

Widefield Community Park Master Plan

March 2017



**El Paso County Community Services
Planning Division**

~ Acknowledgements ~

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RESOLUTION NO 17-112

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF EL PASO, STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
WIDEFIELD COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013) recommends development of site-specific master plans for County park properties and regular updates of existing plans to guide capital improvements, support third-party funding requests, and to continue to provide the facilities and services that citizens value; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Strategic Plan supports the development of master plans and the continued improvement of park facilities and recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Division of the Community Services Department initiated the development of a master plan for the improvement and management of Widefield Community Park in mid-2016; and

WHEREAS, the County used a multi-pronged public involvement process that included stakeholder interviews, two public meetings, a web-based community survey, a dedicated project webpage, public master plan review, and other forms of outreach and notification, and citizens and groups have expressed their support for the master plan; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso County Park Advisory Board endorsed the Widefield Community Park Master Plan at their meeting on March 8, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Widefield Community Park Master Plan was presented to the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval on March 30, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners of El Paso County, Colorado, hereby approves the Widefield Community Park Master Plan.

DONE THIS 30th DAY OF MARCH, 2017 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ATTEN
By: 
County Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

By: 
Darryl Glenn, President

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Figure 1 – The Playground at Widefield Community Park Awaits Visitors

CHAPTER 1 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Nestled into its urban setting, Widefield Community Park is situated along the shaded banks of the Crews Gulch drainage, which flows through the entire length of the park. The 50-acre park contains a mix of man-made grassy areas, natural open spaces, and active-use facilities, with clusters of mature elm and cottonwood trees near Crews Gulch itself. The park's main active use area consists of a multi-use athletic field, picnic tables with BBQ grills, basketball courts, and a playground. Crews Gulch Regional Trail, like its namesake, meanders through the park, connecting the park with Fountain Creek Regional Trail to the southwest.

The park's first acreages were acquired in 1972, when the then "El Paso County Park and Recreation District" was deeded two parcels of land of approximately 34 acres from Widefield Homes, Incorporated, after which park amenities were planned and built almost immediately. In December 2002, Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company and Fountain Mutual Metropolitan District deeded 17 acres of land to El Paso County, including McCrae Reservoir, thus increasing the size of Widefield Community Park to its present-day 50 acres.

Other than minor updates and the construction of the disc golf course in 1996, the park has not been updated significantly and is subject only to routine and periodic maintenance cycles. Trails and other park infrastructure, such as playgrounds and restrooms, are in need of either major upgrades or total modernization to coincide with today's public needs and recreational standards.

Master Plan Purpose

The Widefield Community Park Master Plan is a guiding document whose purpose is to strategize and provide outdoor recreation opportunities and land stewardship within the park. The planning process was designed to comprehensively address the needs of Widefield Community Park, specifically active use areas, trails, open space, and recreational facilities. The Master Plan endeavors to provide a sustainable approach to allocation of resources for the next ten years, and to provide the elements of a first phase of improvements that will be initiated immediately. The process established essential goals, while incorporating needed changes and new ideas based on input by stakeholders and analysis of data. The Master Plan will guide El Paso County Park's efforts to continue to provide a high quality of parks, recreation, and cultural services that are valued by citizens.

Since Widefield Community Park was originally constructed, there have been many changes in the demographics of, and interests among, park users. The community is requesting new, updated, and/or different facilities as a result of the population growth and cultural changes within the region, as well as national trends. The survey conducted during this Master Plan process documents some of these new

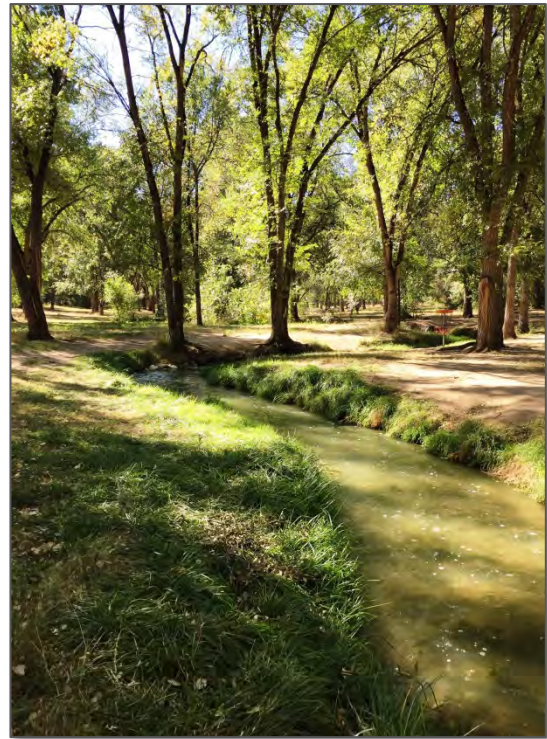


Figure 2 – Crews Gulch Flowing Through Widefield Community Park

requests, and demonstrates that the development of the Widefield Community Park Master Plan is a very timely and worthwhile activity. It will be used by County Park staff and policy makers to aid in decisions related to capital improvements, maintenance, and land stewardship for years to come.

Master Plan Vision

El Paso County Parks currently manages approximately 50 acres of active use areas, regional and internal park trail corridors, native open space, wetlands, and active floodplains within Widefield Community Park. This Master Plan is intended to provide a vision for the future of Widefield Community Park, continuing the facilities and services that citizens value along with providing new facilities, recreation opportunities, and cultural services programs. It explores existing conditions and future needs from the vantage point of the public, stakeholders, and County staff and leaders to provide a roadmap for the future. This vision is further expressed through the following goals, action items, and implementation plan.

Planning Process

The Widefield Community Park Master Plan process began in July 2016 with the establishment of a Master Plan Team, comprised of El Paso County staff members from both the Community Services Department (Planning, Park Operations, Cultural and Recreational Services, Community Outreach, Environmental) and Public Works (Transportation, Engineering). County staff prepared a community survey, which was launched online in September 2016 seeking comments from the general public related to park improvements. The Master Plan Team used the survey results, in combination with input from stakeholder interviews and the first public meeting held in October 2016 to develop recommended improvements for consideration in the Master Plan. In addition to the second public meeting held in February 2017, the Widefield Community Park Master Plan was presented at public hearings before the Park Advisory Board for endorsement and the Board of County Commissioners for final approval, both in March 2017. Below is the timeline utilized and updated throughout the master planning process.

Widefield Community Park - Master Plan Project Timeline									
Task	2016						2017		
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Conduct Meetings with Master Plan Team									
Prepare Master Plan Outline Documents									
Review Existing Plans and Documents									
Create Master Plan Team									
Establish List of Key Stakeholders									
Stakeholder Interviews									
Establish Online Public Survey									
Create Project Web Page									
Data Collection and Analysis									
Prepare Existing Conditions Chapter									
Compile and Analyze Public Survey Results									
Conduct First Public Meeting (October 2016)									
Compile First Public Meeting Input									
Analyze Inputs and Develop Recommendations									
Develop Master Plan First Draft									
Internal Master Plan Team Review of First Draft									
Conduct Second Public Meeting (February 2017)									
Public Review of Draft Master Plan									
Develop PAB Draft Master Plan									
PAB Presentation / Approval (March 2017)									
Produce BoCC Draft Master Plan									
BoCC Presentation / Approval (March 2017)									
Approved Master Plan for Public Distribution									

Figure 3 - Master Plan Timeline

Summary of Master Plan Goals

The establishment of goals specific to the Widefield Community Park Master Plan was based upon not only the overall El Paso County Parks system goals and objectives, but also through a thorough analysis and understanding of the community preferences demonstrated by the results of the public survey, stakeholder interviews, public meetings, and input from the Master Plan Team. As a result, the following goals have been established for this Master Plan:

- **Overall Park and Recreation Area**
 - Create a sustainable future for Widefield Community Park with respect for social, economic, and environmental values.
 - Continue and improve maintenance and enhancement of existing park facilities with a focus on user safety, ADA accessibility, and multi-generational use.
 - Identify and site future park amenities and facilities with continued respect for the natural environment and surrounding neighborhood.
 - Continue to meet the recreational and cultural needs of the citizens regardless of age or abilities.
- **Regional and Internal Park Trails**
 - Work collaboratively with other agencies and organizations to promote connectivity between neighborhoods and destinations.
 - Identify trail connections that would provide citizens of all abilities a safe and efficient route to Widefield Community Park, following both ADA guidelines and National Recreation and Park Association recommendations for Safe Routes to Parks.
 - Plan, maintain, and build trails and trail facilities to a more sustainable standard using a hierarchy of multi-use trails and current best management practices.
- **McCrae Reservoir Open Space / Crews Gulch**
 - Preserve existing open space for wildlife habitat and passive recreation.
 - Encourage and enhance user access to the McCrae Reservoir section of the park.
 - Avoid development within the floodplain to preserve watershed function and avoid unnecessary infrastructure repair costs.
 - Maintain and enhance the functionality of the wetland and riparian areas.
- **Recreation and Cultural Services Programs and Facilities**
 - Provide a venue for sporting, cultural, and community events.
- **Management and Administration**
 - Increase enforcement of park rules and regulations as a means to increase safety and reduce multi-use conflicts.
 - Consider strategic acquisitions adjacent to park land to allow for expansion and protect park values.
 - Assess maintenance standards and schedules in consideration of stakeholder comments and recommendations.
 - Evaluate current forest and turf management objectives in regards to tree and turf health, irrigation efficiency, control of invasive species, and fuels management.

- **Community Awareness**
 - Promote environmental awareness through healthy, active, outdoor opportunities.
 - Promote neighborhood and regional connectivity between Widefield Community Park and surrounding recreational opportunities.
 - Provide information on park facilities, programs, and rules governing use.

- **Implementation and Funding**
 - Generate partnership opportunities for projects and programs.
 - Enhance Widefield Community Park's facilities and programs through new and existing funding sources and partnerships.
 - In order to address stakeholder needs, identify and pursue all available funds for implementation of Phase I renovations and improvements to existing park facilities.

Summary of Action Items

Based upon the Master Plan Goals list above, the following improvements are recommended:

Overall Park and Recreation Areas – Many of the recommendations brought forth in the public input process addressed issues and infrastructure improvements that impact Widefield Community Park as a whole. These recommendations were also taken into consideration when planning the other more specific categories. Action items are comprised of, but not limited to, restroom renovations, park beautification, expansion of parking areas, trail improvements, playground renovation and enhancement, picnic and events pavilions, disc golf course improvements, and installation of basic amenities such as benches, trash cans, and pedestrian lighting.

Regional and Internal Park Trails – Crews Gulch Regional Trail, which runs southwest to northeast through Widefield Community Park, offers connections between the park's surrounding neighborhoods and other recreation opportunities, most of which lie to the southwest. At Widefield Community Park, the County currently provides and maintains approximately 1 mile of the Crews Gulch Regional Trail, existing as an eight-foot wide concrete or gravel surfaced trail that accommodates multiple uses. Approximately 1 mile of informal social trails exist within the park, accessing primarily those areas west of Crews Gulch, providing access to the disc golf course and an alternative to the regional trail. In addition to the trails, Widefield Community Park has approximately .5 mile of concrete sidewalks that allow for smooth-surface pedestrian use and exercise opportunities.

This Master Plan proposes the conversion of nearly 1 mile of social trails to proper Tier III internal park gravel trails, utilizing existing paths or relocating those which are causing damage to the park's infrastructure and ecosystem. Recommendations also call for enhanced trail amenities and increased connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods and other recreation opportunities. These proposed trail improvements include using sustainable trail design practices to minimize the cost of future maintenance and infrastructure costs.

McCrae Reservoir Open Space / Crews Gulch – Of Widefield Community Park's 50 acres, approximately 15 acres is comprised of the practically untouched wetland and riparian area surrounding McCrae Reservoir. Accessed via a pedestrian tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard, park users have limited recreational opportunities at McCrae Reservoir, due in part to healthy wetlands that at times hide the reservoir from view. Results from both the public survey and stakeholder interviews revealed that park users not only prize this open space area, and want to keep it natural and maintained, but with improved accessibility for the purpose of wildlife viewing and bird watching. Master plan goals, as

stated previously, call for preservation of open space for wildlife habitat and passive recreation, increase reservoir accessibility, and to maintain and enhance wetland and riparian areas.

Draining from McCrae Reservoir, Crews Gulch flows through the entire length of Widefield Community Park, providing for a unique natural and scenic resource. Surrounded by towering elm and cottonwood trees, Crews Gulch also creates an interesting obstacle for those playing disc golf, as baskets and tee boxes dot both sides of the waterway, with interconnecting social trails crossing over Crews Gulch via aging and sometimes restrictive culverts.

Recommended action items include the repair or replacement of culverts along Crews Gulch, redesign and renovation of the Crews Gulch access and drainage tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard, and the installation of a floating wildlife observation platform on McCrae Reservoir.

Recreation and Cultural Services Programs and Facilities – As a neighborhood park, Widefield Community Park is unique when compared to other El Paso County Parks, due to its urban environment and close proximity to neighboring residents. Therefore, recreational opportunities are limited primarily to those activities found in other urban parks, focusing on physical recreation and exercise, group activities, and even sporting events. As the park evolves, however, care must be taken to balance recreational use of the park, as a venue for sporting, cultural, and community events, with preservation of its limited natural resources as potential educational and interpretive opportunities. Action items include the promotion of community events, the construction of an events pavilion, and continued support of disc golf events and regional tournaments.

Management and Administration – Responsible management and administration of Widefield Community Park will ensure that the park remains financially and environmentally sustainable for years to come while meeting resident and visitor needs. Master Plan goals call for enforcement of park rules and regulations, increased safety, and improved maintenance standards and practices. To address these goals, action items include improved park signage to reduce user conflict, safety improvements, unauthorized park access reduction measures, strategic land acquisitions, and improved forest, irrigation, and turf management practices.

Community Awareness – Outreach programs provide awareness, sponsorship, fundraising, and volunteer opportunities to support programs and facility development of El Paso County parks, trails, open spaces, Nature Centers and other facilities. Outreach services provides opportunities to benefit the community and improve the quality of life for County residents with volunteer opportunities such as Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Trail, friends groups and park volunteers, as well as donation opportunities through such programs as Partners in the Park and the Trust for Community Parks. Action items are centered on increased community relations and communication, as well as promoting connectivity between Widefield Community Park and surrounding recreational opportunities.

Implementation and Funding – The prioritization and phasing of capital improvements for Widefield Community Park as expressed in the Implementation Plan in Chapter 7 was derived from input by the public, stakeholders, and Master Plan Team members, with endorsement by the Park Advisory Board and approval by the Board of County Commissioners. This initial capital improvement budget gives consideration new and improved facility and critical maintenance needs, while taking into account available funding, benefit for cost, project complexity, and improvement urgency. In a continuing effort to enhance the Park's facilities and programs, Master Plan goals and action items focus on generating and researching new partnership opportunities and funding sources to assist with the planning,

development, and implementation of new projects and programs. Chapter 7 provides a detailed explanation of existing and possible funding sources, and a structured view of the proposed phased improvements, to be completed within the next ten years.



Widefield Community Park is a 50-acre linear park situated along Crews Gulch between the cities of Colorado Springs and Fountain. The park includes a section of Crews Gulch Regional Trail, an 18-basket disc golf course, basketball courts, tennis court, picnic tables with BBQ grills, playground, multi-purpose field with baseball backstop, and the Flight 585 Memorial pavilion and tree grove. Park users can also visit picturesque McCrae Reservoir via a pedestrian access tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard. Ceres Park, Fountain Creek Regional Park, and Fountain Creek Regional Trail, all located to the southwest of Widefield Community Park, can be reached via Crews Gulch Trail.

Park Hours:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Reservation season:
April - October



Driving Directions:
Widefield Community Park can be reached from Interstate 25 to exit 135; east on South Academy Boulevard to South US Hwy 85 to Fontaine Boulevard heading east to Drury Lane.



Widefield Community Park



To Bluestem Prairie Open Space



McCrae Reservoir



Disc Golf Course



Restroom / Baseball Backstop



Memorial Pavilion

Map 1 - General Map of Widefield Community Park

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CHAPTER 2 – EXISTING CONDITIONS

Background

In September of 1972, the then “El Paso County Park and Recreation District” was deeded two parcels of land of approximately 34 acres from Widefield Homes, Incorporated. Widefield Homes began building homes in the Security-Widefield area in the late 1950s, on nearly 3,000 acres located generally south and east of Widefield and Fontaine Boulevards. Nestled among the approximately 7,000 homes constructed by Widefield Homes, the 34-acre parcel was soon to become known as Widefield Community Park, with planning and construction commencing in the mid-1970s.



Figure 4 - Widefield and Security in the Late 1960s, Showing Widefield Community Park's Future Location Outlined in Yellow

The landscape architecture firm, Key/Fletemeyer Associates, was contracted to develop the first and only known master site plan for Widefield Community Park, as seen below in Figure 4. Many of the components of this plan were included in the original park construction, including the baseball field, playground, parking area, restroom, and the unique small basketball courts located adjacent to the playground. While the two ponds are now gone, Crews Gulch and Crews Gulch Regional Trail still wind through the entire length of the park. Also present in the park is an 18-basket disc golf course, constructed in 1996, making it one of the oldest and most heavily used disc golf courses in the Pikes Peak region.



Figure 5 - The Original 1973 Master Plan for Widefield Community Park

On March 4, 1991, a United Airlines Boeing 737, Flight 585, crashed into Widefield Community Park as it approached Colorado Springs Airport, located approximately 3 miles north of the park. Tragically, all 25 persons aboard were killed instantly as the airplane nosedived into the park, just west of the playground. As a result of the crash and loss of life, El Paso County Commissioners ordered the construction of the Flight 585 Memorial Pavilion, along with the planting of 25 trees – one tree for each crash victim. Inside the pavilion are two large stones that bear the names of the victims.

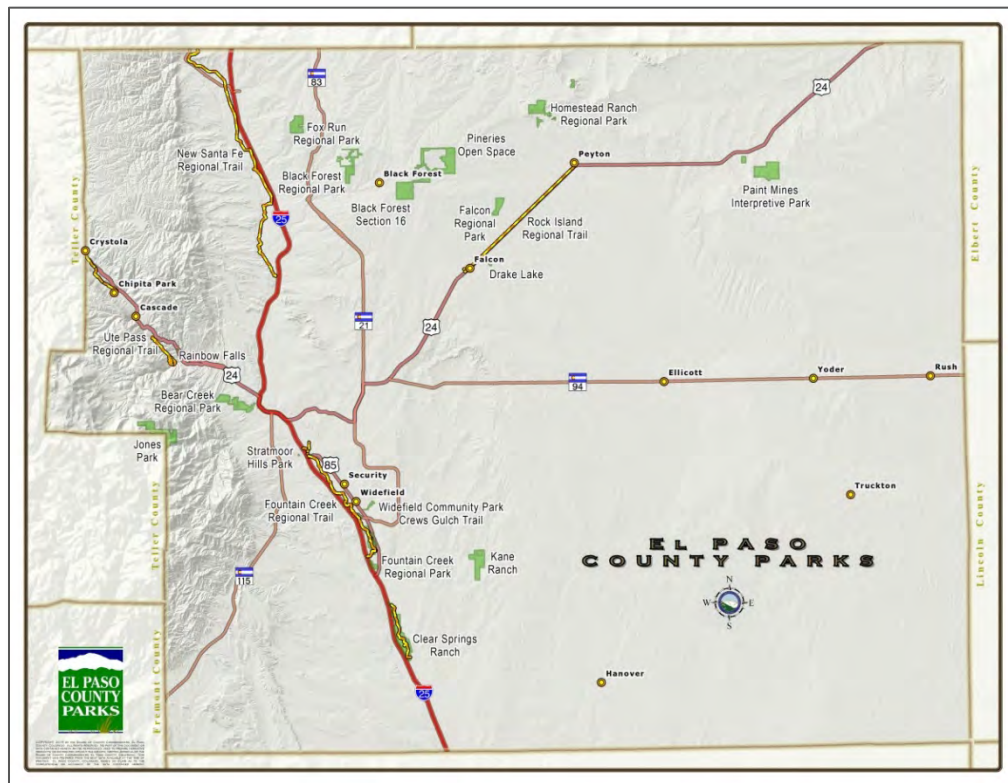
In December 2002, Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company and Fountain Mutual Metropolitan District deeded 17 acres of land to El Paso County, thus increasing the size of Widefield Community Park to its present-day 50 acres. This valuable addition included McCrae Reservoir – formally known as Carp Lake – and its surrounding pristine wetlands and riparian environment. In 2005, a connecting trail was built under Fontaine Boulevard, leading to a small pavilion near the southwestern shore of the reservoir.

Topography

Nestled into its urban setting, Widefield Community Park is situated on relatively flat terrain along the shaded banks of the Crews Gulch drainage, which flows northeast to southwest through the community of Security/Widefield, immediately south of Colorado Springs and east of the Colorado Front Range. The 50-acre park contains a mix of man-made grassy areas and active-use facilities surrounding clusters of mature elm and cottonwood trees near Crews Gulch itself. Elevation in the park decreases gradually from northeast to southwest, with a maximum elevation of 5,725 feet near McCrae Reservoir, to approximately 5,665 feet at the point where Crews Gulch exits the park at Highway 85. According to the Utah State University Southwest GAP Landform analysis, most of Widefield Community Park is comprised of valley flats, near level terraces, and gently sloping hills. (Data: EPC Parks Master Plan, USU Southwest GAP Analysis)



Figure 6 - Cottonwood and Elm Trees Shade Crews Gulch and the Disc Golf Course in Widefield Community Park



Map 2 - El Paso County Park System Showing Widefield Community Park Situated Near the Communities of Widefield and Security

Climate

Located in a semi-arid climatic environment that extends east from the Colorado Front Range, visitors to Widefield Community Park can expect to see annually nearly 250 days of sunshine, and relatively moderate temperatures. The average maximum yearly temperature is 62.9 degrees, topping out at an average of 86.2 degrees during July. The average minimum yearly temperature is 35.8 degrees, with January possessing the lowest average monthly temperature of 17.8 degrees. Although figures vary depending on the source, annual precipitation averages approximately 15.6 inches, with the greatest amount of precipitation falling between May and August. The semi-arid climate with its moderate temperatures results in an annual snowfall rate of 39 inches. (Data: Western Regional Climate Center, NOAA)

Geologic Features and Soils

Geologic Surface Features – Widefield Community Park’s geologic and soil characteristics are a direct result of its location along a tributary of Fountain Creek. The park’s gently sloping terrain along the banks of Crews Gulch are evidence of current and past geomorphologic processes that lend to the current geologic make-up. The 1977 Robinson Geologic Hazards Study outlined the following distribution of geologic surface features within the park boundaries (Data: Robinson Study, USGS, 1977):

1. **Physiographic floodplain.** Erosion and deposition presently occur here and is generally subject to recurrent flooding. It includes the 100-year floodplain along major streams where floodplain studies have been conducted. Extensive detailed geologic, soils engineering and hydrologic investigation is required for any development planning. Utility corridors and structures may utilize some of these areas only after extensive design for the specialized problems involved. This geologic area comprises 5.5 acres or 11% of park area, primarily along the Crews Gulch in the southern reaches of the park.
2. **Stable alluvium, colluvium, and bedrock on flat to gentle slopes (0-5%).** Here, geologic hazard emphasis addresses surface and subsurface drainage. General geologic and soils engineering investigation is required to verify the uniformity of geologic conditions and general properties of surficial deposits and bedrock. This area makes up 27.3 acres or 54% of the park, encompassing the primary active use area, south of Fontaine Boulevard.
3. **Expansive and potentially expansive soil and bedrock on flat to moderate slopes (0-12%).** Here, geologic hazard emphasis addresses the potential for swell, depth of bedrock, design of foundation and drainage. General geologic and soils engineering investigation is required to verify the uniformity of geologic conditions and general properties of surficial deposits and bedrock. Located north of Fontaine Boulevard and surrounding McCrae Reservoir, this group comprises 17.7 acres or 35% of the park area.

Soils – In 1981, the US Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS, formally the Soil Conservation Service (SCS)) performed an extensive soil survey in El Paso County, and identified seven soil types within Widefield Community Park, many of which are described as being suited to support wetlands, grasslands, and riparian wildlife habitats. They are as follows (Data: National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

1. **Ellicott Loamy Course Sand.** This deep, somewhat excessively drained soil is on terraces and floodplains. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown loamy coarse sand about 4 inches thick. The underlying material to a depth of 60 inches is light brownish gray coarse sand stratified with layers of loamy sand, loamy coarse sand, and coarse sandy loam. This soil

type is found in the southern arm of the park along Crews Gulch, typically within the 100-year floodplain.

2. ***Fluvaquentic Haplaquolls***. These deep, poorly drained soils are in marshes, in swales, and on creek bottoms. These soils are stratified. Typically, the surface layer is light gray to very dark gray loamy fine sand to gravelly loam 2 to 6 inches thick. The underlying material, 48 to 58 inches thick, is very pale brown to gray, stratified heavy sandy clay loam to sand and gravel. The lower part of some of these soils, at depths ranging from 18 to 48 inches, ranges from light blueish gray to greenish gray. The water table is usually at a depth of less than 48 inches, and it is on the surface during wet periods. The most common soil in the park, the area surrounding McCrae Reservoir and the primary active use area both contain this soil type.
3. ***Manzanola Clay Loam***. This deep, well-drained soil formed in calcareous loamy alluvium on fans, terraces, and valley side slopes. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown heavy clay loam about 26 inches thick. The substratum is grayish brown clay loam to a depth of 60 inches or more. The lower part of the subsoil and the substratum contain visible soft masses of lime. It is found only in the northeastern corner of park near the parking area.
4. ***Blendon Sandy Loam***: These very deep, well drained soils formed in sandy arkosic alluvium on terraces, floodplains, and in drainage ways. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid through the solum and moderately rapid or rapid in the underlying material. Typically, the surface layer is a dark grayish brown sandy loam 0 to 6 inches thick. The underlying material varies by location, but is generally occurs at depths ranging from 6 to 60 inches, and ranges from dark grayish brown loam in the shallow depths, to light brownish gray gravelly sandy loam in the deeper depths. This soil type is only found in small pockets on the far western and southern reaches of the park.
5. ***Fort Collins Loam***: This soil consists of deep, well drained soils that formed in medium texture alluvium on terraces and uplands. The surface layer is typically a brownish loam, 0 to 6 inches in depth. The underlying material occurs at depths up to 60 inches, and ranges from brown or dark grayish brown loam at shallow depths, to pale brown loam between 30 and 60 inches in depth. This soil type is found in the eastern section of the park, near the basketball and tennis courts.
6. ***Nelson-Tassel Fine Sandy Loams***: This soil type consists of moderately deep, well drained soils that formed in moderately coarse textured, calcareous residuum derived from sandstone on upland hills and ridges. Typically, the surface layer consists of 0 to 7 inches to grayish brown fine sandy loam, while the deepest layers, at 26 to 60 inches in depth, consist of weathered calcareous sandstone and interbedded shale and loamstone. This soil type is found in the far northeast corner of the park, north of the parking lot and south of Fontaine Boulevard.
7. ***Truckton Sandy Loam***: These deep, well drained soils formed in alluvium and residuum derived from arkosic sedimentary rock on uplands. The surface layer, at 0 to 5 inches in depth, consists of grayish brown sandy loam, with substrate that varies from dark grayish brown sandy loam near the surface layer, to a light yellowish brown coarse sandy loam below 24 inches in depth. Not common in Widefield Community Park, this soil type is only found in a narrow north-south strip west of McCrae Reservoir.

Hydrography

Widefield Community Park is located in the Big Johnson drainage basin, which is a sub-basin of the Fountain Creek Watershed, and almost all of the park's 50 acres are located within either a floodplain or floodway. Relatively small in size at 5.67 square miles (3,630 acres), the Big Johnson drainage basin contains 280-acre Big Johnson Reservoir and 13-acre McCrae Reservoir, with Crews Gulch providing the primary drainage within the basin. Ranging from 6,115 feet in elevation at its highest point near the Colorado Springs Airport to 5,660 feet near Highway 85, the basin consists of moderate terrain, with rolling hills covered in bluestem grasslands in the upper reaches and urbanized land cover of streets, homes, and businesses in the lower half. The watershed is bordered by the Windmill Gulch drainage basin to the north and west, and the much-larger Jimmy Camp Creek drainage basin on the east and south, both of which also drain into Fountain Creek.



Figure 7 – Crews Gulch

A watershed is a region that drains into a river, river system, or other body of water. John Wesley Powell, the 19th century geologist and explorer, described a watershed as, "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community." This eloquent description applies to the Fountain Creek Watershed, the Big Johnson drainage basin and Crews Gulch, as the communities of Security, Widefield, and Fountain have grown steadily since the 1950s, encroaching on and in essence hardening the drainage basin, thus altering and perhaps accelerating the manner in which Crews Gulch drains into Fountain Creek.

Fed by nearly 450 upstream miles of perennial and intermittent streams including Crews Gulch, Fountain Creek has proven to be a challenging environment by nature, varying from nearly dry, ankle-deep conditions during drought periods to a wide, powerful channel carrying more than 21,000 cubic feet per second during high flow rainfall events. Increased flows are worsened by continued development in the upstream communities, where concrete, asphalt, and rooftops increase stormwater runoff and can push Fountain Creek and its tributaries to the limits of their capacity. Therefore, continued responsible stormwater management and infrastructure development is necessary in sub-basins such as Big Johnson and parks such as Widefield Community Park, where careful consideration will be placed on the location and purpose of new park infrastructure, and how those improvements affect stormwater drainage within and downstream of the park.

Flora and Fauna

Wetlands. The McCrae Reservoir component of Widefield Park supports extensive wetlands that dominate the bulk of the parcel. These wetlands exhibit characteristics of palustrine forested, palustrine scrub-shrub and palustrine emergent wetlands. The McCrae wetlands provide several important functions including floodwater storage/conveyance, groundwater recharge, bank

stabilization, nutrient/contaminant removal, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, maintenance of biodiversity and storm surge buffer.

Upland Vegetation. Vegetation within the developed portion of Widefield Park is comprised of species typical of park areas including bluegrass and elm. Species diversity increases significantly in the natural habitat associated with the McCrae Reservoir portion. Tree and shrub species around McCrae Reservoir include plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*) and sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*). Common forbs include broad-leaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*), duckweed (*Lemna minor*), nodding beggarticks (*Bidens cernua*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), common cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), white sweet clover (*Melilotus albus*), yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinale*), white Dutch clover (*Trifolium repens*), many-flowered aster (*Virgulus ericoides*), kochia (*Kochia scoparia*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*) and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*). Graminoids include sedges (*Carex spp.*), rushes (*Juncus spp.*), barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), creeping spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), smartweed (*Persicaria spp.*), softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*). Additionally, the property supports noxious weeds species that include Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*). The property is treated with herbicide as needed in order to keep these invasive species controlled.

Wildlife Habitat. The developed portion of Widefield Park provides minimal wildlife habitat in the form of open space and trees, however, the deciduous trees that exist in the Crews Gulch Channel and in undeveloped portions of the park provide habitat for species such as birds and squirrels. The McCrae Reservoir portion provides highly valuable habitat for numerous resident and migrant bird species as well as turtles, snakes, frogs, small mammals, beaver, muskrats, raccoons, foxes, coyotes and deer. Wetland habitat is utilized by many species for feeding, foraging and nesting. Numerous waterfowl and shorebirds utilize McCrae Reservoir throughout the year. Avian species observed on the property range from more common species such as Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Red-Tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) and Red-Winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) to less commonly observed species such as Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) and Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). (Data: EPC Environmental Services)

Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs)

A Survey of Critical Biological Resources in El Paso County was completed by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) in December 2001. CNHP, a program based at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, is a member of the international Natural Heritage Network and is focused on tracking and ranking Colorado's rare and imperiled species and habitats, preserving the natural diversity of life by contributing the essential scientific foundation that leads to lasting conservation of Colorado's biological wealth, and providing information and expertise on these topics to promote the conservation of valuable biological resources. As a result of the survey, three Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs) were identified in the immediate vicinity of Widefield Community Park. These PCA designations are reflected in the El Paso County Parks Master Plan as a candidate open space areas. Descriptions of each PCA are as follows (Data: Colorado Natural Heritage Program):

Fountain Creek PCA – The Fountain Creek PCA includes three areas that are known to be used by wintering Bald Eagles for roosting and feeding. Riparian vegetation, including mature cottonwood

trees, grows along Fountain Creek and its tributaries. Bald Eagles use the cottonwood trees for roosting and for hunting perches from which they attack black-tailed prairie dogs and other prey. Other birds that have been recorded from the PCA include Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl, Burrowing Owl, Mountain Plover, Lewis's Woodpecker, and there is a historical record of the Ovenbird. The Triploid Colorado Checkered Whiptail, an imperiled reptile, is also recorded from the PCA as are the northern leopard frog and swift fox.

There are occurrences of Mesic tallgrass prairie, Great Plains shortgrass prairie, and montane grassland inhabited by the rare butterflies the Dusted Skipper, Crossline Skipper, and Colorado Blue. Other rare plant community occurrences within the site include narrowleaf cottonwood and common chokecherry (*Populus angustifolia* / *Prunus virginiana*), montane riparian forest (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Betula occidentalis*), lower montane forest (*Corylus cornuta shrubland*), and Mesic oak thickets (*Quercus gambelii* / *Carex inops*). Numerous rare plants occurrences have been recorded from the site. Some of the rarer and more recent records include the Pikes Peak spring parsley, James' telesonix, Rocky Mountain columbine, and golden columbine.

Colorado Springs Airport PCA – Remnants of tallgrass prairie occur in Colorado as disjuncts from the historic tallgrass prairie that made up the eastern third of the Great Plains. This PCA is characterized by a mixture of open, flat areas and gently-rolling terrain, bounded to the west and south by residential development. Historically, tallgrass prairie occupied approximately 150 million acres, but today less than 2% of that remains. Most tallgrass prairie has been converted to cropland or other uses. In Colorado, tallgrass prairie remnants are limited to the plains adjacent to the Front Range where the rainfall and soil is appropriate. Further east of the Front Range, the rainfall diminishes and shortgrass prairie dominates. Very few large patches of tallgrass prairie remain in Colorado. Tallgrass prairie is present in scattered patches in El Paso County both along the foothills and out into the plains in the northern portion of the county.

The Colorado Springs Airport PCA, which includes McCrae Reservoir, encompasses the largest known occurrence of a big bluestem - prairie sandreed (*Andropogon gerardii* - *Calamovilfa longifolia*) tallgrass prairie in Colorado. The community is most extensive within about two square miles south of the airport between Drennan and Powers roads and occurs in small patches within surrounding areas. Other grasses occurring within the matrix of big bluestem and prairie sandreed are little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), needle-and-thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*). Associated with tallgrass prairie are at least five species of skippers (butterflies in the family *Hesperiidae*) known to rely on big bluestem as their primary host plant. These eastern Great Plains skippers occur, like tallgrass prairie, as disjunct populations along the Colorado Front Range.

Widefield Fountain PCA – Located adjacent to Widefield Community Park, the Widefield Fountain PCA includes a relatively flat, low-lying strip of land along Fountain Creek that extends southward from Colorado Springs to Wigwam Road. The western portion of the Widefield Fountain PCA is located along Fountain Creek and consists mainly of the open, flat, floodplain along Fountain Creek and several of its tributaries. This portion of the PCA is covered by a mosaic of soil types (see Soils section). The complex distribution of soil types, especially within the floodplain of Fountain Creek, precludes the identification of clearly discernible patterns of preferential use of soils by the prairie dogs.

Historically, much of the Widefield Fountain site was covered with floodplain, riparian, and native shortgrass prairie vegetation. Although patches of these vegetation types remain, large portions of the site, especially the flat, relatively rich-soiled floodplain along Fountain Creek, were converted to agricultural croplands during the past 100 years. The cultivation of many of these areas was subsequently abandoned, producing "old-field" (weedy, early-successional) habitats. Vegetative cover on these fields now varies greatly: some areas are characterized by high proportions of bare soil, whereas other areas support dense stands of invasive, early-successional perennial and annual species. Other agricultural fields within the PCA remain under cultivation. Horse pastures planted with mixed grasses are common near the towns of Widefield and Fountain. Grazing of domestic livestock occurred historically on much of the PCA, and today grazing continues on many areas, especially to the north of Kane Road. In some locations grazing has been very heavy and it apparently has substantially altered the vegetative composition.



Figure 8 - McCrae Reservoir

The Widefield Fountain site also provides essential wetland habitats and resources for many species of migratory birds. Although not identified in Crews Gulch, both Fountain Creek and Jimmy Camp Creek support the Arkansas Darter (*Etheostoma cragini*), a globally vulnerable and state imperiled species of fish that is classified as sensitive (Forest Service) and threatened (State of Colorado), and that is a candidate for listing as a federally threatened/endangered species.

Scenic Resources

Scenic resources, as defined by Scenic America, are “the visual attributes of landscape that include features having natural, cultural, social, historic, archaeological, and recreational significance; and views that are distinctly characteristic of a region” (Byers & Ponte 2005). Internal Revenue Service Code §1.170A-14 expands the definition of “scenic” for conservation easement purposes, to include the preservation of open space for the scenic enjoyment of the general public. The IRS Code suggests the factors to be considered when evaluating scenic and open-space qualities of a landscape include: the compatibility of the land use with other land in the vicinity, visual contrast, openness, relief from urban closeness, harmonious variety of shapes and textures, the degree to which the land use maintains the scale and character of the landscape (to preserve open space, visual enjoyment, and sunlight for the surrounding area) and consistency of the proposed scenic view with a state scenic identification program. Various land management agencies and land trusts also have methodologies for assessing and protecting visual quality that echo the characteristics described above.

Widefield Community Park is unique among the other, much larger regional parks in the El Paso County Parks system. Nearly surrounded by an urban residential environment and situated within the Crews Gulch valley with its groves of mature deciduous trees, the park is not entirely visible from points outside the park. The main active use area is visible only from Fontaine Boulevard and the northern reaches of Drury Lane. All other portions of the park are visible primarily from the backyards of privately-owned residential properties. Due to the tall canopy of cottonwood and elm trees within and

surrounding the park, outward views from inside the park boundaries are limited, but near the open active use area and McCrae Reservoir, users can see views of Pikes Peak and other peaks along the mountain backdrop of the Southern Front Range. Internally, parks users are greeted by views of the aforementioned cottonwood and elm trees, grassy expanses, McCrae Reservoir and its vast wetland area, as well as the twists and turns of Crews Gulch as it meanders through the park.

Land Use and Park Service Areas

Based on a park users presumed willingness to travel to a facility, the 2013 El Paso County Parks Master Plan established service areas for each type of park facility, including regional and neighborhood parks, in an effort to determine gaps in available park services for El Paso County residents. Local access to parks was measured with a 5-mile radius for neighborhood parks, while regional access was measured with a 15-mile radius for regional parks.

While classified as a neighborhood park, Widefield Community Park fulfills the function of both a neighborhood park and a regional park, depending primarily on the facilities and activities sought by the park user. Residents of nearby neighborhoods may utilize the park for exercise, playground, basketball, or dog walking, while outlying populations may travel greater distances for activities, such as disc golf, that may not be provided by their own neighborhood or regional park facilities.

Using these 5- and 15-mile radii, Planning staff analyzed the demographics and land use of each service area, to provide better understanding of the population and area that the park serves. Utilizing a geographic information system (GIS) and parcel/land use data available from the El Paso County Assessor’s Office, a spatial analysis was performed to identify land uses within the regional and neighborhood park service areas, with an additional analysis performed for those properties within 1000 feet of the park’s boundaries as an effort to highlight the adjacent land use.

Land Uses Surrounding Widefield Community Park	
Land Uses Within 15 Miles	
Use Description	Total Acres
Agricultural Land	99,734.13
Single Family Residential	63,459.30
State Land	58,783.93
Political Subdivision	46,357.96
Federal Land*	28,282.12
Vacant Land	27,791.04
Other Uses	7,320.54
Manufacturing and Industrial	5,932.59
Commercial Land	5,905.43
Multiple Family Residential	3,806.12
County Land	3,706.84
Mobile Home Properties	3,623.70
Land Uses Within 5 Miles	
Use Description	Total Acres
Agricultural Land	11,769.11
Single Family Residential	6,815.38
Political Subdivision	6,362.25
Vacant Land	3,627.41
Multiple Family Residential	1,168.93
Manufacturing and Industrial	1,142.06
Commercial Land	842.36
County Land	814.10
State Land	536.16
Federal Land*	418.74
Other Uses	410.41
Mobile Home Properties	309.28
Land Uses Within 1000 Feet	
Use Description	Total Acres
Single Family Residential	155.54
County Land (Widefield Comm. Park)	53.91
Vacant Land	10.54
Multiple Family Residential	8.40
Manufacturing and Industrial	1.05
<i>*Note: Due to lack of parcel information, Federal Land does not include Fort Carson.</i>	

Figure 9 - Land Use Table

The tables highlight the major land use categories located within the aforementioned 15- and 5-mile service areas and those land uses within 1000 feet of the park boundary. The 15 mile radius reaches rural locations to the east of the park, thus increasing the acreage of agricultural grazing land and state

lands. Because the 15-mile radius also includes large portions of Colorado Springs, the residential land use acreage is also a prominent category.

The 5-mile radius is very similar to the 15-mile, with only minor adjustments between the categories, but does show a reduction of federal, state, and county lands. This is due, in part, to the mix of predominantly urban land uses around Widefield Community Park, rather than open prairie. The communities of Widefield, Security, and Fountain all fall within this service area, as do the rural residential and agricultural grazing lands just beyond community.

The 1000-foot radius focuses on the residential nature of the neighborhoods immediately surrounding Widefield Community Park. While the residential neighborhoods of Widefield, Security, and Fountain continue to dominate the land use landscape, industrial and commercial are now almost nonexistent. Single and multi-family residential land use makes up approximately 72% of the acreage surrounding the park.

Although not represented in the land use tables due to lack of parcel information, it is worth noting that the Fort Carson military installation is a dominant land use and major employer in the vicinity of Widefield Community Park.

Demographics

El Paso County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the Rocky Mountain Region and is now the second most populous County in Colorado, according to the United States Census Bureau. In 2005, the population was 546,250, and by 2010 the population was 622,263, an increase of approximately 13% under less than robust economic conditions. Post-recession recovery and an increase in military training operations at Fort Carson helped to propel the countywide population to nearly 675,000 in 2015. Population is concentrated along the Interstate-25 corridor, with approximately 70 percent of all County residents living in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan area. Most of the county residents live in the western one-third of the county.

While most of the population lives in cities or towns, a significant number of El Paso County residents live in unincorporated areas that are developed to urban densities, including military bases. These developments – such as those found in Security, Widefield, and surrounding the Fountain Valley – present demands on the County to provide public services, including parks and recreation facilities.

Due to the large size and high level of diversity in El Paso County, the 2013 El Paso County Master Plan divided El Paso County into demographic subareas. Widefield Community Park is located within the Southeast subarea, as are the communities of Security, Widefield, and Fountain.

The population data used in this demographic profile of El Paso County was derived from ESRI Business information Solutions, with data based on the U.S. Census Bureau and American Community Survey, as well as GIS analysis performed in ESRI Community

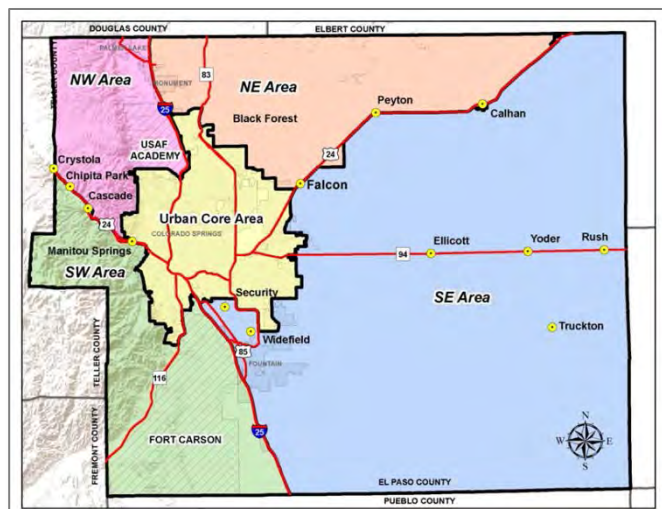


Figure 10 - El Paso County Master Plan (2013)
Demographic Subareas

Analyst. Data outlined in this section will be compared to both that of El Paso County as a whole and, when available, of the El Paso County Parks Master Plan Southeast Subarea.

As noted in the Land Use section, Widefield Community Park fulfills the function of both a neighborhood park and a regional park, depending primarily on the service being sought by the park user. Population and demographics are further evaluated below based on these service areas.

Population. In 2015, the population of El Paso County was 674,471, having seen a growth of 8.4% since 2010, when the population was 622,263. The 2013 Southeast Subarea showed a 2010 population of 81,935 and a projected 2015 population of 88,215 for an increase of 7.6%. During a similar time period (current population estimates include 2016), the 15-mile service area of Widefield Community Park, which encompasses the eastern, central, and southern sections of Colorado Springs, increased at a slightly lower rate of 7.3% from 428,027 to 529,227, with the slight decrease in growth due in part to greater residential development in the northern sections of Colorado Springs, outside of the 15-mile catchment. The 5-mile service area increased at a greater growth rate of 11.1%, from 100,576 in 2010 to 111,751 in 2015. This larger population increase was bolstered by the expansion of new expansive housing developments in the Widefield, Security, and Fountain area. As compared to the 2013 Southeast Subarea values, the 5-mile service area also showed a larger growth rate, as rural southeastern El Paso County had very little growth over the same period.

Households and Housing Units. In 2015, El Paso County had 245,287 households with an average household size of 2.60 persons. The 15-mile service area had 206,405 households in 2016, with an average of 2.50 persons per household, while the 5-mile service area had 35,317 households averaging 2.95 persons per household. The 5-mile service area has not only seen a larger increase in population over the last 5 years, but household size is significantly larger than that of El Paso County as a whole.

In 2015, El Paso County had 268,981 housing units – an increase of 6.4% from 2010, which saw 252,852 units. During the 2010-2016 time period, the housing units in the 15-mile service area increased a similar 6.3% from 206,492 to 219,584. In the 5-mile service area, housing units increased 10.7% from 33,483 to 37,066. The 5-mile service area housing unit figures are similar to the dramatic increases in population and households as noted previously.

Median Household Income. In 2015, the median household income of El Paso County was \$58,206, while the 2016 value for the 5-mile service area was slightly lower at \$54,698. The 2015 15-mile service area median household income was also slightly lower at \$54,251, due to the inclusion of low-income areas in southeastern Colorado Springs. The annual rate of increase from 2016 to 2021 is projected to increase 1.38% for the 15-mile catchment area, while slightly lower at 1.26% for the 5-mile area.

Man-Made Resources

Widefield Community Park offers public recreational facilities in the form of picnic tables, a multi-use athletic field with baseball backstop, an 18-basket disc golf course, playground, 2 basketball courts, tennis court, the Flight 585 Memorial, and basic park amenities. The park also provides nearly 2 miles of multi-use, non-motorized trails that wind throughout the park and along Crews Gulch, including a 1-mile section of the Crews Gulch Regional Trail, which continues to the southwest and provides a connection to the Fountain Creek Regional Trail – a major section of the Colorado Front Range Trail. Approximately 1.25 miles of Crews Gulch meanders through the center of the park, fed by McCrae Reservoir and Big

Johnson Reservoir, the latter of which is located outside of the park boundary. Adjacent and nearby park lands, which are also managed by El Paso County, include Ceresa Park to the immediate southwest and Fountain Creek Regional Park to the south, located between Highway 85 and Fountain Creek. The City of Colorado Springs manages the Bluestem Prairie Open Space, located around Big Johnson Reservoir, approximately 1.5 miles to the northeast of the park.



Figure 11 - Colorful Playground at Widefield Community Park

The northern and most developed section of Widefield Community Park, located along Fontaine Boulevard, includes many of the aforementioned recreational facilities and is served by 36-space paved parking lot with access off of Drury Lane. Many other access points exist through the park, including trail access at Drury Lane and De La Vista Street, at Quebec Street, and at the terminus of Widefield Boulevard at the south end of the park. McCrae Reservoir is located just north of Fontaine Boulevard and is accessed by a trail and tunnel from the primary active use area.

In summary, the following facilities exist at Widefield Community Park:

- 6.5 acres of irrigated turf
- 1 18-basket disc golf course
- 1 multi-use athletic field with backstop
- 1 playground
- 2 basketball courts
- 1 shelter pavilion
- 1 restroom
- 3 picnic tables
- 9 trash can cribs, including 4 which are bear-proof
- 3 BBQ grills
- 1 bench
- Approximately 2 miles of trails of varying widths
- 1 paved parking area with paved access road from Drury Lane

CHAPTER 3 – PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INPUT

Introduction

In developing the Widefield Community Park Master Plan, El Paso County Parks was committed to encouraging a broad spectrum of County stakeholders to participate in an open and transparent public involvement process. This process was designed to provide citizens and organizations information about the purpose of the Master Plan and the facilities and services provided by the County at Widefield Community Park, and to solicit ideas and priorities related to existing and future facilities, trails, and open space.

Public Survey

Beginning in September 2016, a community survey was created by the Master Plan Team, and posted on an internet website to collect input from citizens about Widefield Community Park. The El Paso County Public Information Office issued a press release to all local news agencies, and additional notices were placed on social media, including Facebook and Twitter. Furthermore, these social media postings were shared by other agencies and organizations on their own sites. The online survey was active from mid-September until mid-October 2016.

When concluded, nearly 200 survey responses were received. Input from the surveys was used in conjunction with the comments from the public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and the Master Plan Team to establish an inventory of issues, needs, and opportunities at the park. The complete survey results can be found in the Appendix.

Demographics – The survey’s respondents were evenly distributed across age categories, with nearly 29% of respondents coming from the 35-44 year old age group. Most responding households were comprised of two individuals, although 76% of respondent household were comprised other either 2, 3, or 4 individuals. Household income brackets were spread evenly in households reporting more than \$50,000 a year, with 68% of all responses reporting in the three highest income brackets. The most surprising statistic, however, was the lack of military presence with survey respondents. Over 68% of respondents claimed no individual or household connection to the military – either active or retired. This result contradicts the fact that Widefield Community Park is located in close proximity to both Fort Carson Army Base and Peterson Air Force Base, and perhaps can

Please select your age group:				
	Counts	Percents	0	100
25-34 years old	31	21.7%		
35-44 years old	41	28.7%		
45-54 years old	32	22.4%		
55-64 years old	26	18.2%		
65 and older	11	7.7%		
Other	2	1.4%		
Totals	143	100.0%		

Figure 12 - Survey Results - Age Group

Please list all activities you / your household have participated in or facilities you've used at Widefield Community Park Only. (check all that apply)				
	Counts	Percents	0	100
Disc Golf Course	117	62.9%		
Hiking / Walking	66	35.5%		
Dog walking	54	29.0%		
Playgrounds	51	27.4%		
Regional Trail	36	19.4%		
Open space / Passive recreation	34	18.3%		
Photography	29	15.6%		
Wildlife viewing / Bird watching	27	14.5%		
Cycling / Mountain biking	25	13.4%		
Picnic tables / BBQ grills	25	13.4%		
Memorial Pavilion	24	12.9%		
Running / Fitness	18	9.7%		
McCrae Reservoir Access	16	8.6%		
Basketball court	15	8.1%		
Multi-use athletic fields / Baseball field	12	6.5%		

Figure 13 - Survey Results - Current Park Usage

be explained by a lack of military personnel having knowledge of the survey.

Current / Favorite Activities – The survey asked respondents to list all of the activities they participate in while at the park, and went on to ask which individual activity was their favorite. The survey results demonstrated that the Widefield Disc Golf Course is its most popular feature, with over 63% of survey participants’ ranking the disc golf course as either the most common activity or individual favorite activity (53.2%). Hiking/walking, along with dog walking and use of the Crews Gulch Regional Trail, combined for a total of 84% of park usage, thus highlighting trail system that is heavily used for leisurely walking and exercise.

Additional Activities or Programs – The survey asked respondents to choose five improvements or new facilities and activities they would like to see at Widefield Community Park. An improved disc golf course proved to be the most popular response, followed closely by renovated restrooms. Other new or improved facilities and activities were evenly distributed and included cultural events, and exercise course, additional picnic tables, and expanded parking lots. Figure 15 shows the top eighteen improvements, with the relatively even gradient between each proposed improvement, activity, or program. Some improvements, such as the installation of additional benches, trash cans, and lighting also garnered a lot of support in the open comments sections, demonstrating a need for small, but important improvements to further increase the overall quality of the park. Because these unlisted park amenities ranked high in the open comments section, they were included in the analysis and planning stages of the Master Plan process.

Stakeholder Interviews

A series of stakeholder interviews were designed to solicit information about Widefield Community Park from those somewhat familiar with it through administrative use, customer or member usage, or

From the below list, which one activity or facility is your favorite? (choose only one)			
	Counts	Percents	Percents
			0 100
Disc Golf Course	100	53.2%	
Hiking / Walking	20	10.6%	
Dog walking	15	8.0%	
Playgrounds	10	5.3%	
Cycling / Mountain biking	9	4.8%	
Wildlife viewing / Bird watching	8	4.3%	
Open space / Passive recreation	6	3.2%	
Photography	4	2.1%	
Regional Trail	4	2.1%	
Running / Fitness	4	2.1%	
Memorial Pavilion	2	1.1%	
Picnic tables / BBQ grills	2	1.1%	
Other	4	2.1%	
Totals	188	100.0%	

Figure 14 - Survey Results - Favorite Activity

Please choose only your top 5 from the below list.		
	Counts	Percents
		0 100
Improved disc golf course	95	
Renovated restrooms	70	
Cultural events (concerts, art fairs, festivals)	35	
Exercise course	32	
Additional picnic tables / BBQ grills	31	
Expanded parking lots	31	
Renovated playground	31	
Community garden	29	
Picnic pavilions	28	
Improved open space areas	27	
Improved reservoir access	26	
Demonstration garden (xeriscaping, attracting bird / butterflies, etc.)	25	
Interactive water feature	24	
Events pavilion	23	
Additional playgrounds	22	
Wildlife viewing / Bird watching	18	
Natural playground	17	
Renovated basketball courts	15	

Figure 15 - Survey Results - Proposed Improvements

collaborative relationship with the County. Most stakeholders were fellow providers of recreation facilities and programs. Stakeholders that participated in this means of input included a school district, adjacent local governments, metropolitan and water districts, and nongovernmental organizations. A formal invitation, along with an interview outline, was emailed to prospective stakeholder organizations and included the following questions as a means to identify issues of interest and concern related to Widefield Community Park:

- Please describe your organization, its primary purpose, and the general demographic of customers it serves.
- How does your organization as a whole utilize Widefield Community Park, either recreationally or administratively?
- What are Widefield Community Park's best assets?
- Of the existing programs and/or facilities, which would you like to see expanded or improved?
- What new programs and/or facilities would you like to see at Widefield Community Park?
- What should be the overall goal of the Widefield Community Park Master Plan?
- Would your organization be able to support or assist in the ongoing maintenance and future development of Widefield Community Park? (e.g., in-kind services, grants, donations, programs, etc.)

Stakeholder interviews were held over the course of a week in October 2016 via phone and email, reaching seven participants. As the interviews progressed, common themes, hopes, and concerns emerged. Input was received regarding a broad range of facilities, programs, and activities in Widefield Community Park, with encouragement for renovated basketball courts, new picnic and events pavilions, renovated restrooms, expanded parking areas, disc golf course improvements, improved access to McCrae Reservoir, and connectivity between Crews Gulch Regional Trail and future extensions of City of Colorado Springs trails northeast of the park. The summary of input from the stakeholders is provided in the Appendix.

Public Meetings

El Paso County hosted two public meetings in October 2016 and February 2017 to provide information about the planning process and to collect public input on elements of the Master Plan. The October meeting was held at Talbot Elementary School, three blocks from Widefield Community Park. The second meeting was held at the Fountain Creek Nature Center. Each meeting included a staff presentation on the development and progression of the Master Plan, as well as open house sessions to allow individuals to view specific maps and project descriptions. At the first meeting, public feedback was solicited through general discussion and voting on specific facility improvement priorities through an interactive "sticker" exercise, which allow participants to select those activities of which they most often participate, and those new facilities, programs, or improvements they wanted to see implemented in the park. Top ranking new or improved facilities included an dog play area, improved disc golf course, renovated or additional playgrounds, renovated restrooms, picnic pavilions, cultural events, and pickleball courts.

Meeting notes summarizing the comments provided at both the October and February public meetings are included as Appendices at the end of this Master Plan. Public hearings were held before the Park Advisory Board for review and endorsement and Board of County Commissioners for adoption.

County Website and Email

The County maintained a website dedicated to the Master Plan throughout the planning process. The website provided a summary of the Master Plan process, a link to the public survey, public survey results, the project timeline, public meeting presentations, and public meeting input summaries. A list of citizens, including their email addresses, was generated based upon participants who signed up at public meetings as “Interested Parties” or contacted staff directly. These people were contacted via email and encouraged to participate throughout the planning process.

Widefield Community Park Planning

Widefield Community Park is a 50.5-acre linear park situated along the banks of Crews Gulch in the unincorporated community of Widefield and just north of the City of Fountain. The park is owned and operated by El Paso County, and includes such features as McCrae Reservoir, an 18-basket disc golf course, playground, basketball courts, and a multi-use athletic field with baseball backstop. The Crews Gulch Regional Trail winds through the park, where it travels south to Ceresa Park, Fountain Creek Regional Park, and the Fountain Creek Regional Trail.

The park was acquired, planned, and built originally in the early 1970s. A planning process is underway to update the master plan for Widefield Community Park to address not only the current state of the park, but to gather public input to effectively plan for future improvements. In October 2016, El Paso County Parks asked for citizen input to update the master plan, encouraging citizens to first participate in a community-wide online survey. The survey questions addressed favorite features of the park, satisfaction with existing facilities and maintenance, and what additional renovations and/or improvements the community would suggest. The survey results are available to download below.



After the completion and analysis of the survey in mid-October 2016, citizens were invited to participate in the first of two public meetings, which took place at Talbot Elementary School on October 20th. The October meeting presented the results of the online survey and information about the park, and Parks staff asked for further input from the public. The second public meeting took place on February 9, 2017, where Parks staff presented the findings of all public and stakeholder input, master plan goals, as well as the proposed recommended future improvements for Widefield Community Park. On February 10th, the public was invited to download and review the draft Master Plan (available below) for a period of three weeks, ending February 28th. The Master Plan will be presented to the Park Advisory Board for endorsement and the Board of County Commissioners for final approval in March 2017.

The master plan is scheduled to be completed in March 2017, with the first improvements to follow soon thereafter.

Additional Information:

- ④ [Widefield Community Park Master Plan Timeline](#)
- ④ [Widefield Community Park Master Plan Work Plan](#)
- ④ [Widefield Community Park Map \(New!\)](#)
- ④ [Online Public Survey Results](#)
- ④ [October 2016 Public Meeting Presentation](#)
- ④ [October 2016 Public Meeting Public Input Results](#)
- ④ [Stakeholder Interview Results](#)
- ④ [February 2017 Public Meeting Presentation](#)
- ④ [February 2017 Public Meeting Summary of Comments](#)
- ④ [Widefield Community Park Draft Master Plan for Public Review](#)

For more information, please feel free to contact Ross Williams, El Paso County Community Services Planning Division Park Planner, at 719-520-6984 or email rosswilliams@elpasoco.com.

Figure 16 – Widefield Community Park Master Plan Website

CHAPTER 4 – MASTER PLAN GOALS

Goals serve to establish the foundation of the Master Plan, as they guide decisions on future use of the property and provide direction and structure for the master planning process. The goals and objectives created for this plan were derived from the El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013), input from the Master Plan Team, and from citizens as part of public input opportunities. The existing Parks mission and goals and specific goals for Widefield Community Park are as follows.

El Paso County Parks Master Plan – The El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013) includes the following Mission Statement:

“The Mission of El Paso County Parks is to enhance quality of life in El Paso County by:

- *Acquiring, developing, maintaining, and preserving regional parks, trails, and open space.*
- *Providing responsible resource management for open space lands characterized by unique natural environments.*
- *Providing natural and cultural history interpretation, education, and information services.*
- *Supporting major community events and festivals that celebrate our County’s heritage and culture.”*
- *Providing and managing visitor destinations and experiences.”*

In concert with this Mission Statement, a number of goals and objectives were established in the Parks Master Plan for the County Parks organization as a whole. Included among these goals are several statements related to community parks such as Widefield Community Park. The following are examples of these goals:

- *“Balance passive/active use of county parks and open space and determine what is most appropriate for individual sites based on community need and master planning processes.”*
- *“Provide high-quality and safe experiences for users of county park facilities and recreational areas.”*
- *“Enhance communication and engagement with users to maximize satisfaction with the visitor experience.”*
- *“Maintain a consistent and equitable level of services by filling gaps in existing service levels and providing new facilities and services to meet future population demand.”*

The goals and the overall mission statement listed above assist in providing a basis for the planning of Widefield Community Park and for the further development of site-specific goals and recommendations to be included in the plan.

Widefield Community Park Master Plan Goals – The establishment of goals specific to the Widefield Community Park Master Plan was based upon not only system-wide goals and objectives, but also a thorough analysis and understanding of the community preferences demonstrated by the results of the public survey, stakeholder interviews, public meetings, and input from the Master Plan Team. The Team’s original “rough draft” goals were refined to better reflect the interconnected values of similar goals, then categorized into groups based upon their specific function within the overall plan. As a result, the following goals have been established for this Master Plan:

- **Overall Park and Recreation Area**
 - Create a sustainable future for Widefield Community Park with respect for social, economic, and environmental values.
 - Continue and improve maintenance and enhancement of existing park facilities with a focus on user safety, ADA accessibility, and multi-generational use.
 - Identify and site future park amenities and facilities with continued respect for the natural environment and surrounding neighborhood.
 - Continue to meet the recreational and cultural needs of the citizens regardless of age or abilities.

- **Regional and Internal Park Trails**
 - Work collaboratively with other agencies and organizations to promote connectivity between neighborhoods and destinations.
 - Identify trail connections that would provide citizens of all abilities a safe and efficient route to Widefield Community Park, following both ADA guidelines and NRPA recommendations for Safe Routes to Parks.
 - Plan, maintain, and build trails and trail facilities to a more sustainable standard using a hierarchy of multi-use trails and current best management practices.

- **McCrae Reservoir Open Space / Crews Gulch**
 - Preserve existing open space for wildlife habitat and passive recreation.
 - Encourage and enhance user access to the McCrae Reservoir section of the park.
 - Avoid development within the floodplain to preserve watershed function and avoid unnecessary infrastructure repair costs.
 - Maintain and enhance the functionality of the wetland and riparian areas.

- **Recreation and Cultural Services Programs and Facilities**
 - Provide a venue for sporting, cultural, and community events.

- **Management and Administration**
 - Increase enforcement of park rules and regulations as a means to increase safety and reduce multi-use conflicts.
 - Consider strategic acquisitions adjacent to park land to allow for expansion and protect park values.
 - Assess maintenance standards and schedules in consideration of stakeholder comments and recommendations.
 - Evaluate current forest and turf management objectives in regards to tree and turf health, irrigation efficiency, control of invasive species, and fuels management.

- **Community Awareness**
 - Promote environmental awareness through healthy, active, outdoor opportunities.
 - Promote neighborhood and regional connectivity between Widefield Community Park and surrounding recreational opportunities.
 - Provide information on park facilities, programs, and rules governing use.

- ***Implementation and Funding***
 - Generate partnership opportunities for projects and programs.
 - Enhance Widefield Community Park's facilities and programs through new and existing funding sources and partnerships.
 - In order to address stakeholder needs, identify and pursue all available funds for implementation of Phase I renovations and improvements to existing park facilities.



Figure 17 - Sidewalk Leading to the Flight 585 Memorial Grove and Pavilion

CHAPTER 5 – INPUT COMPILATION AND SITE ANALYSIS

Input Compilation

As noted in Chapter 3, El Paso County Parks sought to incorporate input from the public through an online survey, stakeholder interviews, and public meetings. By soliciting comments, suggestions, and solutions to problems, County Staff was able to identify reoccurring themes, generate a large spectrum of goals and recommendations, and prioritize proposed improvements to existing and future park facilities. Staff undertook a technical analysis of the physical attributes of the site so that new uses can be located in the most suitable areas. The planning process provides a means of synthesizing technical, science-based information, and the needs and desires expressed by the public, in the form of a written and graphic master plan as illustrated in Figure 16.

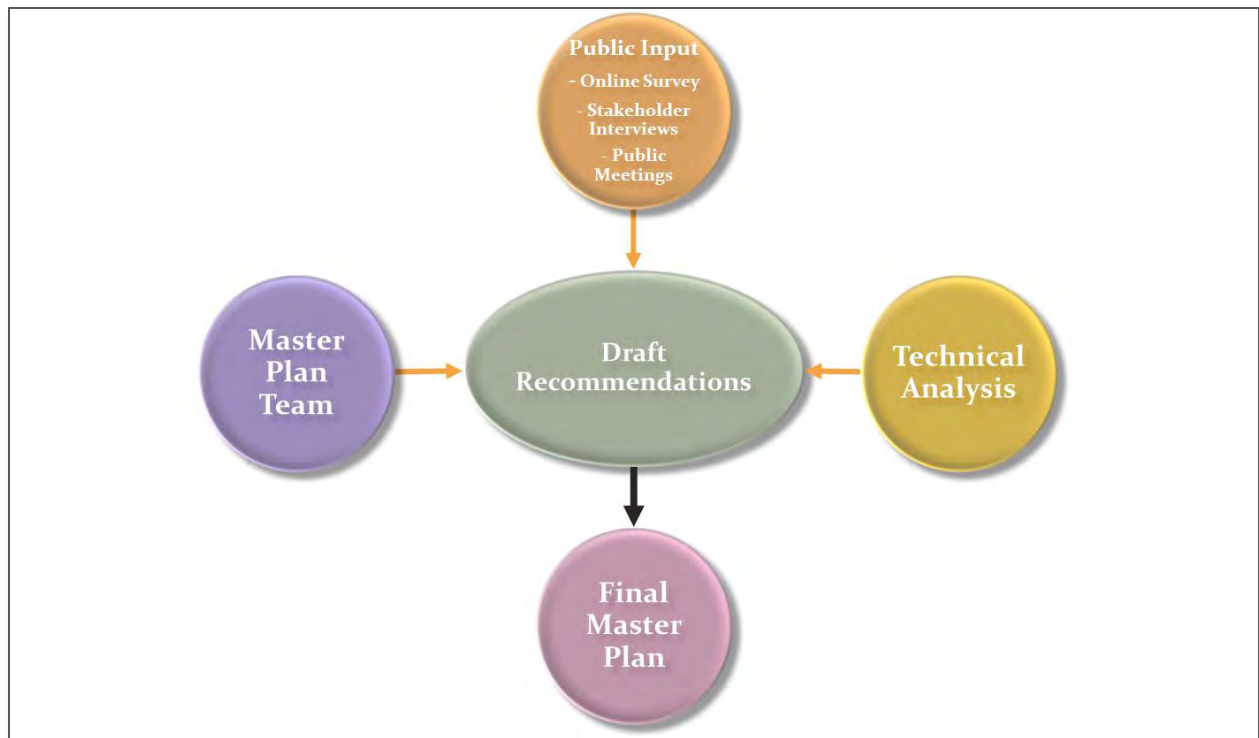


Figure 18 - The Master Plan Process

Site Analysis

Widefield Community Park is situated on relatively flat terrain, comprised of valley flats, near level terraces, and gently sloping hills along the banks of Crews Gulch. The 50-acre park contains a mix of man-made grassy areas and active-use facilities surrounding clusters of mature elm and cottonwood trees near the Crews Gulch itself. Elevation in the park decreases gradually from northeast to southwest, with a maximum elevation of 5,725 feet near McCrae Reservoir, to approximately 5,665 feet at the point where Crews Gulch exits the park at Highway 85. The park is located in the Big Johnson drainage basin, which is a sub-basin of the Fountain Creek Watershed, and almost all of the park's 50 acres are located within either a FEMA-designated floodplain or floodway, some of which are also classified as protected wetlands. These wetlands provide several important functions including

floodwater storage and conveyance, groundwater recharge, bank stabilization, nutrient/contaminant removal, wildlife habitat, maintenance of biodiversity, and act as storm surge buffer.

Given Widefield Community Park's unique combination of natural resources, hydrologic features, and man-made infrastructure set into an urban environment, as outlined in Chapter 2, a site analysis was necessary to pinpoint those areas that are not conducive to development, and identify areas suitable for construction of new or improved facilities without disturbing critical wildlife habitat or environmentally-sensitive areas, such as wetlands, riparian areas, and floodways.

The Site Analysis map displays man-made and natural landscape features that are critical when planning infrastructure: McCrae Reservoir, Crews Gulch, floodplains and floodways, wetlands, steep banks, and both pedestrian and vehicular park entry points. On-site visits were part of the analysis and provided firsthand knowledge of both natural and man-made characteristics, and pinpointing maintenance needs. In preparation for the analysis, floodplain data was obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program, and the wetlands data was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory (2014). High resolution 2014 El Paso County aerial photography was used to verify on-site information. Also included in the analysis are 30% slopes, trees, and terrain hillshade, all generated from 2011 topographic elevation data, owned by the County.



Figure 19 – Early Fall at McCrae Reservoir

The geospatial data was introduced into a geographic information system (GIS), and layered with park boundaries, roads, and building footprints in an effort to delineate those areas where planned infrastructure development should be avoided or constructed in such a way as to have a negligible impact to the surrounding environment. The site analysis led the Team to conclude that only low impact facilities and minimal investment infrastructure, such as trails, benches, disc golf fixtures, and trash receptacles, should occur within the floodway areas of Crews Gulch. These facilities can withstand periodic flooding, resulting in little or no property damage. High-investment structures, such as picnic and events pavilions, restrooms, and playgrounds will be located out of the floodway to minimize or prevent expensive structural losses and will conform to FEMA floodplain development requirements. Other proposed new facilities, such as the floating wildlife observation platform, will be sited to have minimal impact on McCrae Reservoir's surrounding wetlands and riparian areas. Where jurisdictional wetlands are affected, El Paso County Parks will work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to secure needed permitting and will implement best management practices.

The site analysis demonstrated how Widefield Community Park - centrally located to the communities of Security, Widefield, and Fountain – provides for pedestrian connectivity to neighboring schools, businesses, and other recreational opportunities. The analysis showed 6 pedestrian entry points to the park at locations on Fontaine Boulevard, Drury Lane, Quebec Street, and Widefield Boulevard. These entry points, including two associated with Crews Gulch Regional Trail, connect to sidewalk networks that allow for safe pedestrian travel to Watson Junior High School, Talbott Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr Elementary School, and Webster Elementary School, which are all located less than 0.75 miles from the park.

The entry points also allow park users to access other recreational opportunities, with most locations accessible via Crews Gulch Regional Trail. Located less than 0.75 miles to the southwest of Widefield Community Park, El Paso County's Ceresa Park, Fountain Creek Regional Trail, and Fountain Creek Regional Park are all accessible via the Crews Gulch Regional Trail. Talbott Park, owned by Widefield School District 3 Parks and Recreation, is located three blocks from the park, accessed from Quebec Street. When proposed future trail connections are established, the City of Colorado Springs' Bluestem Prairie Open Space will be accessible from Widefield Community Park via 1 mile of Crews Gulch Regional Trail.

Vehicular park entry points, on the other hand, are limited to the main parking lot off Drury Lane. The site analysis and assessment of park needs led Team members to conclude that additional vehicular parking would be necessary as proposed park improvements, such as picnic and events pavilions, are constructed in the future. Possible vehicular access points were identified at Quebec Street and the terminus of Widefield Boulevard.

The Site Analysis map is found on the page 33.



Figure 34 - Widefield Community Park Disc Golf Course

Widefield Community Park Site Analysis

Legend

-  USFWS NWI Wetland Areas
-  FEMA Floodplains
-  FEMA Floodways
-  30%+ Slopes
-  Utility Easements
-  McCrae Reservoir
-  Public School Property
-  View Point
-  Park Boundary
-  Cultural Resource Sites
-  Existing Trails and Sidewalks
-  Highways / Streets / Roads
-  Railroads
-  Streams / Canals
-  Pedestrian Access Points
-  Vehicular Access Points



Site Analysis Methodology

The Site Analysis map displays man-made and natural landscape features that are critical when planning infrastructure: Crews Gulch, floodplains and floodways, wetlands, park entry points. On-site visits strengthened the analysis through firsthand knowledge of viewsheds, ground characteristics, and maintenance needs. In preparation for the analysis, floodplain data was derived from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program*, while the wetlands data is available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory. Also included are 30% slopes, trees, and terrain hillshade, all generated from detailed topographic elevation data.

The data was introduced into a geographic information system (GIS), and layered with park boundaries, roads, and building footprints in an effort to delineate those areas where planned infrastructure development should be avoided or constructed in such a way as to have a negligible impact to the surrounding environment.

* The FEMA floodplain data shown on this map may not reflect actual ground conditions. Please refer to the FEMA DFIRM website when verifying site-specific floodplain conditions.



McCrae Reservoir

Map 3 - Site Analysis Map

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CHAPTER 6 – RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

Introduction

This Master Plan has been developed through site analysis and the input of the Master Plan Team, stakeholders, and the general public via outreach and communication process outlined in Chapter 3. The Master Plan Team collaborated on a monthly basis to generate goals and objectives, analyze public survey comments, evaluate comments from the public meetings, and address priorities for master plan recommendations. As members of the Master Plan Team, South District Park Operations staff were key contributors, bringing in-depth knowledge of Widefield Community Park as well as experience with current management and maintenance issues. Combined, these valuable sources of input helped ensure that recommendations included in this chapter will make the best use of limited resources. Given available resources, the Master Plan Team assumed that action items would be implemented according to a phased schedule. More information about implementation and phasing is included in Chapter 7. In accordance with many of the master plan goals, this plan was developed with sustainability and responsible resource management as key principles.

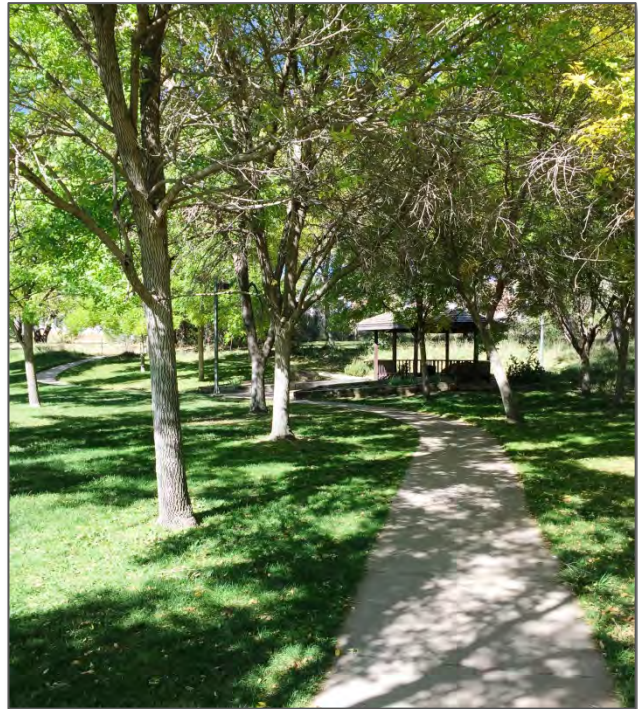


Figure 20 - Flight 585 Memorial Pavilion and Grove

The recommendations that follow are organized into categories that reflect the established master plan goals:

- **Overall Park and Recreation Areas**
- **Regional and Internal Park Trails**
- **McCrae Reservoir Open Space / Crews Gulch**
- **Recreation and Cultural Services Programs and Facilities**
- **Management and Administration**
- **Community Awareness**
- **Implementation and Funding**

Action Items

Based upon the Master Plan Goals outlined in Chapter 4, the following improvements are recommended:

Overall Park and Recreation Areas – Many of the recommendations brought forth in the public input process addressed issues and infrastructure improvements that impact Widefield Community Park as a whole. These recommendations were also taken into consideration when planning the other more specific categories.

1. Renovate the main restroom to include new roofing, plumbing, heating, lighting, door locks, and increased ADA compatibility. To help reduce electric costs, explore alternative and natural lighting methods, such as the addition of glass block windows and skylights.
2. Install additional benches and trash receptacles throughout the park, to include areas such as the playground, basketball court and proposed pickleball court, disc golf course, and along Crews Gulch Regional Trail.
3. Resurface and stripe the main basketball court.
4. Convert the existing tennis court into two pickleball courts through resurfacing, striping, and installation of pickleball facilities.
5. Renovate and improve the existing disc golf course to include additional benches and trash receptacles, improved course signage, updated baskets and tee boxes where necessary, and realignment of tees and baskets where user conflicts have occurred. Signage may include a kiosk at the first tee that features a course map and outlines course and general disc golf rules.
6. Install additional lighting throughout the park and along Crews Gulch Trail, allowing for 4-season park use and utilizing dark sky-compliant lighting systems that increase user safety and lessen the possibility of vandalism, while reducing light pollution to the surrounding neighborhood (See Figure 22).
7. Install a multi-station exercise course along Crews Gulch Trail and the concrete internal park sidewalks, to include weatherproof outdoor exercise equipment.
8. Renovate and/or expand the existing playground to include new age-appropriate playsets, additional swings, improved play/impact surface, and climbing structures.
9. Construct two picnic pavilions in the main active use area in order to provide citizens and organizations with reservable all-weather picnic space. Varying in size, the pavilions will allow for smaller parties with seating for 10 or large parties with capacity for up to 50 individuals.
10. Install additional open-air picnic tables with BBQ grills throughout the park. Consider ADA-compliant tables with ease of accessibility from existing concrete paths.



Figure 21 – Existing Restroom and Drinking Fountain

11. Consider the installation of a seasonal restroom in the southern section of the park, near Quebec Street, utilizing a structured enclosure for enhanced aesthetics and protection of the portable restroom unit, and serviced regularly by a contracted vendor.
12. Promote the planting of mixed disease- and drought-resistant deciduous trees for increased shade, wind breaks, wildlife habitat, and visual enhancement of the surrounding park environment.
13. Update all park signage to follow the current El Paso County Parks sign standards, including the main entrance signs and park rules and regulations signage.
14. Expand the existing main parking area off of Drury Lane, and explore the addition of a new parking area at the southern end of the park at the terminus of Widefield Boulevard, as well as on or off-street parking near the Crews Gulch Regional Trail crossing at Quebec Street.



Figure 22 - Examples of Modern LED Dark Sky Pedestrian Lighting Fixtures

Regional and Internal Park Trails

– Crews Gulch Regional Trail, which runs southwest to northeast through Widefield Community Park, offers connections between the park’s surrounding neighborhoods and other recreation opportunities, such as Ceresa Park, Fountain Creek Regional Trail, and Fountain Creek Regional Park, all of which lie to the southwest. Although not connected currently, a fully completed Crews Gulch Regional Trail will allow park users to access the City of Colorado Springs’ Bluestem Prairie Open Space, located to the northeast. At Widefield Community Park, the County currently provides and maintains approximately 1 mile of the Crews Gulch Regional Trail, existing as an eight-foot wide concrete or gravel surfaced trail that accommodate multiple uses. Approximately 1 mile of informal social trails exist within the park, accessing primarily those areas west of Crews Gulch, providing access to the disc golf course and an alternative to the regional trail. In addition to the trails, Widefield Community Park has approximately .5 mile of concrete sidewalks that allow for smooth-surface pedestrian use and exercise opportunities.



Figure 23 – Social Trail on West Side of Crews Gulch

While no new trails are envisioned, this Master Plan proposes the conversion of nearly 1 mile of social trails to proper Tier III internal park gravel trails, utilizing existing paths or relocating those which are causing damage to the park's infrastructure and ecosystem. These proposed trail improvements include using sustainable trail design practices to minimize the cost of future maintenance and infrastructure costs. Some of these principles include the use of trail tread cross slopes to keep water in sheet flow, grade reversals to keep water from gaining momentum, and kinks to divert water off of the trail. These are the trail action items:

1. Collaborate with the City of Colorado Springs to establish a trail connection between Crews Gulch Regional Trail and the City's Bluestem Prairie Open Space.
2. Continue to pursue trail connections along Fontaine and Grinnell Boulevards to establish the Grinnell Boulevard Secondary Regional Trail connection from Widefield Community Park to existing Fountain Mutual Metropolitan District trails to the northwest.
3. Pave Crews Gulch Regional Trail from Quebec Street to Widefield Boulevard, replacing the existing crushed limestone trail surface with concrete as a means to increase user accessibility and trail sustainability in the southern reaches of the park.
4. Install additional benches and trash/recycling receptacles along Crews Gulch Regional Trail.
5. Convert the existing disc golf course social trails to Tier III standards, allowing for greater accessibility for park users of all ages and abilities.

McCrae Reservoir Open Space / Crews Gulch – Of Widefield Community Park's 50 acres, approximately 15 acres is comprised of the practically untouched wetland and riparian area surrounding McCrae Reservoir. Accessed via a pedestrian tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard, park users have limited recreational opportunities at McCrae Reservoir, due in part to healthy wetlands that at times hide the reservoir from view, except from one small viewpoint on the southwestern shoreline. Results from both the public survey and stakeholder interviews revealed that park users not only prize this open space area, and want to keep it natural and maintained, but with improved accessibility for the purpose of wildlife viewing and bird watching. Master plan goals, as stated previously, call for preservation of open space for wildlife habitat and passive recreation, increase reservoir accessibility, and to maintain and enhance wetland and riparian areas.



Figure 24 – McCrae Reservoir and Wetlands Area

Draining from McCrae Reservoir, Crews Gulch flows through the entire length of Widefield Community Park, providing for a unique natural and scenic resource. Surrounded by towering elm and cottonwood trees, Crews Gulch also creates an interesting obstacle for those playing disc golf, as baskets and tee boxes dot both sides of the waterway, with interconnecting social trails crossing over Crews Gulch via aging and sometimes restrictive culverts. Occasional flooding has inflicted damage to the creek channel, with creek bank erosion and the toppling of trees. Care has been taken to repair these areas as a means to mitigate further damage. The following are action items for McCrae Reservoir and Crews Gulch:

1. Replace aging and constrictive metal culverts with bridges or larger concrete box culverts, or consider installing reinforcements around existing culvert openings to prevent scour and washout, at those locations where internal park trails and sidewalks cross Crews Gulch.
2. Collaborate with El Paso County Department of Public Works to improve user access to McCrae Reservoir through the redesign and renovation of the Crews Gulch access/drainage tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard.
3. Install a seasonal floating wildlife observation platform on McCrae Reservoir to allow for enhanced wildlife viewing.

Recreation and Cultural Services Programs and Facilities – As a neighborhood park, Widefield Community Park is unique when compared to other El Paso County Parks, due to its urban environment and close proximity to neighboring residents. Therefore, recreational opportunities are limited primarily to those activities found in other urban parks, focusing on physical recreation and exercise, group activities, and even sporting events. As the park evolves, however, care must be taken to balance recreational use of the park, as a venue for sporting, cultural, and community events, with preservation of its limited natural resources as potential educational and interpretive opportunities. The following are action items for Recreation and Cultural Services:



Figure 25 – A Citizen Enjoying the Widefield Community Park Disc Golf Course

1. Explore the possibility of promoting large community events, such as neighborhood yard sales and small festivals, utilizing the existing multi-use field and other facilities.
2. Consider replacing the existing baseball backstop with an events/picnic pavilion for the purpose of outdoor concerts and other cultural events, utilizing the existing multi-use turf field for concert-goer seating.
3. Continue support of disc golf events and regional tournaments.

Management and Administration – Responsible management and administration of Widefield Community Park will ensure that the park remains financially and environmentally sustainable for years to come while meeting resident and visitor needs. Master Plan goals call for enforcement of park rules

and regulations, increased safety, and improved maintenance standards and practices. The following are action items for park management and administration:

1. Install disc golf signage throughout the park to reduce user conflicts.
2. Design and install disc golf course kiosk at the first tee that features a course map and outlines course and general disc golf rules.
3. Collaborate with the El Paso County Public Works Department to stripe crosswalks for the two Crews Gulch Regional Trail crossings, and install proper pedestrian crossing signage.
4. Consider the installation of boulders, bollards, landscaping, and/or fencing at trail entrances and along open park boundaries to restrict unauthorized vehicular park access.
5. Actively pursue forest management, noxious weed mitigation, and turf enhancement programs as a means to maximize the park's ecological health and internal scenic resources.
6. Improve landscaping and planter beds near the main parking area and Flight 585 Memorial Pavilion to further increase the park's aesthetic values.
7. Consider strategic land acquisitions to expand parking and recreational opportunities when opportunities arise.

Community Awareness – Outreach programs provide awareness, sponsorship, fundraising, and volunteer opportunities to support programs and facility development of El Paso County parks, trails, open spaces, Nature Centers and other facilities. Outreach services provides opportunities to benefit the community and improve the quality of life for County residents with volunteer opportunities such as Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Trail, friends groups and park volunteers, as well as donation opportunities through such programs as Partners in the Park and the Trust for Community Parks. The following are action items for Community Awareness:

1. Through the use of brochures, signage, email, and social media, provide the community with updated park information including new or updated facilities, park rules and regulations, and recreational opportunities.
2. Generate positive interaction with the citizens of Widefield Community Park's surrounding neighborhood, encouraging park use and public input and awareness.
3. Promote neighborhood and regional connectivity between Widefield Community Park and surrounding recreational opportunities, including but not limited to such park and trail facilities as Fountain Creek Regional Park, Ceresa Park, Fountain Creek Regional Trail, and the City of Colorado Springs' Bluestem Prairie Open Space.

Implementation and Funding – The prioritization and phasing of capital improvements for Widefield Community Park as expressed in the Implementation Plan in Chapter 7 was derived from input by the public, stakeholders, and Master Plan Team members, with endorsement by the Park Advisory Board and approval by the Board of County Commissioners. This initial capital improvement budget gives consideration new and improved facility and critical maintenance needs, while taking into account available funding, benefit for cost, project complexity, and improvement urgency. In a continuing effort to enhance the Park's facilities and programs, Master Plan goals recommend generating and researching new partnership opportunities and funding sources to assist with the planning, development, and implementation of new projects and programs. Chapter 7 provides a detailed explanation of existing and possible funding sources, and a structured view of the proposed phased improvements, to be completed within the next ten years. The following action items are recommended for Implementation and Funding:

1. Establish partnerships with local organizations and agencies, such as the Pikes Peak Flying Disc Club, Aiken Audubon Society, the City of Fountain, and Widefield School District 3 to assist with the development, administration, maintenance, and/or promotion of current and future park facilities and recreational opportunities.
2. Research and pursue financial grants, such as those from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), to allow for enhanced funding of future park improvements.

Design Guidelines

Design Guidelines are intended to aid in the design and implementation of the proposed site improvements and amenities with a cohesive and visually-appealing pallet of materials that can be implemented throughout Widefield Community Park. Given the age of the park and its well-established and publically-recognized existing furnishings and structure architecture, new site improvements such as playgrounds, furnishings, fencing, structures, and general thematic elements should blend with the current theme. At the same time, facilities should embody current trends in park improvements. El Paso County Parks also strives to use best management practices in the design and construction of park improvements.



Figure 26 - Typical Existing Widefield Community Park Amenities - Picnic Table, BBQ Grill, and Trash Can (With Basketball Court in Background)

As noted throughout this Master Plan, Widefield Community Park provides for a mix of active and passive activities. All projects that implement this Master Plan should include detailed planning of the site, grading, drainage, parking areas, fencing, lighting, access to trails, signage, and site furnishings. All projects must be performed in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and standards.

Drainage and Grading – Although the park has relatively flat topography, Crews Gulch runs through the entire length of Widefield Community Park, and allows for drainage from the adjacent terrain. Where small drainages exist, drainage improvements, such as culverts, bridges, and berms may be necessary when enhancing the current trail system or planning such improvements as playgrounds, picnic pavilions, or expanded parking areas. Improvements should not increase runoff from what historically exists. Disturbance of more than an acre triggers El Paso County and State erosion control and air quality permitting.

Playgrounds. Presently, Widefield Community Park has one small playground, located in the central active use area. This playground is more traditional, featuring such amenities as swings, slides, climbing bars, and bridges. The playground is served by two picnic tables and a restroom, and is also adjacent to a small basketball court.



Figure 27 – Example of a Toddler Playground - Note Adult for Scale

As recommended earlier in this chapter, the current playground can be expanded to include an area previously shown in the 1973 Master Plan, which would effectively double the size of the existing playground. The expansion will allow for the installation of new playsets, more swings, and climbing structures. These new playground structures should follow the current trends and modern approaches to traditional playgrounds, with advances in playground design, construction, and accessibility, which allow for a more creative and free-flowing play experience. One example is a playground designed for toddlers and small children (see Figure 27), featuring slides, steps, and other activities that promote physical development, without the intimidation of a larger playground.

Another modern approach offering a more advanced play opportunity to the traditional playground is shown at right in Figure 28, and consists of climbing rocks, bridges, stepping stumps, swings, and slides. This playground should feature sustainable materials that mimic naturally occurring materials, so as to allow for greater sustainability and ease of maintenance. This modern playground would allow children a higher level of free play, combined with activities that promote physical strengthening, balance, and education, the latter of which would be achieved through choice of play equipment and through environmentally-based interpretive activities.



Figure 28 - Example of a Modern Playground with Multiple Play Options

Trail Standards – All trails in Widefield Community Park will conform to El Paso County’s trail classifications and standards, and will be constructed for sustainability. Currently four trail standards exist: Tier I, which is the primary standard for Primary Regional Trails; Tier II, which may be used for Primary and Secondary Regional Trails, depending on location; Tier III, which is primarily used for well-traveled internal park trails; and Tier IV, which is a singletrack trail. One type of trail – Tier I Regional Trail – exists currently in the park, along with sidewalks and the aforementioned social trails. This

Master Plan recommends the conversion of the social trails to Tier III standard where necessary, such as west of Crews Gulch and adjacent to the disc golf course.

Parking Lots – The primary parking lot at Widefield Community Park is surfaced with asphalt with concrete curbs, gutters, and adjacent sidewalks. Recommendations outlined in the master plan include the expansion of the main parking lot off Drury Lane, as well as exploring the possibility of creating a new, gravel-surfaced parking area at the southern end of the park near Widefield Boulevard. Due to area constraints, parking lots are designed primarily for standard passenger cars.



Figure 29 – Existing Paved Parking Area off Drury Lane

Signage – A successful signage program provides regulatory, interpretive (educational) and directional or wayfinding information. All County signs should be designed in accordance with El Paso County Parks standards. Signs should be compatible and consistent with accurate trail identification and wayfinding.

1. **Regulatory** – Regulatory signage is used to identify the rules and regulations. It should be placed in strategic access points such as staging areas and trailheads and may include: hours of operation, appropriate use and activity information, park rules and regulations, and public notices and general information.
2. **Interpretive** – Interpretive signage is used to identify and educate about topics such as natural and cultural resources. It should be placed in strategic areas such as staging areas, viewpoints and other features of interest. Interpretative signage can include: trail etiquette, identification and description of key plant and tree species, wildlife habitat and education about land stewardship and resource degradation (public misuse, urban runoff, noxious plants invasion, overuse, trash, feral animals, etc.).
3. **Directional** – Directional signage is used to identify location, direction, distance and places of interest for trails users. Markers should be placed at strategic intervals or at



Figure 30 – Example of Standard El Paso County Park Entrance Sign

strategic areas such as viewpoints or intersections. Directional signage should include designation and length and provide trail user location.

4. **Wayfinding** – This sign type includes park entry signs, general park boundary markers, trail maps, and wayfinding signage specific to Park facilities.
5. **Road** – Road signs inform motorists of trail system access points and provide warning at trail crossings.

Fencing – Two types of fencing are either utilized currently or proposed for future use within Widefield Community Park, each for a different purpose. These fence types include:

1. **Wire Fence** – Three-strand smooth wire fencing, which allows for safe passage of wildlife, is used to outline the boundary of the park, especially in areas that border private property that houses livestock. This type of fence is found around the McCrae Reservoir area of the park, as all other areas are bounded by private residential fencing, consisting of chain link and a variety of wooden fencing.



Figure 31 - Example of Post and Dowel Fencing

2. **Two-Rail or Three-Rail Post and Dowel Fence** – Post and dowel fencing would be used primarily to delineate spaces and provide barriers in appropriate areas, such as areas adjacent to roadways and around parking lots. This type of fence promotes proper trail use and reduces overland foot traffic in high-use areas. This is the preferred alternative to split-rail fencing, which is not as durable. This type of fence, when used in conjunction with square-block wire fencing, could be utilized in areas where vehicular access restriction is necessary.

Structures – Structures should be designed to mimic or blend with existing architecture (e.g., restrooms, pavilions) in order to maintain the existing visual character and create an identifiable look and feel for the overall park. A park user who may recognize the yellow restroom at the primary active use area, will expect that other restrooms, or structures such as picnic and event pavilions, to look generally the same in other locations in the park, especially when the structures are located close to each other.



Figure 32 – Example of a Typical Picnic Pavilion

Site Furnishings – Site furnishings within the park should provide benches, bicycle racks, trash receptacles, picnic tables and other site furnishings as necessary. Furnishings should be reasonably consistent and compatible in style through the park and forms that blend with the landscape. Earth tone colors of dark greens should be used that matches and/or complements the existing and new structures. Types of site furniture selected should be durable, vandal resistant.



Figure 33 - Examples of Site Furnishings



Figure 34 - Typical Existing Site Furnishings: Pedestrian Lighting, Picnic Table, BBQ Grill, Trash Receptacle, and Basketball and Tennis Courts

Widfield Community Park

Recommended Improvements

- 1) Renovate the main restroom to include new roofing, plumbing, heating, lighting, door locks, and increased ADA compatibility
- 2) Install additional benches and trash/recycling receptacles throughout the park.
- 3) Resurface and stripe the main basketball court.
- 4) Convert the existing tennis court into two pickleball courts through resurfacing, striping, and installation of pickleball facilities.
- 5) Renovate and improve the existing disc golf course to include additional benches and trash and recycling receptacles, improved course signage, updated baskets and tee boxes where necessary.
- 6) Install additional lighting throughout the park and along Crews Gulch Trail, allowing for 4-season park use and utilizing dark sky-compliant lighting systems.
- 7) Install a multi-station exercise course along Crews Gulch Trail and the concrete internal park sidewalks.
- 8) Renovate and/or expand the existing playground to include new age-appropriate playsets, additional swings, improved play/impact surface, and climbing structures.
- 9) Construct two picnic pavilions in the main active use area in order to provide citizens and organizations with reservable all-weather picnic space.
- 10) Install additional open-air picnic tables with BBQ grills throughout the park.
- 11) Consider the installation of a seasonal restroom in the southern section of the park, near Quebec Street.
- 12) Expand the existing main parking area off of Drury Lane, and explore the addition of a new parking area at the southern end of the park at the terminus of Widefield Boulevard, as well as on or off-street parking near the Crews Gulch Regional Trail crossing at Quebec Street.
- 13) Convert the existing disc golf course social trails to Tier III standards, allowing for greater accessibility for park users of all ages and abilities.
- 14) Improve user access to McCrae Reservoir through the redesign and renovation of the Crews Gulch access and drainage tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard.



Scale = 1:1000
1 inch = 85 feet



Map 4 - Widfield Community Park Recommended Improvements Maps - McCrae Reservoir Section

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Widefield Community Park

Recommended Improvements

- 1) Renovate the main restroom to include new roofing, plumbing, heating, lighting, door locks, and increased ADA compatibility
- 2) Install additional benches and trash/recycling receptacles throughout the park.
- 3) Resurface and stripe the main basketball court.
- 4) Convert the existing tennis court into two pickleball courts through resurfacing, striping, and installation of pickleball facilities.
- 5) Renovate and improve the existing disc golf course to include additional benches and trash and recycling receptacles, improved course signage, updated baskets and tee boxes where necessary.
- 6) Install additional lighting throughout the park and along Crews Gulch Trail, allowing for 4-season park use and utilizing dark sky-compliant lighting systems.
- 7) Install a multi-station exercise course along Crews Gulch Trail and the concrete internal park sidewalks.
- 8) Renovate and/or expand the existing playground to include new age-appropriate playsets, additional swings, improved play/impact surface, and climbing structures.
- 9) Construct two picnic pavilions in the main active use area in order to provide citizens and organizations with reservable all-weather picnic space.
- 10) Install additional open-air picnic tables with BBQ grills throughout the park.
- 11) Consider the installation of a seasonal restroom in the southern section of the park, near Quebec Street.
- 12) Expand the existing main parking area off of Drury Lane, and explore the addition of a new parking area at the southern end of the park at the terminus of Widefield Boulevard, as well as on or off-street parking near the Crews Gulch Regional Trail crossing at Quebec Street.
- 13) Convert the existing disc golf course social trails to Tier III standards, allowing for greater accessibility for park users of all ages and abilities.
- 14) Improve user access to McCrae Reservoir through the redesign and renovation of the Crews Gulch access and drainage tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard.



Scale = 1:1000
1 inch = 85 feet

Map 5 - Widefield Community Park Recommended Improvements Map - Main Active Use Section

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Widfield Community Park

Recommended Improvements

- 1) Renovate the main restroom to include new roofing, plumbing, heating, lighting, door locks, and increased ADA compatibility
- 2) Install additional benches and trash/recycling receptacles throughout the park.
- 3) Resurface and stripe the main basketball court.
- 4) Convert the existing tennis court into two pickleball courts through resurfacing, striping, and installation of pickleball facilities.
- 5) Renovate and improve the existing disc golf course to include additional benches and trash and recycling receptacles, improved course signage, updated baskets and tee boxes where necessary.
- 6) Install additional lighting throughout the park and along Crews Gulch Trail, allowing for 4-season park use and utilizing dark sky-compliant lighting systems.
- 7) Install a multi-station exercise course along Crews Gulch Trail and the concrete internal park sidewalks.
- 8) Renovate and/or expand the existing playground to include new age-appropriate playsets, additional swings, improved play/impact surface, and climbing structures.
- 9) Construct two picnic pavilions in the main active use area in order to provide citizens and organizations with reservable all-weather picnic space.
- 10) Install additional open-air picnic tables with BBQ grills throughout the park.
- 11) Consider the installation of a seasonal restroom in the southern section of the park, near Quebec Street.
- 12) Expand the existing main parking area off of Drury Lane, and explore the addition of a new parking area at the southern end of the park at the terminus of Widfield Boulevard, as well as on or off-street parking near the Crews Gulch Regional Trail crossing at Quebec Street.
- 13) Convert the existing disc golf course social trails to Tier III standards, allowing for greater accessibility for park users of all ages and abilities.
- 14) Improve user access to McCrae Reservoir through the redesign and renovation of the Crews Gulch access and drainage tunnel under Fontaine Boulevard.



Scale = 1:1000
1 inch = 85 feet



Legend

Existing Park Facilities

- Disc Golf Pad
- Disc Golf Hole
- Picnic Table
- Grill
- Light
- Water Fountain
- Park Boundary

Proposed Park Improvements

- Picnic Table
- Grill
- Bench
- Bench/Trash Can
- Light
- Light/Bench
- Light/Bench/Trash Can
- Safety Improvements
- Trail Improvements

Map 6 - Widfield Community Park Recommended Improvements - Southern Section

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CHAPTER 7 – PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Existing Revenue Sources

El Paso County Parks is comprised of three major divisions – Park Operations, Planning, and Recreation and Cultural Services. Community Outreach staff provides support for Parks and other County programs, as needed. El Paso County Parks is operated on a predetermined yearly budget through a variety of funding sources. In addition, capital improvement and maintenance projects, such as those proposed in this master plan, are funded through the following sources:

General Fund Tax Support – El Paso County Parks are funded in part by approximately \$1.4 million each year from the County General Fund. These funds are supported from a combination of property tax and sales tax, as well as various fees and charges. These funds are used for administrative and supervisory salaries, materials and supplies, and other general operation expenses.

Conservation Trust Funds – El Paso County Parks currently receives approximately \$1.3 million annually from the State of Colorado’s Conservation Trust Fund (CTF). El Paso County utilizes a majority of the annual allotment for ongoing maintenance.

Development Fees and Land Dedication – Development fees are one-time charges imposed on residential subdivision development projects at the time of final platting to recover capital costs for public parks facilities needed to serve new developments and the additional residents, employees, and visitors they bring to the community. State laws and local regulations, with a few minor exceptions, prohibit the use of development fees for ongoing maintenance or operations costs.

El Paso County Parks receives regional and urban park fees from new housing development in the County. The regional park fees can be used for development of park facilities or the purchase of park property or open space. The regional fees must be used in designated areas where the fees were collected. Urban park fees can be used for the development of neighborhood or pocket parks and recreation facilities by the County or by another governmental or quasi-governmental entity, such as a metropolitan district, through the County’s Urban Park Grant Program.

User Fees – User fees are charged for a variety of individual or group uses currently generating approximately \$500,000 per year for the park system overall. Examples of user fees employed by El Paso County include park and recreation facility rentals, recreational program fees, booth leases (for vendors in parks, special events, and tournaments), special use permits, admissions/ticket sales, and County Fair fees.

Grants – Grants often supplement or match funds that have already been received. For example, grants can be used for programs, planning, design, seed money, and construction. Due to their generally unpredictable nature, grants are often used to fund a specific venture and should not be viewed as a continuous source of funding. El Paso County Parks aggressively pursues grants for individual park and trail projects from Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), State Trails grants, federal enhancement funds, and state and local private foundations.

Volunteer Programs – Programs such as adopt-a-park and friends of the park may be created with and supported by the residents, businesses, and/or organizations located in the park’s vicinity. These programs allow volunteers to actively assist in improving and maintaining parks, related facilities,

and the community in which they live. In addition, volunteers help to reduce the burden of hiring staff for certain activities, and aid in engaging the community in the operation of their park. In the case of Widefield Community Park, volunteer and friends groups could be established to assist in the ongoing improvement and maintenance of such facilities as the disc golf course or McCrae Reservoir. These examples illustrate the creative efforts that have been undertaken to continue to provide park and recreation services while enduring the reduced funding available to maintain service levels.

Additional Funding Opportunities

In addition to the current and more recognizable funding sources listed above, additional funding opportunities may be available to supplement existing funds. Examples of these are recreation service fees, payments for utility and telecommunication infrastructure on park property, merchandising, naming rights, gifts in perpetuity, bonds, real estate and assessment fees, leases and easements, permits and licensing rights, and various federal park and open space funds. These additional funding opportunities are explained in detail in Chapter 9 of the El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013).

Capital Improvement Costs and Phasing

The phasing, or prioritization, of capital improvement projects for Widefield Community Park was derived from working with citizens and organizations through the public input process, which included a public survey, interviews, meetings, and continuing collaboration with Master Plan Team members. An initial capital improvement budget for new and improved facilities and critical maintenance needs was developed. Benefit for cost, project complexity, and improvement urgency were considered in project prioritization.

The following table, Table 1, provides proposed Phase I improvements, including a general improvement name, a description of proposed action items, and estimated capital improvement costs, the latter of which is based upon previous projects of a similar nature. The Phase I improvements are tied to an initial budget of \$100,000 in regional park fees, in addition to \$150,000 of possible grant funding. These primary improvements are scheduled to be completed within one to two years, dependent on available staffing and planned in accordance with the El Paso County Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Widefield Community Park Master Plan Capital Improvement Costs - Phase I		
Phase One	Action Items	Estimated Costs
Main Restroom Renovation	Solicit bids, prepare design plans, complete work	\$75,000
Installation of Park Benches	In-house, purchase and install 9 standard park benches.	\$15,000
Installation of Trash Receptacles	In-house, purchase and install 6 standard trash receptacles.	\$7,000
Installation of Pedestrian Lighting	Solicit bids for the purchase and installation of 17 dark-sky pedestrian light fixtures, complete work.	\$26,500
Disc Golf Course Improvements	Prioritize and plan updates with local disc golf group; bid materials, construct necessary features, install amenities (course markers, course map, informational kiosk)	\$5,000
Playground Expansion and Renovation	Solicit bids for the purchase and installation of playground equipment.	\$60,000
Resurface and Restripe Basketball Court	Solicit bids, complete work	\$12,000
Convert Tennis Court to Two Pickleball Courts	Solicit bids, complete work	\$13,000
Social Trail Conversion to Tier III Standard	Solicit bids, finalize trail layouts, construct ~2,000' of Tier III trails	\$20,000
Landscape Bed Enhancements	Prepare basic design, purchase materials, complete work	\$1,000
Installation of Crossing Signs and Pedestrian Crossing Striping	Collaborate with EPC Public Works, complete work	\$7,500
Park Main Entrance Signs	Order standardized signs from regular vendor, in-house installation	\$8,000
Total Phase One Costs:		\$250,000

Table 1 - Proposed Phase I Improvements and Estimated Costs

The following table – Table 2 – provides future phase improvements, to be completed over the next five to ten years. These projects are dependent on available funding and planned in accordance with the El Paso County Parks Capital Improvement Program. These projects may be further broken down into individual phases as funding becomes available.

Widefield Community Park Master Plan Capital Improvement Costs - Future Phases		
Future Phases	Action Items	Estimated Costs
Installation of Exercise Course	Solicit bids, complete work	\$30,000
Construct Small Picnic Pavilion	Solicit bids, complete work	\$40,000
Construct Large Picnic / Events Pavilion	Solicit bids, complete work	\$65,000
Installation of Tables / BBQ Grills	Solicit bids for the purchase and installation of 2 standard picnic tables with accompanying BBQ grills on concrete pads	\$13,000
Social Trail Conversion to Tier III Standard (Phase II)	Solicit bids, finalize trail layouts, construct ~2,500' of Tier III trails	\$25,000
Installation of Port-o-let and Structured Enclosure	Solicit bids, construct enclosure for port-o-let	\$7,000
Planting of Deciduous Shade Trees	In-house, purchase materials, complete work	\$5,000
Expansion of Drury Lane Parking Area	Solicit bids, prepare design plans, complete work	\$100,000
Construction of Widefield Boulevard Parking Area	Solicit bids, prepare design plans, complete work	\$40,000
Concrete Paving of Crews Gulch Regional Trail	Solicit bids, complete work	\$65,000
Replacement of Crews Gulch Culverts / Bridges	Solicit bids, prepare design plans, reduce/stop creek flow, complete work, resume creek flow	\$60,000
Renovation of Crews Gulch/Fontaine Boulevard Access and Drainage Tunnel	Solicit bids, prepare design plans, close tunnel, complete work, reopen tunnel	\$35,000
Installation of Floating Observation Platform on McCrae Reservoir	Prepare design plans, solicit bids, complete work	\$25,000
Installation of Access Reduction Measures	In-house, purchase materials, complete work	\$5,000
Total Future Phases Costs:		\$515,000
TOTAL COSTS ALL PHASES:		\$765,000

Table 2 - Proposed Future Phases Improvements and Estimated Costs

Maintenance Costs

Many of the recommended Widefield Community Park Master Plan improvements are intended to reduce future maintenance costs. The utilization of sustainable infrastructure design principles, and use of high-quality, sustainable materials with strength to withstand heavy usage, will lead to more cost-effective operations, better utilization of El Paso County staff time, and reduced planning and maintenance costs over time.

General maintenance costs can be categorized as routine and periodic. Routine maintenance costs are less intensive and are done on a consistent schedule. Periodic maintenance requires significant staff time but is done less frequently. The proposed Phase I and Build-Out capital improvements outlined in the plan will require both routine and periodic maintenance. Park Operations staff has provided cost estimates in the following two tables.

WCP Master Plan Current and Estimated Phase I Maintenance Costs						
Routine Maintenance	Action Items	Current Annual Work Hours (\$17.5/hr)	Phase I Annual Work Hours (\$17.5/hr)	Change Annual Work Hours	Current Annual Costs	Phase I Annual Costs
General Maintenance - Summer	Trash removal, public water testing, playgrounds, and other routine grounds repair and maintenance (28 weeks)	280	310	30	\$4,900	\$5,425
General Maintenance - Winter	Trash removal, sign and fence maintenance (24 weeks)	90	90	0	\$1,575	\$1,575
General Repair and Maintenance Supplies	Herbicides, trash bags, cleaning and equipment maintenance	*	*	*	\$655	\$800
Vandalism Repair and Replacement	Vandalism repair and replacement materials and supplies	35	25	10	\$613	\$438
Electrical Costs	Electrical costs (2016 service level)	*	*	*	\$1,200	\$1,800
Restroom and Pavilion Cleaning - Summer	Sweeping, trash removal, dusting, mopping (28 weeks)	210	210	0	\$3,675	\$3,675
Turf Maintenance	Mowing (average 26 weeks)	224	224	0	\$3,920	\$3,920
Periodic Maintenance	Action Items					
Turf Maintenance	Fertilization, aeration, weed control	32	47	15	\$560	\$822
Turf & Planter Bed Maintenance Supplies	Fertilizer cost (2017) - Three applications per year & 2 cubic yards mulch and flowers	*	*	*	\$810	\$1,055
Irrigation Maintenance Labor	Visual inspection of heads, water adjustments, pump inspection, scheduling, repair and maintenance	112	112	0	\$1,960	\$1,960
Irrigation Repair and Maintenance Supplies	Head, lines, pump, controls, electrical	*	*	*	\$400	\$400
Natural Grass Area Maintenance	Mowing Native Areas	200	200	0	\$3,500	\$3,500
Painting Maintenance	Paint supplies, pavilions, signs	18	14	4	\$315	\$245
Snow Removal - Winter	Clearing sidewalks, asphalt parking lots (average 10 events)	40	40	0	\$700	\$700
Other Maintenance	Action Items					
Asphalt Parking Lot Maintenance	Asphalt repair, sealing, sweeping, striping, crack filing as needed	40	40		\$700	\$700
Forest Management	Tree pruning, thinning, removal, and fire mitigation	312	312	0	\$5,460	\$5,460
Sidewalk Maintenance	Crack repair, tripping hazard mitigation, section replacement	26	26	0	\$455	\$455
Regional Trail Maintenance (Gravel Section)	Tier I - \$1,000 per linear mile per year: box blading, surface repair & adding trail material	0.45 Miles	0.45 Miles	No Change	\$450	\$2,500
Regional Trail Maintenance (Concrete Section)	Tier I - concrete surface repair	0.40 Miles	0.40 Miles	No Change	\$800	\$800
Internal Concrete Sidewalk Maintenance	Tier III - concrete surface repair	0.50 Miles	0.50 Miles	No Change	\$1,500	\$1,500
Secondary Trail Maintenance	Tier III - \$800 per linear mile per year: box blading and surface repair plus trail material	0.10 Miles	0.85 Miles	75%	\$80	\$1,480
Total Estimated Maintenance Costs:					\$34,228	\$39,210

Table 3 – Current and Estimated Phase I Maintenance Costs

WCP Master Plan Post-Phase I and Estimated Build-Out Maintenance Costs						
Routine Maintenance	Action Items	Post-Phase I Annual Work Hours (\$17.5/hr)	Build-Out Annual Work Hours (\$17.5/hr)	Change Annual Work Hours	Post-Phase I Annual Costs	Build-Out Annual Costs
General Maintenance - Summer	Trash removal, playgrounds, and other routine grounds repair and maintenance (28 weeks)	310	366	56	\$5,425	\$6,405
General Maintenance - Winter	Trash removal, sign and fence maintenance (24 weeks)	90	138	48	\$1,575	\$2,415
General Repair and Maintenance Supplies	Herbicides, trash bags, cleaning and equipment maintenance	*	*	*	\$800	\$1,200
Vandalism Repair and Replacement	Vandalism repair and replacement materials and supplies	25	25		\$438	\$438
Electrical Costs	Electrical costs (2016 service level)	*	*	*	\$1,800	\$3,800
Restroom and Pavilion Cleaning - Summer	Sweeping, trash removal, dusting, mopping (28 weeks)	210	250	40	\$3,675	\$4,375
Turf Maintenance	Mowing (average 26 weeks)	224	224	0	\$3,920	\$3,920
Periodic Maintenance	Action Items					
Turf Maintenance	Fertilization, aeration, weed control	47	47	0	\$822	\$822
Turf Maintenance Supplies	Fertilizer cost (2016) - Three applications per year & 2 cubic yards mulch and flowers	*	*	*	\$1,055	\$1,255
Irrigation Maintenance Labor	Visual inspection of heads, water adjustments, pump inspection, scheduling, repair and maintenance	112	112	0	\$1,960	\$1,960
Irrigation Repair and Maintenance Supplies	Head, lines, pump, controls, electrical	*	*	*	\$400	\$600
Natural Grass Area Maintenance	Mowing (average 3-4) times per year	200	250	50	\$3,500	\$4,375
Painting Maintenance	Paint supplies, pavilions, signs	14	14	0	\$245	\$245
Snow Removal - Winter	Clearing sidewalks, asphalt parking lots (average 10 events)	40	60	20	\$700	\$1,050
Other Maintenance	Action Items					
Asphalt Parking Lot Maintenance	Asphalt repair, sealing, sweeping, striping, crack filling as needed	40	60	20	\$700	\$1,050
Forest Management	Tree pruning, thinning, removal, and fire mitigation	312	312	0	\$5,460	\$5,460
Sidewalk Maintenance	Crack repair, tripping hazard mitigation, section replacement	26	32	6	\$455	\$560
Regional Trail Maintenance (Gravel Section)	Tier I - \$1,000 per linear mile per year: box blading, surface repair and add trail material	0.45 Miles	0.25 Miles	- 0.20 Miles	\$2,500	\$2,000
Regional Trail Maintenance (Concrete Section)	Tier I - concrete replacement and surface repair	0.40 Miles	0.60 Miles	0.20 Miles	\$800	\$1,200
Internal Concrete Sidewalk Maintenance	Tier III - concrete replacement and surface repair	0.50 Miles	0.50 Miles	No Change	\$1,500	\$1,500
Secondary Trail Maintenance	Tier III - \$800 per linear mile per year: box blading and surface repair	0.85 Miles	0.85 Miles	No Change	\$1,480	\$1,480
Total Estimated Maintenance Costs:					\$39,210	\$46,110

Table 4 – Post-Phase I and Estimated Build-Out Maintenance Costs

~ Bibliography ~

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- 12) Strategic Plan for the Fountain Creek Watershed, Fountain Creek Vision Task Force, March 2009
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- 15) United States Census Bureau: (<http://www.census.gov/en.html>)
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~ Appendices ~

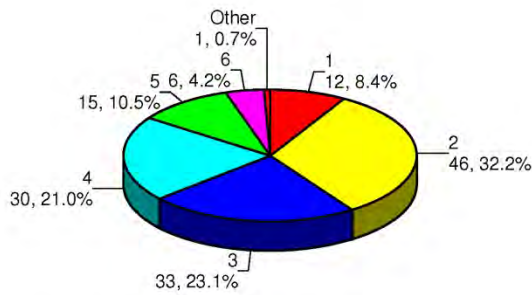
Widefield Community Park Master Plan Survey

Demographics

Age Group of Respondent

Please select your age group:				
	Counts	Percents	Percents	
			0	100
25-34 years old	31	21.7%	<div style="width: 21.7%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	
35-44 years old	41	28.7%	<div style="width: 28.7%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	
45-54 years old	32	22.4%	<div style="width: 22.4%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	
55-64 years old	26	18.2%	<div style="width: 18.2%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	
65 and older	11	7.7%	<div style="width: 7.7%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	
Other	2	1.4%	<div style="width: 1.4%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	
Totals	143	100.0%		

Number of People That Live in Respondents Household



How many people live in your household?

Ages Per Household

4 Years Old or Younger-Number in household		
1	80.0%	20
2	20.0%	5
3	0.0%	0
4	0.0%	0
5	0.0%	0
6	0.0%	0
Totals	100.0%	25
5-9 Years Old-Number in household		
1	69.0%	20
2	31.0%	9
3	0.0%	0
Totals	100.0%	29
10-14 Years Old-Number in household		
1	72.4%	21
2	20.7%	6
3	6.9%	2
4	0.0%	0
Totals	100.0%	29
15-18 Years Old-Number in household		
1	90.0%	27
2	6.7%	2
3	3.3%	1
Totals	100.0%	30
19-24 Years Old-Number in household		
1	80.0%	16
2	20.0%	4
Totals	100.0%	20
25-34 Years Old-Number in household		
1	42.4%	14
2	57.6%	19
Totals	100.0%	33
35-44 Years Old-Number in household		
1	53.8%	28
2	46.2%	24
4	0.0%	0
Totals	100.0%	52
45-54 Years Old-Number in household		
1	41.7%	15
2	58.3%	21
Totals	100.0%	36
55-64 Years Old-Number in household		
0	6.1%	2
1	48.5%	16

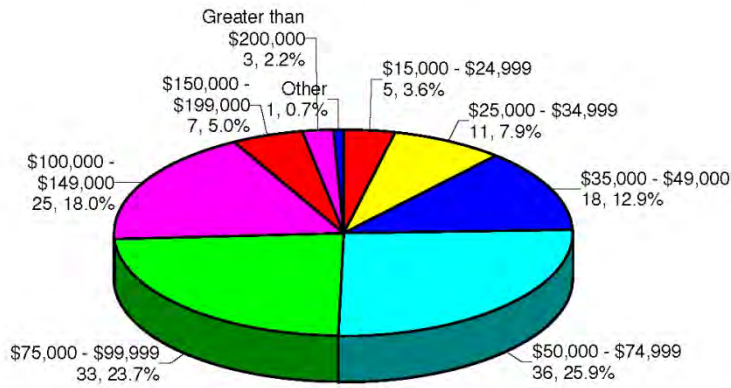
October 10, 2016

Wideland Master Plan Survey

Page 2

2	45.5%	15
Totals	100.0%	33
65 and Older-Number in household		
1	60.0%	9
2	40.0%	6
Totals	100.0%	15

Household Income



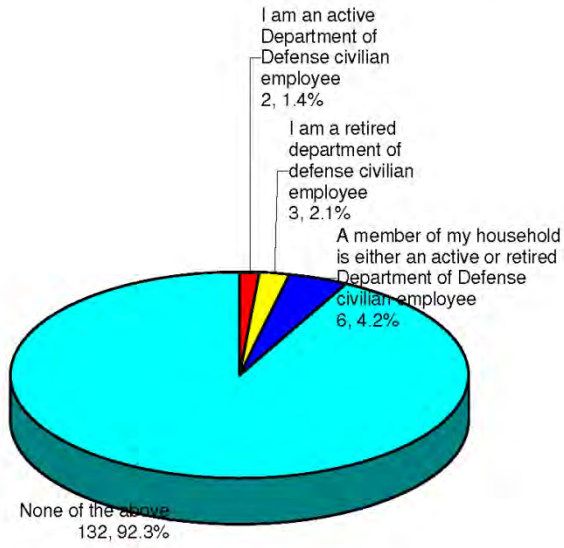
Household Income:

Military Status



Military Status:

Department of Defense Status

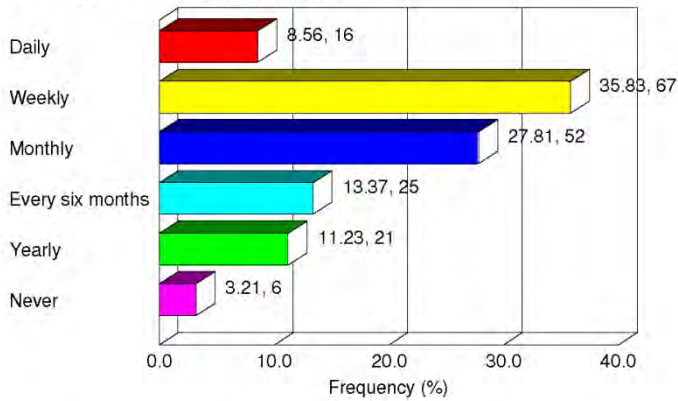


Department of Defense Status

Familiarity

Frequency of Visits to Widefield Community Park

On average, how often have you or others in your household visited Widefield Community Park in the last year?






Activities Respondent has Participated in or Facilities Used

Please list all activities you / your household have participated in or facilities you've used at Widefield Community Park Only. (check all that apply)














	Counts	Percents	0	100
Disc Golf Course	117	62.9%		
Hiking / Walking	66	35.5%		
Dog walking	54	29.0%		
Playgrounds	51	27.4%		
Regional Trail	36	19.4%		
Open space / Passive recreation	34	18.3%		
Photography	29	15.6%		
Wildlife viewing / Bird watching	27	14.5%		
Cycling / Mountain biking	25	13.4%		
Picnic tables / BBQ grills	25	13.4%		
Memorial Pavilion	24	12.9%		
Running / Fitness	18	9.7%		
McCrae Reservoir Access	16	8.6%		
Basketball court	15	8.1%		
Multi-use athletic fields / Baseball field	12	6.5%		

[Continuing table]

Please list all activities you / your household have participated in or facilities you've used at Widefield Community Park Only. (check all that apply)				
	Counts	Percents	0	Percents
				100
Tennis Court	12	6.5%		
Secondary / Singletrack trails	7	3.8%		
Other	5	2.7%		
Totals	*	*		

* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

Favorite Activity or Facility

From the below list, which one activity or facility is your favorite? (choose only one)				
	Counts	Percents	0	Percents
				100
Disc Golf Course	100	53.2%		
Hiking / Walking	20	10.6%		
Dog walking	15	8.0%		
Playgrounds	10	5.3%		
Cycling / Mountain biking	9	4.8%		
Wildlife viewing / Bird watching	8	4.3%		
Open space / Passive recreation	6	3.2%		
Photography	4	2.1%		
Regional Trail	4	2.1%		
Running / Fitness	4	2.1%		
Memorial Pavilion	2	1.1%		
Picnic tables / BBQ grills	2	1.1%		
Other	4	2.1%		
Totals	188	100.0%		

Future or Proposed Park Usage

Top 5 Priorities for Renovation and/or New Facilities

Please choose only your top 5 from the below list.

	Counts	Percents	
		0	100
Improved disc golf course	95		
Renovated restrooms	70		
Cultural events (concerts, art fairs, festivals)	35		
Exercise course	32		
Additional picnic tables / BBQ grills	31		
Expanded parking lots	31		
Renovated playground	31		
Community garden	29		
Picnic pavilions	28		
Improved open space areas	27		
Improved reservoir access	26		
Demonstration garden (xeriscaping, attracting bird / butterflies, etc.)	25		
Interactive water feature	24		
Events pavilion	23		
Additional playgrounds	22		
Wildlife viewing / Bird watching	18		
Natural playground	17		
Renovated basketball courts	15		
Singletrack trails	14		
Zip line (children's low level)	13		
Geocaching	9		
Pickleball / Paddleball courts	9		
Interpretive signs / programs	8		
Bocce ball court	6		
Improved baseball field	6		
Skateboard area	6		
Renovated tennis courts	5		
Shuffleboard court	5		
Improved football / Soccer field (shared with baseball field)	4		
dog park	2		
Other	15		

[Continuing table]

Please choose only your top 5 from the below list.			
	Counts	0	Percents
			100
Totals	*		

* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

Future or Proposed Park Usage with "Other" Responses

Please choose only your top 5 from the below list.

- 95 Improved disc golf course
- 70 Renovated restrooms
- 35 Cultural events (concerts, art fairs, festivals)
- 32 Exercise course
- 31 Additional picnic tables / BBQ grills
- 31 Expanded parking lots
- 31 Renovated playground
- 29 Community garden
- 28 Picnic pavilions
- 27 Improved open space areas
- 26 Improved reservoir access
- 25 Demonstration garden (xeriscaping, attracting bird / butterflies, etc.)
- 24 Interactive water feature
- 23 Events pavilion
- 22 Additional playgrounds
- 18 Wildlife viewing / Bird watching
- 17 Natural playground
- 15 Renovated basketball courts
- 14 Singletrack trails
- 13 Zip line (children's low level)
- 9 Geocaching
- 9 Pickleball / Paddleball courts
- 8 Interpretive signs / programs
- 6 Bocce ball court
- 6 Improved baseball field
- 6 Skateboard area
- 5 Renovated tennis courts
- 5 Shuffleboard court
- 4 Improved football / Soccer field (shared with baseball field)
- 17 Other

- Infrastructure/Irrigation upgrades
- Bigger parking lot. Run two tournaments at widefield with 90 people. Need parking room
- Benches throughout the park, additional trash cans, another restroom
- Off leash dog areas.
- improved reservoir access open to fishing closed for 30 years is way to long!!! #5 archery range one or two lanes
- A few extra trash receptacles
- Tee signs and benches for disc golf
- Upgrade disc golf course
- mow more please
- do not add more concrete. keep it natural.
- More benches at tee boxes for the disc golf course and signs that warns pedestrians about the dangers of flying discs.
- More benches in park
- dog park
- Benches on disc golf course
- dog park

Park Primary Focus, Goals, and Objectives

What is one thing you would change about Widefield Community Park?

2, 1.9% Bathrooms 2, 1.9% Benches 2, 1.9% Nothing 97, 94.2% Other

- Upgrade the baseball diamond into an official little league field
- Improve the trails around the Disc Golf Course
- Operation of bathrooms, stops venues from considering Widefield for events
- Restroom upgrade
- Park needs a face-lift
- Make it feel safer yet retain quiet, more wild areas.
- Benches through the trail/disc golf course
- more activities to do.
- Need new tee signs for the disc golf course. They're either missing or unreadable
- Mow more of the park not just the multi use field area
- Bigger parking lot
- Encourage festivals/events to be held there
- Better tee pads on disc golf area
- allow fishing in reservoir bird watchers have had exclusive use long enough!
- The awful smell that comes from the creek is unbearable at times. Maybe find a cure for this
- Clear disc golf signage
- Mow the whole thing. That disc golf course is important, without it how much of the park goes unused?
- Disc golf course signage and awareness
- Add a dog park area
- Now the grass more
- Add benches on the disc golf course
- Take advantage of the creek running through with adding pond or other water feature
- Protect natural areas!!
- Children play area
- Better signage on the disc golf course
- none
- more benches
- Better Restroom area.
- I would like the park updated, we go as a family a lot but my children are often bored with the park quickly
- upgrade what is there-old park
- Making disc golf #1 priority
- needs a few more trash cans in the far reaches of the park
- More wildlife
- Restroom improvements
- Year round restrooms
- Basketball courts
- More parking
- The playground need a lot of updating
- Great park, love the disc golf course
- have the disc golf course mowed, and weed eat
- the irrigation ditch
- The aspect of the park being neglected
- More lawn mowing
- It is a very nice park, and all user groups seem to go well together, I'd just keep doing what has been done
- clean up the creek, water odor and debris post heavy rain
- Mowing twice monthly
- Outdoor pool
- Bathroom facilities on the far end of the disc golf course
- No dogs on trails.
- Improved access and signage, parking for disc golf course.
- make nature a top priority
- Have the trail further from the tee boxes
- remove disc golf
- Inform users about the plane crash which occurred
- eliminate disc playing
- Add shade to playground for the safety of kids back sides on the slides
- Tee signs and benches for Disc Golf course
- Water fountains and better bathroom.

- Improve the disc golf course
- clean restrooms
- More awareness of disc golf for the public.
- Ensure that someone is enforcing leash (and other) rules with regular patrols.
- Tee Signs, benches for course
- make people aware of the existing rules such as keeping your dog on a leash.
- Fenced court area
- reservoir access: underneath Fontaine and around reservoir
- Parking
- there is no place for group gatherings i.e.: class reunion picnics
- More family oriented areas and activities
- location
- Expand disc golf course
- Pavillon events
- Although the majority of golfers are co-considerate of other park users, posting signs to let visitors know they're entering a live golf course would be nice.
- Add restroom on the lower part of the Disc Golf Course
- restroom access
- better maintenance
- Mowing more often
- Enforcement of park hours, with improved signage.
- A more frequent mowing and trash clean up schedule for the trails and open space areas, especially during the summer months.
- To upgrade the golf course
- adding a dog park
- Better and additional restrooms
- More playgrounds, for wide range of ages
- dog park
- The Cruze Gulch Creek is better maintained and cleaned up for better flow.
- More bathrooms
- Additional bathrooms
- Improved disc golf facilities
- Do something about the trees growing along property lines, removal?
- Less graffiti.
- improved disc golf course
- Better facilities
- restroom
- dock at the lake
- Need quality facilities
- People letting their dogs off leash
- remodel restrooms

Three Issues Most Important to Master Plan

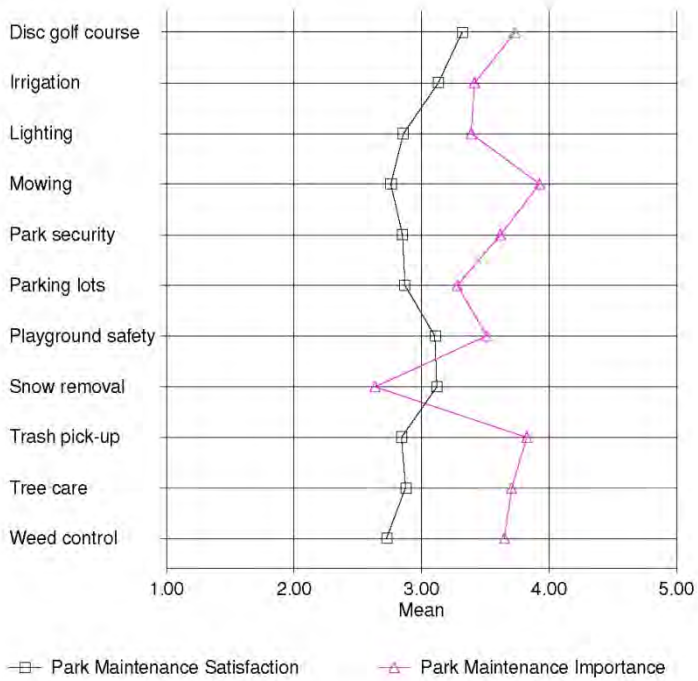
Select three issues that are most important to you for the Master Plan to address. (choose only three)				
	Counts	Percents	Percents	
			0	100
Improvement of existing facilities	119	70.4%		
Maintenance of existing facilities	113	66.9%		
Preservation of open space for passive recreation	60	35.5%		
Safety	53	31.4%		
New facilities to meet user needs	48	28.4%		
Enforcement of park rules and regulations	45	26.6%		

[Continuing table]

Select three issues that are most important to you for the Master Plan to address. (choose only three)			
	Counts	Percents	Percents
			0 100
County Communication and engagement with park users	22	13.0%	
Other	3	1.8%	
Totals	*	*	

* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

Widefield Community Park Maintenance



Widefield Community Park Maintenance Importance

Park Maintenance Importance	Rated 1	Rated 2	Rated 3	Rated 4	Rated 5	Totals	Mean	Mean	
								1	5
Mowing	6 3.6%	7 4.2%	46 27.9%	40 24.2%	66 40.0%	165 100.0%	3.93		
Trash pick-up	1 0.6%	6 3.6%	59 35.3%	56 33.5%	45 26.9%	167 100.0%	3.83		
Disc golf course	24 14.2%	11 6.5%	36 21.3%	13 7.7%	85 50.3%	169 100.0%	3.73		
Tree care	1 0.6%	17 10.4%	49 29.9%	59 36.0%	38 23.2%	164 100.0%	3.71		
Weed control	5 3.0%	21 12.6%	50 29.9%	42 25.1%	49 29.3%	167 100.0%	3.65		
Park security	5 3.0%	15 9.0%	54 32.5%	56 33.7%	36 21.7%	166 100.0%	3.62		
Playground safety	10 6.3%	12 7.5%	61 38.1%	40 25.0%	37 23.1%	160 100.0%	3.51		
Irrigation	6 4.0%	13 8.7%	68 45.6%	37 24.8%	25 16.8%	149 100.0%	3.42		
Lighting	8 4.9%	22 13.4%	62 37.8%	42 25.6%	30 18.3%	164 100.0%	3.39		
Parking lots	3 1.8%	31 18.9%	67 40.9%	43 26.2%	20 12.2%	164 100.0%	3.28		
Snow removal	23 13.9%	53 32.1%	62 37.6%	15 9.1%	12 7.3%	165 100.0%	2.64		

Widefield Community Park Maintenance Satisfaction

Park Maintenance Satisfaction	Rated 1	Rated 2	Rated 3	Rated 4	Rated 5	Totals	Mean	Mean	
								1	5
Disc golf course	7 4.3%	17 10.5%	77 47.5%	39 24.1%	22 13.6%	162 100.0%	3.32		
Irrigation	6 3.8%	17 10.7%	95 59.7%	32 20.1%	9 5.7%	159 100.0%	3.13		
Snow removal	3 1.9%	17 10.7%	102 64.2%	32 20.1%	5 3.1%	159 100.0%	3.12		
Playground safety	3 1.9%	18 11.3%	102 64.2%	31 19.5%	5 3.1%	159 100.0%	3.11		
Tree care	10 6.2%	39 24.2%	80 49.7%	25 15.5%	7 4.3%	161 100.0%	2.88		
Parking lots	10 6.2%	32 19.9%	93 57.8%	21 13.0%	5 3.1%	161 100.0%	2.87		
Lighting	4 2.5%	46 28.4%	84 51.9%	25 15.4%	3 1.9%	162 100.0%	2.86		
Park security	11 6.8%	36 22.4%	83 51.6%	28 17.4%	3 1.9%	161 100.0%	2.85		
Trash pick-up	7 4.3%	42 25.9%	85 52.5%	25 15.4%	3 1.9%	162 100.0%	2.85		
Mowing	13 8.0%	48 29.6%	73 45.1%	21 13.0%	7 4.3%	162 100.0%	2.76		
Weed control	14 8.7%	47 29.2%	71 44.1%	27 16.8%	2 1.2%	161 100.0%	2.73		

Please let us know if there are other areas of park maintenance, not mentioned above, on which you'd like to comment.

- Staff does a good job but they will need all the infrastructure help they can get.
- water fountain should work or be updated
- Disc golf signage, tee signs and course map
- Cutting down trees then leaving the sections near the irrigation ditch, they predictably ended up in the ditch. There needs to be some erosion control along the dirt trail near Fountain and the outflow from Carp Lake.
- None
- none
- Above all, clean restrooms. I cannot emphasize that enough. I have small children and now I take them all the way home after the first time I saw the inside of the bathroom at the park.
- Weed control and mowing keep that disc golf course as one of the best in Colorado.
- Better clean up of sticks
- Tee pad maintenance--
- We would like the areas to be more natural and eliminate disc golf. Too much noise, trash, cigarettes, drinking. We want to be able to walk and hike. We would like to see the connecting trail under the railroad patrolled more often- kids smoke pot and graffiti.
- Spraying for mosquitoes and spiders. Too many mosquitoes in the park also the amount of spiders along the creek banks on the back half make it very dangerous when retrieving a disc from the water.
- Appropriate signage all around the park with the rules. Most people don't enter the park from the parking lot and so can claim ignorance of the rules.
- Kids playground update
- I love those broad sidewalks for safe bike riding for youngsters. The sidewalks in our neighborhood are very difficult and not safe for new riders. I also like the expanse of natural habitat, and that we always see many people using the park in a variety of ways. I believe the healthy volume of disc golfers who use the entire length of the park add to park security and hope enhancing their experience is a priority.

- I'd love to see the existing trails that have been damaged almost 2 years ago repaired & maintained. We have access to great trails down here & I want to make sure it'll always be here for us to use. I know it's a huge project, but Fountain Creek is the problem & has to be properly maintained before it washes away what's left of our trail system.
- Need to improve: Wasp nest removal. Graffiti removal. Water conservation and irrigation repair. Fix drainage at Drury Lane. Clear posting of hours and vehicles not allowed at entrances, website and fb. Posting of an actual after hours emergency number for the park, when police are not needed.
- When you think of a park...you think of flowers \, lush grass. Numerous areas for families to relax and enjoy themselves.
- Late night loitering
- Would like to include the trails running through the neighborhoods that connect to the park to be included in the mowing, trash clean up, and maintenance schedule more frequently.
- Disc golf course needs benches. Mosquito control.
- Signs that warn people walking to stay alert because of the disc golf course
- Please remove the trees along property lines of homeowners along the park perimeter.
- Entrance to 1st parking lot off of Fontaine has quite a big scrape potential for cars as evidenced by scrapes in concrete!
- You need a new bathroom that locks. Every time I go to the one at the park there is a homeless person sleeping in there.
- The drainage channel on the north side that parallels the sidewalk is choked with weeds and not maintained for years.

~ Widefield Community Park ~
Master Plan – 2016/2017

~ Summarized Results of the Stakeholder Interview Process ~

- **Participating Stakeholders**
 - Aiken Audubon Society
 - City of Colorado Springs Parks
 - Fountain Mutual Irrigation Company
 - Fountain Mutual Metropolitan District
 - Pikes Peak Flying Disc Club
 - Widefield School District 3 – Parks and Recreation
 - Glen at Widefield Metropolitan District

- **Utilization of Widefield Community Park:**
 - Practice area for sports teams
 - Crews Gulch Regional Trail for exercise
 - Disc golf course for leisure and tournaments

- **Widefield Community Park’s Best Asset?**
 - Disc golf course
 - Trees, creek, open spaces
 - Great recreational asset to the surrounding communities
 - Crews Gulch Regional Trail

- **Expansion or Improvement of Current Facilities:**
 - Renovate basketball courts
 - Add more picnic tables and/or pavilions
 - Improve Crews Gulch channel
 - Renovate restrooms
 - Expand the parking lot
 - Add more benches and trash cans
 - Improve disc golf course signage
 - Improved access to McCrae Reservoir
 - Connect Crew Gulch Regional Trail to City of Colorado Springs trails.

- **New Programs or Facilities:**
 - Pickleball/Paddleball courts
 - Dog Play Area
 - Picnic and event pavilions

- **Overall Master Plan Goals:**
 - Create a park facility that impacts a wide range of families and age groups – “Recreation over the ages.”
 - Engage the public to encourage the use of the park facilities.
 - Continue serving the community through the advancement of current park objectives.

~ Widefield Community Park ~
Master Plan – 2016/2017

Public Meeting
October 20, 2016 – 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Talbot Elementary School

~ Results of Public Input Exercise ~
Total Dot Counts with Online Survey Ranking in Parentheses

- **Single Favorite Activity**
 - Disc Golf Course – 2 (1)
 - Hiking / Walking – 1 (2)
 - Open Space for Passive Recreation – 1 (7)
 - Multi-Use Athletic Field / Baseball Field – 1 (Unranked)

- **New Facilities or Programs**
 - Dog Play Area – 5 (30)
 - Improved Disc Golf Course – 4 (1)
 - Additional Playgrounds – 3 (15)
 - Natural Playground – 3 (17)
 - Renovated Restrooms – 2 (2)
 - Picnic Pavilions – 2 (9)
 - Pickleball / Paddleball Courts – 2 (22)
 - Cultural Events – 1 (3)
 - Exercise Course – 1 (4)
 - Renovated Playground – 1 (7)

- **Master Plan Goals**
 - Improvement of Existing Facilities – 4 (1)
 - Maintenance of Existing Facilities – 4 (2)
 - New Facilities to Meet User Needs – 3 (5)
 - Enforcement of Park Rules and Regulations – 2 (6)
 - Preservation of Open Space for Passive Recreation – 2 (3)

- **Additional Citizen Suggestions:**
 - More trash cans are needed throughout the park.
 - More benches are needed throughout the park and disc golf course.
 - McCrae Reservoir needs better access and structured activities.
 - Enlarge the playground or create a playground “hub” with more swings, as kids currently line up to take turns.
 - Organize a “spring yard sale” and other festivals to take place on the multi-use athletic field.
 - Park Operations is doing a “wonderful job” with park maintenance.
 - Add better signage, benches, and trash cans to the disc golf course in an effort to cut down on course confusion, trash, and user conflicts.

~ Widefield Community Park ~
Master Plan – 2016/2017

Public Meeting
February 9, 2017 – 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Fountain Creek Nature Center

~ Summary of Public Comments ~

- **In Regards to General Park Maintenance:**
 - Cottonwood trees have hanging broken branches as a result of the wind storms of January 2017. The branches could break off and injure park users.
 - Dead pine trees need to be removed, as they are a fire hazard.
 - Increase weekly and monthly trash pick-up throughout the park and along Crews Gulch.
 - Utilize volunteer groups, such as the Boy or Girl Scouts, to help with trash and debris clean-up in the park.
 - Assess and improve vegetation and tree management along Fontaine Boulevard and McCrae Reservoir.

- **In Regards to Park Improvements:**
 - Dog waste boxes with bags need to be installed.
 - Port-o-lets need to be installed near Quebec Street.
 - Main restrooms near baseball field need to be open and accessible all year long during the park's normal hours of operation.
 - Install more benches and picnic tables, some with permanent awnings and shade structures.
 - Improve landscaping at parking lot and park entrance landscape beds.
 - Plant drought-resistant flowerbeds at the Flight 585 Memorial and near the parking lot.
 - Install bear-proof trashcans throughout the park.
 - Install new park sign at the intersection of Fontaine Boulevard and Drury Lane.
 - Paint and repair the pavilion near McCrae Reservoir.
 - Improve and/or install new playground equipment.
 - Plant more shade trees and/or add permanent shade structures near playground.
 - Improve and/or replace park signage throughout the park, as most signs are aged or damaged.
 - Address the impacts of potential light pollution caused by the installation of additional pedestrian lighting along Crews Gulch Regional Trail.
 - Install pickleball courts as soon as possible. Work with local pickleball associations to help plan and/or fund the installation of courts. Move pickleball improvements into the Phase I Improvements list. Pickleball is a fast growing sport, and while two courts are a good start, consider building additional courts in the future. Light the courts, if possible.
 - Install osprey nest platforms at McCrae Reservoir, as well as creating habitat for wood ducks, other species of birds, and bats.
 - Research the feasibility of recreational fishing on McCrae Reservoir.