second table lists programs or classes that last more than one day.

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Table 18	
Day Classes	
ABC and 123	Mad About Hats
Adopt a Butterfly	Manga Mania
Art Play	Messy Marvin Monday
Bat Chat Workshop	Mind Your Manners (4-6 yrs)
Be A Meteorologist for a Day #1	Mind Your Manners (7-12 yrs)
Beading Fun (4-6yrs)	Mosaic Tiles
Bug-A-Boo Inn	My First Art Class
Burst Your Bubble	Nature Nuts
Cartoon Class	Ooey-Gooey (4-7yrs)
Clowning Around w/ "Bubbles" the Clown	Ooey-Gooey (8-12yrs)
Color Me Special	Origami Fun
Create-A-Card	Paint It Fun (4-7yrs)
Critter Creations	Paint It Fun (8-12yrs)
Duct Tape Madness	Pin Beading
Edible Art	Recycled Fun (5-7yrs)
Fancy That	Recycled Fun (8-11yrs)
Foam Fun	Rhythm & Tune
Girls Rule	Super Sitters Workshop
Hip Hiking Sticks	Super Snacks
Home Alone	Teddy Bear Tea Party
Home Tweet Home	The Blanket Creation
Jewelry Making	The Great Puppet Caper (5-7yrs)
Junior Scrapbooking	The Great Puppet Caper (8-11yrs)
Learn to Draw (5-7yrs)	Tie-Dye Duds (5-7yrs)
Learn to Draw (8-11yrs)	Tie-Dye Duds (8-11yrs)
Leatherworks	Up, Up & Away/Kites
Lets Wiggle & Shake	

Table 19	
Camps/Programs (1+ Day)	
Basic Aid Training (BAT)	Martial Arts for Children Session #1 & #2
Bumper Bowling	Martial Arts for Girls
Cheerleading Camp	Martial Arts Little Ninjas Session #1 & #2
Click! Beginning Photography	Mommy & Me Tumble Gym
Cowpoke Camp Session #1 & #2	Outdoor Exploration Camp
Crayon Crew & Natures Capers Day Camp	Paint, Glitter, & Glue
ElkoKids SnowBowl Jr. Ski Program	Paper Mache Piñatas
ElkoKids SnowBowl Jr. Snowboard	Pirate Adventure Camp
First Aid for Children Today (FACT)	Skateboarding - Basic Tricks
Fun Factory Summer all Day	Skateboarding - Getting Started
Gymnastics	Sports Tykes
Junior Bowling	Sunshine Play Camp
K-9 College	Tennis/Juniors #1 & #2
Kids In Motion Sports Camp	Tennis-Pee Wee #1 & #2
Ladybug Lane Play camp	The Big Dig
Leaders of the Future	Toddler Tumble Gym
Macrame Camp	

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Currently very few programs are offered for teens due to lack of teen participation and the limited availability of teachers willing and available to teach. Availability of space for these programs is also an issue. Teen programs include classes in photography, skateboarding, babysitting, etc.

Currently there are no programs offered for active seniors through the City of Elko. However, the Elko Senior Citizen Center (The Terrace) offers many activities, clubs, groups, and exercise classes to senior citizens in the area. Some of these activities and classes include: gardening clubs, card groups, and aerobics and tai chi classes.

June, July and August are considered peak months for community programs because most of the classes are offered during these months. The City is currently limited in the number of programs that can be offered because many classes are held at Mt. View Elementary School in two modular classrooms that are only available during the summer months. However, Fun Factory/ Latchkey programs are held in the Auxiliary gym at Mt. View Elementary which is available for that specific program on a year-round basis.

The table below details the approximate number of program/class hours that are offered each month, the total possible (peak) attendance per class, and the equivalent number of classes that would be offered if each class was held one day for two hours. For example, in July, the City of Elko offers roughly 100 hours worth of community classes, equaling approximately 47 classes (assuming each class is two hours and is offered one day). Total possible attendance for any one class in the month of July could not exceed 38 people. These numbers do not include the Fun Factory Summer program that is offered Monday through Friday and has a student capacity of 75.

Peak Months	Total Program Hours per Month	Peak Attendance per Class	Class Equivalent (1 Day)
June	84	38	39
July	100	38	47
August	24	12	11



The facilities that are used to offer these community programs and classes are as follows:

- Mt. View Elementary School
- Main City Park
- Southside Park
- Private Facilities: Igloo, Weather Station, American Red Cross, Snowbowl Ski Resort, Telescope Lanes

Participant and cost recovery information on non-sports programming is found in the table below.

Table 21				
	# of Participants	Revenue	Expense	Cost Recovery
Summer Fun Factory (June-August)	83	\$15,889	\$14,990	106%
Summer Recreation Programs (June-August)	2,303	\$12,07	\$10,018	121%
Winter Fun Factory (Sept.-May)	58	\$43,352	\$41,911	103%
Winter Recreation Programs (Sept.-May)	62	\$11,707	\$6,360	184%

Source: City of Elko Parks and Recreation Department

Sports Programs and Field Usage

In addition to community classes and special events, the City of Elko offers a few organized community sports programs and also allows outside leagues to use the City's public fields for additional sports programs. These sports programs include:

- Baseball
- Softball
- Soccer
- Football
- Basketball

The following section outlines the City of Elko's field usage and capacity for many of these sports programs.

The City of Elko offers many opportunities to participate in team sports programs. The programs that are currently being offered on City fields include:

- Babe Ruth Baseball
- Elko Gold Baseball
- Elko Junior Football
- Little League Softball
- Little League Baseball
- AYSO Soccer
- Great Basin Soccer
- Adult Soccer
- Men's' Slow-pitch
- Women's' Slow-pitch
- Co-Ed Softball

The specific fields and parks being used for these programs are found in the following table.



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Table 22	
Fields/Facilities	# Fields
Kump Fields	2 baseball (Babe Ruth)
Newton Field	1 baseball/softball
Herrera Complex	2 baseball/softball
Mountain View Park	4 long soccer, 2 short soccer
Wornek Field	2 football
Southside	1 softball, 2 soccer
5th Street Park	1 soccer
Johnny Appleseed Park and Ernie Hall Fields	1 football, 2 little league, 2 t-ball

Source: The City of Elko

Many programs use multiple fields for practices and game times. Table 23 shows the community programs that use each field.

Table 23	
Fields	Programs
Kump Fields	High School Baseball
	Babe Ruth Baseball
	Elko Gold Baseball
	Elko Junior Football
Newton Field	High School Softball
	Little League Softball
Herrera Complex	High School Softball
	Mens' Slowpitch
	Womens' Slowpitch
	Adult Softball
	Little League Softball
Mt. View Park	Ayso Soccer
	High School Soccer
	Great Basin Soccer
Wornek Field	Elko Junior Football
	Little League Baseball
	Little League Softball
Southside	Little League Softball
	AYSO Soccer
	Great Basin Soccer
	Adult Soccer
5th Street Park	AYSO Soccer
Johnny Appleseed Park Field & Ernie Hall Fields	Little League Baseball
	Little League Softball
	High school Band

The following table estimates the total number of hours available for each type of field, at each location, on a weekly basis. These figures (i.e., available supply) will then be compared to the number of teams and the estimated hours of usage per team (i.e., demand).

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Table 24						
Field	# of Fields (baseball/ Babe Ruth)	# of Fields (baseball/ softball)	# of Fields (football / soccer)	Hrs Avlb Babe Ruth	Hrs Avlb (baseball/ softball)	Hrs Avlb (football/ soccer)
Kump	2			82		
Newton		1			41	
Herrera		2			82	
Mt View			6			246
Wornek			2			82
Southside		1	2		41	82
Johnny Appleseed & Ernie Hall*		4	1		164	41
5th Street			1			41
TOTAL	2	8	12	82	328	492

**Also has two t-ball fields*

Hrs Available per Field per Week is estimated based on five hours per day on weekdays and eight hours per day on weekends, for a total of 41 hours.

Total teams, by type of sport, are shown in the following table:

Table 25	
	Total Teams
Elko Junior Football	26
High School Softball	2
High School Soccer	3
Little League Softball	30
Little League Baseball	28
High School Baseball	2
Adult Softball	62
Elko Gold Baseball	2
Adult Soccer	9
AYSO Soccer	70
Great Basin Soccer	4
TOTAL	238

The demand generated by the above 238 teams, in terms of the number of weekly field hours desired, is summarized in the following table:

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Table 26			
Teams	Baseball/Babe Ruth	Baseball/Softball	Football/Soccer
Elko Junior Football			26
High School Softball		2	
High School Soccer			3
Little League Softball		30	
Little League Baseball		28	
High School Baseball	2		
Adult Softball		62	
Elko Gold Baseball	2		
Adult Soccer			9
AYSO Soccer			70
Great Basin Soccer			4
TOTAL	4	122	112
Total Hours Desired	40	610	560

Assumes an "average" demand of five hours per week per team (practice and game time), with the exception of High School Baseball which was estimated at 15 hours per week.

Based on the analysis below, the City would need eight additional baseball/softball fields and four football/soccer fields. However, this analysis assumes that all fields are used to capacity while, in reality, the nature of practice times, and lack of official scheduling for them (in comparison to games), does not result in 100 percent utilization of facilities. On the other hand, the City has many other large grassy areas that can be used to offset some of the demand for practice times.

Table 27				
Summary of Field Capacity	Hours Available	Hours Desired	Excess Capacity in Hours	Additional Fields Needed
Baseball/Babe Ruth	82	40	42	0
Baseball/Softball	328	610	-282	6
Football/Soccer	492	560	-68	2



There is some excess capacity on the Kump Fields (Babe Ruth Baseball) which possibly could be used by other baseball or softball teams. This could be done with skinned infields, temporary mounds, multiple base anchor locations, and temporary outfield fencing for little league teams. The mounds could then be easily removed for softball and the outfields would be large enough as well. This would also allow for the hosting of larger softball tournaments.

Practice areas, other than the fields, are difficult to quantify as they are conducted in available parks and open spaces. Both Boys and Girls Little League practice in the Main Park near the tennis courts, at Johnny Appleseed field, and at the Wornek Complex.

The open space park in Johnny Appleseed Park is also used by softball, soccer and football teams for practice, in addition to Little League Baseball. Wornek Complex fields are also used in the spring for

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baseball and softball practices and by the Flagview Intermediate School for PE classes.

Most of the field needs occur during the same months of the year, with possibly the exception of adult co-ed softball, thus making peak demand periods (for which this analysis was designed) in the spring month and early summer months.



Table 28		
Fields	Programs	Time of Use
Kump Fields	High School Baseball	March - May
	Babe Ruth Baseball	April - July
	Elko Gold Baseball	July - Oct
	Elko Junior Football	Aug - Oct
Newton Field	High School Softball	March - May
	Little League Softball	March - July
Herrera Complex	High School Softball	March - May
	Mens' Slowpitch	May - Aug
	Womens' Slowpitch	May - Aug
	Adult Softball	Aug - Oct
	Little League Softball	March-July
Mt. View Park	AYSO Soccer	March - June, Aug - Nov
	High School Soccer	Aug - Nov
	Great Basin Soccer	March - June, Aug - Nov
Wornek Field	Elko Junior Football	Aug - Oct
	Little League Baseball	March - July
	Little League Softball	March - July
Southside (Softball)	Little League Softball	March - July
Southside (Soccer)	AYSO Soccer	March - June, Aug - Nov
	Great Basin Soccer	March - June, Aug - Nov
	Adult Soccer	
Johnny Appleseed Park & Ernie Hall Fields	Little League Baseball	March - July
	Little League Softball	March-July
	High School Band	
5th St. Park	AYSO Soccer	March - June, Aug - Nov

In addition to the above-mentioned outdoor sports programs, the City of Elko offers an organized community basketball program at two facilities. These two facilities are Elko High School and Elko Indian Colony Gym. Both facilities are available three days a week. The City has the option of utilizing Elko Indian Colony Gym more than three days a week; however, the cost to do so is prohibitive. High school gyms are available for additional use on Sundays. Police Athletic League (PAL) basketball is run by the Elko Police Department and uses many school gymnasiums limiting public access to these gyms during the week. There are also several gyms in three LDS churches in Elko and two in Spring Creek.

Junior Wrestling programs also use a number of school gyms. The use of school facilities by these programs is the main reason that additional school facilities are not available for the basketball programs. There is

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also an adult women’s basketball league and an adult volleyball league competing for usage of the high school gyms and the Indian colony gym.

The following table shows the total hours that each facility is available for games and practice times each week. Assuming each game is two hours long and that each team plays one game a week, technically only three hours are available for teams to practice during the week. However, according to the City, a fee is required by Elko Indian Colony Gym to practice and very rarely is the High School available for teams to practice.

Table 29

	Total Gyms	Total Hours Available per Week	Total Hours Used for Games*	Hours Available for Practice
Elko High School	2	18		2
Northside Elementary	1			
Grammar Elementary #2	1			
Southside Elementary	2			
Adobe Middle School	2			
Mt. View Elementary	2			
Flagview Intermediate	2			
Spring Creek Elementary	2			
Spring Creek Middle School	2			
Sage Elementary	1			
Spring Creek High School	1			
Great Basin College	1			
Elko Indian Colony Gym	1	9	8	1

Source: The City of Elko Recreation, LYRB

**Assumes two hours per game and teams play each other.*

Recreation Center Feasibility Study

A separate Recreation Center Feasibility Study was conducted during the summer and fall of 2010. That report, after reviewing public input, recreation facility usage, and program capacity, concludes that a recreation center is desired by many in the community and that it would benefit the community.

The Recreation Center would contain a swimming area. Amenities desired for the swimming pool include: a lazy river, zero entry pool, leisure pool and an eight-lane pool. Currently the municipal pool is limited in its program offerings during the school year as the swim team uses all six available swim lanes in the afternoon and early evening hours.³ If a recreation center were built to include two additional indoor lanes, additional swimming programs could be offered or the lanes could be used for other purposes, such as for physical therapy or rehabilitation.

To meet current basketball and additional program needs, the facility would need to contain at least two gyms, one classroom, and one multi-purpose room. Three gyms would allow for more drop-in basketball (a growing trend). The classroom space would allow for more programs to be offered because of the year-round availability of the classrooms.

³ See “Swim Team Pool Use” tables found on page 16.

Currently, most programs are offered out of elementary school classrooms which are only available during the summer. Surveys and other public input suggest that the public also wants an indoor track (especially for walking in the winter) and fitness rooms.

The Recreation Center would need to provide services for, and be supported by, a larger geographical area than just the City of Elko. After reviewing maps and driving distances, we recommend that the market area for the Recreation Center include the same area as the Convention Center District. Partnerships with key players are also critical in enabling this project to move forward. Key partnerships may include, among others, the school district, Great Basin College, mining companies, and other key businesses in the area.

Other alternatives that may become available in the near future and would satisfy the need to provide space for additional classes and programs without the construction of a recreation center include the following:

- **Police Station:** The City is planning to construct a new Police Station. Design for the new facility has been completed and construction can proceed as soon as funding is secured. The current Police Department has multiple classrooms and a gymnasium. Should this facility become available, the Recreation Department could use this facility as a Recreation Center until or unless a new Recreation Center is constructed. However, this is an old building and the City's disposition decision for this building is uncertain.

The National Guard Armory: The National Guard Armory is another facility with gym space that is currently not available to City staff or to the general public. However, it does have gym space, kitchen and classroom facilities. The NNG is considering moving to either the Elko Regional Airport or the Nevada Fire Science Academy near Carlin. The property where the building sits is owned by the City of Elko and if the NNG vacates this building it becomes property of the City of Elko and could also be used for recreation purposes. The City's plan for this facility, should it become available, is uncertain, but would certainly meet many of the current needs of the Recreation Department until a more complete recreation center could be constructed. This facility is in much better condition than the Elko Police Station.

Alternative Recreation Providers

Alternative recreation providers in the City of Elko consist of Gold's Gym, Elko Indian Colony Gym, The Fitness Zone, Curves for Women, Boys and Girls Club of Elko, Great Basin College, Igloo Recreation Center, and Performance Athletic Club.

Gold's Gym offers:

- Treadmills
- Steppers
- Other fitness machines
- Free weights and body building machines
- Racquetball courts

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- Steam rooms and saunas
- Group fitness classes such as yoga, Pilates, step, boot camp, etc.

Elko Indian Colony Gym offers:

- Free weights
- Treadmills
- Other exercise machines
- Full gym available for basketball

Limited programs for children such as a diabetes program, and an exercise and activity class offered two days a week.

The Fitness Zone offers:

- Treadmills
- Steppers
- Other fitness machines
- Free weights and body building machines
- Tanning beds
- Personal trainers
- Classes in Karate, Pilates and aerobics

Curves for Women offers:

- Cardio and strength training machines

Elko Boys & Girls Club offers:

- Youth clubs and programs teaching leadership, service, education, career exploration, and health and fitness
- Classes in arts, crafts, and photography
- Fitness activities including: Flag football, basketball, soccer, etc.

Great Basin College Fitness Center offers:

- Rock climbing wall
- Gymnasium
- Weight training classes
- These facilities can be accessed by the general public by paying a \$4 drop-in fee (<http://www.gbcnv.edu/fitness/>)

Igloo Recreation Center Provides:

- Indoor batting cage
- Indoor in-line hockey rink
- Gymnastics area

Elko Senior Citizens Center (The Terrace) offers:

- Groups and clubs for traveling, cards, gardening, etc.
- Exercise classes including: aerobics, tai chi, and resistance training
- Daily activities including: puzzles, games, etc.

Performance Athletic Club (opening February 2011):

- Computer controlled climbing wall
- Two endless weight pools
- Cardio equipment
- Strength training machines
- Indoor racquetball court

- Potential basketball court

Best Possible Provider for Above Programs and Services

Currently the City of Elko has extremely little duplication of recreation services with other public or private providers. Gold's Gym and Elko Indian Colony Gym both provide many services that the City of Elko is not currently able to provide, such as access to fitness machines, free weights, and group fitness classes. Colony Gym may duplicate the City's offering of children's programs by offering limited exercise classes for youth; however, this duplication appears to be very minimal. Performance Athletic Club may also duplicate some services with its fitness machines, endless weight pools, and potential basketball court. However, these small pools are expected to have little impact on the increasing demand for an updated aquatic facility.

Great Basin College offers a unique facility with a rock climbing wall, as does Igloo Recreation Center with its batting cages, indoor in-line hockey rink, and gymnastics area. The new Recreation Center could possibly duplicate space for gymnastics, but would not duplicate the other unique facilities offered by Great Basin and Igloo.

Two of the major facilities proposed for the Recreation Center – aquatics area and indoor track – have very limited duplication by any of the facilities offered by the private sector. The gymnasiums will have some overlap with school facilities, and the fitness center may duplicate some of the facilities offered by Gold's Gym, Indian Colony Gym, Fitness Zone, Curves for Women, and Performance Athletic Club. While it is the intent of the Recreation Center to provide unique facilities needed by the community, without duplicating the private sector, there will likely be a small amount of overlap in fitness and weight training facilities in order to offer the convenience of a well-rounded recreation and fitness experience at the Recreation Center.

Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

A Level of Service Analysis (LOS) for parks and recreation measures the number of recreation facilities per population, i.e., fields, tennis courts, indoor gyms, trail miles, park acres, etc. Current standards are compared to desired standards in order to project the number of facilities needed to: 1) reach desired standards; and 2) meet the demands of new growth.

Suggested standards in the Appendix are based on community input as well as benchmarking with other communities. The City of Elko may determine that it can accept and afford a lower level of service than is presented in the Appendix.

User Fee Analysis

Sports Program Rates

Day classes offered by the City of Elko are approximately \$10 to \$15 while camps and classes that run more than one day range from approximately \$25 to \$55.

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The City of Elko does not run the youth sports leagues and does not collect a participation fee. The City does charge a \$5/player fee for field use. Some adult fees are charged by the City of Elko and include a field use fee of \$15. For adult sports, the City also charges a sponsor fee for each team that varies from \$250 to \$450.

While the City of Elko does not currently operate a general fitness recreational facility, it does have a municipal swimming pool. Rates for the pool are as follows:

Table 30						
Elko Municipal Swimming Pool						
	Session	Monthly	3-Month	Season (Jan.-Nov.)	10 visit punch card	20 visit punch card
Preschool (0-6)	\$2.00	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Child (7-12)	\$2.50	\$35.00	\$75.00	\$145.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
Teen (13-17)	\$3.00	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$160.00	\$30.00	\$60.00
Adult	\$4.00	\$45.00	\$85.00	\$175.00	\$40.00	\$80.00
Senior Citizen	\$2.00	\$28.00	\$55.00	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$40.00
Family (4 people)	NA	\$80.00	\$170.00	\$375.00	NA	NA

Source: Elko Municipal Swimming Pool

Comparable Rates

Comparable program, sports, and recreation facility rates are found below. The City of Elko is distinct in that it offers more single-day programs than many other cities. Rates for camps, or programs lasting more than one day, range from \$17 to \$100 depending on the length of the program and type of activity. Rates to participate in youth and adult sports teams are found in Table 31. The City of Elko falls within these ranges of comparable rates, but charges a slightly lower rate than many cities for youth participation on sports teams.

Table 31	
Comparable Rates	
Programs (single-day)	Limited single-day programs
Camps or 1+ day programs	Range from \$17-\$100 depending on length and type of activity
Adult Sports (teams)	Approx. \$30-\$55/person
Youth Sports (teams)	Approx. \$15-\$75 (majority between \$30-\$55)

Source: Lehi City (UT), South Jordan (UT), South Davis (UT), Henderson (NV), Mesquite (NV), Carson City (NV)

Table 32 gives comparable rate information on recreation facilities. All of the facilities incorporated in this analysis contain an aquatic center in addition to general fitness machines and facilities.

Table 32	
Daily Drop-in Fee Range	
Child (2/3 and under)	Free
Youth (4-11) or (4-17)	\$2 - \$4
Students	\$3 - \$3.50
Adult	\$3 - \$5.25
Seniors	Free - \$4

Source: LYRB, comparison of South Summit (UT), South Davis (UT), Wheat Ridge (CO), South Jordan (UT), Clearfield, (UT), Uintah (UT), Kearns (UT), Las Vegas (NV), and Reno (NV) fitness facilities.

Table 33				
Annual Memberships				
	Range		Average	
	Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident
Youth/Student	\$20 - \$250	\$145 - \$375	\$157.50	\$213.53
Adult	\$80 - \$350	\$234 - \$465	\$232.42	\$321.29
Adult Couple	\$250 - \$410	\$350 - \$495	\$296.57	\$410.58
Senior Single	Free - \$190	\$115 - \$250	\$153.10	\$200.63
Senior Couple	Free - \$310	\$160 - \$301	\$204.83	\$264.38
Family	\$195 - \$475	\$415 - \$600	\$367.75	\$484.21

Source: LYRB, comparison of South Summit (UT), South Davis (UT), Wheat Ridge (CO), South Jordan (UT), Clearfield, (UT), Uintah (UT), Kearns (UT), Las Vegas (NV), and Reno (NV) fitness facilities.

Administration, Management, and Organizational Development Overview

There are currently four divisions in the Parks and Recreation Department: Recreation, Pool, Golf Course, and Parks.

Maintenance and Operations Analysis

The City of Elko Parks and Recreation Department does not currently have a separate maintenance division. Rather, the four divisions within the department manage their own maintenance personnel.

Parks Department

The Parks Department employs five full-time employees as well as several seasonal employees as needed. This department is supported by the General Fund for salaries/benefits and services and supplies. The Parks Department is responsible for the maintenance of the Senior Center Grounds (including the Community Garden), the Police Department grounds, City Hall grounds, the Girl Scout House grounds, the Chamber of Commerce grounds, and numerous athletic fields and parks throughout the community.

The parks maintenance department also oversees the maintenance of city tennis courts, city basketball courts, playgrounds and park structures such as picnic shelters, restrooms, announcer booths, and concession stands. Furthermore, the Department assists with special event set up and take down. All of these facilities and properties provide recreational opportunities for residents of the City and residents of the surrounding communities.

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A summary of the maintenance duties for the above facilities include:

- Turf care – sports fields
- Turf care – open turf areas
- Fertilization
- Irrigation inspection, maintenance, and repair
- Trash pickup
- Mosquito abatement
- Weed abatement
- Lighting replacement and repair
- Other surfaces (sweeping & cleaning)
- Inspection (play structures, buildings and surfaces)
- Repairs (play structures, buildings, fences and surfaces)
- Restroom upkeep
- Trail maintenance
- Special event set-up and clean-up
- Natural areas

Primarily turf and athletic field maintenance is done from March through October.

It is the Maintenance Department's desire to maintain all landscapes, parks and recreation facilities in good condition. There are a number of undeveloped areas in the City, but they only receive minor maintenance such as weed and litter control.

Athletic Fields and Capacity Issues

Athletic fields receive a higher level of maintenance through a higher frequency in mowing, fertilization and irrigation. Due to current athletic field inventories, many of the existing fields are used beyond capacity and are in a constant need of maintenance. Athletic field maintenance priorities are safety first, looks second. The City of Elko does not currently have a field closure policy that defines when fields are open for play and when they are closed (i.e., athletics fields will be open for use from March 31st to October 31st and closed for use from November 1st to March 30th). A field closure policy should also state under what conditions fields will be closed for use to prevent damage to fields (i.e. conditions such as drought, saturated turf, and safety issues).

Staffing Levels

Staffing levels have increased by one FTE since 2004, but remain below 1997 levels when the Parks Department was manned by seven FTEs. High expectations for the quality of parks maintenance makes it hard to keep up at times. As with many agencies around the U.S., keeping and retaining quality seasonal staff from a year-to-year basis is difficult.

It is also difficult to find any conclusive research on the number of maintenance employees necessary for parks maintenance due to the differences in reporting developed versus undeveloped park acreage and the number of competitive facilities (i.e., competitive ball fields require a much higher level of care than practice fields, etc.). A report prepared by a management analysis team in Pasadena, California, concluded that a ratio of one park maintenance employee for every 7 to 10 acres should produce "A-Level" service. According to Municipal Benchmarks, by David N. Ammons, standards range from ten acres per field maintenance employee in San Jose, CA to over 82 acres in Overland Park, Kansas.

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Park officials estimate that the average acre/man ratio of maintenance work is currently approximately 23 acres/man, assuming maintenance of 116 acres.

Maintenance Scheduling

The Department does have a park maintenance program where there is a schedule for all maintenance tasks throughout the calendar year. However, this schedule can be altered due to workload.

Irrigation

Irrigation systems in many of the older parks are in need of renovation and repair. Most of the older systems utilize sprinkler heads that are no longer available for purchase. Most of the irrigation systems managed by the Department are controlled by a computerized irrigation system with the eventual goal of complete automated irrigation control.

The City of Elko recently completed a cross-connection control survey for the protection of the city's water system. As a result of this study, many of the irrigation system's backflow prevention devices will need to be updated to meet the newer requirements.

Life Cycle Costing Assessment (Maintenance Equipment and Park Amenities)

A life cycle costing assessment has not been developed for maintenance equipment or park amenities such as playground equipment, benches, etc. The Department should consider the development of this type of assessment in the near future.

Park Maintenance Primary Concerns

As stated, it is the Park Maintenance Department's goal to maintain all facilities in good condition. Primary concerns expressed by the Department Superintendent are:

- Athletic fields used beyond capacity
- No formalized field use or closure policy
- No formalized level of service standard
- No concession agreements
- No field use agreements
- No joint-use agreement with ECSD
- Conflicting maintenance schedules with fields usage by residents
- Aging infrastructure (fencing, irrigation system, picnic tables, etc.)
- Maintenance understaffed

Ideally, the Parks Department would like the acre/man ratio of maintenance to be approximately 13 acres/man.⁴ However, this ratio should be approved by the council to determine if this is a reasonable ratio for the City at this time.

Park Improvements

The following are top priorities for improvements in order of the parks that are used most frequently.

⁴ Parks Department

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Main City Park – Restrooms, improved maintenance/cleanliness, and add lighting and safety features

Johnny Appleseed Park – Improved maintenance/cleanliness and picnic facilities

Angel Park - Add lighting and safety features, and restrooms

Mountain View – Measured walk/job paths, picnic facilities, and trees

5th Street Park – Playground equipment, improved maintenance/cleanliness, add lighting and safety features, picnic facilities, and trees

Greenbelt – Added lighting and safety features, measured walk/jog paths, and trees

Peace Park – Picnic facilities and trees

Southside Park – Improved maintenance/cleanliness and trees

A more detailed list of park improvements is shown in the Appendix.

Benchmarking

Comparing a number of different cities on certain attributes of parks and recreation can be helpful for a City to recognize common standards and set goals for the future. The City of Elko was compared to cities of its same general size from Nevada and Utah on the following points:

- Population
- Median household income
- Total full time equivalencies (FTE)
- Managed indoor space
- Developed parks and open space acreage
- Total parks revenue
- Total recreation revenue
- Cost recovery

The tables below outline this comparison. All data was gathered for parks and recreation (not including cemetery, pools, golf courses, etc). Elko has the largest parks and recreation budget when compared to comparison cities, and also has the highest cost recovery ratio.

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Table 34

Location	Population*	Median Household Income**	Total Parks and Recreation FTE's	Developed Parks (acres)	Developed Acres/1000
Elko, NV	18,428	\$48,608	6	110.47	5.99
Fernley, NV	18,929	\$44,695	4	148.62	7.85
Pahrump, NV	38,247	\$34,860	6	110	2.88
Brigham City, UT	20,055	\$42,335	7	120	5.98
Payson, UT	19,221	\$43,539	11	125	6.50

Source: The City of Elko (NV), Fernley (NV), Brigham City (UT), and Payson (UT)

*Population for NV: 2009 estimate from the Nevada State Demographers Office

*Population for UT: 2010 Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB)

** Census 2000

Table 35

Location	Total Parks Revenue	Total Recreation Revenue	Cost Recovery
Elko, NV	\$12,410	\$2,524,576 *	80%
Fernley, NV	\$55,000	\$0	12%
Brigham City, UT	\$0	\$156,800	18%
Payson, UT	\$4,000	\$112,000	23%

Source: The City of Elko (NV), Fernley (NV), Brigham City (UT), and Payson (UT)

** The \$2.5 million listed above for the City of Elko includes room tax revenues, of which only a small portion actually comes to the Elko Parks and Recreation Department. In addition the Recreation Fund coming from room tax is to be used only for capital project and not the provision of youth recreation services. The entire FY 2010/2011 Parks and Recreation budget is \$147,455, and includes staff salaries and benefits.*

Golf Department

The Golf Department is an enterprise fund and is intended to be completely self supporting. However, the golf course currently receives an annual subsidy from the Recreation Fund. The total budget for golf is \$558,442, divided between salaries (\$233,475), employee benefits (\$85,715), and services/supplies (\$239,252).

Swimming Pool

The total budget for the swimming pool for 2010/2011 is \$415,315. It is split between salaries (\$223,750), employee benefits (\$59,590), and services/supplies (\$131,975).

Recreation Department

Large projects in any of the Parks & Recreation Departments are funded through the Recreation Fund. The Recreation Fund is derived from room/lodging taxes and is divided between multiple organizations. The City of Elko Parks & Recreation Department receives a portion of these taxes. The Recreation Fund reaches roughly \$2.5 million, *but much of this revenue goes to supporting ECVA, Elko County Recreation Board, State Tourism, Western Folklife Center, Elko County Fair Board, Elko Snow Bowl, and Special Events. Of the projected \$2.5 million for the 2010/2011 fiscal year, only \$350,000 was projected to be available for parks and recreation capital projects.*

Planning and Design

The Parks and Recreation Department does not have a Planning Division, but works cooperatively with other City departments to plan and design park projects. Currently, the Engineering Department administers capital park development projects under the direction of Parks and Recreation. In general, design consultants are used for larger projects, while smaller projects are often designed in-house. There are no set design guidelines for park development.

Information Management and Technology

The City Information Technology (IT) Department provides computer and equipment technology support to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Department will begin using the Sportsman SQL recreation software for scheduling park reservations, online registration, point of sale tracking, and membership tracking. Ruby View Golf Course has been using ActiveNetworks software for the last year to provide similar services through the pro shop.

Cemetery

The City will need a second cemetery site as described in its land use plan.

BEST PRACTICES

This Best Practices section includes a detailed explanation of each of the Elko Master Plan objectives, and provides recommendations, identifies funding sources, and suggests regulatory tools available to help implement the Master Plan's stated objectives. The purpose of this section is to ensure City leaders and decision makers have the information necessary to make sound, and educated decisions for the future of Elko. The Elko Master Plan Best Practices should be referred to as staff reports are developed and as any parks, trails, and recreation decisions for the City are made.

Objective 1: Protect existing park spaces, and identify new park spaces, to ensure that residents have convenient access to high quality, outdoor green spaces and open spaces.

In establishing a parks and recreation plan for a community, it is important to provide a variety of recreation experiences through various sizes of parks intended for different types of use and users. It is also important to achieve equitable distribution of basic park lands, recreation facilities, and programs throughout the community by applying standards uniformly and consistently.

A well-planned system of local and regional parks and recreational facilities can provide a range of active and passive recreational activities for future residents. Active recreation encompasses a functional system of developed sites, including organized, scheduled activities such as soccer and softball. Passive recreation is also important and includes activities such as informal play, picnicking, walking, horseback, riding, and jogging.

Amenities. All park amenities must meet standards for handicap accessibility, crime safety and playground safety. ADA requires accessibility for people of all abilities, including standard ramp specifications, parking accessibility, and other design features. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards ensures the physical design of the park encourages natural surveillance, access control, lighting, and activity support. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) policies set the standards for transportation control and access for parks, and the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) sets standards for safety in playground construction and design. All of these standards should be met when planning for new park facilities.

Adequate lighting should be provided to meet CPTED safety requirements and all light fixtures and poles resistant to vandalism. All site lighting is designed and operated as an automatic dusk-to-dawn system. Light sources should be shielded to reduce glare to nearby properties. Site furniture such as benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables should be durable, easy to maintain and be consistent with the theme of the park.

Levels of Service. National standards that prescribe park acreages, trail miles, or numbers of recreational facilities have been criticized because they fail to take into account the geographic differences from one community to another, the age profile of residents, economic conditions, culture, climate, population density, and myriad other factors that influence the need and desire for recreational amenities. A more reasonable assumption is that most communities will approximate the norm of "similar" communities but that appropriate modifications to the standards should be made for significant deviations in community characteristics.

Best Practice 1.1 Maintain a current and updated maintenance and capital improvement list for existing parks. Improvements to existing parks should take precedence over the development of new parks.

Beginning with the suggested improvements for existing parks as shown in this document (based on input from city staff and the public, including community surveys), establish priorities for park maintenance and improvements in order to protect and enhance existing park spaces.

Best Practice 1.2 Develop new parks to ensure that parks are spread equitably throughout the community and to meet the needs of growth. New park space is most needed on the south side of town, and in the north part of town (east of Mountain View Park).

Of the City's nine baseball/softball fields and nine soccer/football fields, only one baseball/softball field and two soccer/football fields are located in the southern portion of the City. Development of a new baseball/softball complex should be in the southern part of the City.

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Most of the population growth in Elko is occurring in the northern part of the City. Future parks are also needed in this area in order to maintain service levels for this portion of the community.

The City should explore other options of recreational opportunities up to and including a possible cemetery site.

Objective 2: Utilize natural topographic and physical features in the community as opportunities for the creation of park and recreation space. This may include flood plains, storm water retention areas, creeks, ravines, and pocket parks.



Every community is unique. Rivers, mountains and other topographic features enhance park and open spaces and help to define a community, as well as enabling a greater variety of recreation experiences. These features should be carefully integrated into the parks and recreation master plan.

By taking storm drain retention areas, and covering with sod, communities can effectively “double-use” public spaces in an efficient and effective manner and also save on land and other capital costs. A storm drain retention area could be part of a large regional park, or it could be a smaller pocket park tucked into a neighborhood – serving a dual purpose in both instances.

Best Practice 2.1 Highlight the Humboldt River corridor as a valuable resource to the City, and coordinate activity and land uses along it to ensure protection and restoration of the river’s natural systems.

The Humboldt River is one of the most distinctive and advantageous physical features located in Elko. Restoration and development of this area would also serve to enhance the trail capacity of the City and to develop a significant recreational amenity on the south side of town – an area currently lacking in parks and recreation space, and also an area that appears more rundown and dilapidated than the rest of City. This is an opportunity to improve a struggling area, as well as provide a significant amenity that could be used by residents citywide.

Development of the corridor would also serve to tie the North and South sections of the City back together.

Best Practice 2.2 Utilize appropriately located existing retention basins for park and recreation space.

Retention basins can be used as opportunities for park and recreation opportunities. *Examples include the use of the retention basin south of Mt. View Park and Chris Ave. and the other retention basin at the 8-mile dam area.*

Objective 3: Pursue partnerships to develop a regional facility to address underserved and indoor recreational needs

in the region, and to serve as a community landmark and gathering place.

A community recreation center should serve the needs of all ages and demographic characteristics in the region. It should be built not only to serve existing needs, but also to provide for the future needs of a growing and developing community. Facilities should be developed to serve scheduled programs and teams, as well as to accommodate the drop-in needs of the community. Aquatic centers are a key focal point for recreation centers and are a key source of revenues for recreation centers.

Generally, recreation centers are not self-supporting, with most communities subsidizing a portion of the operating costs of such centers. The degree of public subsidy varies widely between communities and depends on the individual philosophy of a community as well as socio-demographic and economic factors. However, no matter the philosophy of a community, it is important for a community to track and monitor cost recovery ratios, evaluate trends over time, and establish goals in these areas.

Development of a recreation facility will create a central community gathering place. Current usage of numerous schools, with limited flexibility in scheduling, creates a fragmented recreation program, and one that does not encourage or allow for drop-in play or sufficient practice times. A central recreation center will reduce much of the fragmentation of the current programs.

Developing community partnerships are a critical factor in facilitating the construction of recreation centers. These partnerships can include school districts, colleges, businesses, etc.

Best Practice 3.1: ***Develop partnerships with Great Basin College, Elko School District, Elko County, Boys and Girls Club, other organizations, cities and key businesses and employers in order to get commitments and maximize all revenue sources that will be necessary to finance the development of a recreation center.***

The cost of a recreation center will exceed the taxing ability (due to tax caps and overlapping districts) of the City of Elko or of a special recreation district, if such were to be formed. Through partnerships, capital costs can be shared and reduced through contributions by a wider variety of participants.

Best Practice 3.2 ***Encourage the development a recreation center to address regional demand that includes an aquatic center, indoor track and multiple gymnasiums and flexible classroom/programming space.***

Based on community input, as well as a capacity analysis of currently used facilities, The City of Elko and the surrounding region would benefit from a recreation center, with a new updated aquatic center, indoor

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track, gymnasiums and classroom space. Approximate size of the facility would be 75,000 square feet.

Best Practice 3.3 *Track all revenues and expenditures, by program, in order to evaluate cost recovery ratios for every program offered.*

Indirect costs (such as administrative overhead, building usage, etc.) should be tracked separately from the direct costs associated with each program. This is because indirect costs are largely fixed in nature (i.e., building space, administrative personnel, etc.), whereas direct program costs are largely variable in nature and are associated with individual programs.

Objective 4: **Enhance existing and develop additional year-round recreational programs for all ages to more completely meet the existing needs.**

Best Practice 4.1 *Offer additional recreation programs for teens and encourage participation.*

The City currently offers few programs to teens due to current low teen participation in such programs and lack of teachers willing and available to teach teenagers. In order to increase and encourage teen participation in community programs many cities are involving teens in the planning process by creating teen councils. Workshops emphasizing resume creation and interviewing techniques may be well received by college bound students. Programs and activities should be advertised through social media websites or by the local radio DJ.

The City could also encourage teen participation by offering incentives such as stipends to older students willing to teach younger students, thus solving the problem of limited teachers. Some schools require “service learning” hours where students must show that they have contributed community service work in order to graduate. If Elko desired to enact this requirement, volunteer and teen program participation would surely increase.

Best Practice 4.2 *Develop additional community and recreational programs for Active Senior Adults.*

The current aging adult population is looking for additional community, volunteer, and recreation opportunities. Programs focusing on this demographic are expected to grow significantly in the near future. Programs should focus on the ability and desire of these aging seniors to be actively involved.

Best Practice 4.3 *Encourage the development of a regional recreation center that could offer year-round programs.*

Currently many programs are only offered on a seasonal basis. A recreation facility would allow the city to offer many additional classes, increasing the participation of residents of all age groups. The city could

also consider the possibility of constructing a “bubble” over the tennis courts to allow year-round access.

Objective 5: Develop new and improve existing trails and pathways to provide opportunities for alternative transportation and recreation, and to promote a healthy active community.

Utilizing urban trails, the City would like to develop a network of trails that will connect the city’s green spaces, and connect residents with all types of destinations throughout the City. The trail system will use existing street rights-of-way and auto-separated shared use paths where feasible. Trails will be for use by non-motorized vehicles only and will provide health and recreation opportunities as well as an alternative means of community within the City.

Best Practice 5.1: Develop a Hierarchy of Trail Types

Trails can be used for a variety of purposes such as hikers, cyclists, walkers, runners, joggers, etc. Trails, for the purposes of this document, are paths that connect two or more locations together. Pathways that loop around a single park are not typically included as a separate trail although they become a part of the overall trail network. Trails use for transportation/commuting purposes are primarily used by bicyclists. These may be Class I, II, or III as defined in the *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The Urban Trails Plan contains the following designations:

Class I: Shared Use Pathway:

A shared use pathway is typically a paved trail that is separate physically from roadways and other transportation facilities. Shared use pathways are designed for simultaneous use by cyclists, runners, walkers, etc. These trails typically meet specific standards for components such as trail width and accessibility.

Class II: Bike Lane:

A bike lane is typically a portion, such as a shoulder, of an existing roadway that has been marked for use by bicycles.

Class III: Signed Shared Roadway:

A signed shared roadway is a road that is signed as a bike route and is constructed to design standards that allows for the safe use of both motor vehicles and bicycles.

Pedestrian Only:

In addition to the AASHTO trail classifications; this plan also includes a number of Pedestrian Only trails. These trails are similar to a Class I trail in that they are separate physically from roadways; however, they may not be appropriate for cyclists and also may not meet typical standards for components such as trail width and accessibility.

Walking and running are activities that can be shared with bicyclists on Class I facilities. Class II and Class III facilities are not typically suitable

for walking or running. Sidewalks should be constructed on Class II and III designated streets to allow for safe walking and running.

Best Practice 5.2 Develop an Urban Trails Plan

Comprehensive planning is essential for Elko to implement a successful trails system. Leadership by the City, with strong public involvement, will ensure that planned for trails are built in a steady fashion according to the trails plan. As a part of this master plan update, the existing trails have been inventoried and new trails recommended. The Parks and Open Space with City Trails and Public Facilities map shows existing trails, proposed trails, and trail classifications. The proposed trails were designed to achieve the following:

Connect gaps between existing trails. Not all trails in various parts of the city connect together. Connecting all of the existing trails will leverage the existing trail network to link more people with more destinations thus providing more opportunities for either alternative transportation or recreation.

Link more destinations within the city. Several of the proposed trails are Class II bike lanes. These are proposed at regular intervals within the city to provide consistent links between destinations. Abundant, consistent, and safe links between destinations will encourage more bicycle use. This will provide City residents another safe transportation option for going to the grocery store, library, a park, or work.

Increase shared use paths for recreational opportunities. The plan includes a number of connections and links between the parks and open spaces within the city. Many of these links are proposed as shared use paths. Once the plan is implemented, nearly every park and open space within the city could be reached via the trail system using a variety of modes: cycling, running, walking, etc.

Best Practice 5.3 Utilize a Phased Approach to Implementation

A phased approach is recommended for implementing the trails plan. Phasing allows for low-cost items to be implemented first while funds are obtained, over time, for implementation of larger items.

Phase I

This phase requires few resources as it simply requires providing signs for the Class III Signed Shared Roadways. However, this simple first phase is an important step in implementing the plan. It will provide residents a visible route for traveling throughout the City. Currently, there are roads designated by the City as Class III trails that do not have complete signage.

Phase II

This phase involves striping roadways for Class II Bike Lanes. The plan identifies a number of roadways for bike lanes. Most of the existing roadway rights-of-way are sufficiently wide enough to accommodate bike lanes without increasing the right-of-way width and thus incurring associated costs. While requiring more resources than Phase I, the resources required for this phase are still relatively low.

Phase III

This phase will be the most difficult to implement as it entails developing Class I shared use paths. New Class I paths do not have an existing roadway to “piggyback” onto. These paths may require strategies such as purchasing land, purchasing development rights, or enacting easements to acquire access to land. Use of public and/or civic property for trail alignments should take priority and trail alignments should not require the removal of housing units. Besides tax dollars to fund these trails, the City can also look to other funding sources such as grants, trail development funding sources, land use regulatory tools, and development agreements. A summary of trail development funding sources and programs is contained in the appendix. These paths will provide a large benefit to the public and the City should be diligent in exploring funding options and securing broad public support to develop them.

Objective 6: Highlight the Humboldt River corridor as a valuable resource to the City, and coordinate activity and land uses along it to ensure protection and restoration of the river’s natural systems.

Best Practice 6.1 *Include the Humboldt River corridor in the Urban Trails Plan to provide increased accessibility and encouraged use of this natural resource.*

The incorporation of the Humboldt River corridor into the Urban Trails plan will ensure the proper development of this natural resource. Trails that connect the river to additional open spaces throughout the community will make the river more accessible to Elko residents and will provide the city with additional safe recreation opportunities. While one trail along the river currently existing, additional trails along the Humboldt River would be implemented as part of Phase III of the Urban Trails Plan.

Best Practice 6.2 *Coordinate land uses along the corridor to provide sufficient open space to ensure the protection of the river.*

The City is currently in the process of planning open space and park areas surrounding the river. These areas include the Humboldt River Area Recreation Project (HARP) and the West Bullion Road Park. The existence of additional open space and parks along the river will ensure the protection of and the efficient use of the Humboldt River corridor.

Objective 7: Coordinate planning with adjacent federal, state, county, school district, college, and tribal lands to ensure best use of open spaces, trailheads, access points and visual resources.

Best Practice 7.1 *Produce a map showing all public and tribal lands and identifying open spaces, trailheads, access points and visual resources.*

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By producing a map of key resources, the City can more easily prioritize key sites to integrate with City plans for parks, trails, open space, etc. Natural geographic features provide the unique features so critical to establishing community identity and their use and visibility should be maximized through careful planning.

Best Practice 7.2 ***Develop partnerships with all federal, state, county and tribal agencies to facilitate the use of these key resources.***

Partnerships and communication are key factors in facilitating access and usage of key sites. Through partnerships, costs can be reduced or shared, and a common vision reached. Maintenance and preservation of these sites should also be a primary concern.

Best Practice 7.3 ***Integrate trails development to provide connections between key sites.***

Trails development should be planned to connect key sites in order to facilitate access to these sites.

Objective 8: **Develop a short and long-term parks and recreation maintenance plan to ensure that the City's investment in these assets is preserved.**

Best Practice 8.1 ***Develop short-term parks and recreation maintenance plan.***

The short-term maintenance plan could include the following:

- Formalization of a level of service standard for maintenance;
- Development of field use agreements;
- Creation of maintenance schedules to limit conflicts with residents' field usage;
- Create a timetable outlining the needs for aging infrastructure improvements;
- Create a list of additional park improvements desired by residents.

Best Practice 8.2 ***Develop long-term parks and recreation maintenance plan.***

The long-term maintenance plan could include the following:

- Implementation plan for aging infrastructure improvements and additional park improvements;
- Development of Life Cycle Costing Assessment
- Identification and preservation of future park spaces and trail corridors.

Best Practice 8.3 ***Use current Level of Service (LOS) standards to set maintenance staffing levels according to population and park acres.***

Using the Level of Service standards recently outlined for the City, officials should determine the number of maintenance staff needed to appropriately maintain total park acres in the most efficient manner.

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Officials should take into account changing the seasonal demand of maintenance staff.