Chapter Six

State of Parks and Recreation: Park and Facility Analysis

In addition to the analyses provided within the Plan for each Service Area, a similar analysis has been completed for each existing Park and major Facility. Within each Service Area general analysis, goals, and action statements are provided, with some of the analysis, goals, and action statements being directly related the Parks or Facilities list below. Although some analyses may have already been included within each SA analyses, this chapter provides the specific action statements related to each of the existing Parks and Facilities and is intended to provide staff, the public and elected officials a roadmap and plan for each of the Facilities listed.

As well as the individual analysis provided for each existing Park and Facility, a general inventory of existing Parks and Facilities is provided below. This information is provided as a baseline for tracking and summarizing the overall changes in the future as new Park acreage, Bike Lanes, Trails and Paths are added.

General Parks and Facilities Totals

The following amounts, numbers and values are totals for the whole City. This analysis includes all properties owned by the City, both inside and outside City limits, as well as other Facilities that may be owned by the State (University of Wyoming properties) and Albany County School District #1, if they contribute to the overall Parks and recreational levels of service to the community. These numbers also correspond to the totals provided in each of the Service Area analyses already provided.

Parks

Twenty-three (23) Parks are recognized.

Community Parks – Two (2) Community Parks are recognized; Washington Park and LaBonte Park.

Community Parks		
Parks	**Number**	**Acres**
Washington Park	*1*	*12.9*
LaBonte Park	*1*	*33.64*
Totals	*2*	*46.54*

Neighborhood Parks – Ten (10) Neighborhood Parks are recognized; Kiowa Park, Imperial Heights Park, Gateway Park, LaPrele Park, Undine Park, Depot Park, Kiwanis Park, Harbon Park, Optimist Park and Scout Park.

Neighborhood Parks		
Parks	**Number**	**Acres**
Kiowa Park	*1*	*8.23*
Imperial Heights	*1*	*3.92*
Gateway Park	*1*	*7.59*
LaPrele Park	*1*	*24.8*
Undine Park	*1*	*8.95*
Depot Park	*1*	*3.83*
Kiwanis Park	*1*	*8.22*
Harbon Park	*1*	*1.7*
Optimist Park	*1*	*28.08*
Scout Park	*1*	*12.43*
Totals	*10*	*107.75*

Playlots – Four (4) Playlots are recognized; 1st Street Plaza, Jerry Ullrich Park, O'Dell Mini Park, and Recreation Center Playlot.

Playlots		
Parks	**Number**	**Acres**
1st Street Plaza	*1*	*0.09*
Jerry Ullrich Park	*1*	*0.61*
O'Dell Mini Park	*1*	*0.14*
Recreation Center Playlot	*1*	*0.11*
Totals	*4*	*0.95*

School Playlot Sites – Seven (7) School Playlots are recognized; Slade Elementary School, Indian Paintbrush Elementary School, Beitel Elementary School, Spring Creek Elementary School, Linford Elementary School and Lincoln Community Center. Note: no acreage was calculated for any of the School Playlots. The number and spatial distribution of School Playlots contribute towards the overall Playlot service, however acreage does not.

School Playlot Sites		
Parks	**Number**	**Acres**
Slade Elementary School	*1*	*n/a*
Indian Paintbrush Elementary School	*1*	*n/a*
Beitel Elementary School	*1*	*n/a*
Spring Creek Elementary School	*1*	*n/a*
Linford Elementary School	*1*	*n/a*
Lincoln Community Center	*1*	*n/a*
Totals	*6*	*n/a*

Detention Areas

Eleven (11) Detention Areas are recognized; Northeast corner of 10th Street and Beaufort Street, 22nd Street and Reynolds Street, Nighthawk Drive and 22nd Street, Bath Avenue and Reynolds Street, Southeast corner of Grant Street and Monroe Street, Southeast corner of Colorado Avenue and Van Buren Street, Rock Park Detention Area, Southeast corner of 30th Street and Reynolds Street, Northeast corner of 30th Street and Reynolds Street, Southeast corner of Boulder Drive and Beech Street, Southeast corner of Bonneville Street and Norris Street.

Detention Areas		
Location	**Number**	**Acres**
NE corner of 10th St & Beaufort St	*1*	*2.66*
22nd Street and Reynolds Street	*1*	*1.71*
Nighthawk Drive and 22nd Street	*1*	*2.13*
Bath Avenue and Reynolds Street	*1*	*2.69*
SE corner of Grant St & Monroe St	*1*	*0.92*
SE corner of Colorado Ave & VanBuren St	*1*	*1.08*
Rock Park Detention Area	*1*	*2.23*
SE corner of 30th St & Reynolds St	*1*	*3.26*
NE corner of 30th St & Reynolds St	*1*	*1.52*
SE corner of Bonneville St & Norris St	*1*	*0.22*
SE corner of Boulder Dr and Beech St	*1*	*4.64*
Totals	*11*	*23.06*

Playlot at the Laramie Community Recreation Center

Bikes, Trails and Paths

Bike Lanes – Eighteen (18) Bike Lanes are recognized; 4th Street, 9th Street, 13th Street, 15th Street, 18th Street, 22nd Street, 30th Street, Cedar Street, Corthell Drive, Curtis Street, Garfield Street, Grays Gable Road, Harney Street, Ivinson Avenue, Lewis Street, Pierce Street, Reynolds Street and Sheridan Street.

Bike Lanes		
Bikes, Trails, and Paths	**Number**	**Distance (miles)**
4th Street Bike Lane	*1*	*1.01*
9th Street Bike Lane	*1*	*1.5*
13th Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.2*
15th Street Bike Lane	*1*	*2.14*
18th Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.36*
22nd Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.82*
30th Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.86*
Cedar Street Bike Lane	*1*	*1.14*
Corthell Drive Bike Lane	*1*	*0.79*
Curtis Street Bike Lane	*1*	*1.31*
Garfield Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.44*
Grays Gable Road Bike Lane	*1*	*1.02*
Harney Street Bike Lane	*1*	*1.56*
Ivinson Avenue Bike Lane	*1*	*0.78*
Lewis Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.7*
Pierce Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.71*
Reynolds Street Bike Lane	*1*	*1.98*
Sheridan Street Bike Lane	*1*	*0.94*
Totals	*18*	*18.26*

Shared Use Paths – Twenty-Four (24) Shared Use Paths are recognized; 17th Street to Reynolds Street, Adams Street, Bath Avenue, Beech Street, Bison Run, Boulder Drive, Colorado Avenue, Curtis Street, Fraternity/Sorority Row, Garfield Street, Grand Avenue/Gateway Park, Grand View Heights, The Grove, LaPrele Park, Laramie River Greenbelt, South 287, South Stadium, Spring Creek, TriHydro Greenbelt Access, University of Wyoming Main Campus, University of Wyoming Park and Ride, UW Plaza, Vista Drive and Willett Drive.

Shared Use Paths		
Bikes, Trails, and Paths	**Number**	**Distance (miles)**
17th St. to Reynolds St. Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.34*
Adams Street Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.62*
Bath Avenue Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.26*
Beech Street Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.55*
Bison Run Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.69*
Boulder Drive Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.33*
Colorado Avenue Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.86*
Curtis Street Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.93*
Fraternity/Sorority Row Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.36*
Garfield Street Footbridge	*1*	*0.25*
Grand Ave./Gateway Pk Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.8*
Grand View Heights Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.28*
The Grove Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.64*
LaPrele Park Path	*1*	*0.05*
Laramie River Greenbelt	*1*	*3.9*
South 287 Shared Use Path	*1*	*1*
South Stadium Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.26*
Spring Creek Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.57*
TriHydro Greenbelt Access	*1*	*0.32*
University of Wyoming Campus Paths	*1*	*1.8*
University of Wyoming Park and Ride	*1*	*0.11*
UW Plaza Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.18*
Vista Drive Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.57*
Willett Drive Shared Use Path	*1*	*0.29*
Totals	*24*	*15.96*

In Park Paths – Four (4) In-Park Paths are recognized; LaBonte Park Path, Greenhill Cemetery Path, Undine Park Path, and Washington Park Path.

In Park Paths		
Bikes, Trails, and Paths	**Number**	**Distance (miles)**
LaBonte Park Path	*1*	*1.06*
Greenhill Cemetery Path	*1*	*0.37*
Undine Park Path	*1*	*0.09*
Washington Park Path	*1*	*1.00*
Totals	*4*	*2.52*

Rural Trails – One (1) Rural Trail is recognized within the Jacoby Golf Course property.

Rural Trails		
Bikes, Trails, and Paths	**Number**	**Distance (miles)**
Rural Trails	*1*	*1.97*
Totals	*1*	*1.97*

Other Pathways – Eighteen (18) Mid-Block Paths are recognized.

Other Pathways		
Bikes, Trails, and Paths	**Number**	**Distance (miles)**
Mid-block Paths	*18*	*1.55*
Totals	*18*	*1.55*

Recreation

Four major Recreation Facilities/Components are recognized; Recreation Center, Ice and Events Center, Sports Complex and Programming.

Recreation		
Recreation Facility	**Number**	**Acres**
Recreation Center	*1*	*25*
Ice and Event Center	*1*	*3*
Sports Complex	*1*	*45*
Programming		*n/a*

Ice Skating Lesson at the Ice & Event Center

Natural Areas

Eleven (11) Natural Areas are recognized; The Grove Natural Area, Grand View Heights Natural Area, Laramie River Greenbelt Natural Area, Laramie River Tie Plant Natural Area, Ridgeline Greenbelt Natural Area, Spring Creek Natural Area, Grand Avenue Natural Area, Foianini Natural Area, Highway 30 Natural Area, Dooley Oil Natural Area and Monolith Ranch.

Natural Areas		
Name	**Number**	**Acres**
The Grove Natural Area	*1*	*14.05*
Grand View Heights Natural Area	*1*	*5.92*
Laramie River Greenbelt Natural Area	*1*	*20.6*
Laramie River Tie Plant Natural Area	*1*	*79.51*
Ridgeline Greenbelt Natural Area	*1*	*34.5*
Spring Creek Natural Area	*1*	*26.66*
Grand Avenue Natural Area	*1*	*1.7*
Foianini Natural Area	*1*	*1.24*
Highway 30 Natural Area	*1*	*80.25*
Dooley Oil Natural Area	*1*	*25.86*
Monolith Ranch	*1*	*11817*
Coughlin Pole Mountain Natural Area	*1*	*.17*
Totals	*12*	*12107.46*

Other

Thirteen (13) Other Sites are recognized: the Welcome Site at 3rd Street and Boswell, Lincoln Community Center, Optimist Dog Park, Optimist Trail Head, Optimist Water Feature, Garfield Street Footbridge, Albany County Court House, City Annex/City Hall, Laramie Plains Museum/Ivinson Mansion, University of Wyoming Main Campus, Greenhill Cemetery, Green at the Dorms, Laramie Depot Museum, and Huck Finn Pond. Acreage and number of facilities do not apply to the level of service these facilities provide to either a specific Service Area or the community as a whole.

1st Street Plaza

Park History and Description

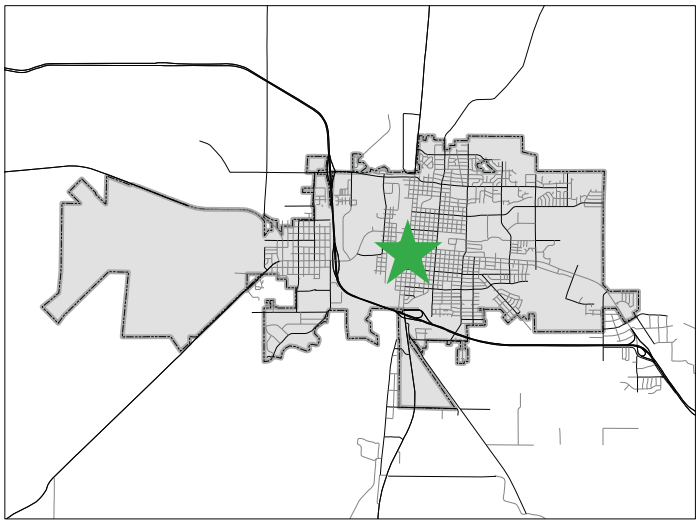
Once an area which provided 3 ADA accessible spaces and an informational kiosk for downtown events, the area located at 1st Street and Grand Avenue was non-descript and an under-utilized area that was not an asset to downtown. Recognizing this, the Downtown Plaza Project was envisioned. In 2005, based on discussion and consideration by the Downtown Streetscape Committee and the Downtown Development Authority, utilization of this space as a gathering place and focal point for downtown was desired. With fundraising efforts undertaken by Laramie Main Street 2006 and design being done by Russell+Mills, the downtown Plaza became a reality. With construction starting in 2009, the plaza is now complete including improvements such as: seating, performance stage, and fire pit, among other items which have created an amenity the downtown community is proud of.

Current Conditions

The playlot located in historic downtown Laramie, is only 0.09 acres, or just less than 4,000 square feet. Despite its size the plaza now serves as a place for downtown events and gatherings. The site, mostly developed with concrete and other hard-scaped materials, also includes one of its main features and the focal point of the plaza, an etched granite paver area that depicts the history of Laramie and a sandblasted map of Laramie's Downtown. These features not only break up the typical concrete treatments but also convey current and historical information to the Downtown visitor. The remaining hard-scape in the area consists of mostly concrete, some of it colored in an effort to define the space further. The area also includes landscaping (trees, bushes & flowers), a small stage for performances, a small play area with sculpted boulders for children, stone seating walls and picnic tables, a natural gas fire pit and other features such as lighting, a drinking fountain and kiosk for posting downtown events. Although small, the versatility of

Park Statistics

- 0.09 acres
- Created in 2006
- Playlot Park
- Service Area 8



1st Street Plaza Context Map

1st Street Plaza

the space allows for a wide variety of uses at varying times of the year, which makes this a huge benefit to the atmosphere and recreational amenities of Downtown.

Current Park Amenities

- *0.09 acres of developed area*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Semi-mature landscaping (trees, flower and shrubs)*
- *Small play area w/sculpted boulders (ADA accessible)*
- *Etched granite paver area depicting the history of Laramie*
- *Sandblasted map of Downtown Laramie*
- *Gas fire pit*
- *Performance stage*
- *John Hester Memorial Plaque*
- *Picnic tables (ADA accessible)*
- *Stone wall benches*
- *Drinking fountain*
- *Lighting*
- *Informational kiosk*

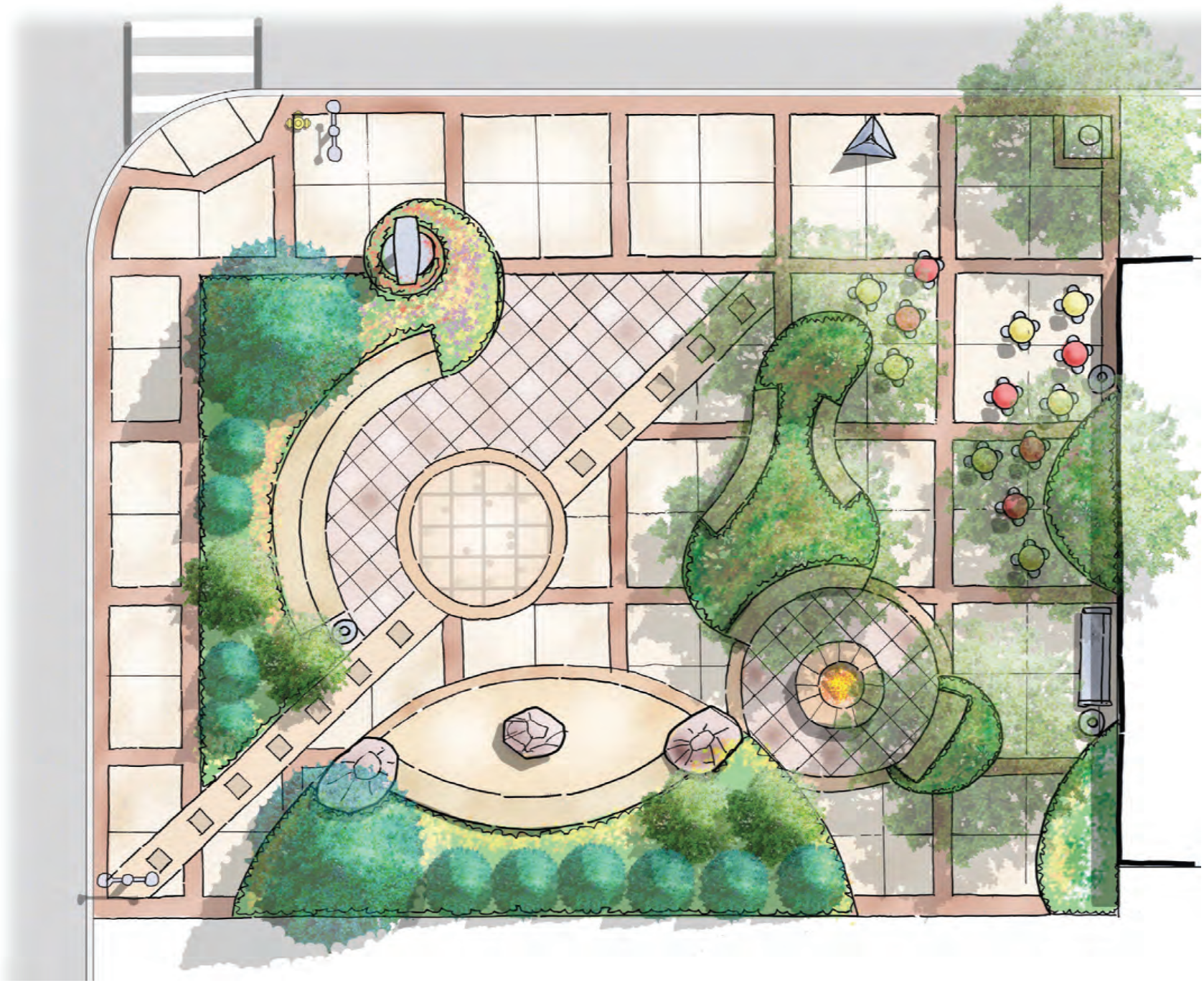
Future Needs

Although relatively new the plaza could be considered a mature park in the sense that much of the anticipated development and improvements related to the park have been completed. With much of the hard-scape, landscaping, seating and amenities already installed within the plaza the plaza has established itself as a public space and is home to many different formal and informal activities. Little remains to be done in terms of development because many of the improvements have been completed. Similar to that of Depot Park improving way-finding signage to direct patrons to the plaza from areas around downtown is desired. Additionally, added art or sculptures and other basic amenities such as single stream recycling and bike racks are also anticipated. Although space is limited a public restroom in this location has also been considered. Due to the lack of a public restroom in Downtown a need could be filled by providing one at this location.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Add a public restroom facility
- Improve way-finding signage to direct patrons to the park from the downtown area.
- Add Public Art/Sculptures
- Pursuing the purchase of 1st Street Plaza from the private property owner should be a priority if an opportunity to purchase is ever available.
- Incorporate Single Stream Recycling Site(s)

1st Street Plaza in historic downtown Laramie, WY



Conceptual Design of 1st Street Plaza, designed by Russell + Mills Studios

Depot Park

Park History and Description

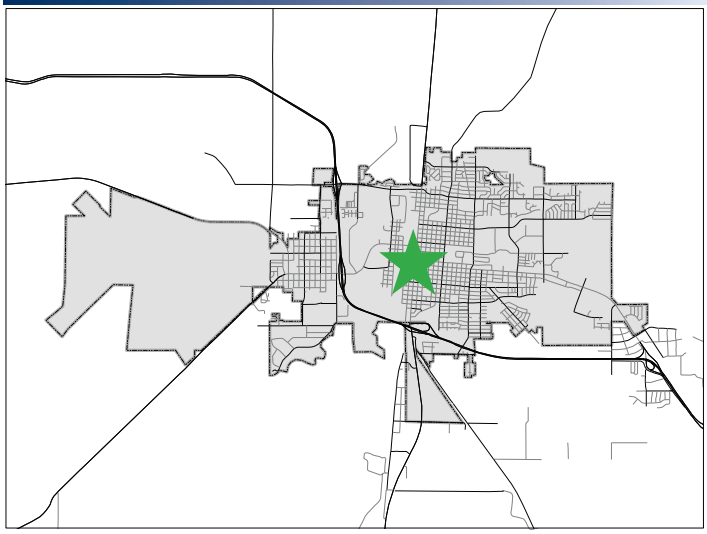
Constructed in 1924, the present day train depot replaced the town's original depot/hotel after it was destroyed by a fire. The Union Pacific Railroad used the depot for passengers until 1971 and as an Amtrak depot until 1983. Surrounding the physical depot building, Depot Park was initially developed in the 1960's and leased from the Union Pacific Railroad by the City in 1963. The lease is on a 5 year revolving term. In 1985, after use of the depot ceased as a train depot, the depot building was transferred into the Laramie Plains Museum and eventually to the Laramie Railroad Depot Association in 2009. It is located at 1st Street and Sheridan Street in the heart of downtown Laramie. It was designated as a Neighborhood Park and currently serves Service Area 8. "The Depot is the only remaining building left from the once large Union Pacific presence in Laramie and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988." (Laramie Historic Railroad Depot).

Current Conditions

The park, located in historic downtown Laramie, is 2.7 acres of developed turf grass that is serviced with an underground irrigation system and mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs throughout the site and currently provides many amenities to local residents and downtown shoppers. Another significant and unique feature to the site is the Laramie Railroad Depot Museum, which is operated by the Railroad Depot Association. The site includes beautification areas in front of the building, off-street parking and a museum. The building is also used for a myriad of community events ranging from weddings to banquets. Depot Park is also home to the Railroad Heritage Park, an area which contains five railroad cars; including a snow plow, 1903 Steam Engine, tender, bunker car and caboose. The area is also ornamentally fenced and contains informational signs for the public. The Railroad Heritage Park is available to the public on special museum events hosted

Park Statistics

- 2.7 acres
- Created in 1963
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 8



Depot Park Context Map

Depot Park during a special event

by the Laramie Railroad Depot Museum.

In addition to these major facilities, Depot Park serves as the eastern landing of the historic Garfield Street Footbridge. The Footbridge, constructed in 1929 to eliminate at-grade crossings for workers, is still used by residents today to cross the tracks. The park also contains an ADA accessible playground, picnic tables, a park shelter (historic replication) and park benches. An off-leash, unfenced dog park is also located in the park that is heavily used by downtown residents and visitors. Unlike many of the parks, Laramie Depot Park also includes two off-street parking areas containing over 100 spaces; one directly adjacent to the depot building and the other at the north end of the park. This off-street parking makes Depot Park more versatile by serving the downtown business area, the park and events held in the park throughout the year.

Current Park Amenities

- ***2.7 acres of developed turf grass***
- ***Underground irrigation system***
- ***Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)***
- ***Playground (ADA accessible)***
- ***Railroad Heritage Park - (Snow plow, 1903 steam engine, tender, bunk car, caboose, fencing and interpretive signs)***
- ***ADA accessible park shelter (historic replication) Off-street parking (Over 100 spaces)***
- ***Laramie Railroad Depot Museum (operated by the Laramie Railroad Depot Association)***
- ***Danny's Corner Memorial Area***
- ***Landing of the Garfield Street Footbridge***
- ***Picnic tables (ADA accessible)***
- ***Park benches***
- ***Beautification bulb-out in front of museum.***
- ***Green Waste site***

Future Needs

As a mature park with wide-ranging existing amenities, the improvements to Depot Park are not extensive; however, some improvements are unique due to the railroad history of the park and urban location. Continued updates and support of the Railroad Heritage Park and Depot are a must in retaining the important railroad heritage the park plays in our community. Interpretive signage, visitor information and way-finding signage throughout is important in helping users understand the importance of railroad history as well as Laramie's history. Items such as sidewalks, lighting and fencing, just to name a few, are all being considered. In addition, the park will include a lighted train signal near Railroad Heritage Park, a replacement plan for the aging Cottonwood trees, a new west perimeter fence adjacent to the rail yard, and replacement of the two "Historic" Depot signs along the tracks.

The site also has some basic but extensive public improvements that will need to be considered. Currently 1st Street and Park Avenue, which are adjacent to the eastern and southern side of the park respectively, are not complete streets and lack, curbs, gutters and sidewalks (only sidewalks are missing on Park Avenue). These improvements should be considered in order to eliminate parking on the grass in the park by limiting access through curbs and providing a dedicated pedestrian route in and through the park by way of sidewalk. An In-Park Path should be considered instead of just a sidewalk if it is deemed appropriate and more advantageous for the park. Additional shelters as well as a restroom facility should also be considered due to the heavy use of the park by visitors to the community and downtown, as well as improved way-finding signage to help get these users to the park.

The park also contains an off-leash, unfenced dog park, which is an area that allows dogs to be off-leash. Upgrades such as fencing and benches are needed as well as an expansion of the overall area used by the dog park.

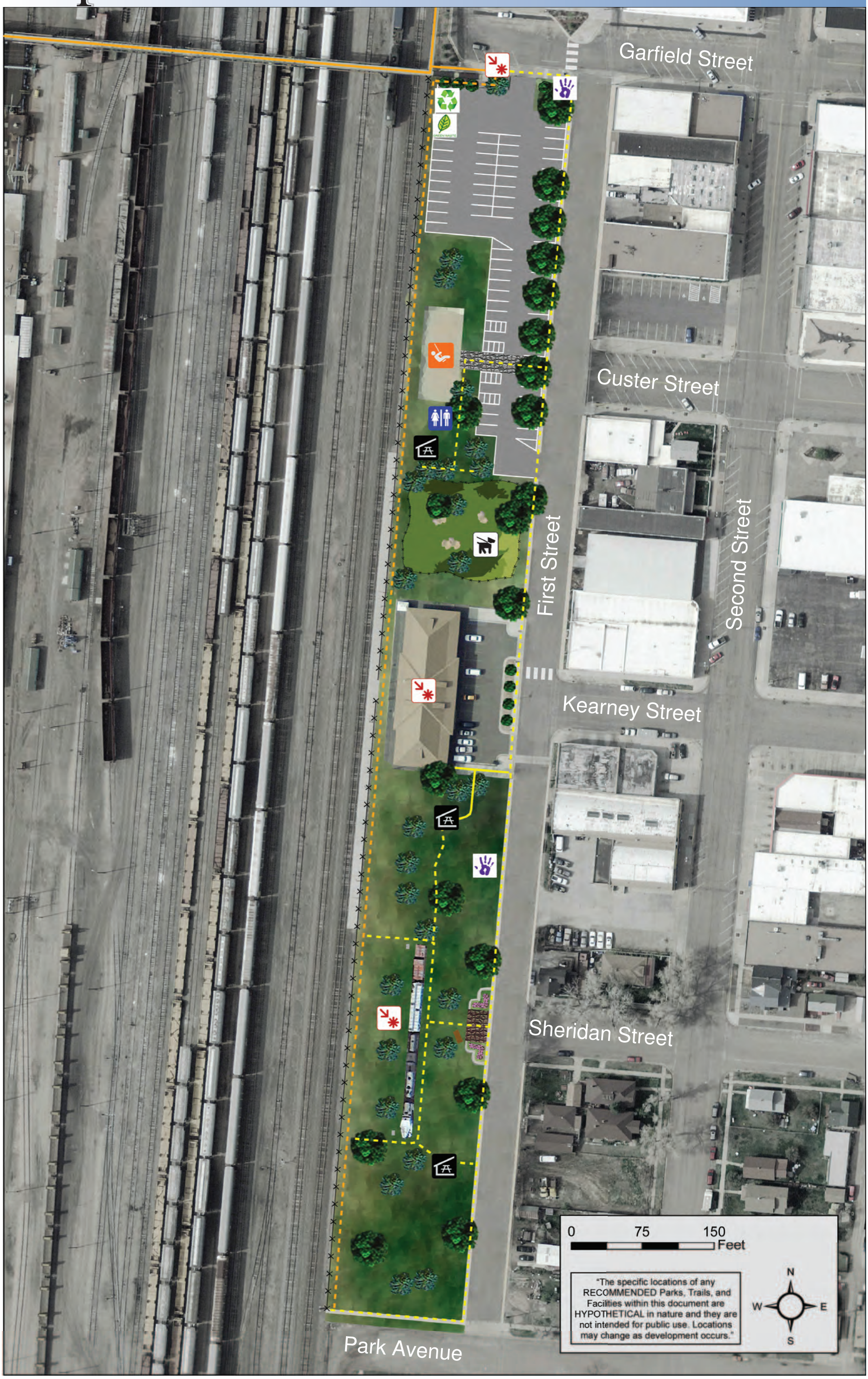
Finally, the City does not own Depot Park; instead it is leased from the Union Pacific Railroad. Although it is unlikely that the Railroad would sell this property to the City of Laramie, if the opportunity were ever to

present itself, purchase of the park should be completed to ensure use of the site in perpetuity.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Improvements are needed at the Railroad Heritage Park including painting, lighting, interpretive signage, fencing and sidewalks to the area.
- Continued improvements of the Depot for community events and for use as a railroad heritage museum.
- Continued support of the Laramie Railroad Depot Association.
- Encourage additional railroad heritage in the park, including more train cars, buildings, railroad observatories or other items deemed important to Laramie's railroad heritage.
- Add a lighted train signal near Railroad Heritage Park.
- Replace mature/aging Cottonwood trees
- Add Restroom Facility
- Add Shelter Structure
- Additional lighting of the Snow Train Lighting should be sensitive of the urban environment and meet all applicable lighting standards of the City.
- Improve way-finding signage to direct patrons to the park from the downtown area.
- Improve visitor information, interpretive signage and Laramie History signage throughout the park.
- Refurbishment and lighting of two (2) "Historic" Depot signs along tracks.
- Complete right-of-way improvements to 1st Street and Park Avenue to full City Standards, including curbs, gutters and sidewalk. An In-Park Path may be developed instead of a sidewalk if deemed more appropriate for use of the park.
- Add Public Art/Sculptures
- Expand fencing, benches and exercise area for the Dog Park, north of the Depot and south of the playground area.
- Pursue purchase of Depot Park from the Union Pacific Railroad should be a priority if an opportunity to purchase is ever available.
- Add screened Green Waste site
- Incorporate Single Stream Recycling Site(s)
- Examine crosswalks to the Depot and to the north

Depot Park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Gateway Park

Park History and Description

Donated to the City of Laramie in the 1940s as part of a larger tract called the Kruger Tract, Gateway Park is located off of Grand Avenue at the Boulder Drive intersection. Gateway Park was created in 2002 as part of the Mountain West Farm Bureau Planned Unit Development. The park was then improved in 2005 through 2007. The park is designated as a Neighborhood Park and serves Service Area 10.

Current Conditions

Gateway Park is comprised of nine acres with semi-mature landscaping consisting of hardscape features, trees and shrubs serviced by an underground drip irrigation system, but no turf grass. The park also includes a drainage way and detention area for storm water runoff. Additional improvements include a Shared Use Path with a solar trail streetlight. Gateway Park is also found along the Grand Avenue Beautification Corridor.

Current Park Amenities

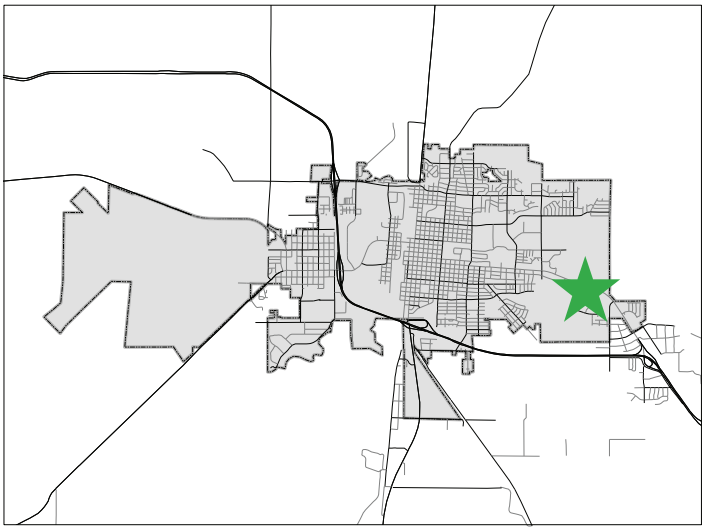
- *9 acres of undeveloped native land*
- *Shared Use Path*
- *Semi-mature landscaping (hardscape, trees and shrubs)*
- *Underground drip irrigation system for the trees*
- *Solar Shared Use Path street light*
- *Stormwater drainage facilities*

Future Needs

Future improvements for the park vary, mainly consisting of those improvements that will create a more traditional park like atmosphere. Initial improvements

Park Statistics

- 9 acres
- Created in 2002
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 10



Gateway Park Context Map

Gateway Park

will consist of additional landscaping and providing a retaining wall along the trail adjacent to the WYDOT right-of-way and Wal-Mart, in order to accommodate stormwater improvements needed for conveyance of lands to the east. The East Gateway Park Drainage Plan should be consulted regarding this matter.

Consideration should also be given to creating a more traditional, aesthetically appealing image from Grand Avenue, which is also a Beautification Corridor; improvements would include additions such as public art or other "community gateway" features like landscaping, or historical/local information. Gateway Park should serve as a true "gateway" to the community with increasing utilization of this park being a priority.

Additionally, due to the location of this park next to Grand Avenue, picnic shelters with improved turf areas around them should be added to the park for residents, businesses and travelers. However, consideration must be given to any improvements proposed due the location of the park within the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone. Because of the importance this area plays in relationship to the aquifer, a future monitoring well may be located within the park.

Another major change the park may see is the relocation of the living snow fence (line of evergreen trees). When originally installed by the Laramie Rivers Conservation District, the living snow fence was intended more as a demonstration fence versus a true living snow fence. The location of the trees was originally dependent upon being visible from Grand Avenue so that the demonstration could be seen, not necessarily considerate of the future use of the property as a park. This said, the potential to move or relocate the living snow fence should be considered if the relocation would provide for more recreational opportunities within the park. This should be considered an option and not a mandatory change to the park.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Concentrate landscaping improvements or create visual interest along the Grand Avenue Beautification Corridor.
- Due to the high visibility of this park and it serving as a gateway into the Turner Tract and community as a whole, public art or other "gateway" features should be considered in addition to more landscaping.
- Gateway Park shall develop as a "gateway" to the community, by incorporating landscaping and recreational opportunities that draw people to stop and use the park as well as by showcasing what Laramie has to offer.
- Incorporate landscaping improvements along Boulder Drive, however, only following a re-design of the Boulder/Grand/Garfield interface area.
- Build retaining wall for Shared Use Path.
- Consider the possibility of moving the living snow fence if relocation would provide for added or more recreational opportunities in the park.
- Work with WYDOT regarding removal of the right-of-way fence along Grand Avenue.
- Develop Gateway Park signage that is visible from Grand Avenue to encourage use of the park.
- All development improvements should consider possible impacts to the Casper Aquifer.
- Allow development of a future Casper Aquifer monitoring well within the park.
- Develop shelters/picnic tables.
- East Gateway Park Drainage improvements must be considered in relationship to development of this park and its amenities, both in terms of stormwater and use of the site as a park.
- Add screened green waste site
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites
- Add public art/sculptures

Gateway Park

Harbon Park

Park History and Location

Harbon Park is located within Service Area 5 and is found at 13th Street and Harney Street. The original property was platted in 1919, dedicated in 1957, and developed in the mid 1960's. The park is approximately 2 acres in size and was designated as "Chemical Free" in 1999; Laramie's only "Chemical Free" park.

Current Conditions

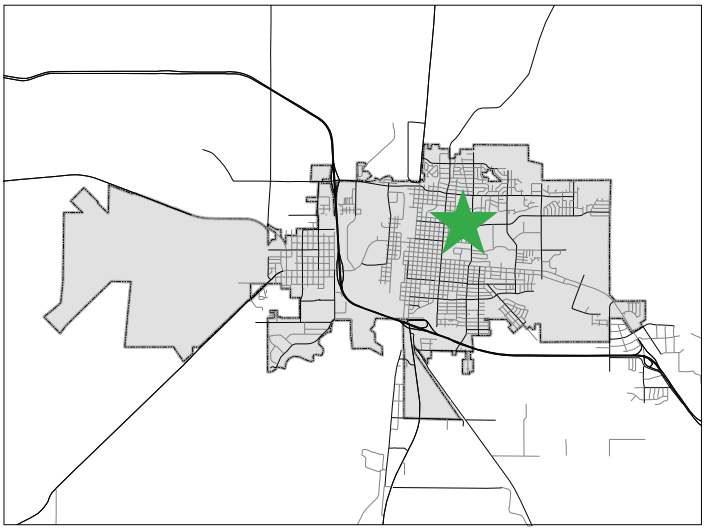
The park is approximately 2 acres of developed turf grass with landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs spaced throughout the site. An underground irrigation system is used for maintenance of the turf grass. The park consists of a main playground with a picnic table and benches on a paved pad, all of which are ADA accessible. This park is also a "chemical free" park, which means that chemicals and pesticides are not used in the maintenance of the grass, trees and pests. Exceptions may be made if the pests are considered epidemic levels putting the plant materials at risk. The park is heavily used by the densely populated area north of the University of Wyoming Campus. Harney Street, which borders the park on the north, creates access difficulties for neighborhoods to the north, thus reducing their use of this park. Also, the lack of restroom facilities makes this park less attractive to users with young children, although a Playground is provided for this age group.

Current Park Amenities

- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *2 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Playground (ages 5-10, ADA accessible)*
- *Picnic table on paved pad (ADA accessible)*
- *Park Bench(es)*

Park Statistics

- 2 acres
- Created in 1957
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 5



Harbon Park Context Map

Harbon Park

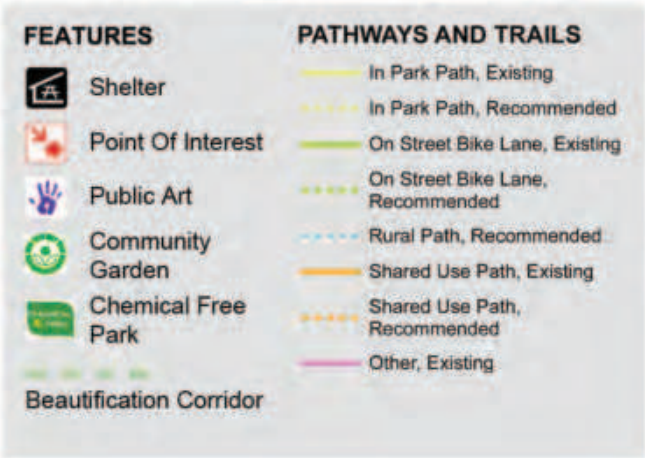
Harbon Park is also found along the Harney Street Beautification Corridor.

Future Need Description

Although the park is built out and includes well established landscaping, a playground and a picnic table, it does lack some basic needs and amenities that would maximize usage of the site. Installation of sidewalks on 14th Street and Gibbon Street, as well as an In-Park Path through the middle of the park are needed to accommodate the heavy pedestrian traffic experienced due to the park's proximity to the University. Furthermore, Harney Street acts as a barrier to the neighborhood to the north, thus, a crosswalk or other crossing improvement is needed, possibly at 14th Street, which will aid pedestrians crossing Harney Street. A restroom facility and shelter are also needed at this site which would make this park more feasible for events such as parties and social gatherings, or families with children.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Install sidewalk along 14th Street
- Install sidewalk along Gibbon Street
- Install an In-Park Path through the middle of the park, running northeast to southwest, to accommodate the heavy pedestrian traffic in the area going to and from the University.
- Add restroom facility.
- Develop a controlled access (likely a painted crosswalk) at the corner of 14th Street and Harney Street to aid in crossing Harney Street. Harney Street acts as a major barrier to neighborhoods north of Harney Street.
- Add a shelter structure
- Concentrate landscaping improvements or create visual interest along the Harney Street Beautification Corridor.
- Install new "Harbon Park" Signage
- Replace mature/aging Cottonwood trees
- Add single stream recycling site
- Install public art/sculptures
- Install a community garden



Harbon Park

14th Street
Harney Street
Gibbon Street
13th Street
Private Parking
CHEMICAL FREE
0
50
100
Feet
N
E
S
W
"The specific locations of any RECOMMENDED Parks, Trails, and Facilities within this document are HYPOTHETICAL in nature and they are not intended for public use. Locations may change as development occurs."

Kiowa Park

Park History and Description

Kiowa Park serves Service Area 7 and is located at Banock Drive and Kiowa Drive. The original property was platted as residential lots in the late 1970's and was donated to the City in 1984 by Don and Orla Lamb. The park was improved in 1986-1987. The original area of the park was roughly one acre in size and is designated as a Neighborhood Park. In 2014, in conjunction with a subdivision in the area, the City brokered a trade with an adjacent landowner that secured an additional 7.4 acres of property for expansion of Kiowa Park, by trading City owned land in the Turner Tract.

Current Conditions

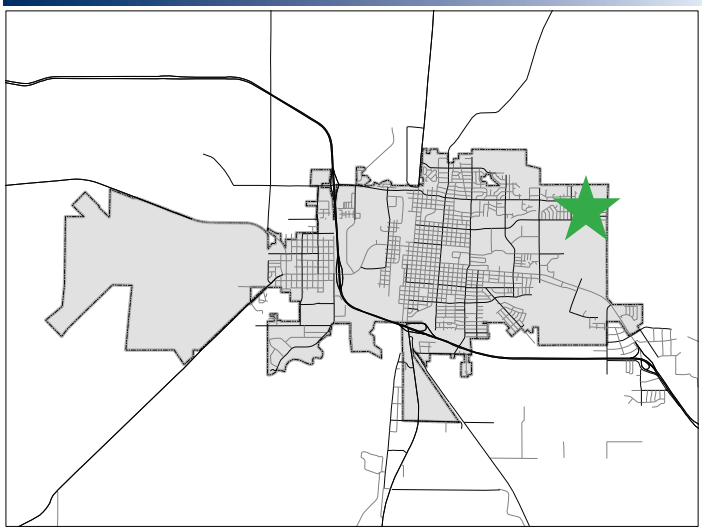
Currently, the developed neighborhood park is one acre of turf grass with mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs. An underground irrigation system is used for maintenance of the turf grass. The park includes a main playground with picnic tables and benches that are ADA accessible and a small rock garden. In addition

Current Park Amenities

- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *1 acre of developed turf grass*
- *7.4 acres of undeveloped native land*
- *Playground (ADA accessible)*
- *Picnic tables (ADA accessible)*
- *Park benches (ADA accessible)*
- *Green waste site*
- *Rock garden*

Park Statistics

- 8.5 acre
- Created in 1984
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 7



Kiowa Park Context Map

Kiowa Park

to the one acre of developed turf grass, 7.4 acres of undeveloped area exists north of the turf area, this is generally west and north of the existing improved area. No improvements are associated with the 7.4 acres at this time.

Future Needs

At the present time, one acre of developed park land provides the only improved area for play and recreation in a highly populated neighborhood and Service Area. The improved one acre is inadequate and doesn't adequately serve the needs of the Service Area as a Neighborhood Park. However, with the addition of 7.4 acres of property directly adjacent to the existing one acre, the City placed a park reservation for a two year period for the potential option to purchase additional park land for 16.6 acres designated as Outlot A on the Indian Ridge 2nd Addition Final Plat. Outlot A is located just north of the 7.4 acres that was recently acquired by the City. The residents of this neighborhood have organized into a neighborhood coalition and have expressed a strong desire for the City to acquire Outlot A and additional additional acreage adjacent to the outlot in order to create an enlarged Open Space Natural Area of the expansion area of Kiowa Park.

At this time general improvements have been recommended for this area based on input received during the development of this Plan. A more focused public input process will be conducted after this planning process is complete due to the fact that the acquisition of this property occurred late in the development of this Plan. It is clear that the neighborhood supports the preservation of this area as Open Space / Natural Area and the creation of trail connections at the periphery of the Natural Area to existing and future shared use paths or rural trails.

With the additional acreage, improvements will need to be completed in order to make this area transition seamlessly into the existing park property. To accomplish the transition, the alleyway that runs along the north part of the existing developed park area will need to be realigned, moving it from its present location to the eastern edge of the park. This realignment will allow park users to access the undeveloped area without the impediment of the alley and also eliminate user traffic through the park. Complete removal of the alley is not an option due to the access it provides properties to the

Turf area near the Kiowa Park playground

east, thus the reason for the realignment.

With added acreage now part of the park, other amenities that once could not be considered due to lack of space can now be incorporated while not changing the overall designation of a Natural Area for the additional acreage. Features like a park shelter and potentially a trailhead and restroom facility could be further considered. Due to topography, it is likely that one shelter and the restroom facility will be located near the emergency access drive to allow for ADA accessibility. Additionally, a parking area located generally between the dead-ends of Arapaho Drive and Banock Drive should be developed to provide off-street parking. This connection shall not only serve as access for off-street parking, but must also accommodate emergency access between Arapaho Drive and Banock Drive until a future secondary access for development is provided. Preservation of existing natural vegetation and topography will be a high priority in any design or improvements considered for the park.

Finally, the slope located just north of the alleyway and developed park may be slated as a snow sledding hill. Throughout the public process, a comment about a sledding hill somewhere in the City was desired, however, mainly due to topography as well as other issues, no suitable site was noted until now.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Develop the 7.4 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to Kiowa Park as a Natural / Open Space Area.
- Consider the acquisition of the additional acreage (commonly referred to as Outlot A and additional adjacent parcels) to the north of the recently acquired 7.4 acres so that a minimum of 25 acres be designated as a Natural Area.
- Realign the alleyway that runs on the north side of the existing developed park area to the eastern most edge of the park. Realignment is a must due to the present users of the alley east of the park that require access.
- Develop one shelter location in the developed area of the park to provide for shade and picnic tables. The shelter should take advantage of the topography of the area and be located lower on the hill.
- Develop a Rural Trail that provides access to the currently undeveloped natural area of the park.
- Develop one shelter location near the parking area/ restroom facilities.
- Develop restroom facilities located near the proposed parking area. Restrooms shall be ADA compliant.
- Develop a parking area/emergency access route between Arapaho and Banock Drive.
- Keep the turf area located on the west end of the existing developed park area unimpeded for use as an informal play area.
- Improve the aesthetics of the green waste site through screening and relocation of the site adjacent to the parking area.
- Develop a snow sledding hill just north of the existing developed area of Kiowa Park. The hill should be graded and re-seeded with native grasses for more accommodating use as a sledding hill.
- Add single stream recycling sites
- Improve green waste site through screening and landscaping.
- Add public art/sculptures

Kiowa Park

Kiowa Drive
Banock Drive
Arapahoe Drive
GREEN WASTE
0
75
150
Feet
N
E
S
W
"The specific locations of any RECOMMENDED Parks, Trails, and Facilities within this document are HYPOTHETICAL in nature and they are not intended for public use. Locations may change as development occurs."

Kiwanis Park

Park History and Description

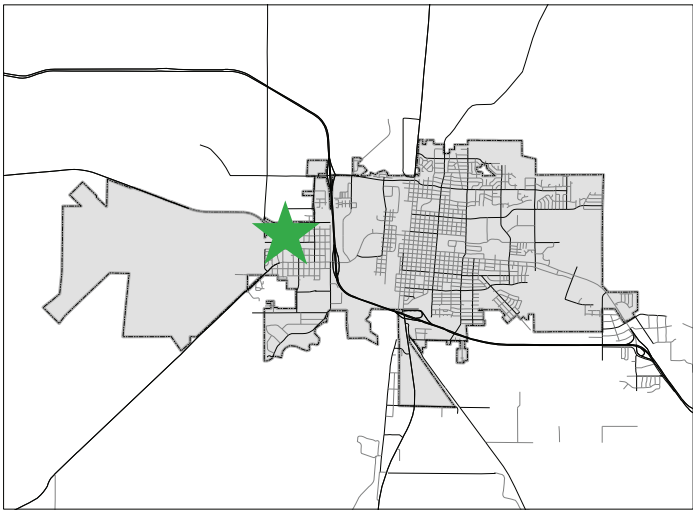
Kiwanis Park is currently West Laramie's only park and is located just off Highway 130 and Polk Street. The property was in part purchased by the City of Laramie in 1983 and in part donated by Bob and Ruthie Blake, with the Kiwanis Master Plan being approved in 1985 following acquisition. The beginning stages of the park development started in 1986 with most of those improvements being completed by 1988. The park is designated as a Neighborhood Park and consists of 8.4 acres and serves Service Area 3.

Current Conditions

Kiwanis Park offers numerous amenities that include 8.4 acres of developed turf grass with mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs, which are serviced by an underground irrigation system. The park also has a picnic shelter, playground equipment and restrooms that are all ADA compliant with a sidewalk connecting the parking lot on the west to Grant Street on the east. The recreational opportunities are abundant with two practice baseball/softball backstops and three soccer fields which are used heavily by youth and adult sports. In addition to park benches and picnic tables, the park also contains a "Welcome to Laramie" entrance sign that faces Highway 130, an Eagle Scout "Sundial Project" and an off street gravel parking area. The off-street parking area does contain one paved ADA compliant van accessible parking stall.

Park Statistics

- 8.4 acres
- Created in 1988
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 3



Kiwanis Park Context Map

Kiwanis Park

Current Park Amenities

- *8.4 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Picnic table (ADA accessible)*
- *Bob and Ruthie Blake Shelter (ADA accessible)*
- *Restrooms (ADA accessible)*
- *Playground (5-12 ages, ADA accessible)*
- *ADA van accessible off-street parking stall*
- *3 youth soccer fields*
- *2 baseball/softball fields/backstops*
- *Paved sidewalk from gravel off-street parking lot to picnic shelter*
- *Benches*
- *Off-street gravel parking*
- *Eagle Scout project sundial*
- *Memorial park bench (in memory of Don Nagel)*
- *Green waste site*

Picnic table near the youth soccer fields at Kiwanis Park

Future Needs

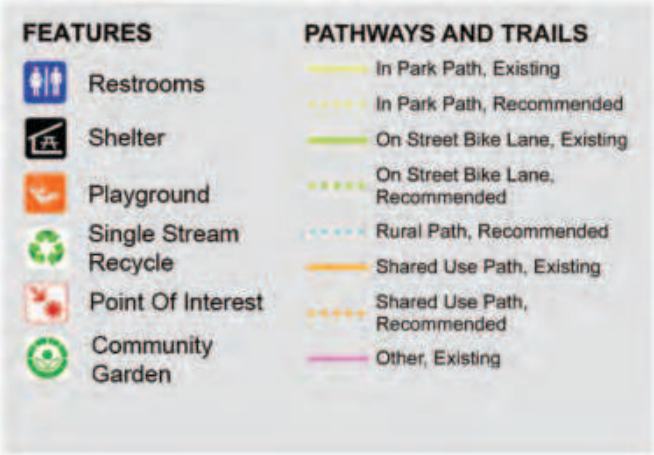
With Kiwanis Park being West Laramie's only park, fundamental improvements are needed to make this park more accessible and usable for area residents and the community as a whole. Currently, the majority of access to the park is off unpaved gravel roads and a small gravel parking lot. Throughout much of the year these streets are lined with cars of patrons using the sports fields. Due to the condition of the roads, parking difficulties, mud, standing water and other generally unsafe conditions the use of the park becomes difficult for many. Basic right-of-way infrastructure improvements are needed, such as pavement, curbs, gutters and drainage to full City Standards. Additionally, an In-Park Path around the park will provide for access through and into the park, as well as providing general recreation such as walking and running. This In-Park Path should be in-lieu of a sidewalk along Grant Street and Wyoming Avenue. In addition to these access difficulties, the only off-street parking is found in a small gravel parking lot off Highway 130. Improvements, such as asphalt, curb, gutter, drainage control and sidewalk/In-Park Path should be completed to make this parking area more user friendly and more accessible for park visitors. Additionally, a future off-street parking area located at the northern side of the park should be added. Currently, this area is an un-built right-of-way (Van Buren Street) which runs along the northern side of the park and could be improved to accommodate angled or another parking configuration, ultimately adding much needed parking in the area.

Other improvements not related to basic improvements, such as access or parking, are also slated for Kiwanis Park. An additional shelter located near the southern end of the park is needed so the park can accommodate more than two group activities at a time. Additionally, a sand volleyball court to meet the high demand for this particular activity is also warranted. Expansion of the playground is also anticipated which would provide for a Playlot geared towards younger children, ages 3-5. Kiwanis Park is located along Highway 130, which is a Beautification Corridor, therefore landscaping improvements to the parking area should also be included. Other improvements such as public art, single stream recycling sites and improving the appearance of the Green Waste site should also be completed.

This park contains a property, or an in-holding, which is found in the southwestern corner of the park and contains a single-family home. Acquisition of this property should be considered by the City if it is fiscally advantageous (free or, reduced price) in terms of improved park development (more space, added amenities) for the City.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Right-of-way improvements to Grant Street and Wyoming Avenue to full City Standards, including curbs, gutters and asphalt.
- In-Park Path around/through the park in-lieu of a sidewalk on Grant Street and Wyoming Avenue
- Vacate right-of-ways running through the park and in the area to eliminate future issues related to right-of-ways within the park.
- Develop a sand volleyball court west of the existing playground.
- Develop a shelter located near the restroom facility, central to the park.
- Develop a shelter location on the southern side of the park.
- Improve existing off-street parking area on west side with pavement, sidewalk/In-Park Path, curbs, gutters and drainage control.
- Develop additional parking area at the northern end of the park within the future Van Buren right-of-way.
- Develop/formalize the parking area off Highway 130 with asphalt, curbs, gutters and drainage control. The parking area should access the In-Park Path.
- Concentrate landscaping improvements or create visual interest along the Highway 130 Beautification Corridor.
- Replace mature/aging cottonwood trees
- Expand existing Playlot/playground to include a Tot Lot aimed at youth ages 3-5.
- Consider acquisition of the in-holding if fiscally advantageous or for future park development of the City.
- Improve green waste site through screening and landscaping.
- Install single stream recycling sites
- Add public art/sculptures



Kiwanis Park

LaBonte Park

Park History and Description

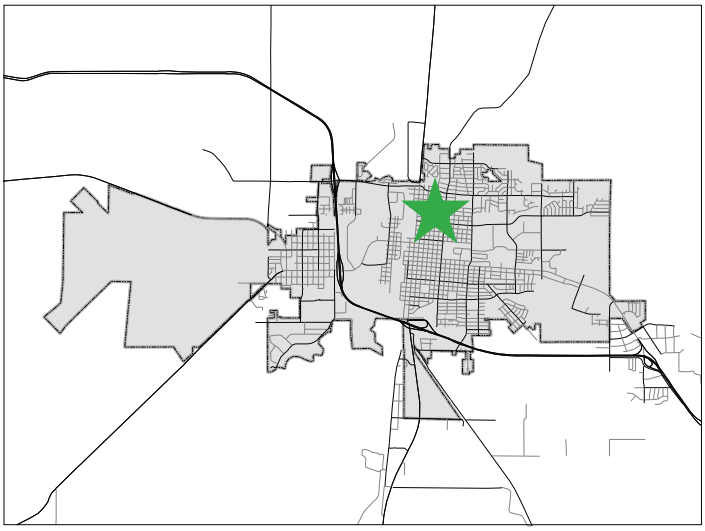
The site in which the park sits today was originally deeded to the City in the 1920's and functioned as the City landfill for over 30 years. Following its usable life as a landfill, the site was then re-purposed as a park, stormwater detention area and home to various City shop departments situated along 4th Street. Initial park development began in the late 1950's through the 1970's and is one of two Community Parks that serve Laramie. Following initial improvements, other major changes have also occurred including the establishment of the Fort Sanders Building by the Wesley Foundation of the First Methodist Church in 1962, which serves as a community center and non-profit office. In 1999, Laramie's first concrete skateboard park was established with part of Laramie's first Recreation Mill Levy. Laramie's first Community Garden was also established in LaBonte Park in 2010. LaBonte Park serves Service Area 5 and is located at Canby Street and Shield Street between 5th and 9th Streets.

Current Conditions

LaBonte Park, the community's largest park, offers many recreation amenities as part of its 30 acres of developed park area. Extensive amounts of turf grass, shrubbery and a wide variety of mature trees are maintained by an underground irrigation system throughout the site. A 5.5 acre lake for retention/detention of stormwater is also located on site. The lake, which is a prominent community feature by being a large body of water, is also affectionately known as "Stink Lake" due to the odor of decaying moss, algae and plant material. Also associated with the lake are two docks, one on the east and one on the west side of the lake, as well as an ice skating warming hut (not currently in use) that was used when the lake offered ice skating in the past. The lake offers bird-watching opportunities for local and regional visitors. Surrounding the lake, an In-Park Path is developed that accesses numerous park shelters with restrooms, two playgrounds, and multiple picnic tables

Park Statistics

- 30 acres
- Created in the 1950's
- Community Park
- Service Area 5



LaBonte Park Context Map

Community Gardens at LaBonte Park

that are all ADA accessible.

Other opportunities offered at LaBonte Park include a concrete skatepark, three youth baseball fields (two lighted and one un-lighted), one lighted adult softball field, basketball court, soccer fields, and a 15 station outdoor fitness course. Various other community amenities including a xeriscape demonstration garden, unimproved parking areas, community mulch bin, public art, and demonstration/community teaching garden are all located within the park.

The City's Park and Recreation maintenance shop is also located within the park and serves as a central location in the community for all Parks and Recreation maintenance needs. The historic Fort Sanders building is found on the east end of the park and has served Laramie as a community center, children's museum and most recently as a non-profit office/headquarters for Feeding Laramie Valley.

Future Needs

Although this Park has extensive infrastructure, landscaping and amenities already in place, better utilization, upgrades and reuse of the space will shape the future of this park. As mentioned before, one of the most prominent features of the park; is LaBonte Lake. Maximizing the potential of the lake will be important for the park. Improving the smell and look of the lake through continued aeration, dredging, improving water quality and improving habitat will make this water feature more of an asset. Exploring additional uses, such as fishing and boating, should also be explored for LaBonte Lake. It was also noted by the public that a place for outdoor ice skating was still desired. Bringing back outdoor ice skating and the warming hut at LaBonte is another item that should be explored, however re-establishing this use will come with regular maintenance associated with the warming hut, algae removal prior to ice-on, as well as it going hand-in-hand with the larger lake dredging project.

In addition to improvements associated with the lake, other park improvements are also anticipated. As with many large parks, especially Community Parks, access to restroom facilities is important. With extensive facilities located on the west end of the park, additional restrooms on the east end of the park need

Current Park Amenities

- *30 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *5.5 acre lake for retention/detention of storm water*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *3 Shelters (ADA accessible)*
- *Restrooms (ADA accessible)*
- *2 Playgrounds (ADA accessible)*
- *Fabric shade structure over east Playground*
- *Picnic tables and pads (ADA accessible)*
- *Benches*
- *Concrete skateboard park*
- *Warming hut for outdoor skating on LaBonte Lake (not currently in use)*
- *Fort Sanders Center/former home of the Wyoming Children's Museum*
- *1 adult lighted softball field with restrooms (ADA accessible)*
- *2 lighted, 1 unlighted youth baseball fields with restrooms (ADA accessible)*
- *1 youth non-lighted baseball field*
- *In-Park Path*
- *Outdoor basketball courts (ADA accessible)*
- *15 station outdoor fitness course*
- *Xeriscape demonstration garden area*
- *Parks maintenance shop building*
- *Community mulch bin*
- *The Laramie File (public art)*
- *Practice soccer areas*
- *Demonstration/Community teaching garden area*
- *Off-street unimproved parking areas*
- *Green Waste site*

to be incorporated, due to the distance users on the east end have to travel to access a restroom. Co-location of a restroom facility with the Fort Sanders building may reduce costs in running plumbing and water needed for a standalone facility.

The Fort Sanders building is another prominent and unique feature to the parks system. The building which has been used by the City to hold enrichment classes and once was Laramie's Children's Museum, now is the headquarters for "Feeding Laramie Valley" a local food growers association who rents the facility. Use of this historic building for programming is essential to not only preserving the structure but also in the space it provides for these ancillary type uses that provide uniqueness and variety to our parks system. Regular upkeep, additional landscaping and more formalized parking areas around the building should be completed as well.

Other unique improvements to the park are also needed. Currently, an unimproved dirt road bisects the park north to south, separating the baseball and softball fields from the rest of the park and providing an informal cut-through from Canby Street to Shield Street. In an effort to make the park more continuous, safer and user friendly, eliminating the cut-through and creating two cul-de-sacs or a turn-around and parking areas is more desired. Not only will this eliminate unnecessary through traffic, improve safety and formalize access to the park, a more uniform and continuous connection to areas once separated from the main part of the park will no longer be an issue. It is envisioned that the northern access may provide some limited parking, but mainly will serve as a drop off point and turn around for users of the ball fields and future sand volleyball court to the east. The southern access will remain as the main entrance to the park, parks maintenance shop, and future BMX site, as well as parking for uses associated with the existing skatepark, shelter, playground and baseball field. Formalization of both north and south access points, through paving, striping and curbing will provide a more accessible and visually appealing and organized space for the park.

Adjacent to Shield Street are two baseball fields and a softball field that all warrant upgrades. In addition to a parking area to the east, aesthetic improvements, mainly landscaping and an In-Park Path, are needed. Also, relocation of the restroom facilities nearer to

In park path and fitness station at LaBonte Park. One of the playgrounds covered with a shade structure is seen in the background.

the softball field (more centrally located to all fields), scoreboards, lighting upgrades and moving the scorer's box are all needed.

This Plan should also consider what will happen to the buildings and uses located along 4th Street that presently house the Streets, Solid Waste, Animal Control/Animal Shelter and Public Works uses. As these uses relocate to a new building possibly located near the wastewater treatment plant north of town, or another location yet to be determined, the current buildings may be repurposed, land and buildings sold or removed, or a myriad of other possibilities. No matter how this area changes, impacts on LaBonte Park should be considered. A plan is needed that will consider the best use of this area, buffers between uses and compatibility of future uses with the park. It is unlikely that the Animal Control Facility will relocate, while other uses, such as the "Red House" (used by ARK Services) and the Youth Crisis Center, should be considered in the plan in order to determine how these buildings should be managed over time. Both facilities are, leased to the organizations by the City, and should continue to be evaluated based on the benefit of these organizations and the City.

LaBonte Park also houses a facility essential to the parks system along 4th Street; the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Shop. As other municipal uses in the area relocate, expansion of the maintenance shop could remain available to the west, taking advantage of the existing building and site without having to completely relocate the facility. Aesthetic improvements are also anticipated for the existing structure and any additional expansions to the facility.

It was also heard during the public input process that a BMX site was needed within the community. After evaluating locations within the community that could be accessible to as many people as possible, a location that is currently being used for materials storage by the Streets and Public Works Department was identified as a preferred location. As mentioned above, the Streets and Public Works shops located off 4th Street will be relocating, thus opening up this space for future park use; mainly a BMX park.

In addition to some of these more unique improvements to the park, more traditional improvements, such as an additional larger sized shelter that overlooks the lake basketball court surface upgrades and lights, need to be incorporated into upcoming park improvement plans. Moreover, with some of the physical changes to the park, mainly the removal of the dirt road through the park, In-Park Path access to 4th Street and to the ball fields with the rest of the existing In-Park Paths, could be realized, making this park more physically cohesive. Park users crossing both 9th Street and 4th Street must be addressed as part of the path system. Crosswalks at

Little Sluggers games at LaBonte Park Little League Field

the four corners of the park, and/or at the mid-block pedestrian access point are the most likely locations.

This park contains a property, or an in-holding, which is found in the southwestern corner of the park and contains a single-family home. Acquisition of this property should be considered by the City if it is fiscally advantageous (free, reduced price) in terms of improved park development (more space, added amenities) for the City.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Improve the look and odor of LaBonte Lake through continued aeration, dredging, water quality and habitat improvements.
- Expand the use of the lake by exploring fishing opportunities with Wyoming Game and Fish; it is likely that dredging and habitat improvements of the lake would be needed in conjunction with this use.
- Re-establish the outdoor skating /warming hut opportunity on the lake.
- Explore the ability to have paddle boats or other water craft recreational opportunities on the lake.
- Develop restrooms on the east end of the park. Co-location of restrooms with the Fort Sanders building should be explored in an effort to reduce cost of the facility.
- Continue use of the Fort Sanders building to preserve the historic structure, as well as provide alternative uses to the parks and recreation system.
- Improve and formalize the parking areas around the Fort Sanders building to include pavement, designated parking, landscaping and better visual appearance of the area.
- Develop a larger sized shelter that overlooks the lake.
- Develop an In-Park Path network west to 4th Street and to baseball field area, connecting these facilities to the rest of the park.
- Examine crossing of 4th and 9th Streets for park users, through the use of crosswalks at each of the four corners of the park as well as the mid-block pedestrian access point.

Basketball Court at LaBonte Park

- Public Works facility buildings should be repurposed or removed, attempting to include a pedestrian access to 4th Street somewhere between Shield Street and Canby Street where needed.
- Resurface the basketball court and install lights.
- Eliminate through access of the dirt road in the park by eliminating the middle section of road and returning it back to usable park space.
- Following changes to the dirt road, the northern access off Shield Street shall remain and be improved with paving and curb, providing for short term parking/drop off area and a turn-around.
- Following changes to the dirt road, the southern access off Canby Street shall remain and be improved with paving and curb, providing formal access to the Parks Shop, BMX Park, Skate Park, Shelter and Baseball Field. This area will contain more formalized parking area just north of the skatepark.
- Construction of a BMX Park just south of the softball field. This area may contain non-BMX, but bicycle related terrain, such as jumps, bridges and catwalks for uses with mountain bikes.
- Develop a plan to address future use of the buildings and sites located along 4th Street as the transition of Public

Works uses occurs. Compatibility with the park, buffers between uses and best uses of this land should be considered in the Plan.

- As municipal uses vacate the 4th Street facilities, expansion of the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Shop due west of the existing parks site should be explored.
- Aesthetic improvements to the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Shop are anticipated for the existing structure as well as any future expansion.
- As municipal uses vacate the 4th Street facilities, beautification of this area should be incorporated into the areas where facilities will remain, primarily Animal Control/Animal Shelter and the future Parks and Recreation Maintenance Building expansion area.
- Continue to evaluate the viability of the "Red House" and Youth Crisis Center in leased buildings within the park. Emphasis on the overall benefits to the community and these organizations is paramount.
- Work with Animal Control/Animal Shelter in utilizing their existing site and improving the integration of their site into the park as development of the park in this area increases. Measures such as landscaping, fencing and walls should be explored to achieve this compatibility.
- Complete a new plat for this area off 4th Street to remove individual lots and right-of-ways (alley) in order to facilitate redevelopment of the area.
- Replace of mature/aging Cottonwood trees
- Formalize and improve the visual appearance of the overflow parking area west of the softball field with paving, curbs and gutters.
- Improve the green waste site located on the east end of the park by locating it behind the Fort Sanders building or placing it within an enclosure.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites into the park.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.
- Consider acquisition of the in-holding if fiscally advantageous or for future park development of the City.
- Lighting upgrades are needed for the two baseball fields and the softball field due to the age of the poles and lights.
- Relocate restroom facility closer to the softball fields so they are more centrally located to both softball and baseball fields.
- Move the existing scorers box on the east side of the field to the north side of the field.
- Beautify the Shield Street frontage in front of the baseball fields with landscaping treatments.
- Develop a sand volleyball court due east of the future parking area off Shields Street.
- Re-establish the dock on the west end of the lake, near the existing warming hut.

LaBonte Park

LaPrele Park

Park History and Description

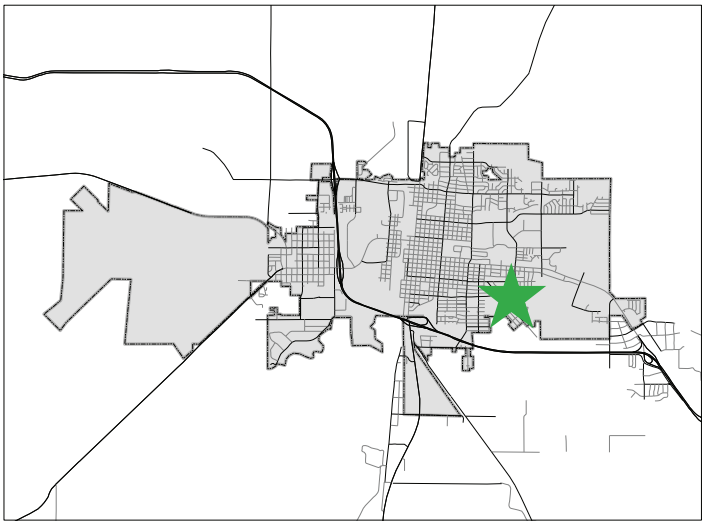
The land for LaPrele Park was donated to the City in the 1960s and was initially developed in the 1970s and completed in the early 1980s. The park consists of 29.1 acres and is generally located at Spring Creek Drive and Corthell Road.

Current Conditions

LaPrele Park is currently a 29.1 acre Neighborhood Park that serves Service Area 9. The park is dissected by Spring Creek. The northern six and a half (6.5) acres of the park is comprised of developed turf grass with mature landscaping, consisting of trees and shrubs that are served by an underground irrigation system that may be supplied by a non-potable water well in the near future. The southern 19.9 acres of park land consists of native undeveloped land. Within the developed park, there are picnic tables, benches and a shelter with restrooms that are ADA accessible. Within the undeveloped area, the park consists of Huck Finn fishing pond and an ADA floating dock, an 18-hole disc golf course, shelter, three pedestrian bridges over Spring Creek and an unimproved parking area. In addition, the park contains a 100 year time capsule which was buried in 2000 by the City.

Park Statistics

- 29.1 acres
- Created in the 1960's
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 9



LaPrele Park Context Map

Disc Golf Course in LaPrele Park

Current Park Amenities

- *6.5 acres of developed turf grass*
- *19.9 acres of undeveloped native land*
- *Underground irrigation system to be supplied by a non-potable water well*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *1 Playground (ADA accessible)*
- *2 picnic shelters (ADA accessible)*
- *Picnic tables (ADA accessible)*
- *Restrooms (ADA accessible)*
- *Park benches*
- *Huck Finn Pond fishing area*
- *Floating dock in Huck Finn Pond*
- *9 hole disc golf course (tees and holes)*
- *3 pedestrian bridges over Spring Creek channel, one bridge is ADA accessible*
- *100 year time capsule buried in 2000*
- *Unimproved parking area*
- *2 Green Waste sites*

Future Needs

With extensive amenities included throughout the area, LaPrele Park offers an experience no other park provides within Laramie. Not only does the park provide traditional amenities such as a playground, shelter, play fields and restrooms, the undeveloped portion of the park plays an equal role in the services it provides to the community. The south side of the park has no development restrictions that prohibit other uses, however, by providing a more natural landscape this portion of the park accommodates a fishing pond, disc golf course and a transition from the developed area of the park and Spring Creek, a unique park experience. Building upon and expanding these amenities will only improve the quality of this park. An additional shelter on the west end of the park and improvements to the disc golf course, such as trees or other obstacles, 9 additional "holes" as well as a sign that displays the course, are needed amenities. Expansion of the playground is also needed; one that will accommodate younger children ages 3-5.

Although many positive attributes currently elevate the park's status, additional amenities should be included to maximize the utilization of this park as well as address other issues.

Another need for the park is an In-Park Path/Shared Use Path around and through the park, which will not only provide a designated pedestrian route through the park, but also provide vital connection and continuation of the Spring Creek Greenbelt. Noting that the most important piece of this path system is the Spring Creek Greenbelt Shared Use Path; it should be given the highest priority of the paths in the park. Related to this topic, as the Shared Use Path continues west and crosses Corthell Road, an issue is created that will need to be addressed. A crossing either at grade or under the road will need to be explored. As parts of the In-Park Path network are installed, all the bridges that provide access over Spring Creek should be examined for any needed upgrades.

In addition, the maintenance of Spring Creek as a water feature, natural area, fishery, flood control channel

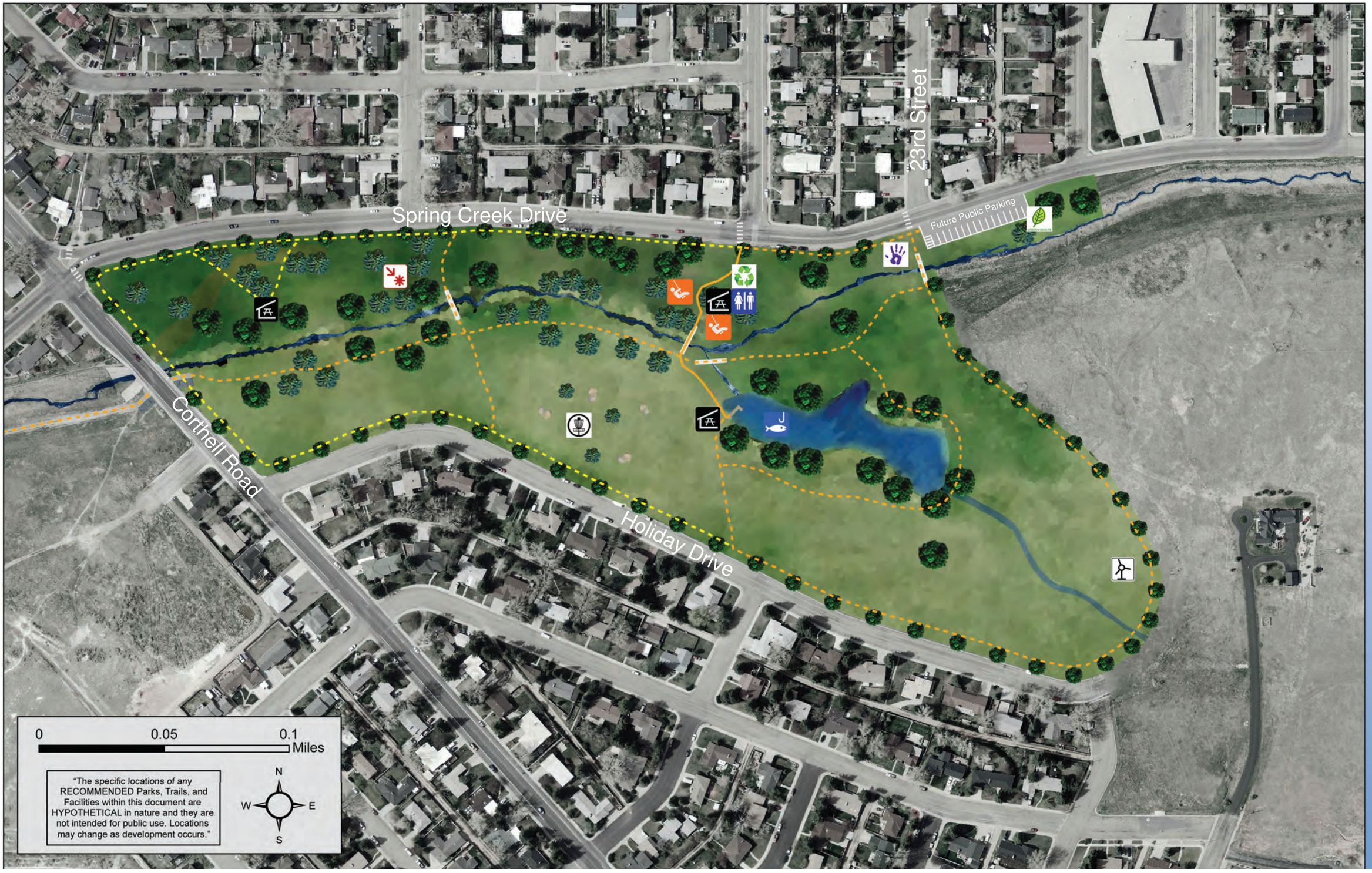
Huck Finn Fishing Pond in LaPrele Park

and overall amenity throughout the park, is a must. Of obvious high importance, is the maintenance of this channel for flood control; however in instances of needed improvements such as dredging, erosion control or general function, consideration of their impacts on LaPrele Park must be evaluated. Consideration must be given to any improvements done in this area as it relates to Spring Creek as a natural area, park feature, recreation/education opportunity, fishery, flood control channel and wildlife corridor.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continue to maintain the developed and undeveloped area of the park in order to provide a unique park experience that is not found in any other park at this time within Laramie.
- Develop the In-Park Path and Shared Use Path system throughout the Park with the highest priority given to the Spring Creek Greenbelt Shared Use Path.
- Address how the Shared Use Path will cross Corthell Road and if there will be an at-grade crossing or an underground crossing.
- Develop a non-potable water irrigation system.
- Develop an additional shelter located on the west side of the park with access to the In-Park Path.
- Make improvements to the disc golf course by adding additional trees or other obstacles to improve playability of the course, as well as signs that show the course layout for users. Expansion of the course to 18 holes is also anticipated.
- Maintenance of Spring Creek as a flood control channel is a must. However, consideration must be given to any improvements done in this area as it relates to Spring Creek as a natural area, park feature, recreation/education opportunity, fishery and wildlife corridor.
- Improve landscaping in the undeveloped area of the park in order to have a more visually cohesive park rather than two separate areas, all while maintaining their unique differences.
- Improve the parking area located off of Spring Creek Drive through pavement, curb, gutters and ADA access to the In-Park Path.
- Replace mature/aging Cottonwood trees
- Develop a new playground that will accommodate ages 3-5 years old near the existing restroom facility.
- Following development of the In-Park Path around the park remove the gravel road on the east side of the park.
- Formalize access to and around Huck Finn Pond through establishment of an In-Park Path.
- Improve the green waste site located on the east end of the park through screening or by enclosure.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites into the park.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.

LaPrele Park



O'Dell Mini Park

Park History and Description

O'Dell Mini Park was designated as a Playlot in the 1970s and is only 0.2 acres. The property was originally platted in 1967 and dedicated to the City by Doug and Mita June O'Dell in memory of their son James "Jim" Berry O'Dell. O'Dell Mini Park serves Service Area 1 and is located at the intersection of Mill Street and Albin Street.

Current Conditions

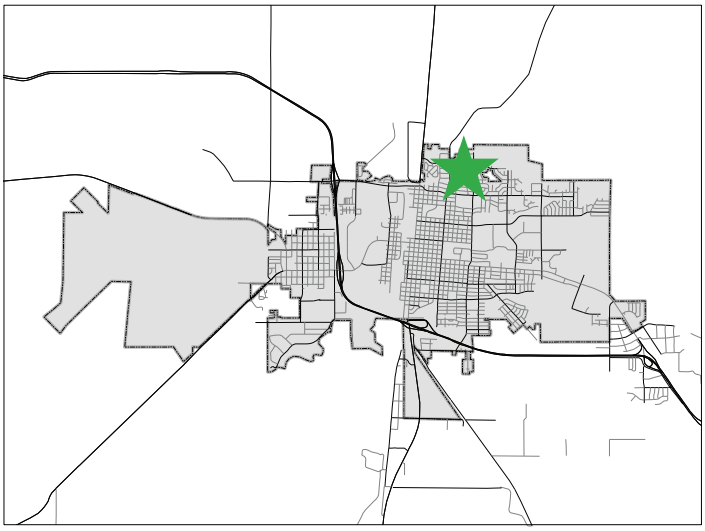
Currently, the park is developed with turf grass, semi-mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs, and is serviced with an underground irrigation system. In addition, there are park benches, a picnic table and an ADA accessible playground. A split rail fence and an 8 foot privacy fence to the west are also found in the park. The small size of the park inhibits more expansive uses such as playing ball or other recreational activities even though this is the only park that serves Service Area 1.

Current Park Amenities

- *0.2 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Immature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Perimeter split rail fence and 8 foot tall privacy fence to the west.*
- *Playground (ADA accessible)*
- *Picnic Table*
- *Park Benches*
- *Green Waste site*

Park Statistics

- 0.2 acres
- Created in the 1970s
- Playlot Park
- Service Area 1



O'Dell Mini Park Context Map

O'Dell Mini Park

Future Needs

With O'Dell Mini Park already being developed and no room to expand, improvements and needs are limited, and mostly relate to upkeep and maintenance of the facility. The primary focus should be the ongoing maintenance of turf, playground and fencing on site. Because of the heavy use of the park, additional regular inspections may be needed to ensure park safety and utility. Moreover, maintenance reduction measures should be examined to reduce the time and effort needed to maintain this park; synthetic ground covering in the playground area versus the wood chips is just one example. Although not on site, the Green Waste container located south of the park, across the alley, is unsightly and screening should be placed around the container to conceal it.

Playground equipment at O'Dell Mini Park

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continue upkeep and maintenance of the facility with more routine inspections due to the heavy use the park receives.
- Consider maintenance reduction measures that could reduce the time spent maintaining the site.
- Develop a concrete pad that will allow for an ADA accessible picnic table.
- Improve the Green Waste site through grading and screening of the container.
- Install additional landscaping including trees and bushes.
- Improve the Green Waste site located on the east side of 9th Street through an enclosure and landscaping.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites into the park.
- Incorporate Public Art/Sculptures into the park, with consideration of the small space within the park.

O'Dell Mini Park

Optimist Park

Park History and Description

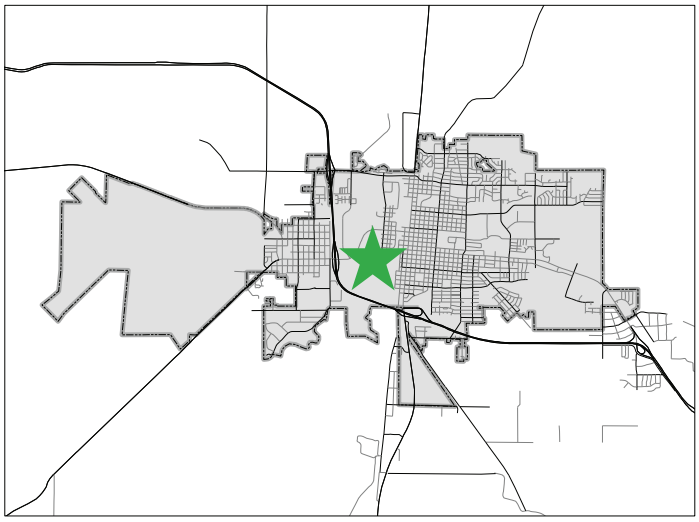
Optimist Park was platted in 1884. A portion of Optimist Park was donated to the City in the early 1960s with the remaining property leased to the City and then acquired by the City in 2009. The park was initially developed in the mid-1960s and currently consists of 28.8 acres, 16 acres developed in Service Area 4, east of the Laramie River and the remaining 12.8 acres in Service Area 17, west of the river. The park is located at the intersection of Garfield Street and Spruce Street.

Current Conditions

Currently, the park has approximately 5 acres of developed turf grass with mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs, serviced by an underground irrigation system. The park has two playgrounds, picnic tables, park benches, and a picnic shelter with restrooms that are ADA compliant. Two unimproved parking lots serve the park; one serves the west side of the park, primarily the Laramie River Greenbelt, the other serves the east side of the park. A hard surface multi-purpose court, one youth soccer field, an off-leash dog park and fishing access to the Laramie River are also provided in the park. Because a large amount of the park is located along the Laramie River/Greenbelt and on the west side of the river, a portion of the park remains undeveloped/natural. A major feature of the park is the fenced off-leash dog park. The dog park is approximately .25 acres in size and offers a fenced area with turf grass and mature trees, as well as separation provided for big and little dogs. Understanding the important role this park has within the community, to visitors and anyone that uses the Greenbelt, the City hired a landscape architecture firm in 2009 to complete the *Optimist Park Redevelopment and Expansion Project* that reconfigures and allocates uses in the park. The work already done for the project is an excellent start to the work needed to make this park meet its potential as outlined in this Plan.

Park Statistics

- 28.8 acres
- Created in the 1960s
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Areas 17 and 4



Optimist Park Context Map

Shelter at Optimist Park

Current Park Amenities

- *5 acres of developed turfgrass, with the remaining 23.8 acres consisting of natural ground cover, riparian areas and river.*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Playground (ADA accessible)*
- *Shelter with restrooms (ADA accessible)*
- *Dog Park Shelter*
- *Park benches*
- *Hard surface multi-purpose court (basketball, volleyball)*
- *Youth soccer field*
- *Two unimproved parking lots*
- *Portable Restroom (ADA accessible)*
- *Fenced Dog Park (Large and small dog areas provided)*
- *Willow's Bend Swimming Hole*
- *Green Waste site*
- *Laramie River Greenbelt trail head map sign*

The fenced dog park at Optimist Park

Future Needs

Although many amenities already exist within Optimist Park, additional needs and tasks must be addressed. The *Optimist Park Redevelopment and Expansion Project,* outlined a complete park upgrade (Appendix F). Because the project report has already been completed, much of the discussion found in this section may refer to the report findings. However, additional comments, recommendations and needs will be addressed through similar graphics and discussion as found in other Park descriptions.

The most prominent feature of the park, the Laramie River Greenbelt and associated Shared Use Path, should remain a high, if not, the highest priority of the park. Not only should the long term maintenance and access to the Greenbelt, remain but creation of a more seamless transition between the park and the Greenbelt areas should be completed including, the east and west side of the river, as well as to areas outside the park to the north and south. Internal to the park, an In-Park Path is needed to provide access from the existing Greenbelt path to the other developed and future park amenities, such as the shelters, playground, youth/adult soccer fields and fenced Dog Park. A more ambitious action is to have a river crossing, or pedestrian bridge, to accommodate a Shared Use Path to the west side of the river and the adjacent undeveloped area of Optimist Park, making this presently unused area an added component of the park. Major improvements to the Trail Head parking lot, located off Garfield Street are anticipated. These improvements will formalize the parking area through pavement and striping, improved parking lot circulation, with perimeter landscaping along Garfield Street. All these improvements will be aimed at increasing the visual appearance of the lot from the street right-of-way. Adjacent to the parking lot, improvements to the actual Greenbelt trailhead are needed. Due to the high use of this trail head, signage depicting routes, distances, rules and amenities is needed, as well as restrooms, a bike service station and water fountains.

Barriers to access primarily associated with the Laramie River Greenbelt Shared Use Path to the north and south exist. Improving these connections to all of the trail system must be addressed. Concentrating on the

northern connection, the crossing of Garfield Street poses a major problem in that it requires an at-grade, mid-block crossing, which is not the safest for path users. A new design shows the Shared Use Path running underneath the Garfield Street bridge onto the north side of the embankment to the already paved area on the north side of the street. This alignment allows the user to cross underneath the bridge without crossing the street, all while maintaining ADA accessibility. Examining the southern connection, a different problem exists; adequate space for the Shared Use Path to follow the river is not available. Currently, the path nears the southern end of the park and then trends to the east onto a bike lane/double striped shared use path for ½ block on Park Avenue Street and one block of Spruce Street, until it once again reconnects at the Spruce Street pedestrian bridge. Although it is functional, separating this segment from the travel lane is a must. Utilization of the full right-of-way, removal of parking and realignment of the 1 ½ blocks should be considered in order to accommodate the Shared Use Path. Property purchase should also be explored if realignment is not possible or if additional space is needed to make the realignment a viable option. Unaligned segments such as this are detrimental to the overall continuity of the Shared Use Path and safety of path system users.

The land located on the west side of the river forms a natural landscape. As stated above, when the river crossing is completed the highest priority should be to complete the Laramie River Greenbelt Shared Use Path. Other improvements in this area should be limited to items such as benches or rest areas for path users. The intent of this area is to remain in a more natural state, and not fully developed with turf grass, playgrounds and an abundance of amenities. Although not directly related to Optimist Park, but worthy of mention, are the properties to the south of the City owned property on the west side of the river. This area is targeted as additional Natural Area for the Laramie River Greenbelt. Connections and a seamless transition between the currently owned property and this Natural Area should be priority.

In addition to the big picture items related to the Greenbelt, Shared Use Path and Park expansion area, other improvements and actions have been identified. As

The Laramie River Greenbelt Trailhead at Optimist Park

stated before, a major update to the existing developed park area is anticipated and has already been designed. The first stage of this update was completed with the addition of the dog park and updated playground, and additional amenities such as a new In-Park Path. The next stages include, removal of the Spruce Street parking lot and multi-purpose court, enhanced youth/adult soccer field, shelter and the forthcoming improved parking area.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- The Laramie River Greenbelt and associated Shared Use Path should remain a high, if not, the highest priority for Optimist Park.
- Improve the transition between the developed area of the park and the Greenbelt adjacent to the park.
- Develop an In-Park Path around the perimeter of the park to provide a designated route from the Greenbelt to the other amenities in the park. The need for an In-Park Path along Garfield Street should be evaluated, due to the existence of a sidewalk already in this location.
- Identify a crossing point over the Laramie River for a Shared Use Path and bridge to provide access to the undeveloped area of Optimist Park on the west side of the river.
- Preserve the natural landscape by minimizing development on the west side of the river. Improvements should be limited to benches, shelters and other items specifically related to the future Shared Use Path.
- Formalize the Trail Head parking lot through paving and striping of the lot as well as perimeter landscaping, mainly concentrated along Garfield Street and areas adjacent to this parking area.
- Develop a Trail Head at the parking area that includes signage, restrooms, a bike service station and water fountains at a minimum.
- Eliminate the at-grade crossing of the Shared Use Path on Garfield Street. Make use of the already completed design that reroutes the Shared Use Path underneath the Garfield Street bridge and onto the north side of the road embankment.
- Examine a re-alignment, modification and full use of the City right-of-way of the missing segment of the Greenbelt Shared Use Path located on Park Avenue and Spruce Street at the southern end of Optimist Park. Property purchase should also be an option in order to accommodate the trail.
- Develop a new shelter structure and restroom facility central to the park and adjacent to the Shared Use Path.
- Eliminate the undeveloped Spruce Street parking lot.
- A new plat or re-plat for this area to remove individual lots and clear up right-of-way issues adjacent to the park should be completed.
- Preservation of access points to future Natural Areas to the south of the park should be retained creating a seamless transition between these areas.
- Redevelopment of the youth/adult soccer fields on the east side of the park.
- Replace mature/aging Cottonwood trees
- Remove multi-purpose court.
- Incorporate screened green waste site into the park.
- Incorporate single stream recycling site into the park.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.

Optimist Park

Scout Park

Park History and Description

Scout Park is designated as a Neighborhood Park and was developed over two phases in the past 30 years. Following purchase of the park in the early 1980's, the west half of the park was developed in the 1990's and the eastern portion of the park in early 2000's. The park is located at 22nd and Binford Street and extends east to 27th Street and Dover Drive. The park currently serves Service Area 6.

Current Conditions

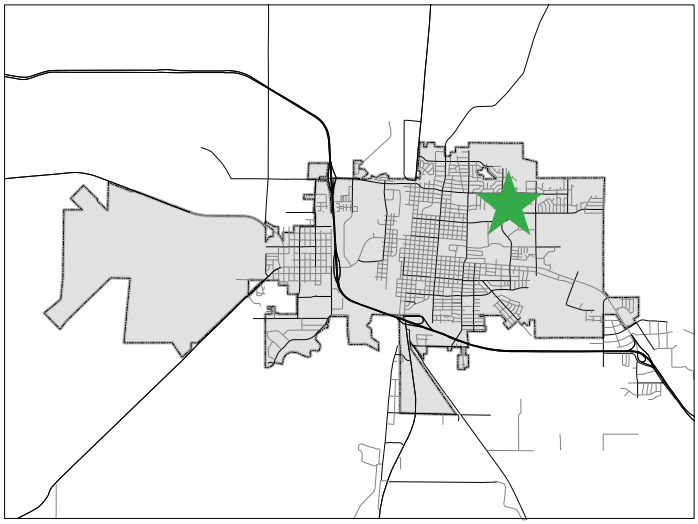
Currently, Scout Park has limited existing amenities as well as 12.43 acres of developed turf grass, semi-mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs and an 18 station fitness course. The park also provides space for two youth/adult soccer fields that are located on the west end of the park, the park also serves as a regional detention area.

Current Park Amenities

- *12.43 acres of developed turf grass.*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Semi-mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Benches*
- *18 Station Fitness Course*
- *Detention Area*
- *Two youth/adult soccer fields*
- *Green Waste site*
- *Cross Country Memorial Trees*

Park Statistics

- 12.43 acres
- Created in the 1980's
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 6



Scout Park Context Map

Scout Park

Future Needs

As stated above, existing improvements and amenities are limited, thus, extensive improvements need to be incorporated into the park to fully develop and maximize the utilization of the park. A Playlot with a playground shall be developed on the eastern side of the park site, with primary access off of 27th Street. Due to the lack of parks in this neighborhood, a larger Playlot or two Playlots that can accommodate 30 plus kids and two age groups should be considered. In addition, a shelter with restrooms is to be developed in close proximity to the playground, but also as central to the fields at the west end as possible. Not only will the facility provide restroom capacity for the park and playground, they will also provide service to sports teams using the fields to the north at the Jr. High School.

To connect these proposed amenities to the entire park and provide access for park users, an In-Park Path is proposed extending from 22nd Street to 27th Street. Also related to access is the difficulty this park experiences due to topography and the major barriers that 22nd and Reynolds Street create. Crosswalks, controlled crossings or other safety measures should be undertaken to help park users cross these two busy and difficult to cross streets. These improvements should be considered at either the Hancock Street or Binford Street intersections on 22nd Street, the 27th Street and the Bath Avenue intersection, or at a mid-block crossing on Reynolds Street.

As noted above, two youth/adult soccer fields are located on the west end of the park; however, the fields are located in the bottom of a regional detention area which is not optimal. As with any detention area, the ability to use the fields is limited by the actual inundation of the fields by water. Improving the drainage of the site to reduce the amount of time the field is covered by water and to eliminate "soggy" field conditions will

Soccer Field at Scout Park

make these fields more playable and usable. Even with the underground french drain system that is already installed, it is only marginally successful, because of the high groundwater table.

Continued cooperation with the Albany County School District #1 should become a action for Scout Park. Because the park is located adjacent to the school, crossover of users often occurs. For instance, soccer field users often park in the school's parking lot. In addition, the fitness course is located on both City and school district property and is used by students and Laramie citizens. A formal agreement for joint use of these facilities is a win-win for both organizations.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Develop a playlot/playground on the east side of the park site that can accommodate 30 kids and two age groups.
- Develop a shelter/restroom facility near the proposed playground that is central to the park and is easily accessed by the existing playing fields on the west end of the park.
- Improve drainage conditions in the detention area in order to reduce "soggy" field conditions, improve playability and increase the usability of the fields after storm events.
- Develop an In-Park Path that extends from 22nd Street to 27th Street, and a segment that connects to Binford Street, east of 22nd Street.
- Crosswalk, controlled crossing or other measure should be installed at either/both Hancock Street and Binford Street intersections with 22nd Street to aid park users in crossing 22nd Street.
- Crosswalk, controlled crossing or other measure should be installed at 27th Street and Bath Avenue or mid-block, across from the Jr. High across Reynolds Street to aid park users in crossing Reynolds Street.
- Enter into a formal agreement with the Albany County School District #1 in relationship to the fitness course that is found within Scout Park as well as on school district property.

Scout Park

- Enter into a formal agreement with the Albany County School District #1 in relationship to the parking area located at the northwest corner of the park site, which is often used by patrons of the park.
- Improve the green waste site located on the west end of the park through screening or an enclosure.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites into the park.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.

Scout Park

27th Street
Dover Drive
Dutton Court
Binford Street
22nd Street
0
100
200
Feet
"The specific locations of any RECOMMENDED Parks, Trails, and Facilities within this document are HYPOTHETICAL in nature and they are not intended for public use. Locations may change as development occurs."
N
E
S
W

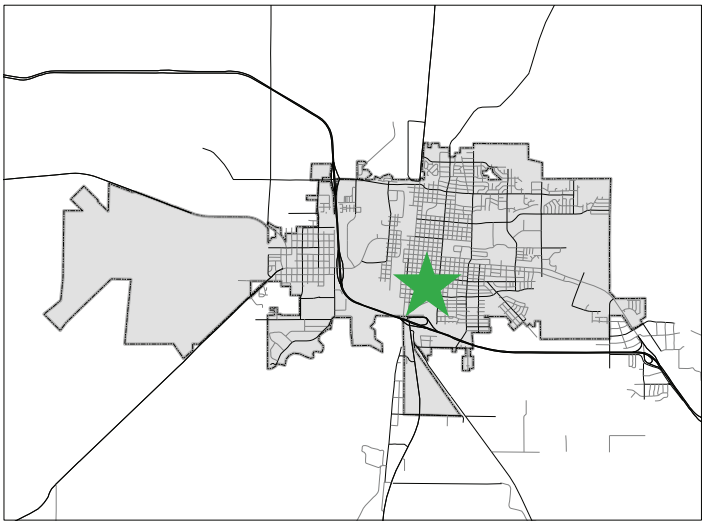
Undine Park

Park History and Description

Laramie's first established park, Undine Park, was first platted in 1884 with the initial development of the park not occurring until the 1920's. Over 9 acres in size, the park serves Service Area 8 and is located between 5th and 7th Streets and Park Avenue and Ord Streets. Undine Park is one of Laramie's most popular parks.

Park Statistics

- 9.6 acres
- Created in the 1884
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 8



Undine Park Context Map

Current Park Amenities

- *9.6 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Playground (ADA accessible)*
- *Picnic shelter (ADA accessible)*
- *Restrooms (ADA accessible)*
- *Picnic tables (ADA accessible)*
- *Park benches*
- *Hard surface lighted tennis court (with 1 basketball hoop)*
- *Youth soccer field*
- *Lighted sand volleyball court*
- *Barbeque pit area*
- *Practice baseball/softball infield area*
- *Splash pad water park*
- *Public Art/Sculptures*

Summer Farmers' Market at Undine Park

Current Conditions

Currently, Undine Park includes nine acres of developed turf grass and mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs, all of which are serviced by an underground irrigation system. The park offers picnic tables, park benches, and a picnic shelter with restrooms that are ADA accessible. In addition, other amenities include a lighted tennis court with basketball hoop, youth soccer field, lighted sand volleyball court, barbeque pit area, practice baseball/softball infield area, sculpture, a splash pad water park and a playground.

Future Needs

Although Undine Park is a well established park that contains many amenities, additional amenities and improvements are anticipated. For being Laramie's oldest park, access to the park and through the park is difficult. For this reason, a future In-Park Path is anticipated that will create a looped exercise path and increase accessibility to the park from the perimeters avoiding play fields in the southwest corner of the park. An In-Park Path will also be installed between the two fields in the southwestern corner of the park connecting a future shelter location off 7th Street to the existing restroom and playground area.

In addition to the future shelter, Undine Park is slated to host additional public art/sculptures to complement the Robert Russin statue already prominently displayed in the park. Other anticipated features is a replica of the historic Gazebo/Pavilion that once stood in the park.

Finally, one of the major upgrades to the park will be addressing parking issues. When activities occur in the park, such as soccer games, volleyball games or users of the splash pad or shelters, on-street parking is the only option available. While this may be the norm in other parks, the high use this park experiences warrants the need to accommodate off-street parking. It is anticipated that along 7th Street and 5th Street, just west of the volleyball court, angled head-in/back-in parking may be installed. The parking will likely require partial reconstruction of the right-of-way and encroachment into the park area; however, the existing 80 foot right-of-way provides more than adequate space to accommodate this arrangement. This parking will provide much needed relief to the area during events and possibly allow larger events to occur, when in the past parking proved to be a hindrance.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Development of an In-Park Path that will circle the park and include an east-west cut-through between existing soccer fields in the southeastern corner of the park.
- Construction of the historic Gazebo/Pavilion replica centrally located in the park.
- Construction of a shelter located between the soccer fields on the southeastern side of the park
- Construct head-in/back-in angled parking along 7th Street.
- Construct head-in/back-in angled parking along 5th Street, directly west of the volleyball court
- Replacement of mature/aging cottonwood trees
- Consider reorganization of some of the younger trees to create more open play areas.
- Development of a community garden.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites into the park.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.

Undine Park

Park Avenue
7th Street
5th Street
Ord Street
Future Public Parking
Future Public Parking
Future Public Parking
0
70
140
Feet
N
E
S
W
"The specific locations of any RECOMMENDED Parks, Trails, and Facilities within this document are HYPOTHETICAL in nature and they are not intended for public use. Locations may change as development occurs."

Washington Park

Park History and Description

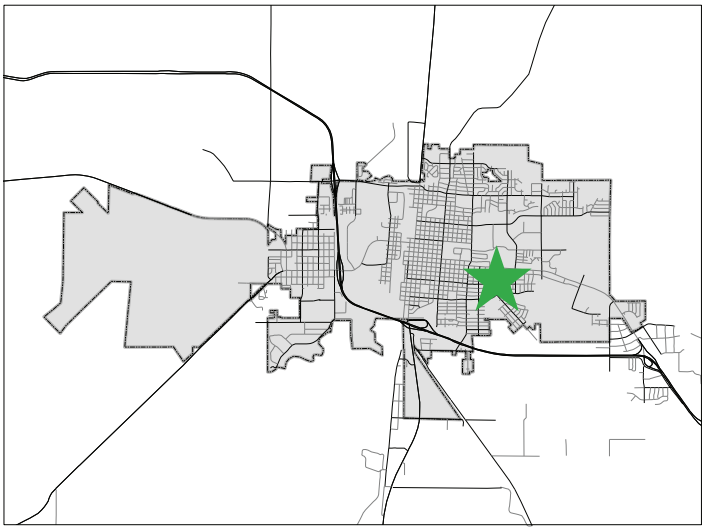
Washington Park is Laramie's most frequently used park by the community not only for general recreation but also for some of Laramie's largest community events such as Freedom Has a Birthday. The property was originally platted by Albany County and deeded to the City in 1947. Washington Park was the original location of the Albany County Fairgrounds. The park was developed in the 1950's and currently serves Service Area 9 and is comprised of 13 acres located between Sheridan Street and Rainbow Street and between 18th and 21st Streets. Washington Park was originally designated as a Neighborhood Park but over time the popularity of the park de-facto made Washington Park Laramie's first true Community Park in 1982.

Current Conditions

Washington Park features 13 acres of developed turf grass complete with mature trees and shrubs that are serviced by an underground irrigation system. The park has multiple park shelters spread throughout with the largest shelter, Otto Dahl Shelter, being ADA accessible and having restrooms. In addition to ADA picnic tables, pads and park benches; there is a large playground, tot lot playground as well as a wading pool. A multitude of recreational opportunities are also present that include a sand volleyball court, 12 lighted horseshoe pits, 2 youth and 1 adult soccer field, a practice baseball backstop, lighted basketball court, a Little Free Library and .75 mile walk/jogging In-Park Path with a 12 station outdoor fitness course around the park perimeter. The park also has an outdoor bandshell that holds multiple musical and cultural events throughout the year, and includes fixed seating and grassy areas for visitors to sit and enjoy the performances.

Park Statistics

- 13 acres
- Created in the 1947
- Community Park
- Service Area 9



Washington Park Context Map.

Sand Volleyball Courts at Washington Park

Current Park Amenities

- *13 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Park shelter with restroom (ADA accessible)*
- *Park shelter(s) (ADA accessible and Non-ADA accessible)*
- *Playground and Tot-lot Playground (ADA accessible)*
- *Bench(s)*
- *Sand volleyball court*
- *Wading pool*
- *Twelve lighted horseshoe courts*
- *Two youth/one adult soccer fields*
- *Baseball backstop*
- *.75 mile walk/jogging In-Park Path around the park*
- *Outdoor bandshell with seating for 220 (ADA accessible)*
- *Outdoor lighted basketball court (ADA accessible)*
- *Little Free Library*
- *Twelve station outdoor fitness course*

Burns Court Lighted Horseshoe Pit at Washington Park

Future Needs

With Washington Park largely developed with most elements necessary for an excellent Community Park, additional amenities are aimed at improving and maximizing the use of the park. Future amenities and upgrades include converting the wading pool to a splash pad which has shown to be an extremely popular amenity in Laramie, an additional restroom and large shelter structure at the northwestern side of the park for added convenience and upgrading the existing playground equipment for ADA compliance.

Washington Park is heavily used, thus requiring a higher level of regular maintenance and upkeep. Also because of the large events the park hosts, off-street parking for these events must be considered. First and foremost, angled parking should be examined along 18th, 21st and Rainbow Streets. Although Sheridan Street may be able to accommodate angled parking, Sheridan should be a "last resort" due to its status as a Collector Street.

In-Park Path which loops Washington Park

Washington Park Wading Pool

Additionally, the Beitel Elementary School site should be considered as an off-street parking area after the school is closed or no longer being used by the School District.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Conversion of the existing wading pool into a splash pad.
- Develop a restroom facility located at the northwestern corner of the park.
- Develop a large shelter located at the northwestern corner of the park.
- Replacement of mature/aging cottonwood trees
- Upgrade existing playground equipment for ADA compliance.
- Examine angled parking along 18th, 21st and Rainbow Streets. Because Sheridan Street is a Collector, angled parking should only be considered as a last resort on this street.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites into the park.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.

Washington Park

Jerry Ullrich Park

Park History and Description

Jerry Ullrich Park is designated as a Playlot Park and currently serves Service Area 8. The park is generally located at the corner of 9th Street and Russell Street. The property was purchased by the City in 1987 and developed in 2001. It is named after Jerry Ullrich, an "unofficial" caretaker of the park site until his passing.

Current Conditions

Current park amenities include .2 acres of developed turf grass with mature landscaping consisting of trees and shrubs all of which are serviced by an underground irrigation system. In addition, there is a memorial park bench in memory of Jerry Ullrich.

Current Park Amenities

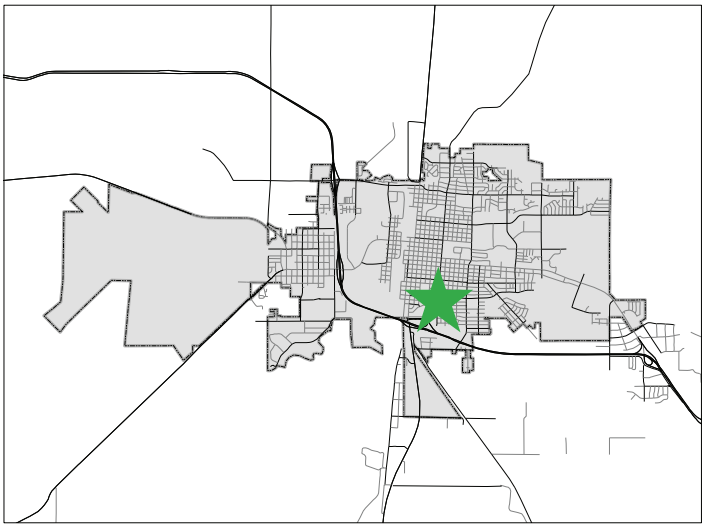
- *0.2 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Memorial park bench in memory of Jerry Ullrich*

Future Needs

Jerry Ullrich Park is a small Playlot Park, with few amenities, however, future improvements and integration into the community Shared Use Path network is anticipated for this park. Although not directly within the park, the Spring Creek Greenbelt Shared Use Path will be directly south and adjacent to the park, on the south side of the Spring Creek Channel. The construction of the Shared Use Path will provide access to the park and areas adjacent to the path. As the path extends along the channel, Jerry's Park is anticipated to serve users of the Shared Use Path as a resting/stopping point

Park Statistics

- 0.2 acres
- Created in the 1987
- Playlot Park
- Service Area 8



Jerry Ullrich Park Context Map

Jerry Ullrich Park

and place of interest. The inclusion of a bike rack, bike service station, trail signage and small picnic shelter will encourage users to stop at this location. Consideration of a restroom should also be explored for users of the Shared Use Path if the area experiences increased use. A bridge across Spring Creek Channel is also needed to allow convenient access to these amenities from the Shared Use Path on the south side of the channel.

Although some of the City owned property is developed, remaining City owned property on both the north and south side of the Spring Creek Channel remain undeveloped. A platted alleyway and additional property located on the north of the Spring Creek channel should be improved and reserved as a future restroom site for users of the Shared Use Path. Because of the alleyway and separate lots, a replat or new plat for this area should be completed to clarify ownership and establish boundaries so improvements to the entire site can occur. In addition, sidewalk improvements along 9th Street, Russell Street and Spring Creek Drive are needed. Additional landscaping and turf grass should also be incorporated into the site as well as a small playground.

Also associated but not technically part of the park is an area on the north side of the Spring Creek Channel, east of 9th Street. This area presently provides a regional Green Waste location for the community. This area is undeveloped and is in need of improved access, landscaping and screening.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- As the Spring Creek Greenbelt Shared Use Path is developed in the area, integration and connection to the park must be completed.
- Develop the park as a resting/stopping point and place of interest along the Spring Creek Greenbelt Shared Use Path through the inclusion of a bike rack, bike service station, trail signage and small shelter.
- Consider a restroom facility geared towards the Share Use Path users.
- Integrate City owned property adjacent to the park and channel into the overall development of the park and adjacent Natural Area. A re-plat or new plat should be considered.
- Establish a playground within the park.
- Screening of the green waste site on the east side of 9th Street as well as landscaping and improved access to this area is needed.
- Develop a footbridge across the Spring Creek Channel to allow path users access to future restrooms and shelter.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites into the park.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.

Jerry Ullrich Park

Jerry Ullrich Park

Imperial Heights Park

Park History and Description

Imperial Heights Park was purchased and dedicated as a future Neighborhood Park by the City in 2008 in an effort to protect the Casper Aquifer from potential contamination due to development. The park is undeveloped and is located at Sherman Hills Road and Morgan Drive, serving Service Area 11.

Current Conditions

The park is approximately 5 acres in size and is undeveloped with no turf grass or other park amenities. The site has a drainage feature that runs through the site, generally east to west, near Morgan Drive and is covered by natural vegetation. The park is also located on eastern most edge of the City limits.

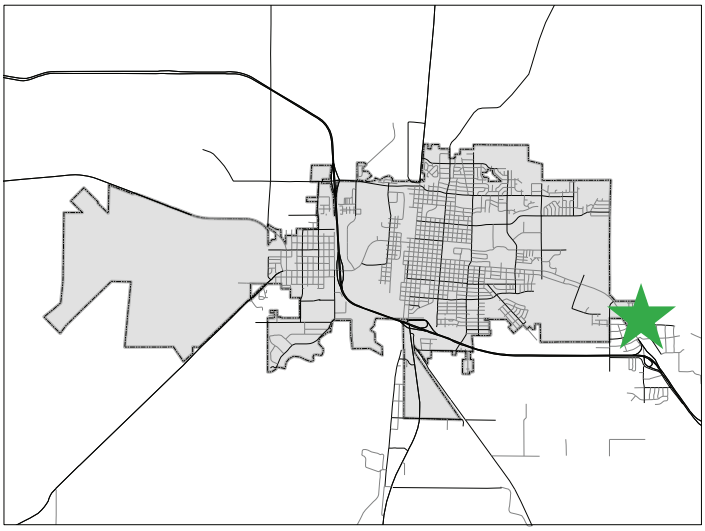
Future Needs

Unlike any other park in Laramie, no improvements have been completed within the park, thus, future needs for this park are extensive. All improvements related to this park should serve the nearby population as it will be the only park that serves the eastern part of the community at this time.

Based on public comments and a committee established to help guide park development, a park that integrates a traditionally improved park into the existing rural and natural landscape found in the area is desired. Areas of the park that are closer to the neighborhood to the northwest will have turf, landscaping, a shelter, playcourts and restrooms. This area will also include a shaded playground that contains both traditional playground components as well as a non-traditional playground area to aid in the transition from developed to natural environment. In the more improved area, an In-Park Path will provide access to park facilities and access over the natural drainage adjacent to Morgan Drive by two bridges and crosswalks at Hackney Drive and the other at Clydesdale Drive. An In-Park Path, in-lieu of a sidewalk, will also be found along Morgan

Park Statistics

- 5 acres
- Created in the 2008
- Neighborhood Park
- Service Area 11



Imperial Heights Park Context Map

Future site of Imperial Heights Park

Drive. As the path extends to the south along Sherman Hills Road, towards a more natural area of the park, the trail will transition to a rural trail which will loop around the entire area and connect back to the path along Morgan Drive via a bridge. The park should also not contain any fences in order to preserve wildlife movement in the area.

In addition to some of the basic and initial improvements, the park will likely receive other improvements. As the park develops, access to the park must be improved. More immediately, ADA parking along Morgan Drive will be needed, with a more formal parking area off of the future Sherman Hills Road to be established once Sherman Hills Road is extended.

Finally, this park is located with the City of Laramie's Casper Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone. All development with the park should be considerate to the potential effects improvement could have to the Aquifer. Considerations such as low maintenance turf, making this a chemical free park and no establishment of Dog Park (due to groundwater contamination concerns), as well as any other alternatives that may aid this action should be explored. At a minimum, a Site Specific Investigation per the APO ordinance will be completed and recommendations of the investigation followed.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Due to the location of the park in the Casper Aquifer Overlay Zone, a Site Specific Investigation shall be completed for development related to the park. Recommendations of the investigation should be followed as well as any other management measures possible in an effort to reduce possible contamination.
- Development of the park should include both improved turf and other improvements near the existing neighborhood to the north and more natural vegetation areas to the south.
- Develop a shelter in the park.
- Develop a restroom facility in the park.
- Develop a playground for the park. The playground will consist of two types; A traditional playground and non-traditional playground.
- Develop an In-Park Path in developed areas of the park. In-Park Path should connect to Rural Trail.
- Develop a Rural Trail in more natural areas of the park. Rural Trail should connect to In-Park Path.
- Installation of two bridges over the natural drainage feature allowing park users access to the park. Hackney Drive and Clydesdale Drive should be the location of the bridges.
- Install crosswalks at Hackney Drive, Sherman Hills Road and Clydesdale Drive.
- Install ADA spaces on Morgan Drive near future bridges. (These spaces may not be needed following development of the off-street parking area.)
- As future development occurs in the area, triggering the need for Sherman Hills Drive, access off Sherman Hills Drive into an off-street parking lot will be needed.
- Develop sports courts within the park.
- No fencing should be permitted in the park in order to preserve wildlife movement in the area.
- Incorporate single stream recycling sites.
- Incorporate public art/sculptures into the park.
- Incorporate a screened green waste site into the park.

Imperial Heights Park

Recreation Center

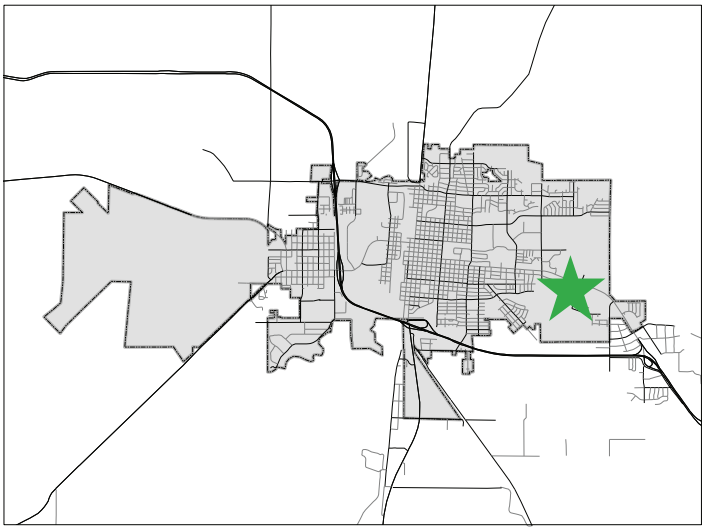
Recreation Center History and Description

A recreation center for Laramie has been a desire of the community for quite some time. Prior to Laramie having a Recreation Center, Laramie attempted to pass a One Cent Sales/Specific Purpose Tax (SPT) two times (1982 and 1996), both failing to gain enough votes to pass. For a third time in 2000 a group of citizens (primarily competitive swimming supporters) started a grass roots initiative to have the Recreation Center placed on the SPT ballot in 2001. The citizens group raised funds to have an architect design a basic recreation amenities program that included a gymnasium, indoor leisure pool, fitness area, and 8 lane lap pool, with an estimated cost for the ballot in question at $9,931,888 along with a $2,000,000 endowment to assist with the operational costs. The Recreation Center advocacy group (now called the Friends of Community Recreation) convinced the elected officials from the City of Laramie, Albany County and Rock River to place all 18 specific purpose tax ballot initiatives under one vote, totaling 28 million dollars in SPT project funds. With bond interest, the tax initiative increased to 34 million, with an estimated payoff in 10 to 12 years. Also included was $500,000 (50% City match for estimated cost) for an outdoor pool; an initiative that was being championed by a separate citizen group who just wanted an outdoor leisure pool. The SPT was approved by the voters of Albany County on August 21, 2001 with 73% of the electorate in favor of the tax initiative.

Following approval by the voters, the City decided on the traditional delivery method of design-bid-build (a design-build and construction manager at risk construction method had not yet been approved in 2002 by the City). The City appointed an eleven member Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee or CRCAC. The City, with the assistance of the CRCAC, solicited requests for proposals, interviewed and selected an architecture firm based in Denver, Olson Lavoie Corporation, Robert McDonald, Architect. The architect design fee was 7.6% of the total construction

Recreation Center Statistics

- Total site 25 acres
- 63,000 sq/ft facility
- Constructed in 2004
- Total construction cost $11,301,000



Recreation Center Context Map

Laramie Community Recreation Center

budget ($9,931,888) for a total of $740,885. Over the next fourteen months, the committee and the architects held stakeholder, committee and public meetings to define the recreation program amenities to include within the final building design, if the outdoor pool should be located with the Recreation Center and specifically where to locate the facility. It was determined to locate the outdoor pool with the Recreation Center on property already owned by the City at the east end of town. With the $500,000 SPT funds for the outdoor pool along with $400,000 in private donations for the outdoor pool and an additional $326,000 from the Albany County Recreation Board the total project budget was $11,157,858, with an estimated construction budget of $9,170,976.

The City pre-qualified four bidders for the project and when bids were opened in May of 2003 only one bid was received in the amount of $10,426,000 for a cost of $168.00 per square foot. With the one responsive bid being approximately 1 million over the construction budget, the architect, committee and staff's recommendation to the Council was to defer the 8 lane pool as a deduction change order, add two lap lanes to the indoor leisure pool and award the bid for construction. The Council approved the change order to remove the 8 lane pool ($976,000 deduction), add two lap lanes to the leisure pool ($165,795 increase), and value engineering deductions of $422,988 for a revised bid award of $8,995,092.

The ground breaking ceremony was held in June of 2003 and construction began in July of 2003 with an estimated construction period of 14 months. The original grass roots citizen group that had started the process was very displeased with the decision to defer the 8 lane pool from the project and started a fundraising campaign to get the 8 lane pool built before the end of the construction period. In eight months the committee raised $474,000 in private donations, $117,000 in exclusive rights agreements and grants, and an additional pledge of $630,000 from the Albany County Recreation Board (ACRB) for a total of $1,221,000 pledged for the 8 lane pool construction. With the commitment from the Albany County Recreation Board an agreement was approved to permit the ACRB to reimburse the City $100,000 each year over four years to fund the 8 lane pool, along with a commitment of $50,000 per

Recreation Center Outdoor Pool

year to offset the estimated 8 lane pool operating costs in exchange for free access for Albany County School District swimming activities. The change order to add the 8 lane pool back on the project was approved in March of 2004 in the amount of $1,757,000.

The Laramie Community Recreation Center was completed in October of 2004 on time and under budget for a total construction cost of $11,301,000 with approximately $350,000 in remaining funds for FFE (furniture, fixtures and equipment) items.

Spinning class at the Recreation Center

Current Conditions

Completion of the Recreation Center has provided an invaluable recreational amenity to the community. The Recreation Center is located at the corner of Garfield Street and Boulder Drive, at the entrance to the Turner Tract. The 25 acre site contains the 63,000 sq/ft Recreation Center facility, outdoor pool, playground, 255 space parking lot, bus parking area/fire access drive, Shared Use Path, landscaped Natural Area and a private day care facility.

Within the facility typical Recreation Center amenities can be found such as; a leisure pool with water slide, play structure and lazy river, 8 lane pool, two court gymnasium, lobby/lounge, indoor play area, circuit weight/cardio areas, walking/jogging track, group exercise room, locker rooms (including family locker rooms), multi-purpose rooms and office space.

In addition to the physical amenities the Recreation Center provides, partnerships have played a major role in the operation of the Recreation Center. Often these partnership are not typically thought of or considered important, however for Laramie they are essential to the operation of the Recreation Center. The City negotiated agreements and partnerships with the School District, hospital, a local fitness provider, local swim club, a local chiropractor, and the local orthopedic medical group to create win/win situations for the City and parties involved.

The School District pays $50,000 per year from the Albany County Recreation Board to support the ongoing maintenance of the 8 lane pool in exchange for free use of the pool for all school district swimming meets. The hospital pays a monthly access fee, along with daily visit fees, for physical therapy with patients in the deep water. The local swim club rents the 8 lane pool per lane/per hour for learn to swim, swim club practices and swim meets. The local orthopedic medical group pays a monthly access fee along with daily visit fees for physical therapy with patients in the deep water. A local long time fitness provider moved her business and clients to the Recreation Center to provide aerobic, step, Pilates, spinning, and other fitness classes within the group exercise room with a negotiated income split. A local chiropractor conducted stretching classes for community members throughout the winter months with profits split between the City and himself.

Finally, the City requested within the initial RFP in 2001, the completion of an operational pro forma, to project expenditures, revenues, staff requirements, cost recovery and operational deficit based upon the facilities program amenities. Similar to other major facilities, a major component to keeping a Recreation Center feasible for a community is keeping operation costs low and proper budgeting. Through the pro forma created the following was developed:

- Projected expenditure budget: $1,266,000
- Projected revenue: $992,000

Current Recreation Center Amenities

- *Indoor leisure pool (0 to 3.5 feet in depth 86 degrees, UV sanitation, 2 - 60' lap lanes 4.5 to 5.5 feet in depth)*
- *Indoor leisure pool with water slide enclosed flume (100' length)*
- *Indoor leisure pool and lazy river (120' long 3.5 depth)*
- *whirlpool/jacuzzi (15 person capacity 102 degrees, ozone sanitation)*
- *Indoor leisure pool with water play structure and water features (arch sprays, geysers)*
- *8 lane 25 yard lap pool (4.5 to 12.6 depth ft, 1 meter diving board, 81 degrees, UV sanitation, continuous trench gutter)*
- *8 lane lap pool with spectator seating for 500*
- *Outdoor leisure pool (0 to 3.5 depth, 85 degrees, 2 - 60' lap lanes 4.5 to 5.5 depth, open from first of June to Labor Day)*
- *Outdoor leisure pool with water slide open flume (120' length)*
- *Outdoor leisure pool with water features and covered shelters (tumble buckets, arch sprays, frog slide, geysers, hot lips)*
- *Two court gymnasium (HS size, dividable curtain, hardwood floor)*
- *Lobby lounge and three computer work stations and wifi*
- *Indoor playground*
- *Babysitting room*
- *Circuit weight area (30 circuit weight machines)*
- *Cardio fitness area (30 ellipticals, treadmills, upright bikes, recumbent bikes, stair stepper and rower)*
- *Stretching area (mats, balls, and web stretcher)*
- *Walk/jog track 11 laps per mile*
- *Group exercise room (hardwood floor for aerobics)*
- *Men's and women's locker rooms*
- *Eight family locker rooms (four dry, four wet)*
- *Two multi-purpose classrooms (commercial vinyl flooring, movable partition wall, seating for 75)*
- *Nine staff offices and ancillary space*
- *Conference meeting room (carpeted, seating for 45, kitchen)*
- *Outdoor pool locker rooms*
- *Outdoor pool concessions area*
- *One staff office, break room, first aid/life guard room*
- *Parking for 255 vehicles*
- *Shared Use Path*
- *Landscaped Natural Area*
- *Partnerships*
- *Operational pro forma budget*
- *public art/sculptures*

Fitness Area in the Recreation Center

- Projected operational deficit: $274,000
- Projected cost recovery 78%
- Additional staff recommendation: 5 FTEs (Aquatics supervisor, maintenance supervisor, recreation coordinator, two maintenance workers.)

The importance of this practice can be seen in the actual numbers; The Laramie Community Recreation Center has met or exceeded the operational analysis pro forma projections every year but one since the facility opened in 2004. This rate is almost unheard of for a recreation center in the region.

Future Needs

With the Recreation Center completed and providing services to the Laramie community for over 10 years, future and changing needs should be monitored in order to keep the Recreation Center viable for the community.

Within the Recreation Center, typical growing pains are being seen that will warrant some expansions and the offering of additional services. The main improvement is a two floor addition to the north side of the building. The 6,000 square foot expansion is anticipated to include two major additions; a free weight and circuit workout area on the ground floor and the second floor expanding the group exercise and fitness space for uses such as aerobics, spinning and other specialized classes. In addition, other amenities are also anticipated to be included such as a sauna, steam room, (youth and adult) bouldering wall as part of the expansion. With these additions, additional parking will be required, thus expansion of the parking lot will coincide with these improvements. Future expansion of the Recreation Center should also be considered as uses and needs for the community change. Keeping the area north of the Recreation Center, between the parking lot and building, available for the facility to expand. Also, if need be, moving the existing playground elsewhere on

The Recreation Center Leisure Pool with waterslide, Lazy River, play equipment and the Whirlpool

the grounds should not be avoided to accommodate a larger facility.

Outside of the Recreation Center other improvements are anticipated that will improve the site and experience for Recreation Center users. As with most parks and recreation sites, incorporating Public Art/Sculptures, Single Stream Recycling and additional landscaping throughout the site is anticipated. Another improvement, Cyclo-cross track, is planned for the vacant area to the southwest of the Recreation Center. The site is perfectly situated for this use, due to topography, thus allowing a more difficult/variable terrain.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continue to provide excellent recreational services and programming to the community at the Recreation Center.
- Continue to use the pro forma budgetary process in order to fiscally manage the Recreation Center.
- Continue to expand landscaping throughout the Recreation Center site.
- Complete the proposed addition to the Recreation Center including the free weight and circuit workout areas and expansion of group exercise and fitness space.
- Expand the front conference room.
- Keep area north of the Recreation Center available for the facility to expand, even allowing the existing playground to relocate if needed.
- Construct a sauna
- Construct a steam room
- Develop a youth/adult bouldering wall as part of the proposed gym addition
- Develop a second indoor water slide in the leisure pool.
- As uses expand on-site, complete needed parking lot expansion based on use expansions.
- Develop a Cyclo-cross track southwest of the Recreation Center, taking advantage of the variable topography.
- Incorporate Single Stream Recycling sites throughout the Recreation Center site.
- Incorporate Public Art/Sculptures throughout the Recreation Center site.

Recreation Center

Ice and Event Center

Ice and Events Center History and Description

The Laramie Community Ice and Event Center has a long history in Laramie that doesn't just involve the current site, but also other locations in Laramie. The first outdoor ice rink was built in Undine Park in the 1940's. Ice skating during the winter months flourished in Laramie throughout the 1950's, and in the early 1960's ice skating was formally added to the burgeoning recreation programming at LaBonte Lake. Skating continued in both locations throughout the years, with the outdoor ice rink in Undine Park being expanded and rebuilt over the years until 1998 when the Laramie Amateur Hockey Club started a fundraising campaign to construct an indoor ice rink in Undine Park. The Undine Park neighborhood objected to having the large building in the park associated with an indoor ice rink. Based on the public opposition, as well as the Hockey Club support for a facility, the City donated 3 acres of land on the edge of the Turner Tract to the Hockey Club to build an indoor ice rink on the property. In 2000 the indoor ice arena was constructed at 3510 E. Garfield Street by the Hockey Club at a total cost of $850,000, with operations run by the City. With the Specific Purpose Tax of 2001, funding was approved for the City to purchase the Ice and Event Center along with funds to complete the lobby/lounge area, locker rooms and bleachers. Most recently, in 2012 an atrium/vestibule was added to the front of the facility.

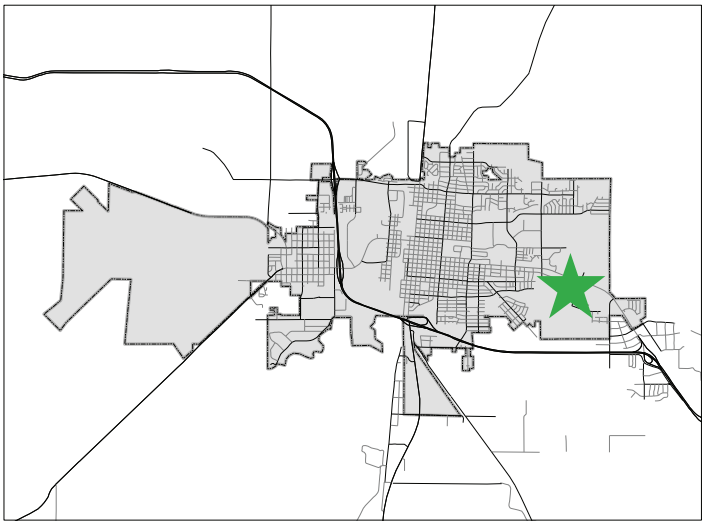
Current Conditions

Despite the popularity and heavy interest in skating within the community, skating no longer exists within Undine Park, nor at LaBonte Lake. The Ice and Event Center is currently the only facility within Laramie that offers this activity.

The center itself, as well as the associated property, contains not only the building which houses the concrete floored rink, lobby, rental counter, concessions, locker rooms, restrooms and multi-purpose room, but also an

Ice and Event Center Statistics

- Total site 3 acres
- 30,000 sq/ft facility
- Constructed in 2002
- Total construction cost $850,000.



Ice and Event Center Context Map

Public Ice Skating at the Ice and Event Center

improved parking lot and site landscaping.

The Ice and Event Center is a modern, dual season facility that offers skating 6 months (October to mid March) of the year and other activities the remainder of the year. With that being the case, the Ice and Event Center has two distinct, separate "seasons" that dictate the use and programming of the facility throughout the year.

During the winter season the center has ice on the skating rink which allows for commonly associated uses such as ice skating, figure skating, instructional classes and league hockey. In addition, activities such as a curling and broomball have grown as a desirable activity in the community since the opening of the center. These activities along with other uses such as UW Club Hockey practice compete with the limited ice time available.

The less thought of, but secondary season for the Ice and Event Center is during the summer. When the ice comes off in April until early September, the center is available for many different types of activities. Not only does the center have a multi-purpose room for parties and activities no matter the season, the main rink area can be used for events such as weddings, a circus and many other types of events. More recently, the City has expanded its summer time programming with roller skating as well.

Current Park Amenities

- ***Total Site 3 acres; includes a building, landscaping and improved parking lot.***
- ***71 space parking lot/5 ADA spaces***
- ***30,000 sq/ft facility***
- ***Concrete floored rink/cooling equipment***
- ***Hockey boards/glass***
- ***Atrium***
- ***Lobby/front counter/rental counter/concessions***
- ***Ice/roller skating rentals***
- ***Zamboni***
- ***Locker rooms***
- ***Restrooms***
- ***Multi-purpose room***

A University of Wyoming Hockey game at the Laramie Ice & Event Center

Future Needs

With the site largely built with the current building and many of the improvements already constructed, physical improvement to the future site will be limited. Maintaining the site and building will continue to be a high priority for the community, thus protecting its investment in the building. General aesthetic improvement is anticipated for the building, as the structure was designed to allow for façade improvements without added structural modifications. Also, when Regency Drive is constructed, realignment of the Shared Use Path will need to occur, bringing the alignment back in line with the intersection of Garfield Street. In addition to the Shared Use Path realignment, an new extension on the east side of Regency Drive will be completed, which will result in relocation of some landscaping on the west side of the Ice and Event Center as well as additional landscaping improvements on the south side of the center.

Although some minor improvements are anticipated, the largest need for the facility will be how it manages "ice time" as competition for the more desirable times increases. Lengthening the "winter" season may need to be considered, although a full year-round "winter" season would not be warranted at this time. Additionally, although not needed now, future consideration may need to be given to how the community can provide additional ice if these winter activities and sports continue to grow. Additional ice would require the construction of a new building, however the cooling equipment is already available in the event this occurs.

In regards to the "summer" season, the center should continue to maximize the use of the facility during this time to accommodate parties, weddings and other events. For a minimum of two months the "summer" season should remain a primary focus of the Ice and Event Center, as the rink was designed with a concrete floor in order to accommodate the above mentioned events. Also, expansion of the recently added roller skate program and possibly any other type of sporting activities should be explored in order to maximize the use of the facility.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continue to maintain the site and building.
- Lengthen the "winter" season by two to three months to accommodate the need for more "ice time"
- Following a needs evaluation, expansion of the Ice and Event Center should be considered in order to provide more ice.
- For a minimum of two months each year the primary focus of the Ice and Event Center should be on "summer" season activities.
- Continue to build the roller skate program.
- Install heating and ventilation in locker rooms
- Complete aesthetic improvements to the building, such as façade treatments.
- Realign the Shared Use Path along Garfield Street back to the intersection when Regency Drive is constructed.
- Extend the Shared Use Path along the east side of Regency Drive, relocating landscaping in this area to the south of the Ice and Event Center and adding additional landscaping on the south side of the center.
- Explore possible ownership issues with the property at the north side of the Ice and Event Center.

Ice & Event Center

Greenhill Cemetery

Cemetery History and Description

Laramie's only cemetery, Greenhill Cemetery, is situated just east of the University of Wyoming campus, near the northeast corner of 15th Street and Willett Drive. The cemetery was established in 1881 and is centrally located within the community, with good views of both the Snowy Range Mountains and Laramie Range. The cemetery is substantially developed and is located in Service Area 6.

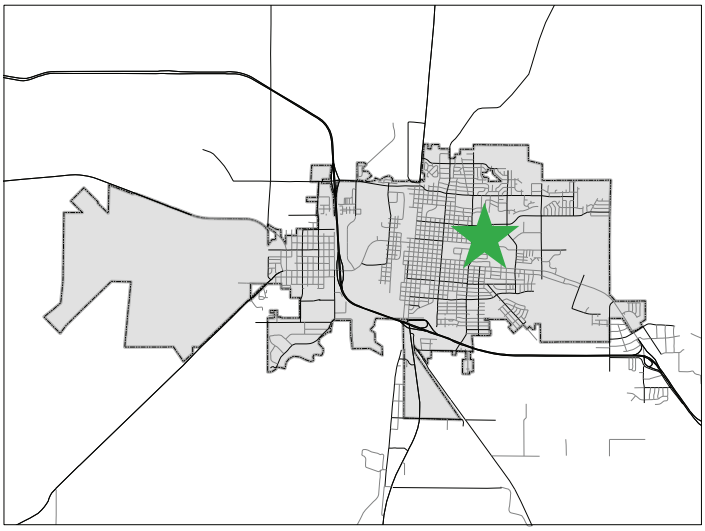
Current Conditions

Greenhill Cemetery is approximately 47 acres in size and centrally located within the community. Aside from the burial plots, the cemetery grounds also contain a mature tree canopy, cemetery office, cemetery maintenance area, roads and community gardens. Although developed with all the typical facilities and improvements needed in a cemetery, a lack of available space for future burial plots and the impending need for a new cemetery location poses a major hurdle that must be addressed.

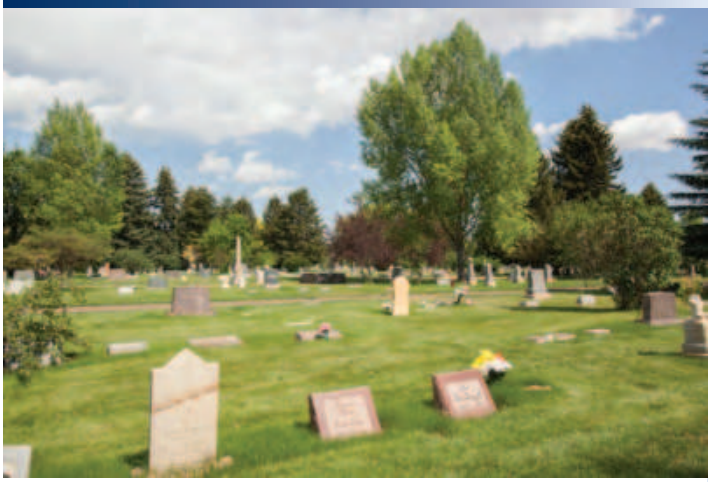
Although, nationally the trend from burial plots to cremation is becoming more common, essentially saving space, burial plots continue to be purchased with more space being needed for cremated remains. It is estimated that within the next 15 to 20 years space may run out or be running extremely low at the current cemetery location. A new cemetery location has been proposed north of town that would accommodate the needs of the community well beyond the next 40 years.

Greenhill Cemetery Statistics

- 47 Acres
- Established in 1881
- Service Area 6



Cemetery Context Map



Greenhill Cemetery

Current Park Amenities

- *47 acres of developed turf grass*
- *Underground irrigation system*
- *Mature landscaping (trees and shrubs)*
- *Over 22,000 burial plots*
- *Cemetery office*
- *Cemetery maintenance area*
- *Burial plot access roads*
- *Community Garden*
- *In-Park Path*
- *Public Restrooms*
- *Avenue of Flags/Veterans Way*
- *Beautification corridor along 15th Street*

Future Needs

Although the current cemetery location has some viable years left, acquisition of the future cemetery site must not be put off and should be made a high priority for the community. Because such a large site will be needed, budgeting for the purchase and acquisition will be needed prior to space in the cemetery actually running out. Additionally, due to the nature of a cemetery, mature landscaping and a quite environment are a must. This means that trees, grass and other facilities (maintenance buildings and offices) are constructed prior to the cemetery actually being put into service. By taking this approach, not only does the resting place for community members have a nice visual appearance, but also the daily on goings at a new cemetery will have less impact on grieving families.

Consideration on how to manage two cemetery facilities will also be needed. First and foremost, continuing to provide the community excellent operations and burial service as well as an attractive monument setting and grounds will not only continue at the existing site but for the future cemetery site as well. However, the need for additional offices, maintenance buildings or other services at the new cemetery location will need to be

Community Gardens located within Greenhill Cemetery

Greenhill Cemetery

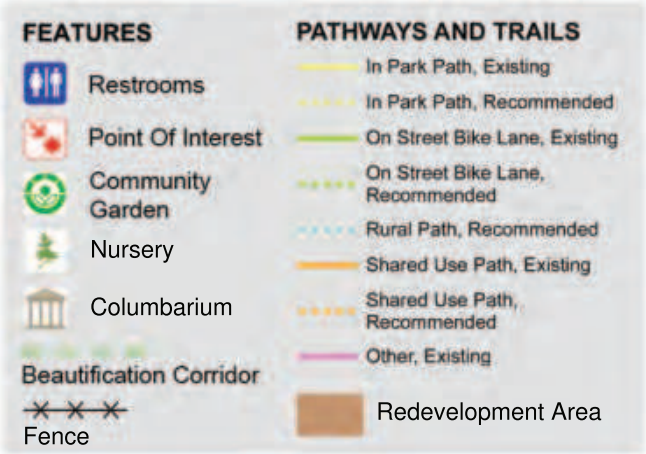
considered. This management decision will need to be made as the new cemetery comes online and the current site has been filled.

Although space is limited at the current facility, one major development is still planned within the site. Because of the increasing demand for cremation, 60-65% increases have been seen, development of a columbarium has been a high desire for community and for the City for some time now. The columbarium is planned to be located just north of Veterans Way, generally in the northeastern area of the cemetery. It is also likely that the new cemetery will have a columbarium.

The current and future cemetery should also consider the need for recreational opportunities outside of traditional burial activities. Activities that are sensitive to the site as a cemetery, but add value to the community such as community gardens, walking paths and prayer/meditation areas should be considered.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continue to provide excellent operations and burial services to the community.
- Continue to provide excellent and attractive monument settings and grounds.
- Development of the columbarium as well as plans for a future columbarium in the future cemetery location.
- Early purchase and acquisition of the property needed for development of a future cemetery site noted in this Plan should be a high priority.
- Begin development of the future cemetery site through instillation of improvements such as trees, grass, shrubs and facilities such as maintenance building and offices.
- Encourage uses outside of burial activities, quiet and passive leisure activities that are compatible with the space such as community gardens, walking paths, prayer/meditation areas, etc.
- Educate the community about cemetery history through improved burial records, walking tours as well as other educational opportunities.
- Replacement of mature/aging cottonwood trees.



Greenhill Cemetery

Laramie Sports Complex

Sports Complex History and Description

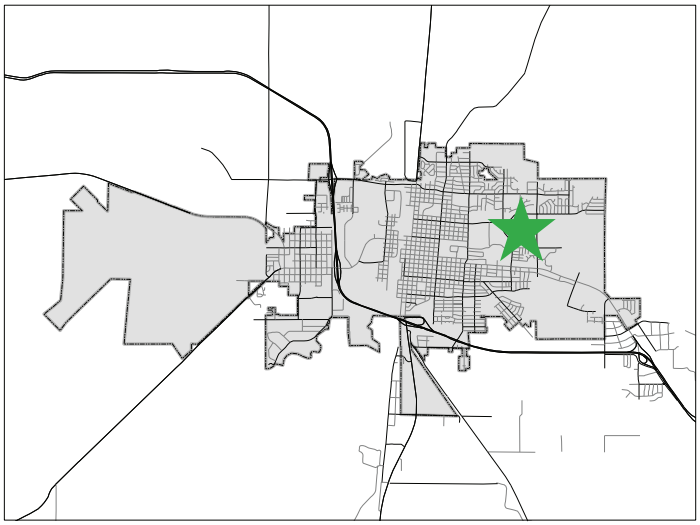
In the late 50's and early 60's (1959-1961) Laramie began work on providing facilities for its burgeoning recreational programming by creating a sports complex. In cooperation with the University of Wyoming, 90 acres were identified as a location to provide a wide variety of recreational amenities that could be shared and jointly used by both entities. Today, a scheduling rights agreement dictates first use, rights on the fields and rights within the facilities between the City and University. The areas located generally east of Television Road, the tennis facility, Cowboy Field, Madrid Field, the North 40 and the Little League Baseball Field complex were all completed by 1961. Later, in the 1970's, an indoor tennis facility was completed, followed by Little League Baseball lighting upgrades in the mid 1980's. The Aragon Softball Fields were built in 1985 and the LaRamie Park/Soccer Fields in 1986-1987. In 2004, another large soccer field complex was added south of Armory Road. Most recently, existing outdoor tennis courts have been covered and placed indoors within a new tennis facility and in 2008-2009 the track at the Madrid Sports Complex was improved with a modern rubber surface. Currently these facilities are used by a wide variety of City and University users.

Current Conditions

Within the 91 acres of property that makes up the Laramie Sports Complex, a wide variety of facilities are provided, with only 20 acres of the site remaining undeveloped for future sports complex uses. North of Armory Road and west of Television Road the Aragon Softball Fields and LaRamie Park/Soccer Fields provide two lighted, adult softball fields and two regulation adult soccer fields respectively, with underground irrigation, a gravel parking area and mature landscaping throughout the site. Also in this area, a temporary (to be made permanent in the future) fenced dog park has been included. Also, north of Armory Road and east of Television Road the Laramie Little League Baseball

Laramie Sports Complex

- 91 Acres (~20 undeveloped acres)
- Established in 1959
- Service Area 6



Laramie Sports Complex Context Map

Aragon Softball Fields at the Laramie Sports Complex

Current Park Amenities

- *Two lighted adult softball fields (Aragon Fields)*
- *Two regulation adult soccer fields (LaRamie Park/Soccer Fields)*
- *Temporary fenced off leash Dog Park*
- *Harney Street Beautification Corridor*
- *Laramie Little League Baseball Complex*
- *4 lighted little league fields (varying sizes/not regulation)*
- *Spectator seating*
- *Restrooms*
- *Concessions*
- *Warm-up areas*
- *Underground irrigation*
- *Mature landscaping*
- *187 space paved parking lot (6 ADA spaces)*
- *Three soccer/rugby /lacrosse fields*
- *Rugby uprights/soccer goals/Lacrosse goals*
- *Fully lighted*
- *23 space paved parking area/drop-off area*
- *Tennis complex*
- *Eight outdoor courts with spectator seating*
- *Four indoor courts including locker rooms, concession and spectator seating*
- *North 40 Athletic Practice Fields*
- *Football practice fields*
- *Soccer practice fields*
- *Shot-put and discus area*
- *Cowboy Field which includes seating, concessions, restrooms, lighting and warm-up*
- *Madrid Sports Complex which includes a track and field amenities, spectator seating, press box, and soccer field*

Outdoor Tennis Courts, with Cowboy Field in the background at the Laramie Sports Complex

Complex is found, which provides 4 lighted little league fields (varying sizes/not regulation), seating, restrooms, and concessions, as well as a paved parking lot with 187 spaces and 6 ADA spaces. The site also includes field fencing, warm-up areas, underground irrigation and mature landscaping.

South of Armory Road, additional uses are found that add to what is offered within the sports complex. On the west side, a large field complex, also known as the intramural fields, include three soccer/rugby fields, rugby uprights/soccer actions, underground irrigation, lighting and semi-mature landscaping found around the perimeter. Further to the east, a small 23 space (1 ADA space) parking area/drop off area is provided for the tennis complex that is located adjacent to the parking area. The tennis complex consists of eight outdoor courts with spectator seating and a large indoor complex that includes four additional courts, locker rooms, concessions and spectator seating. In the area around the tennis courts, as well as the rest of the site to the east (The North 40), extensive mature landscaping is found throughout. East of the tennis courts, an area known as The North 40, contains practice fields for football and soccer, as well as shot-put and discus areas. Also included is the Cowboy Field Complex that contains seating, concessions, restrooms, lighting and warm up areas. Finally, the Madrid Sports Complex is found in the southeast corner of the site which includes track and field amenities, spectator seating, press box and soccer field.

Soccer Fields at the Laramie Sports Complex

Future Needs

With many of the facilities associated with the overall sports complex already constructed and in operation, many newly constructed facilities are not likely; however, due to the age and condition of many of the facilities, improvements, upgrades and possibly new facilities will need to be considered in order to make the sports complex viable for the community in the future. Continued monitoring and maintenance of all the facilities will be needed in order to keep them in good working condition, safe and a valued asset to the community.

Just north of the existing Aragon Softball Complex, a planned expansion area for two additional softball fields, a playground and turf area is anticipated. In conjunction with the expansion, a new parking lot to the north of the new fields would also be warranted, with the main access being formalized and accessed from Harney Street. Depending upon the exact location of the future fields and new parking area, the temporary off leash Dog Park at this location may need to be relocated further to the east, or in an area that works better with the new site development. Harney Street has been identified as a Beautification Corridor, thus, improvements near Harney should include additional landscaping, public art and entryway features for the sports complex, as well as other improvements that will enhance the appearance of this corridor.

The LaRamie Park/Soccer Fields have room to expand, allowing for an additional soccer field to the north as well as a more formalized parking area off of Television Road or Harney Street depending upon the actual location of the new field. This parking area will not only provide parking for events being held in the area but also for the Dog Park.

Improvements are also anticipated for the Little League Fields that will include new fencing, restroom upgrades, bleacher upgrades and a new press boxes.

South of Armory Road, more improvements are anticipated. Some minor improvements include tennis court lighting upgrades as well as improvements to the press box for the Madrid Sporting Complex.

Finally, one of the larger anticipated improvements to the area will be upgrades associated with Cowboy Field. Due to the age of Cowboy Field, major upgrades to the facility are needed. Generally, upgrades to a majority of the facilities associated with the complex are needed including; lighting, restrooms, regarding the infield, press box, bleachers, and field lighting.

Little League Baseball Fields at the Laramie Sports Complex

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continued maintenance and monitoring of all the facilities for safety and longevity.
- Two additional adult softball fields located north of the existing fields.
- Associated with the softball expansion, a playground and turf warm up area would also be included.
- Develop a new parking area north of the softball field expansion area that would include new access off Harney Street, pavement, entry way features and landscaping.
- Subject to future improvement north of LaRamie Park/Soccer Fields, relocation or reconfiguration of the off leash Dog Park may be needed in order to best work with anticipated development in the area.
- Improve the Harney Street Beautification Corridor through landscaping, public art or other improvements.
- Develop a new soccer field and associated improvement north of the existing fields.
- Develop a new parking area north of the soccer field expansion area that would include new access off Harney Street or Television Road, as well as pavement and landscaping.
- Upgrades to fencing, lighting, bleachers, restrooms and press box is needed at the Little League Fields.
- Upgrade lighting associated with the tennis courts.
- Upgrade press box at the Madrid Sporting Complex.
- Upgrades to Cowboy Field including; lighting, restrooms, press box, bleachers, and field lighting.

Laramie Sports Complex

Monolith Ranch

Monolith Ranch History and Description

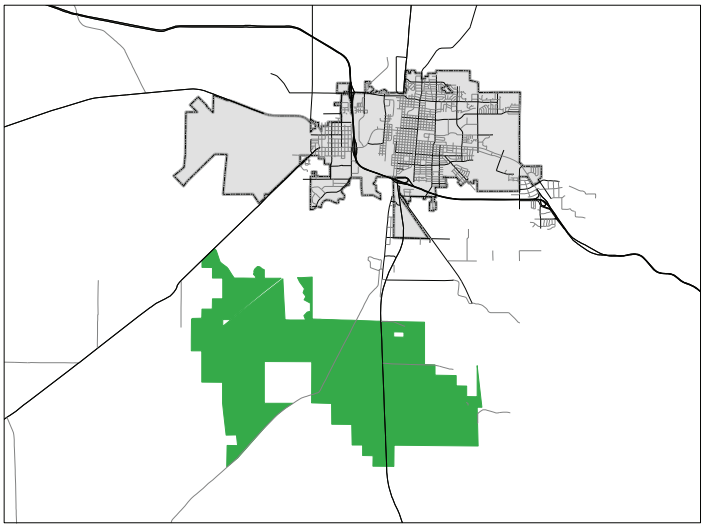
The Monolith Ranch as we know it today was once multiple smaller ranches that operated with a wide variety of uses, ranging from traditional working ranches to use as a limestone quarry. The Ranch was assembled into its current configuration by the Monolith Portland Midwest Company, which is how the ranch got its name "Monolith", making it one of the largest ranches in the area. The ranch is located less than 3 miles south of present day City limits and stretches from Highway 230, across Highway 287 to the east and terminates at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks near the base of the Laramie Range, and currently totals 11,977 acres in size.

In 1981, the Monolith Ranch was purchased by the City of Laramie, as a long-term investment as a reliable and secure water supply. Because of the water rights associated with a significant portion of the Dowlin Ditch, the most senior priority water right in the entire Laramie River basin, acquisition of the ranch secured these rights for future municipal water use. This was extremely important for Laramie, as smaller portions of the Dowlin right had already been converted to municipal use in 1945 and 1963, which has given the City the flexibility to provide municipal water from the Laramie River as well as the Casper Aquifer. After purchase of the ranch it was important to continue to monitor and record the agricultural water use, thus maintaining the water rights. Water usage on the ranch is primarily done through flood irrigation for the grass hay and with a center pivot to irrigate the alfalfa.

Following acquisition by the City of Laramie, the ranch infrastructure has been greatly improved, but the basic operations have changed little, as most efforts surrounding the ranch have remained on preserving the water rights. However, following the City's acquisition some uses have remained while other changes have occurred at the ranch. Those existing uses and changes include; a swap of property with the State of Wyoming for land associated with the Wyoming Territorial Prison

Monolith Ranch

- 11,977 acres
- City Ownership of the Monolith Ranch in 1981
- Found outside all service areas



Monolith Ranch Context Map

Public fishing access point on the Monolith Ranch

(late 80's early 90's), fishing and hunting access being granted on the ranch, drilling possible future municipal wells, new pivot irrigation equipment, and use of part of the ranch for bio-solids spreading among many other uses.

Current Conditions

Although the Ranch is operating with the main goal being the transfer of water rights to municipal use, the current property contains many uses and components that should be noted.

Over the 11,977 acres, dry land grazing, irrigated pasture land and irrigated land by way of pivot and pump equipment are the main uses conducted on the ranch. The irrigation that is conducted on the ranch is for the sole purpose of maintaining the water rights for eventual transfer. The property also contains high production irrigation wells that are used for general agricultural use. Multiple stock wells are also found throughout the property, as well as smaller wells associated with some of the small ranch houses and buildings found on the Ranch such as the Simpson Springs Ranch House, Hunziker Ranch House, Headquarters Ranch House and Abandon Gofourth Ranch House.

In addition, the property has extensive fencing that regulates access, grazing and agricultural uses across the ranch. Hunting and fishing access is allowed, providing an amenity that is unique to this property. Additionally,

Current Monolith Ranch Amenities

- ***~11,977 acres***
- ***9,073 acres of dry land grazing***
- ***2,677 acres of irrigated pasture land***
- ***237 acres of irrigated land by way of a pivot and associated pump and equipment***
- ***Water rights associated with the Laramie River through the Pioneer Canal and Dowlin Ditch for eventual conversion to municipal water use***
- ***High production irrigation wells for general agricultural use, with future municipal potential (Hunziker Well)***
- ***Multiple stock tanks wells throughout the Ranch***
- ***Simpson Springs municipal production wells (2 current, 1 future well), and associated monitoring wells.***
- ***Simpson Springs Ranch House and associated improvements (wells, outbuilding, barns, corals)***
- ***The Gofourth Reservoir (~160 acre feet, multiple improvements needed, including engineering related to the dam)***
- ***Hunziker Ranch House and associated improvements (well, with outbuilding and corals in poor condition)***
- ***Headquarters Ranch House and associated improvements (well, outbuildings, barns, corals, equipment storage, hay-stack yard)***
- ***Abandon Gofourth Ranch House and associated improvements (well)***
- ***Fencing throughout the Ranch property which regulates access on/into the ranch and provides agricultural and grazing use separation.***
- ***Laramie River fishing access***
- ***Hunting access***
- ***Five Mile Reservoir (in poor repair and washed out, no known water rights associated with it).***
- ***Laramie River riparian areas***
- ***Improved gravel access roads***
- ***Monolith Ranch Agricultural Management Plan***
- ***Management Plan for Water Rights on the Monolith Ranch***

Farming operations on the Monolith Ranch

two reservoirs, the Gofourth Reservoir and Five Mile Reservoir, are both in disrepair but are found on the property.

More information regarding the Monolith Ranch and water rights associated with the Ranch can be found in the 2004 Fassett Consulting, LLC report titled *Management Plan for Water Rights on Monolith Ranch* and the 2004 City of Laramie Monolith *Ranch Agricultural Management Plan.*

Future Needs

With the near future of the Monolith Ranch being the maximization of the City's water use/rights for eventual transfer of those rights to municipal use, the future goals and needs of the Monolith Ranch can be divided into two distinct phases; prior to and following the transfer of water rights to municipal use.

With the use of the Ranch largely dependent upon the water rights associated with it, the primary objective and goal of the Monolith Ranch must be maintaining and maximizing the water rights for eventual transfer of those rights for municipal use. Continuation of the uses associated with the water rights objectives, such as irrigation, pivot irrigation and use of well water, should remain the highest priority. The continued management and operation of the other secondary but associated uses of the Ranch must also remain, including but not limited to grazing, fishing, land management and hunting, as well as the other general agricultural uses that are conducted. This means continued maintenance of fencing, land quality, roads, grazing management and access all must be monitored and assessed, in order to protect the investment the City has with the ranch not only as a future water right, but as a land resource and member of the surrounding rural community.

Although preservation of the water rights must remain a priority, one of the major needs and goals of the Ranch must be development of a Monolith Ranch Master Plan. Throughout the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a desire to have a long-term, forward thinking plan was mentioned often. A comprehensive plan for the Ranch must be developed as soon as possible, not only for the management of the water rights before, following and after transfer to municipal use, but also for present and future land uses, access, sensitive land protection, trails and recreation opportunities, use of land for potential trades or land swaps (for recreation, development, etc.), resource protection, economic development, wind and solar energy possibilities and preservation of the historic ranching/agricultural history among many others items the plan might address. In addition, other more specific items were recommended to be included or addressed in the plan such as preserving access to the Laramie River and protection of the riparian/wetland areas on the ranch (Laramie River and Simpson Springs) which were both identified as "sensitive areas" on the ranch that should be protected from development and any access to the areas while being considerate of their potential impact. Other items considered were a large scale community garden location, trails, use of land on the ranch for transfers of development rights, preservation of access easements even if land is sold/developed/transferred/traded, preservation of potential future access to the eastern foothills, expanding recreational programming on the Ranch and reducing fencing if possible (not impacting grazing, access restriction etc.) around trails and throughout the Ranch. With the potential of the Monolith Ranch, in terms of size

and amenities, the Ranch should be considered as and developed like a Regional Park catering to the region not just Laramie.

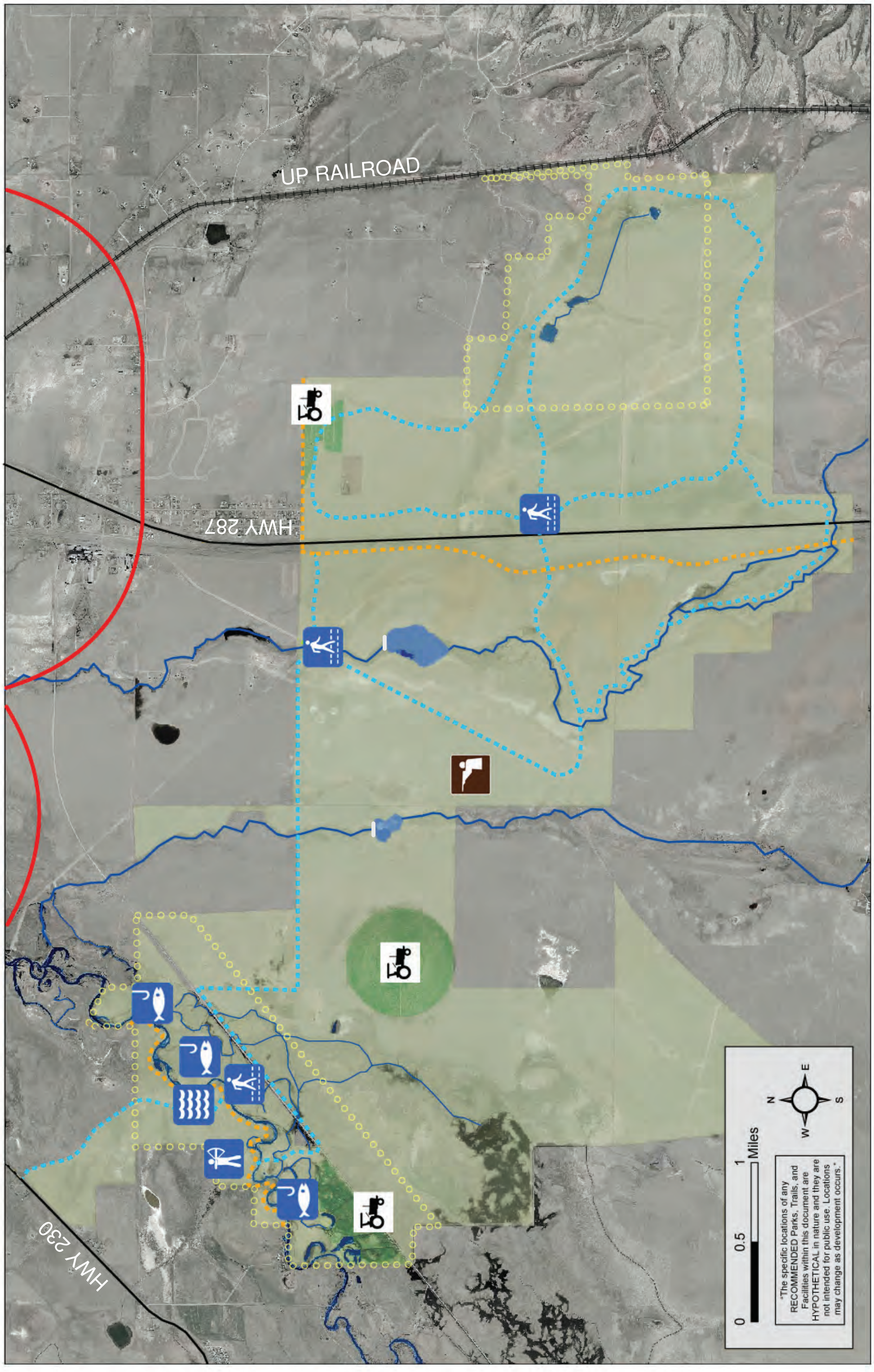
With the above issues, as well many more, examined by a plan, a roadmap to shaping the present and future of the Ranch and how it is managed will be available. Once the plan for the Ranch is completed, goals and objectives associated with the plan that may be undertaken or completed prior to the transfer of the water rights should be explored and implemented. However, caution should be taken that any objectives or goals of the plan that are implemented prior to the transfer of the water rights, do not jeopardize the water right itself.

Following transfer of water rights to municipal use and with the adoption of a Monolith Ranch Master Plan, a detailed plan will be available that should be followed after the main goal of the Monolith Ranch is fulfilled; transfer of the water rights to municipal use. It is likely that many of the objectives in the plan will depend upon the transfer of the water rights being completed, thus allowing for other possible uses or changes at the Ranch to occur. The wide ranging possibilities on the Ranch that the plan may address are difficult to pinpoint, however, with the plan these future uses can be considered, evaluated and implemented if deemed appropriate.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Maintain and maximize the water rights associated with the Ranch in order to maximize the future potential of water rights transfer to municipal use
- Continue uses on the Ranch that aid in eventual transfer of water rights to municipal use such as irrigation, pivot irrigation and use of well water on the Ranch.
- Rehabilitate all unused water rights.
- Continued management of the Ranch's lands, resources and uses.
- Develop the Monolith Ranch Master Plan. The Monolith Ranch Master Plan should address, but not be limited to the evaluation of:
    - Water rights
    - When water rights should be transferred and what will trigger the transfer
    - Land use analysis
    - Future access, trails and recreation opportunities as a Regional Park
    - Use of land (trade/sale) to aid in acquisition of facilities identified within this plan
    - Resource protection (wetlands, riparian areas, aquifer, sensitive lands)
    - Economic development (land trades/swaps, transfer of development rights, general sale, development projects such as business, industry, etc.)
    - Wind and solar and other possible energy possibilities
    - Preservation of historic/ranching/ agricultural history
    - Community gardens (large and small scale)
    - Preservation of access throughout the Ranch, regardless of ownership, through easements or ownership retention for future trail access
    - Expansion of recreation programming through the Ranch.
    - Sensitive areas identified on the ranch should be protected from development and any access to the areas should be considerate of their potential impact.

Monolith Ranch



Laramie Rifle Range

Laramie Rifle Range History and Description

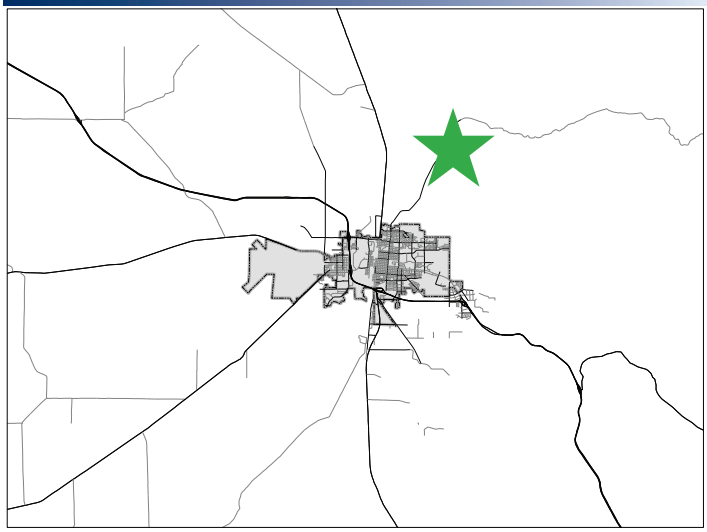
Located almost 4 miles north of City Limits, the Laramie Rifle Range is found just east of Rogers Canyon Road, on a property over 600 acres in size owned by the City of Laramie. The site has been in operation since 1986 and is managed and leased by the Laramie Rifle Range Corporation. The Laramie Rifle Range Corporation manages the property for the City, as it was acquired from the Union Pacific Railroad, who in turn donated it to the City of Laramie. The donation of the land to the City was deed restricted, which stipulated that the land must be used for public shooting purposes.

Current Conditions

The Laramie Rifle Range provides shooting range services to the Laramie community through a cooperative lease with the City and Laramie Rifle Range Corporation. Sport shooting is a highly desired activity and widely participated in, making this amenity important to the community all while providing a safe and controlled experience for shooters. The range is open to members 365 days as year (following an orientation class), and open to the public on one Saturday a month (May through September) and every weekend (September through October). Access to the site off Rogers Canyon Road is on an improved/graded gravel road that provides access to a paved parking lot, restroom facilities and shooting areas. The Rifle Range provides areas for standard outdoor pistol and rifle shooting, including long-range firing lines at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards for rifles. Other amenities include archery and trap areas. A shooting shed is also available for winter or inclement weather shooting.

Laramie Rifle Range

- 600 Acres (~325 used acres)
- Established in 1986
- Found outside any service areas



Rifle Range Context Map

Laramie Rifle Range

Laramie Rifle Range

Future Needs

As with any facility, continuing to assess the needs of the users should be a high priority. With recent improvements seen at the site, a better user experience is being provided. Continuing to maintain these facilities and experiences by assessing membership and users in relationship to needs of the facility must remain. Partnership with the Laramie Rifle Range Corporation is also important in keeping this facility an asset to the community.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continue the partnership with the Laramie Rifle Range Corporation in regards to lease arrangements related to use of the site.
- The Laramie Rifle Range Corporation should continue to assess membership and users related to membership cost and services provided at the range.
- Continue maintenance of existing facilities.
- Continue to provide the wide variety of shooting disciplines offered on-site as required by the deed restriction.
- Develop an improved archery location at the Rifle Range.

Current Park Amenities

- ***Improved/graded gravel access road***
- ***Paved parking area***
- ***Restroom facilities***
- ***Pistol range***
- ***Rifle range***
- ***Long-range (800, 900 and 1,000 yard) rifle range***
- ***Archery range***
- ***Trap range***
- ***Shooting shed for inclement weather shooting***
- ***Student, individual, family and affiliate membership available.***
- ***Non-member use available.***
- ***Property fencing***

Laramie Rifle Range

Highway 30 Natural Area

Highway 30 Natural Area History and Description

Located just over 2 miles north of the City limits, just west of Highway 30, the Highway 30 Natural Area consists of 80 acres of largely undeveloped property. Acquired in 1986, the site has two primary uses, a motocross dirt track and the Barnstormers "runway". The site also has access to the Laramie River.

Current Conditions

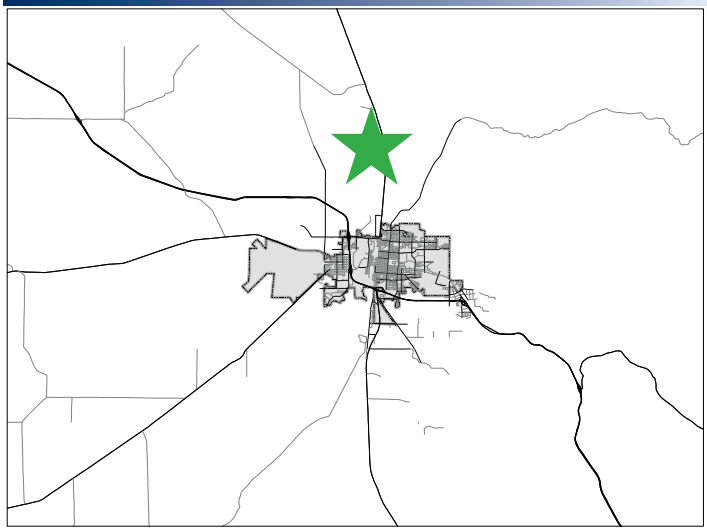
Largely unimproved, the 80 acre site is split by Highway 30, north to south. On the east side of the highway, approximately 20 acres of the property are used as a motocross dirt track by the Laramie Dirt Riders. The site is maintained and leased by the Laramie Dirt Riders and provides a nearby facility for this growing sport. On the west side of Highway 30, on the remaining 60 acres of the site, only two small areas are used. One area near the southern end of the site hosts the Laramie Barnstormers airstrip, a "runway" allowing planes from the local remote controlled airplane club a place to land. This land is also leased and maintained by this organization. Another small portion of the property is used as a storage area, the "bone yard", for miscellaneous Public Works materials. The remainder of the property is vacant, but it does have access to the Laramie River at the north side of the property.

Current Park Amenities

- *Laramie Barnstormers airstrip*
- *Motocross dirt track*
- *Public works storage yard, the "bone yard"*
- *Improved gravel access road*
- *Property fencing*

Highway 30 Natural Area Statistics

- 80 Acres
- Established in 1986
- Found outside all service areas



North Context Map

Laramie Barnstormers Airstrip

Laramie Barnstormers Club's Runway

Future Needs

With the property largely vacant, the site is poised for improvements and larger integration into the overall parks and recreation network. However, due to the remote nature of the site, leaving the property as a Natural Area verses a more traditional park for the foreseeable future is highly likely. Continued assessment of the feasibility and compatibility of existing uses on the site is needed as future uses look to this area as a possibility. Capitalizing on the river access this site provides is highly desired, not only for fishing access but also as a future take-out point for boaters, rafters or kayakers starting south of this site. Also, due to the river access and the intent to keep the property more natural, use of the site as a future education area may provide a unique amenity to our parks system that cannot be offered elsewhere.

Short, Mid and Long Term Actions

- Continue to assess current and future uses for feasibility and compatibility.
- Maintain access to the limited facilities on the property.
- Determine timing and need for river access as a potential take-out point on the Laramie River.
- Allow access to the property for fishing.
- Assess the need/desire in creating educational opportunities at the site. Cooperation with other groups and agencies should be examined for who may want to use this site.

Highway 30 Natural Area