



# PAONIA IN MOTION

PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

JUNE 2022



CREATING HOW WE RECREATE



# Acknowledgements

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## FUNDING PARTNER

This planning effort would not have been possible without the grant awarded to the Town of Paonia by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO).



# Certification

The Town of Paonia Board of Trustees hereby certifies that the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan, was adopted by Resolution No. ## on June 22, 2022.

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Mary Bachran, Mayor

As witness therein: \_\_\_\_\_

Corinne Ferguson, Town Clerk



Imagining an overlook and “Astro Park” atop P-Hill.



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# Introduction

- + Why Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails?
- + How to Use this Plan
- + Plan Amendments and Updates
- + The Paonia In Motion (PIM) Planning Process

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Creating How We Recreate

## ■ WHY PLAN FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS?

Planning for parks, recreation, and trails in Paonia may seem unimportant or a low priority given other challenges that the community is facing (e.g., the condition of town streets, the town's water system, cost of living, the local economy, etc.). While those issues certainly warrant attention, parks, recreation, and trails offer a number of benefits that support Paonia's success, and therefore, should not be overlooked. Included on the following pages are select findings from a variety of studies that highlight the value and positive impacts that parks, recreation, and trails can have on a community.

**“Would prefer to see the town focusing on improving existing infrastructure (i.e., roads, water, and sewer).”**

- comment from 2021 Community Survey



### Quality of Life Impacts

“Quality of life” is one those terms that doesn't necessarily have a clear definition and that can have a different meaning for different people. For the purposes of this Plan, you are encouraged to think of quality of life as the characteristics that make a community a great place to live and that support the health and happiness of its residents.

In recent years, quality of life has garnered greater attention as an increasingly important factor in the decisions that people make about where to live and where to have a business...

- A 2015 study prepared by Community Builders, titled “Place Value: How Communities Attract, Grow, and Keep Jobs and Talent in the Rocky Mountain West<sup>1</sup>,” found that...

#### Community Quality is Top Priority.

In selecting a location to live, the most highly considered factor for business owners and community members was overall quality of the community.

#### People are Looking for Great Places.

When asked, “What's more important: a job OR the community?”...

**39%** said community.

**44%** said job and community.

**17%** said job.

#### People will Sacrifice Salary for Location.

**83%** would rather live in an ideal community for a lesser salary.

**17%** would rather live in a less than ideal community for a higher salary.

#### Jobs Follow People.

**70%** of business owners moved to a community, then started a business at a later time.

#### Location Helps Attract Employees.

**68%** of business owners said that the ability to attract or retain talented employees was an important factor in choosing their business location.

The findings of this study were based on a survey of nearly 1,000 employers and community members in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

- A 2016 study prepared by the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) titled, “Rural Economic Resiliency in Colorado: Study of Factors Impacting Resiliency<sup>2</sup>,” found that community leaders from ten rural Colorado counties consider “Quality of Life” as one of five factors that are key to economic resiliency. The study states that “The ‘quality of life’ offered in smaller rural communities was a factor that drives people to stay and continue to work even when they could leave for opportunities to earn a higher salary.”

The other factors, identified as being important to economic resiliency, are: “Industry Diversity,” “Community Leadership,” “Education and Health Care,” and “Transportation Access.”

So what? How do the findings of these studies pertain to Paonia? Recently, as part of the on-going process for the update to Paonia’s Comprehensive Plan, the town conducted a survey to gather the community’s input on a variety of topics. One of the questions that survey participants were asked to respond to was aimed at better understanding local opinions regarding the relationship between parks, recreation, and trails and the overall quality of life in Paonia. Of the 203 survey responses, roughly 80% indicated that parks, recreation, and trails were “Very Important” and roughly 13% indicated that they were “Important.”

#### How important are parks, recreation, and trails to the overall quality of life in Paonia?

Very Important	... <b>79.8%</b> of respondents
Important	... <b>12.81%</b> of respondents
Somewhat Important	... <b>4.43%</b> of respondents
Not Important	... <b>0.49%</b> of respondents
No Opinion	... <b>2.46%</b> of respondents

Based on the findings of the town’s survey, it appears that parks, recreation, and trails play an important role in making Paonia a great place to live. This supports the findings of the findings of the two studies described on the previous page that Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails are key to the town’s ability to retain and attract residents, as well as businesses.



#### Physical & Mental Health Impacts

Sunlight, fresh air, exercise, and access to green spaces all have positive effects on our physical and mental well-being. Numerous studies have been conducted over the past few decades, the findings of which underscore the positive impacts that parks and natural areas have. According to “Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages<sup>3</sup>,” published by AARP, access to parks and natural areas offers the following benefits:

- Helps raise the physical activity levels of those who live within a short distance of parks.
- Reduces obesity rates.
- Increases vitamin D levels.
- Improves blood pressure, bone density, and cardiorespiratory fitness.
- Reduces stress, anger and aggression.
- Improves coping abilities.
- Lessens social isolation.
- Enhances relationship skills.
- Improves cognitive function.





## Social Impacts

While harder to quantify, public spaces, such as parks and recreation facilities, play an important role in the social health of a community by providing places for people to gather and interact. They serve as venues for a variety of activities and events that help to strengthen social bonds - from small events, such as birthday parties, that bring family and friends together, to large events, such as Cherry Days, that bring together an entire community. Great public spaces can help to foster community pride and a sense of belonging as these are places that are collectively owned by the public.



## Environmental Health Impacts

Parks and greenery within a community offer significant environmental benefits. These benefits include improved water and air quality, reduced temperatures and ultraviolet (UV) radiation, and the protection and support of local biodiversity and ecological integrity. Park vegetation, specifically trees, plays a critical role in this by continuously removing pollutants from the air; sequestering carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>); actively lowering temperatures within, and adjacent, to parks; absorbing UV radiation; and, reducing and removing pollutants from stormwater runoff.

- **Air Quality Impacts.** A study published by the National Recreation & Park Association, “Air Quality Effects of Urban Trees and Parks<sup>4</sup>,” estimated that urban park trees, in the United States, remove 75,000 tons of pollution and 2.4 million tons of carbon dioxide every year.
- **Water Quality Impacts.** Parks offer large areas of pervious surfaces (i.e., a surface that allows the percolation of water into the underlying soil) that can be used to absorb and reduce stormwater runoff. The vegetation within parks provides a natural filter that helps to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. A 2017 study<sup>5</sup>, prepared by the Center for Watershed Protection, found that “...the cumulative effect of tree canopy is to temporarily detain rainfall and gradually release it, regulating the flow (volume and peak) of stormwater runoff downstream and thereby preventing pollutants in rainfall and on urban surfaces from being transported to local waterways.”
- **Temperature Impacts.** Communities with large areas of pavement, buildings, and other materials that absorb and retain solar radiation typically have warmer temperatures than surrounding agricultural or natural areas. This phenomenon is referred to as the “Urban Heat Island Effect.” This effect can result in increased energy costs (e.g., for air conditioning), air pollution levels, and heat-related illness and mortality. If climatic changes result in periods of high temperatures becoming more prevalent and severe, the impacts of the Urban Heat Island Effect may worsen.

Parks, with large areas of vegetation, especially trees, help to combat the adverse impacts of the Urban Heat Island Effect. A 2010 study<sup>4</sup>, prepared by the National Recreation & Parks Association, found that the maximum difference in temperature between the coolest point in a park and the areas surrounding the park can be about 13°F (7°C). Recently, The Trust for Public Lands assembled high-resolution data for the entire United States and found that areas within a 10-minute walk of a park can be as much as 6 degrees cooler than areas beyond that range<sup>6</sup>. The effects that parks have on air temperature can help to moderate levels of air pollution, reduce energy costs for neighboring buildings, and improve human comfort and health.

- **UV Radiation Impacts.** Park trees provide protection from UV radiation. Trees absorb about 95% of UV radiation. This is especially important at higher elevations where UV exposure is greater. Excess exposure to UV is known to contribute to three types of skin cancer and cataracts of the eye.
- **Ecological Impacts.** Parks and green spaces in communities support not only the people who live there but also local animal, insect, tree, and plant species. Environments that are ecologically healthy are also healthy for people. Parks designed to protect and support biodiversity help to enhance local ecosystems and enable users to better connect with nature.



## Economic Impacts

Conservationtools.org offers a list of, and key findings from, a number of economic impact studies that have been conducted to identify the economic benefits generated by park, recreation, and open space systems. Key benefits, identified in these studies, include:

- **Increased Property Values and Property Tax Revenues.** Most homebuyers prefer homes that are close to parks and open space areas. The desirability of homes in proximity to parks and open space areas increases property value, thereby increasing property tax revenue. A study<sup>7</sup> prepared by The Trust for Public Land found that there is an estimated 5% increase in property values for houses within 500-feet of a park. Another study<sup>8</sup> prepared by The Trust for Public Land found that for every foot one moved away from a greenbelt in Boulder, Colorado there was a \$4.20 decrease in the price of residential property.
- **Increased Sales Tax Revenues from Visitor Spending.** Parks, trails, and recreation facilities can draw visitors and generate business for local restaurants, hotels, and shops, resulting in greater sales tax revenues. Parks, trails, and recreation facilities can serve as venues for festivals, concerts, and athletic events, all of which can provide a boost to a community's economy.
- **Decreased Healthcare Costs.** Access to the outdoors and recreation opportunities have been found to improve the overall health of a community, resulting in reduced healthcare costs. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that inadequate levels of physical activity in the United States are associated with \$177 billion in annual healthcare costs and contribute to 1 in 10 premature deaths<sup>9</sup>.
- **Decreased Stormwater Treatment Costs.** Stormwater flows from impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and buildings can pick up contaminants and can carry them directly into a waterway or to a water treatment plant. By contrast, pervious surfaces in parks and open space areas absorb precipitation helping to recharge ground water supplies, slow the release of storm runoff, and filter out contaminants. Reduced stormwater flows can enable a community to decrease the size of its stormwater management system and can result in significant savings in stormwater treatment costs.

Further, a 2021 report, "Inspiring the Future Outdoor Recreation Economy<sup>10</sup>," prepared by Headwaters Economics and the State Outdoor Business Alliance Network found...

- **Recreation Attracts New Residents.** "Across the U.S., the economies of rural places, small cities, and large metros that depend on outdoor recreation outperform their peers, on average. After the 2008 Great Recession most rural counties with recreation amenities gained population, while most rural counties without recreation amenities lost population. This difference is particularly significant as population loss threatens the future of many rural places."
- **Outdoor Recreation Attracts New Businesses.** "Access to outdoor recreation is leveraged by many areas to attract new businesses and employees, even in sectors unrelated to the outdoors. A survey of the 50 fastest growing businesses in Utah revealed 'Utah's outdoor lifestyle and access to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities were among the most frequently considered factors when deciding to locate their business in Utah or to expand.'"

"Other areas use their access to outdoor recreation to attract outdoor gear manufacturers, highlighting their natural amenities as a way to recruit skilled employees and test products in companies' backyard. Places with a history of manufacturing, and the skilled labor force and infrastructure to accompany it, build on that capacity to capitalize on outdoor recreation."

■ **HOW TO USE THE PLAN**

Paonia’s Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan (“the Plan”) serves as a roadmap to the future of the parks, recreation amenities, recreation programs, and trails in, and around Paonia. The ultimate goal of this Plan is to result in positive change in Paonia. Regular use of the Plan will keep citizens engaged and conversant with the future of parks, recreation, and trails in, and around, Paonia. The Plan is intended to be used to:

- Guide community decisions regarding the operation and maintenance of, and improvements to, the town’s parks, recreation amenities/facilities, and trails.
- Inform the development of local policies that work to advance the community’s aspirations for Paonia.
- Help prioritize and direct the allocation of town resources (e.g., funds, staff time, etc.).
- Support and inform collaborative efforts with area agencies (e.g., Delta County, North Fork Pool, Park & Recreation District, Bureau of Land Management, Delta County School District, etc.).
- Identify and pursue federal, state, and/or private financial assistance/grant programs.

This Plan is a tool to be used by Paonia’s elected and appointed officials and town staff to inform and guide decision-making processes, policy discussions, and community improvements. The Plan is also intended to serve as a key resource for residents, property and business owners, developers, and other stakeholders interested in understanding the community’s aspirations for the future of Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities, recreation programs, and trails.

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan is an advisory document. It is not mandatory that the Plan be strictly adhered to. However, the community dedicated significant time and effort into developing the Plan and to ignore it, without legitimate reason, is not advised.

This Plan is organized into four parts. A general description of the contents for, and intent of, each part is offered below. While each part has a distinct purpose, they are intended to work together.

Part 1   Introduction	Part 1 offers: (1) an explanation of the value and benefits of planning for parks, recreation, and trails; (2) a guide for how to use the Plan; (3) information for how to amend and update the Plan; (4) the role of the Plan relative to other planning efforts; and, (5) an overview of the Paonia In Motion planning process.
Part 2   What Is Happening In Paonia Today?	Part 2 provides: (1) an overview of relevant trends and planning projects; (2) an inventory and assessment of Paonia’s park, recreation, and trail assets; and (3) the key issues and needs that this Plan works to address.
Part 3   The Future of Parks, Recreation, and Trails in Paonia	Part 3 sets forth general strategies, as well as area specific concepts and recommendations for addressing the key issues and needs identified in Part 2.
Part 4   Making Things Happen	Part 4 outlines specific actions that the town may take, either alone, or in collaboration with others, to work towards achieving the community’s aspirations for Paonia.
Appendices (Available as a separate document)	The Appendices include: (1) preliminary cost estimates and materials lists for select implementation projects; (2) policy, regulatory, and design examples; (3) existing conditions maps; (4) a list of references; and (5) a summary of community input from the Paonia In Motion planning process and other related planning efforts.

## ■ PLAN AMENDMENTS AND UPDATES

As Paonia moves into the future and continues to evolve, this Plan must adapt. It is important that the Plan be a “living document” that the town uses and reviews regularly to ensure that the plan remains aligned with community priorities. In reviewing this Plan, it is recommended that the town: (1) evaluate progress made on the Action Plan; and (2) determine whether updates are needed to maintain a plan that is relevant to current conditions, trends, needs, and the community’s aspirations.

This Plan is intended to serve as a stand alone document, as well as a component of the Town of Paonia’s Comprehensive Plan. Amendments and updates to this Plan will need to comply with the procedures set forth in the town’s Comprehensive Plan. To ensure the success of an amendment or update, it will be important to identify and allocate the necessary resources (e.g., funding, consultant support, etc.). In some instances, it may be necessary to require a private citizen(s) to contribute resources.

## ■ THE PAONIA IN MOTION (PIM) PLANNING PROCESS

This Plan is the product of “Paonia In Motion (PIM).” PIM, an initiative of the Town of Paonia, was, and remains, a community-driven effort focused on shaping the future of the town’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails. The PIM community engagement process worked to understand:

- Key issues and needs.
- The community’s aspirations.
- Specific ideas for achieving those aspirations.

The PIM process comprised three phases. Each phase had a specific purpose and offered community members a variety of opportunities to have their voice heard. Over the course of the PIM planning process, hundreds of people provided input. This input provided the foundation for the Plan’s strategies and actions. The PIM process is described in greater detail below:

- **The Paonia In Motion (PIM) Community Action Team.** To ensure that the PIM planning process was fun, interactive, and representative of Paonia’s community, the town and its consultant team partnered with a group of local leaders. This group, known as the “Community Action Team,” was tasked with guiding the community engagement and outreach efforts for the project. The members of the Community Action Team are recognized on page 1 for their invaluable contribution to this effort.

- **Phase I.** The purpose of Phase I was to:

- Gather information regarding historic and current conditions in Paonia and trends that could affect the town over the coming years.
- Identify key issues, needs, opportunities, and challenges.
- Begin exploring ideas for how to achieve the community’s aspirations for Paonia.

A number of engagement activities were incorporated into Phase I. These included:

- Meetings with the Community Action Team.
- Focus group sessions.
- A community survey.
- Online engagement via the project website ([www.paoniainmotion.com](http://www.paoniainmotion.com)).

- **Phase II.** Phase II of PIM worked to build on the results of Phase I through:

- Continued identification and exploration of ideas for achieving the community’s aspirations.
- Development of design concepts illustrating the community’s ideas for key areas in Paonia.



Similar to Phase I, a variety of engagement activities were incorporated into Phase II providing numerous opportunities to share input. Those included:

- Meetings with the Community Action Team.
- Community workshops.
- Online engagement via the project website.

- **Phase III.** The PIM planning process culminated in Phase III. This phase brought together the outcomes of Phase I and II by:
  - Developing a detailed action plan/implementation matrix for getting things done.
  - Preparing the Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan.
  - Working with Paonia's Town Board to adopt the Plan as an official guiding document of the town.
  - Beginning implementation of the Plan.

The community, again, had several opportunities to be involved in Phase III, including:

- Meetings with the Community Action Team and stakeholders.
- A work-session with the Town Board.
- Online engagement via the project website.
- A public hearing in front of the Town Board.

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## Phase I | Jan. - May 2021

- Where is Paonia at today?
  - What are our aspirations for Paonia's Parks, Recreation, and Trails?
- 
- Community Action Team Meetings (Aug. 2020 & Jan. 2021)
  - Focus Group Sessions (Jan. 2021)
  - Community Survey (April - July 2021)
  - Online Engagement (Jan. - May 2021)

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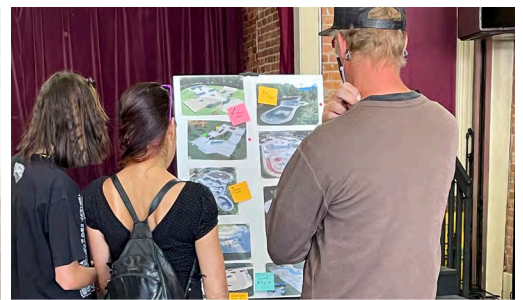
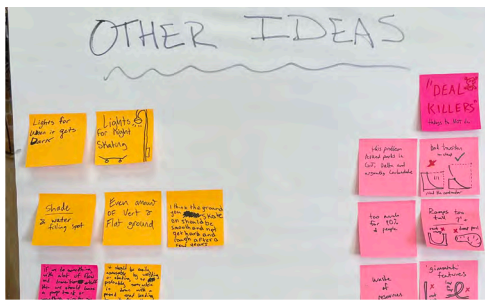
## Phase II | May - Oct. 2021

- How do we get there?
- 
- Design Workshop (May 2021)
  - Action Planning Sessions (Oct. 2021)
  - Online Engagement (May- Oct. 2021)

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## Phase III | Nov. 2021 - May 2022

- Taking action!
- 
- Focus Group Sessions (Dec. 2021- April 2022)
  - Online Engagement (Nov. 2021- May 2022)
  - Town Board Meeting (May 2022)







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## What is Happening in Paonia Today?

- + Planning Context
- + Inventory of Current Conditions
- + Assessment of Paonia's Parks & Recreation Amenities
- + Key Issues & Needs

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Creating How We Recreate

## ■ PLANNING CONTEXT



### Population Projections Estimate Limited Growth

**Table 1: Estimated and Projected Population Change (2010-2035)**

	Estimates		Projections			Average Annual % Change (2010-2020)	Average Annual % Change (2021-2035)
	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035		
Town of Paonia	1,451	1,447	1,464	1,560	1,646	- 0.02%	+ 0.9%
Delta County	30,952	31,196	31,680	33,060	34,222	+ 0.1%	+ 0.6%
Planning Region 10 <sup>4</sup>	100,031	104,657	109,102	115,280	120,976	+ 0.5%	+ 1.0%

<sup>4</sup>Planning Region 10 includes: Delta County, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County, Montrose County, Ouray County, and San Miguel County.

Data Source(s): 2010 & 2020 US Census; and, Colorado State Demography Office

The State Demography Office (SDO) projects that Paonia may experience limited population change over the next 10-15 years. Projections estimate an increase of 199 people between 2020 and 2035 (i.e., a growth rate of 0.86%). This would account for roughly 4.7% of the total population increase projected for all of Delta County over that same period. By contrast, total population in Planning Region 10 is anticipated to increase by 16,319 people, between 2020 and 2035. Paonia's projected growth would account for 1.2% of the region's population change.



### Generational Shifts

**Table 2: Estimated and Projected Generational Shifts in Delta County**

	% of Delta County's Estimated & Projected Total Population (2010-2035)	Percent Change (2010-2020)	Percent Change (2020-2035)	Total Change (2010-2035)
<b>GENERATION Z</b> Born after 1997	16.6% (2010) 25.2% (2020) 37.2% (2035)	+ 8.6%	+ 12.0%	+ 20.7%
<b>MILLENNIALS</b> Born between 1981-1996	17.4% (2010) 16.0% (2020) 19.4% (2035)	- 1.4%	+ 3.4%	+ 2.0%
<b>GENERATION X</b> Born between 1965-1980	16.7% (2010) 18.5% (2020) 20.2% (2035)	+ 1.8%	+ 1.7%	+ 3.5%
<b>BABY BOOMERS</b> Born between 1946-1965	29.2% (2010) 27.6% (2020) 20.8% (2035)	- 1.6%	- 6.8%	- 8.4%
<b>SILENT GENERATION</b> Born between 1928-1945	16.6% (2010) 11.9% (2020) 2.4% (2035)	- 4.7%	- 9.5%	- 14.2%

Data Source(s): Colorado State Demography Office; and, Pew Research Center

Paonia, like many other places in the United States, can expect to see shifts in the generational composition of the community. This is important to recognize and understand as different generations have different wants and needs. Table 3 identifies characteristics that generally define each generation. These are important to consider in working to ensure that local facilities and programs respond to the needs of the changing community.

**Table 3: Defining Characteristics for Generation Z, Millennials, Generation X, and Baby Boomers**

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS	
<p><b>GENERATION Z</b> Born after 1997</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Generation Z” is typically associated with those born after 1997. Events that have shaped the characteristics of this generation include: (1) smartphones; (2) social media; and (3) growing up during times of economic hardship (i.e., the “Great Recession” (2007-2009)).</li> <li>▪ Research conducted by Les Mills<sup>11</sup> found Generation Z to be the most active membership group globally in 2018, setting them up to take the lead in trends for future health and fitness industries.</li> <li>▪ Generation Z, similar to the Millennial Generation, has proven to be very health conscious and despite being known for being frugal, this age group seems to be willing to pay a premium for wellness apps, supplements, and healthy foods.</li> <li>▪ Generation Z is an age group that has grown up in the era of the smartphone. They live their lives online, sharing both the intimate and mundane details of life. This is an important consideration when thinking about the future of WiFi in parks, recreation facilities, and along trails.</li> <li>▪ As a result of the pandemic, many members of Generation Z have shifted their fitness routines to more of a focus on apps, YouTube videos, and outdoor recreation. According to an online article posted to CampusRec<sup>12</sup>, this shift present an opportunity to “...invest time and money to create a versatile online fitness program that requires minimal equipment, boosts energy, and focuses on... holistic health...”</li> </ul>
<p><b>MILLENNIALS</b> Born between 1981-1996</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Millennials” are generally considered those born between about 1981 and 1996. Events that have contributed to the characteristics of this generation include: (1) major technological advances, including the evolution of the internet and the emergence of social media; (2) 9/11 and the Great Recession (2007-2009); and, (3) graduating college with significant amounts of student debt.</li> <li>▪ In 2016, the Pew Research Center reported that Millennials had surpassed Baby Boomers as the nation’s most populous age group and the largest group of consumers.</li> <li>▪ Millennials are perceived as a tech-savvy, health and socially conscious, achievement-driven generation with more flexible ideas about balancing work and play. Therefore, their expectations for park and recreation experiences are likely to differ from previous generations.</li> <li>▪ A 2015 post to the National Parks and Recreation Association’s (NRPA) blog<sup>13</sup> offered the following ideas for making parks Millennial friendly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Park and recreation areas that offer a chance for group activities are more likely to be appealing.</li> <li>- Wi-Fi access is a must – Millennials are used to having access to the internet and enjoy sharing their experiences in real-time.</li> <li>- Millennials seek out a broad range of activities (i.e., “bucket list” adventures). Places with a variety of experiences, especially unique ones, are likely to be a draw.</li> <li>- Millennials seek out convenience and fun with a little luxury thrown in (e.g., glamping).</li> <li>- Millennials enjoy winning, recognition, and earning rewards. Don’t underestimate the power of gamification (i.e., incorporating an online component to an recreation activity).</li> <li>- Millennials like to stay active. They enjoy both individual activities (e.g., running trails) and group activities (e.g., open fields for team sports). In addition to traditional opportunities for exercise, Millennials are also attracted to “extreme” activities (e.g., rock climbing, skateboarding, etc.).</li> <li>- Many Millennials own dogs and want places with amenities and areas where they can spend time outdoors with them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>GENERATION X</b> Born between 1965-1980</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Generation X” is the generational group comprised of individuals born between 1965 and 1980. Events that have helped to shape the characteristics of this generation include: (1) the end of the Cold War; (2) the rise of personal computing; and (3) feeling lost between two huge generations- Baby Boomers and Millennials.</li> <li>▪ Many people in Generation X are in the peak of their careers, raising families, and growing their connections within the community they live in.</li> <li>▪ A 2017 Participation Report<sup>14</sup> from the Physical Activity Council suggests that members of Generation X were “all or nothing” in terms of their levels of physical activity; with 37% reported as “highly active” and 27% reported as “completely inactive.”</li> <li>▪ As further noted in the 2017 Report, over 50% of Generation X was likely to have participated in fitness and outdoor sports activities and an additional 37% participated in individual sports.</li> </ul>

**Table 3: Defining Characteristics for Generation Z, Millennials, Generation X, and Baby Boomers**

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

**BABY BOOMERS**

Born between 1946-1965

- “Baby Boomers” are often considered to be those born between about 1946 and 1965. Key events that helped shape the characteristics of this generation include: (1) the post-World War II era; (2) the Cold War; (3) the Vietnam War; and (4) the hippie movement.
- With many Baby Boomers entering retirement, opportunities in fitness, sports, outdoors, arts and cultural events, and other activities that suit their lifestyles are becoming increasingly important. With their varied life experiences, values, and expectations, Baby Boomers are redefining the meaning of recreation and leisure programming for mature adults.
- Baby Boomers look for parks and recreation amenities/facilities to provide opportunities to enjoy many life-long hobbies and sports. When programming for this age group, it is important to offer a customized experience that caters to the need for self-fulfillment, healthy pleasure, nostalgic youthfulness, and individual escapes. Further, as this generation ages, it will be important to offer facilities, amenities, and programs that allow for “aging in place.”



**Factors Influencing Decisions on Where To Live**

- **Safe Parks and Access to Trails, Paths, and Better Recreation Opportunities.** In 2021, AARP conducted a national poll of nearly 3,000 people in the U.S., ages 18 and over, to better understand current trends in home and community preferences<sup>15</sup>. The results of this poll indicate that people consider safe parks and access to safe trails and paths to walk, run, and bike to be important elements of their community. The poll also found that access to better recreational activities (including arts, culture, and fitness) is a factor that many people will consider when deciding where to move to.

**Question 14: How important is it for you personally to have the following in your community right now?**

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not At All Important
1. Convenient, high-quality health care services.	39% (Total)	34% (Total)	20% (Total)	4% (Total)	3% (Total)
2. Conveniently located grocery stores with affordable healthy food.	37% (Total)	38% (Total)	20% (Total)	2% (Total)	2% (Total)
<b>3. Safe parks that are well-lit and free of crime.</b>	<b>38% (Total)</b>	<b>35% (Total)</b>	<b>19% (Total)</b>	4% (Total)	4% (Total)
<b>4. Access to safe trails and paths to walk, run, and bike.</b>	<b>31% (Total)</b>	<b>31% (Total)</b>	<b>24% (Total)</b>	7% (Total)	6% (Total)
5. Public buildings and spaces that are safe and accessible to people of different physical abilities.	26% (Total)	31% (Total)	26% (Total)	9% (Total)	7% (Total)
6. Convenient, affordable public parking that includes parking for people with disabilities.	24% (Total)	30% (Total)	30% (Total)	9% (Total)	7% (Total)
7. Walkable main street downtown area that is made up of local businesses.	21% (Total)	29% (Total)	33% (Total)	11% (Total)	6% (Total)
8. Ample seating in public areas, such as parks, along sidewalks, and around public buildings.	21% (Total)	27% (Total)	34% (Total)	11% (Total)	7% (Total)
9. Farmers’ markets.	18% (Total)	28% (Total)	35% (Total)	13% (Total)	6% (Total)

Data Source(s): 2021 Home and Community Preference Survey (AARP)

**Question 12: Some people find they need or want to move out of their community as they get older. If you were to consider moving out of your current community, how much of a factor would the following be in your decision to move?**

	A Major Factor	A Minor Factor	Not a Factor
1. Wanting to move to an area that feels safer and more secure and has little or no crime.	55% (Total)	25% (Total)	19% (Total)
2. Wanting to live in an area that has a lower cost of living.	49% (Total)	36% (Total)	14% (Total)
3. Wanting to be closer to family.	49% (Total)	29% (Total)	21% (Total)
4. Wanting to live in an area with more affordable housing options.	48% (Total)	32% (Total)	20% (Total)
5. Wanting to live in an area that has better housing choices.	45% (Total)	36% (Total)	19% (Total)
6. Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities.	38% (Total)	38% (Total)	23% (Total)
<b>7. Wanting to live in an area with better recreational activities including arts, culture, and fitness.</b>	<b>32% (Total)</b>	<b>42% (Total)</b>	27% (Total)
8. Wanting to live in a different climate.	28% (Total)	40% (Total)	32% (Total)
9. Wanting to live in an area with better opportunities for social interaction.	27% (Total)	46% (Total)	27% (Total)
10. Wanting to live in an area that has better job opportunities.	25% (Total)	33% (Total)	41% (Total)
11. Wanting to live in an area that has more alternatives to driving, such as buses, trains, taxis or ride share companies, bicycling, or walking.	24% (Total)	41% (Total)	34% (Total)
12. Wanting to live in an area that has a culturally, ethnically and racially diverse population.	24% (Total)	38% (Total)	38% (Total)

Data Source(s): 2021 Home and Community Preference Survey (AARP)

- **Amenities for Pets.** According to a 2020 report by the National Association of Realtors, “Animal House: Pets in the Home Buying and Selling Process<sup>16</sup>,” 68% of REALTOR® members say that pet-friendly policies influenced their client’s decision to rent or buy in a particular community. The report also found that 43% of households would be willing to move or change their living situation to accommodate their pet. One way to interpret these trends is that amenities for pets is an increasingly important factor and can influence perceptions on quality of life.



## Local Participation Trends

Recently, The Nature Connection completed a survey of Paonia’s youth, ages 4-18. Findings from this work offer a number of insights to be taken into consideration in the development of Paonia’s system of parks, recreation amenities, and trails. One of the survey questions asked respondents to identify their favorite activities. The Top 10 activities identified are listed below.

**Question 9. Please choose your three (3) most favorite activities from the following:**

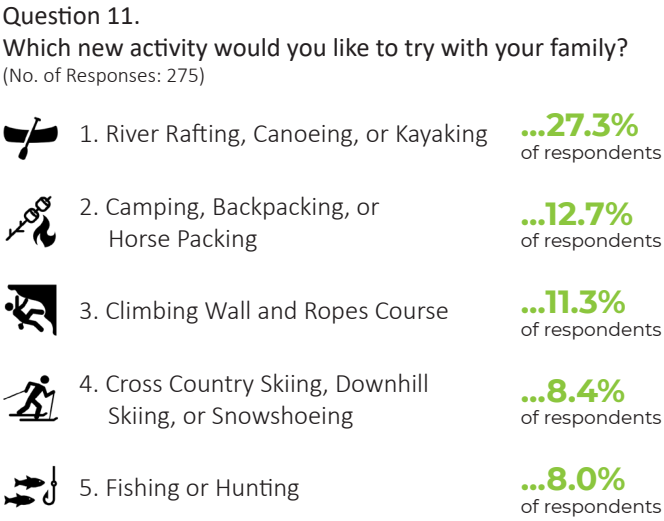
(No. of Responses: 277)

 1. Fishing	... <b>31%</b> of respondents	 5. Horseback Riding or Horse Packing	... <b>20%</b> of respondents	 9. Hiking or Trail Running	... <b>14%</b> of respondents
 2. Car/RV Camping	... <b>29%</b> of respondents	 6. Boating	... <b>20%</b> of respondents	 10. OHV or 4x4 Driving	... <b>13%</b> of respondents
 3. Hunting	... <b>25%</b> of respondents	 7. Archery	... <b>19%</b> of respondents		
 4. Downhill Skiing or Snowboarding	... <b>22%</b> of respondents	 8. Road Biking or Mountain Biking	... <b>15%</b> of respondents		

Data Source(s): The Nature Connection Survey



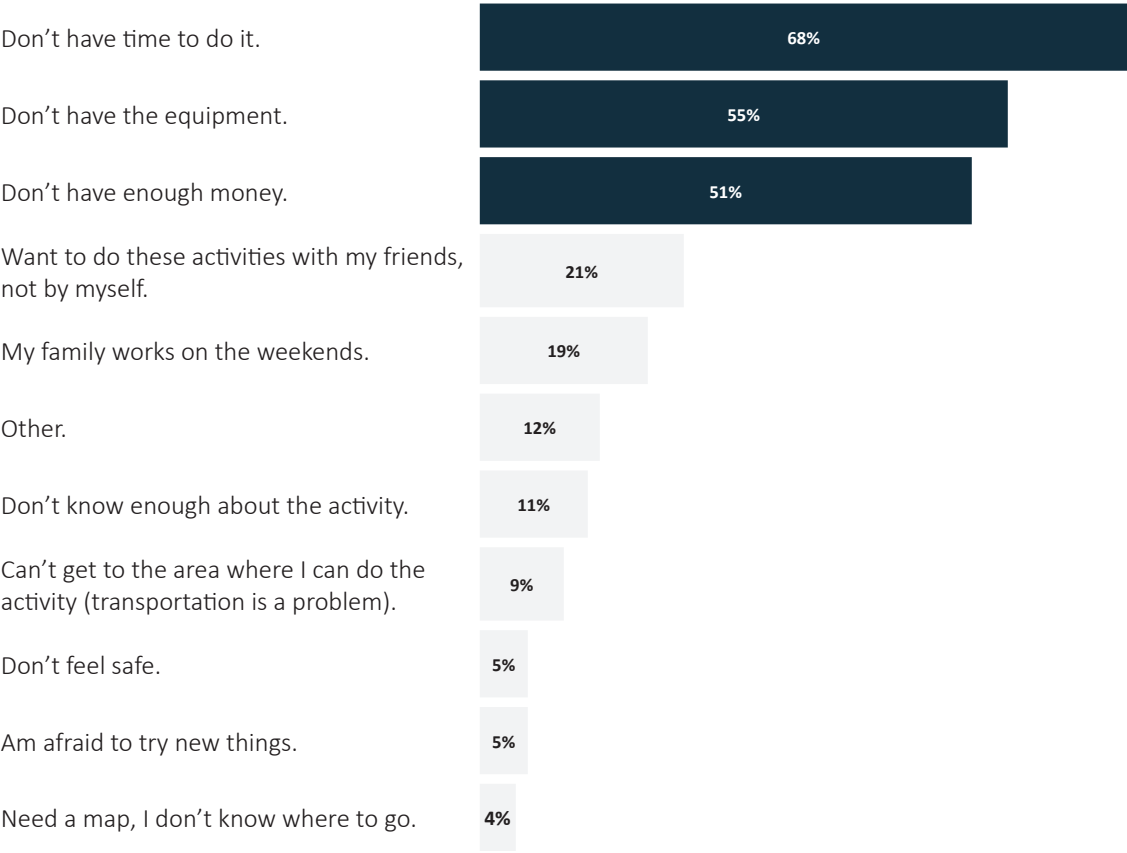
Question 10 and 11 of The Nature Connection’s survey asked local youth to identify new activities that they, personally, would like to try and new activities that they would like to try with their family. The Top 5 activities identified are listed below.



Data Source(s): The Nature Connection Survey

Question 12 asked survey participants to identify the Top 3 obstacles that prevented them and their family from trying new outdoor activities. As illustrated by the following diagram, lack of time, equipment, and money emerged as the primary barriers to participation. These findings indicate that Paonia’s youth could benefit from additional local amenities for certain types of activities and greater access to sporting equipment.

**Question 12. What obstacles keep you (and your family) from trying new outdoor activities? (Please choose your Top 3)**  
(No. of Responses: 273)



Data Source(s): The Nature Connection Survey



## Related Planning Efforts

The Town of Paonia is committed to thoughtful and inclusive planning that takes into consideration previous planning efforts. There are a number of existing plans that can inform and guide the town's actions. It is essential to understand the planning context within which the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan fits so that it can be aligned with, and support the implementation of, the existing plans.

### 1. Town of Paonia Comprehensive Plan Update

Paonia's Comprehensive Plan is the "umbrella" document for the town and articulates the community's long-term vision. It establishes an overall policy framework for working toward that vision. It is comprehensive in scope and works to address a wide range of important topics, including: (1) Land Use and Development; (2) Infrastructure; (3) Housing; (4) Community Facilities and Services; and, (5) Economic Development.

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan is intended to serve as a stand alone document, as well as a component of Paonia's Comprehensive Plan. It sets forth the community's aspirations for the future of parks, recreation amenities, and trails and offers recommendations and a detailed action plan for achieving those aspirations.

### 2. Jumbo Mountain Comprehensive Travel & Transportation Management Plan

The BLM is currently working on a comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan (TTMP) for the Jumbo Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The TTMP entails a wide-ranging analysis of the Jumbo Mountain SRMA that will consider the access needs of all users, evaluated in conjunction with the BLM's legal mandate to protect natural and cultural resources on public lands. Individual route evaluations and designations, included in the TTMP, will be analyzed in an environmental assessment. Based on this analysis, every route in the Jumbo Mountain SRMA will receive one of the following designations:

- **Open:** Route is open for public use.
- **Limited:** Travel on this route is limited to the public in some form (e.g., seasonal restriction, administrative access, vehicle width restriction, non-motorized use, etc.).
- **Closed:** Route is closed.

Jumbo Mountain is outside of the town's jurisdiction so it is not a focus of this Plan. Rather, this Plan focuses on improvements that can be made in Paonia that work to enhance the function and usability of the Jumbo Mountain Trail System. Further, community input gathered via the Paonia In Motion planning process was provided to the BLM to help inform and support the TTMP for the Jumbo Mountain SRMA.

### 3. Revitalizing Main Street Report

In 2020, the Town of Paonia was awarded grant funds and technical assistance as part of the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) "Revitalizing Main Streets Program." The goal of CDOT's program was to offer "...small-scale grants for low-cost, immediate actions to help safely improve the economy and enhance healthy activities in cities and towns across Colorado."

The Revitalizing Main Street effort in Paonia resulted in the installation of several temporary "pop-up demonstrations." These demonstrations included: (1) reconfiguration of on-street parking along Grand Avenue to accommodate an on-street bike lane; (2) installation of pop-up parks; and, (3) painting of colorful crosswalks. Input was gathered to understand the community's sentiments regarding the pop-up demonstrations. Some demonstrations ended up being a bit contentious (e.g., reconfiguration of on-street parking), while others were perceived as favorable (e.g., additional street trees and parklets).

The outcomes of the Revitalizing Main Street effort were captured in the "Town of Paonia | CDOT Revitalizing Main Street Interim Report" and were used to inform and guide the planning process for this Plan. Input gathered via the Revitalizing Main Street effort is included in the summary of community input provided in the Appendices.

#### **4. Paonia Creative District Signage & Wayfinding Plan**

To support Paonia as a Creative District and a primary travel destination, the Paonia Creative District spearheaded an effort to develop a signage and wayfinding plan. The focuses of this effort included: (1) increasing visitor and resident traffic to major destinations; (2) enhancing and reinforcing local place-making; (3) developing a plan that identifies the style, quantity, and type of signage needed; and, (4) an implementation plan that outlines the costs and resources needed.

This effort resulted in the “Paonia Creative District Signage & Wayfinding Plan” that offers design schematics for a range of sign types, a map of proposed sign locations, and an implementation plan that sets forth a list of action steps and cost estimates for the proposed signs. A map of the proposed sign types and location can be found in the Appendices.

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan works to build upon the Paonia Creative District Signage & Wayfinding Plan by identifying additional locations for signage in Paonia to improve the functionality and usability of local trail systems.

#### **5. Delta County Recreation and Trails Master Plan**

The “Delta County Recreation and Trails Master Plan,” adopted in 2018, sets forth guiding principles and proposed improvements (including prioritization and cost estimates) for recreation and trails throughout the county. The impetus for the development of the county’s Recreation and Trails Master Plan included: (1) the lack of comprehensive and easily obtainable information about the existence, location, and access to existing trail infrastructure; (2) the lack of comprehensive guidance for staff and land managers in evaluating proposed projects; and, (3) the lack of community trails infrastructure connecting public amenities and trail assets.

Delta County’s Recreation and Trails Master Plan provides important context for Paonia’s Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan as it presents information and proposed improvements for recreation areas and trail systems for the areas surrounding Paonia. Improvements proposed for the Paonia area, in the county’s Master Plan, include:

- A trail connection from the Paonia River Park, across Grand Avenue, through the Paonia K-8 campus (Priority 1).
- Formalization of the user-created trail system on Jumbo Mountain and wayfinding, signage, trailhead, and access improvements for Jumbo Mountain Trail System (Priority 1).
- A pedestrian bridge, over the North Fork of the Gunnison River, that connects the trail through the Paonia K-8 campus with the Paonia Public Library (Priority 3).
- Parking, signage, wayfinding, and restroom upgrades at Apple Valley Park (Priority 3).
- Pedestrian improvements between Apple Valley Park and the trailhead for the Jumbo Mountain Trail System (Priority 3).
- A regional connection (primarily road cycling, over existing rights-of-way) between Paonia and Hotchkiss and points west via Back River Road.
- Planning for, and development of, trails on the public lands that comprise the Elephant Hill/Lone Cabin Area.

The improvements proposed in Delta County’s Recreation and Trails Master Plan have been incorporated into this Plan where appropriate. The relevant public comments from the county’s Master Plan have been included in the community input summary offered in the Appendices.

#### **6. Delta County Master Plan**

Similar to Paonia’s Comprehensive Plan, “Delta County’s Master Plan (2018)” serves as the “umbrella” document for the unincorporated areas of the county (i.e., areas outside of the towns/cities in Delta County). It addresses a wide range of important issues. A key aspect of the county’s Master Plan, which relates directly to Paonia’s Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan, is recognition of the value of the outdoor recreation assets and the opportunity that those assets present in diversifying and strengthening the county’s economy.

## ■ INVENTORY OF CURRENT CONDITIONS



### Funding

#### 1. Town of Paonia General Fund

The Town of Paonia's "General Fund" is the town's primary operating fund and the main source of funding for operating and maintaining Paonia's park, recreation, and trail assets. The General Fund is primarily funded by local sales and property tax revenues. In addition to funding the town's parks, recreation, and trail assets, the General Fund must also fund the many services (e.g., law enforcement, street maintenance, etc.) and capital projects in the community.

Over the past 10 years, the town has, on average, allocated roughly 10% of its annual General Fund expenditures on parks and recreation. This equates to an average of \$91,414 per year or approximately \$63 per year per capita. Table 4 presents a summary of the town's expenditures on parks and recreation from 2012 to 2022.

**Table 4: Summary of General Fund Expenditures on Parks & Recreation (2012-2022)**

	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Est. Actual)	2022 (Budgeted)
Salaries & Wages	-	\$3,672	\$1,706	\$550	-	\$1,132	\$3,012	\$26,718	\$38,996	\$46,783	\$67,283
Employee Benefits	-	\$849	\$1,033	\$339	\$252	\$1,642	\$680	\$9,122	\$12,283	\$14,252	\$25,289
Supplies	\$10,622	\$6,008	\$6,100	\$5,070	\$4,423	\$4,968	\$4,338	\$4,070	\$4,235	\$6,305	\$7,053
Council	-	-	-	\$1,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	\$4,678	\$4,547	\$19,478	\$7,320	\$8,467	\$7,547	\$6,838	\$12,506	\$3,699	\$15,471	\$17,048
Legal Fees	-	\$45	\$465	\$1,035	\$240	-	\$1,125	-	-	-	-
Telephone	\$521	\$456	\$441	\$143	\$26	\$106	\$106	\$389	\$481	\$701	\$709
Travel & Meetings	-	\$67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance & Bonds	-	\$3,619	\$4,985	\$3,220	\$3,564	\$4,180	\$3,473	\$3,929	\$4,079	\$3,813	\$4,300
Utilities	\$5,696	\$6,683	\$7,861	\$6,645	\$6,735	\$7,304	\$7,128	\$7,574	\$7,177	\$7,377	\$7,895
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$19,665	-	-	-	-
Contract Services	\$38,581	\$38,318	\$38,575	\$38,575	\$41,900	\$43,928	\$2,000	\$2,148	\$8,061	\$2,110	\$3,000
Vehicle Expense	\$620	\$866	\$1,045	\$80	\$15	\$43	\$408	\$1,069	\$1,284	\$5,470	\$4,475
Capital Outlay	\$14,827	-	-	-	-	-	\$8,800	\$81,437	\$20,858	\$26,298	\$13,500
Miscellaneous	-	\$1,045	\$685	\$378	-	\$824	\$3,802	\$3,084	\$8,549	\$36,492	\$34,040
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$75,545</b>	<b>\$66,175</b>	<b>\$82,374</b>	<b>\$64,555</b>	<b>\$65,622</b>	<b>\$71,674</b>	<b>\$61,375</b>	<b>\$152,046</b>	<b>\$109,702</b>	<b>\$165,072</b>	<b>\$184,592</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>

Data Source(s): 2012-2020 Town of Paonia Audited Financial Statements; and 2021-2022 Town of Paonia Budgets

#### 2. Conservation Trust Fund

The Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) is a special revenue fund established for Lottery Funds that the town receives from the State of Colorado. The amount that the town receives is based on population estimates for Paonia and can only be used for specific purposes. These include the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites and/or capital improvements for recreational purposes on any public site (refer to the Appendices for a detailed list of eligible expenditures).

Diagram 1 provides an overview of the total revenue, expenditures, and reserves of the town’s CTF between 2012 and 2022.

Diagram 1: Conservation Trust Revenues & Expenditures (2012-2022)



Data Source(s): 2012-2020 Town of Paonia Audited Financial Statements; and 2021-2022 Town of Paonia Budgets

Between 2012 and 2021, the town’s CTF generated an average of \$8,002 per year. These funds have primarily been used for the inspection and maintenance of Paonia’s public trees, repairs and upgrades to facilities in the town’s parks, and minor park improvements. Table 5 provides a summary of projects funded by the CTF between 2014 and 2022.

Table 5: Conservation Trust Fund Project History (2014-2022)

PROJECT		AMOUNT	PROJECT		AMOUNT
2022 (Budgeted)	Tree Trimming	\$10,000	2017	Western Slope Tree Service	\$500
	Town Park Playground Shelter Pad	\$10,000		Misty Mountain Inc.	\$2,897.50
	Town Park Playground Surface Upgrade	\$5,582		Colorado State Forest Service	\$824
	2022 TOTAL (BUDGETED)	\$25,582		2017 TOTAL	\$4,221.50
2021	Poulos Park Upgrade	\$3,495	2016	Tree Trimming	\$5,200
	Bike Racks for Town Park	\$4,000		2016 TOTAL	\$5,200
	2021 TOTAL	\$7,495	2015	Aspen Tree	\$7,500
2020	Town Park Playground Improvements (Delta Brick & Climate Control Company)	\$600		New Tree for Apple Valley Park	\$500
	2020 TOTAL	\$600		Level 2 Tree Inspection	\$2,000
	2015 TOTAL	\$10,000	2014	Aspen Tree	\$5,000
2019	Tree Trimming (Paonia Tree Service)	\$6,900		2014 TOTAL	\$5,000
	Ellen Hansen Smith Center Roof (Clissett LLC)	\$20,000	2018	IRA Houseweart Metalworker	\$5,000
	2019 TOTAL	\$26,900		TLC Tree Services	\$300
2018	C&N Construction	\$22,191.96		2018 TOTAL	\$27,491.96
	2018 TOTAL	\$27,491.96			

Data Source(s): 2022 Town of Paonia Budget



### 3. Sidewalk Fund

Revenue for the Town of Paonia's Sidewalk Fund is generated by a \$3.00 per month fee, approved in 2013, that is paid by in-town residents. The town's Sidewalk Fund is designated for the repair and replacement of existing sidewalks within Paonia. This fee is set to expire in December 2024 unless voters approve a renewal/extension. Diagram 2 offers an overview of the total revenues, expenditures, and reserves of the Sidewalk Fund between 2014 and 2022.

**Diagram 2: Sidewalk Fund Revenues & Expenditures (2014-2022)**



Data Source(s): 2014-2020 Town of Paonia Audited Financial Statements; and 2021-2022 Town of Paonia Budgets

Between 2014 and 2021, Paonia's monthly sidewalk fee has generated an average of \$30,067 per year. Table 6 provides a summary of projects financed by the Sidewalk Fund between 2014 and 2022.

**Table 6: Brief Description of Sidewalk Fund Expenditures (2014-2022)**

YEAR	PROJECT
2022 (Budgeted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and issue an Request for Proposals (RFP) for sidewalk improvements.</li> <li>Prune and remove trees impacting the functionality of the town's sidewalks.</li> <li>Continue to upgrade sidewalks and accesses to meet ADA Standards.</li> </ul>
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To replenish the Sidewalk Fund for 2022, no sidewalk projects were completed in 2021.</li> </ul>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sidewalk along the south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street, near Onarga Avenue, was completed.</li> <li>The sidewalk for the entire 300 block of Box Elder Avenue was completed.</li> <li>Trees impacting the functionality of the town's sidewalks were pruned and removed.</li> <li>Additional sidewalk and access upgrades were completed to meet ADA Standards.</li> </ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To replenish the Sidewalk Fund for 2020, expenditures were limited to "emergency repairs." Such repairs were made to three (3) sections of sidewalk in 2019.</li> </ul>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2018, the town implemented a policy to conduct sidewalk projects every other year to allow for the Sidewalk Fund to be replenished, which in turn allows for more substantial projects to be completed.</li> </ul>
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the depletion of the Sidewalk Fund, expenditures were limited to "emergency repairs" in 2017.</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016, a total of \$46,389 was expended on sidewalk repairs in Paonia.</li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2015, a total of \$39,589 was expended on sidewalk repairs in Paonia.</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2014 was the first year that the \$3.00 per month fee was implemented and as a result, there were insufficient funds available for sidewalk projects in Paonia. A total of \$29,046.39 was accrued by the Sidewalk Fund in 2014.</li> </ul>

Data Source(s): 2014-2020 Town of Paonia Audited Financial Statements; and 2021-2022 Town of Paonia Budgets

## Inventory of Parks

Public parks are designed to support outdoor recreation activities (both active and passive) and community gatherings in Paonia. Some, like Town Park, are multiple acres and can accommodate a variety of activities. Others, like Poulos Park, are much smaller and provide space for people to gather and spend time outside.

### Parks At A Glance

Count:	6 public parks in Paonia
Total Acreage:	34.7 acres
Parkland per 1,000 Residents: (Town of Paonia)	10.2 acres (excludes area of Paonia River Park owned by WSCC)
Parkland per 1,000 Residents: (Typical Park & Recreation Agency)	5.2 (lower quartile)- 17.6 acres (upper quartile); 9.9 acres (median)

Data Source(s): Delta County Assessor; and, 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review

### Summary of Parks

Park Name	Ownership	Size	Brief Description
Town Park (700 4 <sup>th</sup> Street)	Town of Paonia	3 acres	Paonia's Town Park is one of the community's highlights. Towering trees, pink peonies, and grassy areas invite users to relax and enjoy the park. The park serves as a venue for many of Paonia's community events including Cherry Days, Pickin' in the Park, and the annual BMW Rally.
Apple Valley Park (45 Pan American Ave)	Town of Paonia	6.62 acres	A large park located along Minnesota Creek that offers a number of amenities including playground equipment, seasonal restrooms, tennis/pickleball courts with lights, a looped walking path with exercise stations, disc/frisbee golf features, and a picnic shelter. Given its proximity to Minnesota Creek, Apple Valley Park has been designed to mitigate flooding of the creek.  The parking lot for Apple Valley Park serves park users, as well as users of the Jumbo Mountain trail system.
Poulos Park (221 Grand Ave)	Town of Paonia	0.1 acres	A small park that serves as a great spot to stop for a rest while enjoying the shops, restaurants, and galleries of downtown Paonia. Recently, Poulos Park has served as a venue for local concerts hosted by Pickin' in the Park.
Paonia Library Park (No Street Address)	Town of Paonia	0.41 acres	A small park space located on the north side of the Paonia Library. The park is owned by the Town of Paonia and leased to the Delta County Library District. The park offers a looped walking path, shade structures, and outdoor seating areas.
Lees Park (No Street Address)	Floyd Lee	0.08 acres	A small, privately-owned park that is maintained by the town. Lees Park is intended to be a town-owned park but the property has yet to be conveyed to the Town of Paonia.  The park offers a limited number of amenities, including a swing set, merry-go-round, picnic tables, and shade trees.
Paonia River Park (700/759 Shady Lane)	Western Slope Conservation Center & Town of Paonia	19.76 acres (WSCC owned)  4.73 acres (town-owned)	A large park along the North Fork of the Gunnison River that comprises properties owned by the Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC) and the Town of Paonia. The park is located outside of the town's boundaries.  The town and WSCC have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the management and maintenance of the River Park.  The park offers public access to, and along, the North Fork of the Gunnison River, as well as a walking path, river overlooks, a shaded seating area, and informational signage.

Data Source(s): Town of Paonia and Delta County Assessor

## Park Management Responsibilities

Entity	Responsibilities
Town of Paonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintenance of town-owned parks and Lees Park, except for the River Park maintenance obligations that WSCC is responsible for.</li> <li>▪ Acquisition, development, programming, and scheduling of town-owned parks.</li> </ul>
Delta County Library District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintenance, programming, and development of the park space on the north side of the Paonia Public Library.</li> </ul>
Western Slope Conservation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management and maintenance of the Paonia River Park, including financial responsibility for the park's dumpster and port-a-potty. The "Friends of the River" volunteer group performs much of the work at the River Park.</li> </ul>



## Inventory of Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities in Paonia provide spaces for indoor and specialized recreation activities. They include spaces for fitness and exercise, athletic fields, courts, and more. Recreation facilities include outdoor sport complexes (e.g., Volunteer Park Sports Complex), court/field clusters, and special use facilities (e.g., the Ellen Hansen Smith Center). Recreation facilities associated with local schools are listed under the inventory of school facilities.

### Recreation Facilities At A Glance

Count: 5 facilities in, and near, Paonia

### Overview of Recreation Facilities

Facility Name/Type	Ownership	Brief Description
Ellen Hansen Smith Center (Paonia Town Park)	Town of Paonia	<p>The Ellen Hansen Smith Center ("Smith Center") is located in Paonia's Town Park. Within the Smith Center there are restrooms with showers, a kitchen, a large open space, and a mural painted by local youth. The Smith Center hosts a variety of activities including an archery program and concessions for sporting events.</p> <p>The Smith Center was recently renovated. The renovation included the installation of a new floor in the kitchen; the replacement and relocation of sinks; the replacement and repair of cabinetry; and, the addition of an interior wall to provide a secondary access to the building.</p>
Athletic Field (Paonia Town Park)	Town of Paonia	Historically, the athletic field in Town Park has served as a venue for high school football games and community events (e.g., Cherry Days). With the relocation of Paonia's high school to Hotchkiss, it is unlikely that the field will continue to be used for high school football games and could serve as a venue for other, local sporting events.
Skateboard Park (Paonia Town Park)	Town of Paonia	The skateboard park is located on old tennis courts in the southeast corner of Town Park. The skateboard park has approximately six modular features. There is an on-going community effort to raise funds to design and construct a new skateboard park in Town Park.
Tennis/Pickleball Courts (Apple Valley Park)	Town of Paonia	A cluster of four tennis courts, with a pickleball overlay, is located in Apple Valley Park. The courts are lighted and one court has a practice wall. The tennis courts are used by the high school for competitions.
Outdoor Fitness Course (Apple Valley Park)	Town of Paonia	The Apple Valley Park fitness course comprises a roughly 0.3-mile looped walking path and five outdoor exercise stations. Portions of the walking path, located along the north side of the park, are in need of repair due to erosion of the adjacent hillside. The walking path provides a connection between the parking lot for Apple Valley Park and Vista Drive (to the east).
Frisbee/Disc Golf Course (Apple Valley Park)	Town of Paonia	There are a limited number of frisbee/disc golf features in Apple Valley Park that do not appear to be formally organized. The existing features present an opportunity to establish a more formal course within the park, if there is community interest.

Overview of Recreation Facilities (continued)

Facility Name/Type	Ownership	Brief Description
Volunteer Park Sports Complex (39996/39970 Hayden Road)	Delta County	<p>The Volunteer Park Sports Complex is located roughly 0.9 miles to the west of Paonia. Volunteer Park offers a number of athletic fields including four diamond fields (for baseball and softball) and a large rectangular field used for team sports, such as soccer.</p> <p>There is no designated walking/biking route between Paonia and Volunteer Park. Consequently, people who chose to walk or bike to Volunteer Park must do so using the narrow shoulder along Mathews Lane.</p>

Data Source(s): Town of Paonia; Delta County Assessor; and Google Earth

Recreation Facility Management Responsibilities

Entity	Responsibilities
Town of Paonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Maintenance of town-owned facilities, except for those facilities maintained by the North Fork Pool, Park &amp; Recreation District.</li><li>▪ Acquisition, development, programming, and scheduling of town-owned parks.</li></ul>
North Fork Pool, Park, and Recreation District (NFPPRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The NFPPRD has a long-standing agreement with the town for the maintenance of the skateboard park (Town Park) and the tennis/pickleball courts (Apple Valley Park).</li></ul>
Smith Center Volunteer Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Development, programming, and scheduling of the Ellen Hansen Smith Center.</li></ul>



Inventory of School Facilities

School facilities in Paonia offer recreational amenities, including playgrounds, athletic fields, and tracks that supplement the amenities found in town-owned parks. Although these facilities are not always open to the public, a partnership with the Delta County School District could allow for this. Such a partnership could enable the town ability to address gaps in the availability of certain types of recreational amenities.

School Facilities At A Glance

Count: 3 facilities on 2 campuses in Paonia

Total Acreage: 61.7 acres

Overview of School Facilities

Facility Name	Ownership	Campus Size	Brief Description
Paonia K-8 (846 Grand Ave)	Delta County School District	53.36 acres	Formerly the Paonia Junior High/High School, the Paonia K-8 is located on the northside of Paonia, adjacent to intersection of State Highway 133 (SH-133) and Grand Avenue.
North Fork School of Integrated Studies (430 Box Elder Ave)	Delta County School District	8.364 acres	<p>The North Fork School of Integrated Studies (NFSIS) opened in 2015, within the building for the Paonia Elementary School. With the relocation of the Elementary School in 2021, the NFSIS is currently the only school within the building. The NFSIS offers full day pre-school and classes for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.</p> <p>The NFSIS shares a campus with the Vocational Technical Center.</p>
Vocational Technical Center (218 4th Street)			<p>The Vocational Technical Center (“Energy Tech”) is located on the same campus as the North Fork School of Integrated Studies. The building has 13 classrooms and has housed a variety of activities over the past years including, West Elk Mine trainings, GED courses, political caucuses, and Solar Energy International events.</p> <p>Future plans for the Vocational Technical Center is currently being explored by the school district’s board and may include the sale of the facility or re-purposing it for teacher housing.</p>

Data Source(s): Delta County Assessor, North Fork School of Integrated Studies and Delta County Independent

## School Facility Management Responsibilities

Entity	Key Responsibilities
Delta County School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, operation, maintenance, and programming of the district-owned properties in Paonia.</li> <li>Acquisition of property and/or easements for school purposes.</li> </ul>



## Inventory of Arts & Cultural Facilities

Arts and cultural facilities are an important element of Paonia's network of public spaces. Many of these facilities offer space and activities that bring the people together and build community.

### Arts & Cultural Facilities At A Glance

Count: 7 facilities in Paonia

### Overview of Arts & Cultural Facilities

Facility Name	Ownership	Brief Description
Blue Sage Center for the Arts (226 Grand Ave)	Blue Sage Center for the Arts	The Blue Sage Center for the Arts is located in the historic Curtis Hardware and First National Bank buildings in downtown Paonia. The center offers space for artists, classes, events (e.g., live music, live performances, lectures, etc.), and gallery exhibits. The center is owned, operated, and managed by the Blue Sage Center for the Arts, a non-profit organization.
The Hearth (138 Grand Ave)	The Learning Council	The Hearth is a new educational hub that The Learning Council (TLC) is working to develop in downtown Paonia. The Hearth will provide space for a teen-led ice cream shop, a kitchen, a bike co-op shop, classroom space, creative space, co-working space, and a diversity library. The Hearth is owned, operated, and managed by TLC, a non-profit organization.
Paradise Theatre (215 Grand Ave)	Friends of the Paradise Theatre	The Paradise Theatre, built in 1928, is a performing arts venue located in downtown Paonia. The theatre hosts a variety of arts and cultural activities including, films, educational events, live music, and live performances. The theatre is owned by the Friends of the Paradise Theatre (FOPT), a non-profit organization.
North Fork Valley Creative Coalition (130 Grand Ave)	N/A	The North Fork Valley Creative Coalition (NFVCC) is a nonprofit 501(C)3 organization that manages the Paonia Creative District and whose mission is to foster the development of a vibrant community and diverse creative economy in the North Fork Valley of Western Colorado (i.e., Paonia, Hotchkiss, and Crawford).
Paonia Creative District	N/A	A state-certified Creative District that encompasses downtown Paonia.
Paonia Public Library (80 Samuel Wade Road)	Delta County Public Library District	The Paonia Public Library is part of the broader system of public libraries in Delta County. The library offers free public computer and internet access, a variety literary resources, and programming for all ages.
Paonia Historic Park (700 Shady Lane)	Town of Paonia	The Paonia Historic Park is home to two museums: the Bowie Schoolhouse Museum and the Paonia Museum. Each museum has unique features that offer visitors with the opportunity to learn about the history of Paonia, the North Fork Valley, Bowie, and Somerset.

Data Source(s): Town of Paonia and Delta County Assessor

### Arts & Cultural Facility Management Responsibilities

Entity	Key Responsibilities
Blue Sage Center for the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, operation, maintenance, programming, and scheduling of the Blue Sage Center for the Arts.</li> </ul>
The Learning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, operation, maintenance, programming, and scheduling of The Hearth.</li> </ul>
Friends of the Paradise Theater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, operation, maintenance, programming, and scheduling of the Paradise Theater.</li> </ul>
North Fork Valley Creative Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of the Paonia Creative District.</li> </ul>
Delta County Public Library District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, operation, maintenance, programming, and scheduling of the Paonia Library.</li> </ul>
North Fork Historical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation, maintenance, programming, and scheduling of the museums in the Historic Park.</li> </ul>



## Inventory of Trail Systems

Paonia has two types of local trail systems:

- **Soft-Surface Trails.** Soft-surface trails offer a more natural, outdoor experience and provide a low impact way for residents to access natural areas.
- **Paved Sidewalks.** Paved sidewalks support non-motorized mobility. They are used for walking, running, access for people with disabilities, and for other similar activities.

The Town of Paonia does not currently have any on-street bicycle infrastructure (e.g., bike lanes).

### Trail Systems At A Glance

Total Length of Soft-Surface Trails      1.1 miles  
along River Corridor:

Total Length of Jumbo Mountain      29.3 miles  
Soft-Surface Trails:

Total Length of In-Town Sidewalks:      40 miles

Data Source(s): ESRI ArcGIS; MTB Project; and 2022 Town of Paonia Budget

### Overview of Trail Systems

Facility	Ownership	Description
Jumbo Mountain Trail System (east of Paonia)	Bureau of Land Management	The Jumbo Mountain Trail System comprises roughly 29-miles of user-created trails on the BLM lands immediately to the east of Paonia. The BLM is currently working on a comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan (TTMP) for Jumbo Mountain. For additional information regarding the TTMP refer to page 19.
North Fork River Trail System (along the North Fork of the Gunnison River)	Western Slope Conservation Center, Town of Paonia, and Delta County School District	The North Fork River Trail System is a network of soft-surface trails along the North Fork of the Gunnison River in Paonia. Roughly 0.5-miles of the river trail is located in the Paonia River Park and another, roughly 0.6-miles of the river trail (recently constructed in 2021) is located near the Paonia K-8. An additional 0.2-miles (approximately) of the river trail is in the works and will connect the trail near the Paonia K-8 with the Paonia Public Library.
In-Town Sidewalks	Town of Paonia	There are approximately 40-miles of sidewalks in Paonia, although many areas in town do not have sidewalks. The town's Sidewalk Fund generates revenue for approximately 1/2-block of sidewalk each year.  Given the available funding and the high percentage of town streets with damaged or missing sidewalks, completing the sidewalk network will be a gradual process.
Irrigation Ditch Corridors (Paonia Ditch, Stewart Ditch, Minnesota Creek, Lone Cabin Ditch, and Fire Mountain Canal)	Private Property Owners and Local Ditch Companies	Several irrigation ditch corridors, exist in, and near, Paonia that the public uses for walking, biking, etc. These corridors are primarily located on private property and within easements that allow for specific activities related to ditch operation and maintenance, but not for use by the public.  The feasibility of utilizing ditch corridors for a system of public trails was explored as part of the Paonia In Motion planning process. Due to the restrictive nature of the ditch easements and the ditch companies' concerns about public access to these corridors (i.e., liability), it was determined that it is highly unlikely that the ditch corridors can be used for public trails.

## Trail System Management Responsibilities

Entity	Key Responsibilities
Town of Paonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintenance of town-owned sidewalks.</li> <li>▪ Oversight of the development and use of town-owned trails.</li> <li>▪ Acquisition of property and/or easements for town-owned sidewalks and trails.</li> </ul>
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oversight of the development, maintenance, and use of the Jumbo Mountain Trail System.</li> </ul>
North Fork Trails Advocacy Group (NFTAG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocacy for, and collaboration with the BLM on, the development, maintenance, and use of the Jumbo Mountain Trail System.</li> </ul>
Local Ditch Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operation and maintenance of local ditches. Each ditch company is responsible for a specific ditch.</li> </ul>



## Inventory of Natural Areas

Natural areas exist primarily to preserve land, natural features, and habitat for wildlife. Low-impact, passive recreation is allowed in most natural areas, with opportunities to enjoy nature on soft-surface trails. The largest contiguous natural area, Jumbo Mountain, is located just east of Paonia and is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

### Natural Areas At A Glance

Count: 6 natural areas within, or near, Paonia (excludes the Brill and Elliot Conservation Easements)

Total Acreage: 11,987.52 acres (excludes the river corridor and the Brill and Elliot Conservation Easements)

### Overview of Natural Areas

Name of Area	Ownership	Size	Brief Description
North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor	Private and Public Land Owners	-	The North Fork of the Gunnison River ("North Fork") is located in the northwest portion of the Town of Paonia and flows in a northeast to southwest direction. The North Fork is the primary waterway in this part of Delta County and is critical to the health of the local riparian ecosystem. Seasonal streamflow data from the US Geological Survey indicates that the North Fork's average annual flows fluctuate between 30 CFS (in August) and 1,950 CFS (in May). Refer to Appendices for additional streamflow data.
Jumbo Mountain (east of Paonia)	Bureau of Land Management	5,649 acres	Jumbo Mountain is a large, contiguous area of public lands located immediately to the east of the Town of Paonia. The Bureau of Land Management has designated Jumbo Mountain as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and is in the process of developing a Travel Management Plan (TMP) for Jumbo Mountain. Two key objectives of the TMP include formal recognition of, and establishment of a plan for maintaining and improving, the existing, user-created trail system.
P-Hill (south of Paonia)	Town of Paonia	24.52 acres	The Town of Paonia owns land atop "P-Hill," the hill located at the south end of Grand Avenue that displays a "P." Much of this property is preserved in a natural state with the exception of the "P," telecommunication infrastructure at the top of the hill, and a 4-wheel drive access road. Data from Colorado Parks & Wildlife identifies P-Hill as a "Winter Concentration Area" for Mule Deer.
Brill Conservation Easement (east of Vista Drive)	Hawks Haven Homeowners Association	26.184 acres	A portion of the Hawks Haven Subdivision has been dedicated as the Brill Conservation Easement. This easement overlays private property and restricts the types of activities allowed.



## Overview of Natural Areas (continued)

Name of Area	Ownership	Size	Brief Description
Elliot Conservation Easement (west of Vista Drive)	Randall and Michelle Gillette	3.546 acres	A portion of the Hawks Haven Subdivision has been dedicated as the Elliot Conservation Easement. This easement overlays private property and restricts the types of activities allowed.
Elephant Hill/Lone Cabin Area (southeast of Paonia)	Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service	3,400 acres	<p>The Elephant Hill/Lone Cabin Area is an area of contiguous public lands (managed by the BLM and US Forest Service) located southeast of Paonia and south of Jumbo Mountain.</p> <p>The 2018 Delta County Recreation &amp; Trails Master Plan notes that the Elephant Hill/Lone Cabin Area “...carries favorable attributes to trail development, including proximity to Paonia, potential through-access to other public lands south/southeast, and scenic value.” The plan notes that any trail development will need to consider the significant wildlife habitat in this area, as well as balancing the needs of various user groups (e.g., hunting/horse packing, grazing permits, cattle drive trails, etc.).</p> <p>Since the Elephant Hill/Lone Cabin Area is specifically addressed in Delta County’s Recreation &amp; Trails Master Plan and is not adjacent to Paonia, this Plan defers to the county’s Master Plan for the future of these public lands. The US Forest Service is working to complete a “Land Management Plan,” which could also have implications for the future of this area.</p>
Roeber State Wildlife Area (south of Paonia)	Colorado Parks & Wildlife	1,057 acres	<p>State Wildlife Areas in Colorado are managed by Colorado Parks &amp; Wildlife for recreation purposes (e.g., hunting and fishing) and the observation, management, and preservation of wildlife.</p> <p>The Roeber State Wildlife Area is one of 350 State Wildlife Areas in Colorado. It offers hunting for deer, elk, and rabbit, as well as fishing in Coldwater Lake. Public access to the Roeber State Wildlife Area is prohibited, except for hunting and fishing. Other prohibited activities include camping, dogs, fires, and bowfishing.</p>
Paonia State Park (northeast of Paonia)	State of Colorado, Bureau of Land Management, and US Forest Service	1,857 acres	Paonia State Park is a Colorado State Park located 17-miles northeast of the Town of Paonia, in Gunnison County, and along the West Elk Loop of the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program. Established as a state park in 1964, the park is near the base of the Ragged Mountains and encompasses the Paonia Reservoir on the North Fork of the Gunnison River. Activities at the park include camping, fishing, boating, wakeboarding, water skiing, and sightseeing.

Data Source(s): Delta and Gunnison County Assessor; 2018 Delta County Recreation & Trails Master Plan; Delta County Clerk & Recorder; and Colorado Parks & Wildlife

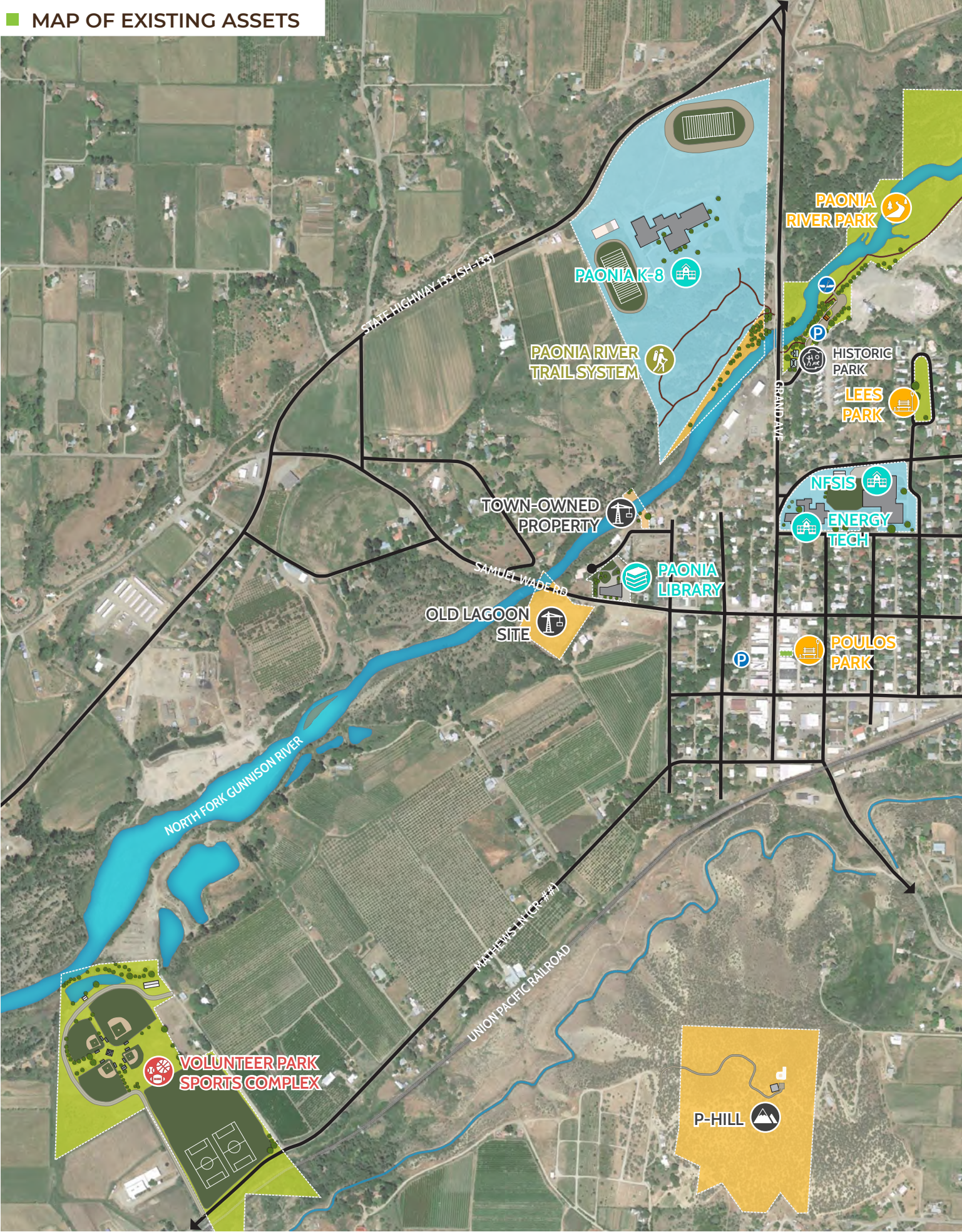
## Natural Area Management Responsibilities

Entity	Key Responsibilities
Town of Paonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintenance of public amenities on P-Hill (e.g., access road).</li> <li>▪ Oversight of the development and use of P-Hill.</li> <li>▪ Acquisition of property and/or easements to facilitate improved public access to/from P-Hill.</li> </ul>
Hawks Haven Homeowners Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management and maintenance of the Elliot and Brill Conservation Easements.</li> </ul>
Colorado West Land Trust (CWLT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grantee of the Elliot and Brill Conservation Easements.</li> </ul>
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management of Jumbo Mountain and the Elephant Hill/Lone Cabin area.</li> </ul>
Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management of the Roeber State Wildlife Area and Paonia State Park.</li> </ul>
US Forest Service (USFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management of the Elephant Hill/Lone Cabin area.</li> </ul>

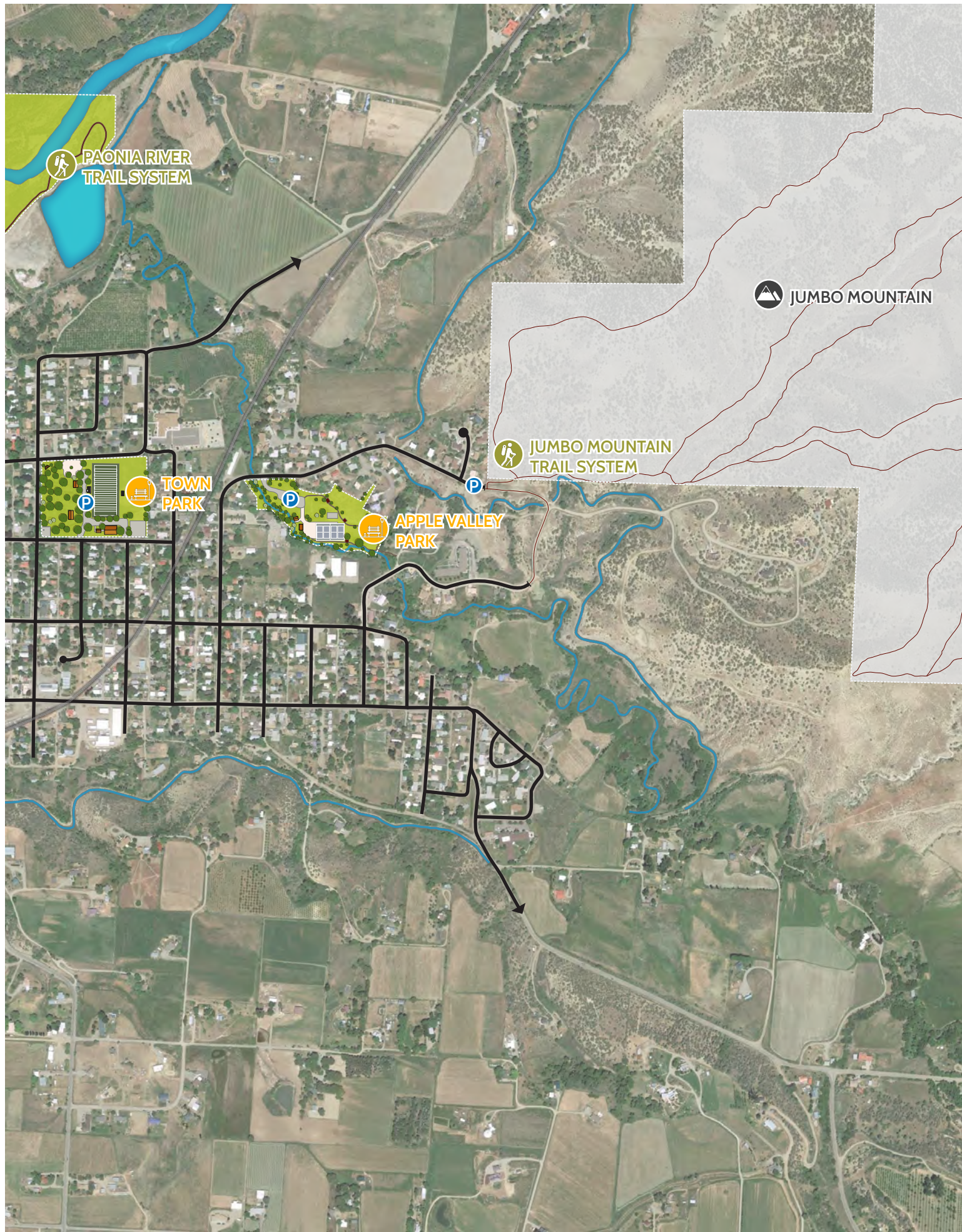
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■ MAP OF EXISTING ASSETS









## ■ ASSESSMENT OF PAONIA'S PARKS & RECREATION AMENITIES

In October 2020, an inventory and assessment of Paonia's parks and recreation sites was completed by the consultant team. The results of this work are presented on the following pages. Visits to Paonia enabled the team to collect the following information about Paonia's park, recreation, and trail assets:

- Types of components.
- Location of components.
- Condition of components.
- Site photos.
- General observations.
- Evaluation of comfort and convenience features.
- Evaluation of park design and ambiance.

The consultant team's evaluation included an assessment of how well each component met expectations for its intended function. The following rating system was used to evaluate components:

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 = Not Applicable     | 2 = Meets Expectations   |
| 1 = Below Expectations | 3 = Exceeds Expectations |

The scores for each component consider its condition, size, capacity relative to the need at that location, and its overall quality. Scores also consider a components value to the immediate neighborhood (Neighborhood GRASP® Score) and the entire community (Community GRASP® Score). Definitions for the components evaluated can be found on pages 121-123.

In addition to scoring individual components, each park and recreation site was given an overall rating for design and ambient qualities. Good design is important as it makes a place visually appealing, enjoyable to visit, and encourages more frequent and longer stays.

Total Neighborhood and Community Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Process (GRASP®) Scores were calculated for each of Paonia's parks and recreation sites using a cumulative algorithm based on the number of components, scores for each component, and the overall comfort and convenience of features. The total Neighborhood GRASP® score indicates level of service (LOS) for parks and recreation opportunities at a neighborhood scale, while the total Community GRASP® score identifies LOS at a community-wide scale. Higher scores equate to a park or recreation site offering a greater number of, and higher quality, amenities.



## 1. Town Park

Total Neighborhood  
GRASP® Score **39**

Total Community  
GRASP® Score **39**

**Table 7: Evaluation of Town Park Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance**

Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	3	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	2	Trail Connection	0	
BBQ Grills	2	Park Access	2	
Dog Pick-Up Station	2	Parking	2	
Security Lighting	2	Seasonal Plantings	2	
Bike Parking	2	Ornamental Plantings	2	
Restrooms	2	Picnic Tables	2	

### Overall Park Design and Ambiance: 2

**Table 8: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Town Park Components**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Park Property (Parcel No. 324505212001)	1	-	2	2	-
1	Large Shelter	1	Yes	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One large shelter divided into four areas, each with a grill and electricity.</li> <li>Components, such as horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, or other games, could be added near the shelter to increase use.</li> </ul>
2	Small Shelter	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shelter located adjacent to the playground that offers seating and shade for park users but does not directly address the play area.</li> </ul>
3	Skateboard Park	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skateboard park is located on half of old tennis courts near the Ellen Hansen Smith Center.</li> <li>Surface of the skateboard park is in fair condition.</li> <li>There are approximately six modular skate features.</li> <li>ADA access is limited.</li> </ul>
4	Passive Node	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plaza located in the southwest corner of Town Park has several elements but seems to lack a cohesive design.</li> <li>The walls in the plaza are in need of repair.</li> </ul>
5	Open Turf	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open turf area is limited due to the number of trees throughout the park.</li> </ul>
6	Event Space	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stage needs maintenance and to be reconstructed using decking boards (or similar) for improved longevity.</li> <li>Electricity available.</li> <li>Stage is oriented towards a shaded lawn area.</li> </ul>



**Table 8: Town Park Components with Score (continued)**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
7	Playground, Destination	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This playground has many different features but lacks cohesion as a true destination playground.</li> <li>One slide structure, small play structure, climber, spinner, swings, and larger play structure.</li> <li>Perimeter edging and proper Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) containment would help.</li> <li>ADA access is limited.</li> </ul>
8	Large Rectangular Field	1	Yes	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This appears to be a historic field utilized by the high school for football games.</li> <li>Field needs leveling especially in the northwest corner.</li> <li>Overhead power lines on the south end of the field need to be moved. Overall the field is not in great shape.</li> </ul>
9	Diamond Field	1	No	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This field has been removed.</li> <li>There is no backstop.</li> <li>Some light poles remain.</li> </ul>

**Diagram 3: Map of Town Park Components**





## 2. Apple Valley Park

Total Neighborhood  
GRASP® Score **66**

Total Community  
GRASP® Score **149**

**Table 9: Evaluation of Apple Valley Park Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance**

Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	2	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	2	Trail Connection	2	
BBQ Grills	1	Park Access	2	
Dog Pick-Up Station	0	Parking	2	
Security Lighting	1	Seasonal Plantings	0	
Bike Parking	1	Ornamental Plantings	0	
Restrooms	2	Picnic Tables	2	

### Overall Park Design and Ambiance: 2

**Table 10: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Apple Valley Park Components**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Park Property (Parcel No. 324505200022)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located off of Pan American Avenue.</li> <li>Limited ADA access in the park and to park components.</li> <li>Northern edge of the park is a steep embankment up to a residential neighborhood.</li> <li>Southern edge of the park borders U.S. Forest Service offices.</li> </ul>
1	Large Shelter	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A unique shelter provides space for group gathering near the playground area and Minnesota Creek.</li> </ul>
2	Pickleball Court	8	Yes	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pickleball courts are down scored because they overlay tennis courts.</li> </ul>
3	Tennis Court	4	Yes	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newer tennis courts with pickleball overlay.</li> </ul>
4	Tennis Practice Wall	1	Yes	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice wall located on the north side of one of the tennis courts.</li> </ul>
5	Disc Golf	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited course features.</li> <li>Consider expanding and organizing the course and adding tee boxes and baskets.</li> </ul>
6	Water Access, General	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minnesota Creek is open and accessible from the park.</li> </ul>
7	Water, Open	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minnesota Creek runs along the southern edge of the park and provides ambient sounds.</li> </ul>
8	Trailhead	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides parking and staging with limited infrastructure for nearby Jumbo Mountain trail system.</li> </ul>
9	Loop Walk	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path in need of formalized structure to maintain.</li> <li>Consider edging or hard surface walk for improved function.</li> </ul>
10	Fitness Course	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple fitness stations along loop walk.</li> </ul>

Table 10: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Apple Valley Park Components (continued)

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
11	Open Turf	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Open field area tucked in the back of the park.</li><li>Turf in poor condition.</li></ul>
12	Open Turf	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Open area near parking lot.</li><li>Turf conditions need improvement.</li></ul>
13	Playground, Local	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Small play area with limited features: one play structure; standalone swings; balance feature; and spin feature outside of main play area.</li><li>Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) surfacing with curb wall.</li></ul>

Diagram 4: Map of Apple Valley Park Components



3. Paonia River Park

Total Neighborhood GRASP® Score	75.6	Total Community GRASP® Score	75.6
---------------------------------	------	------------------------------	------

Table 11: Evaluation of Paonia River Park Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance

Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	2	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	2	Trail Connection	3	
BBQ Grills	0	Park Access	2	
Dog Pick-Up Station	2	Parking	2	
Security Lighting	0	Seasonal Plantings	0	
Bike Parking	2	Ornamental Plantings	2	
Restrooms	1	Picnic Tables	2	

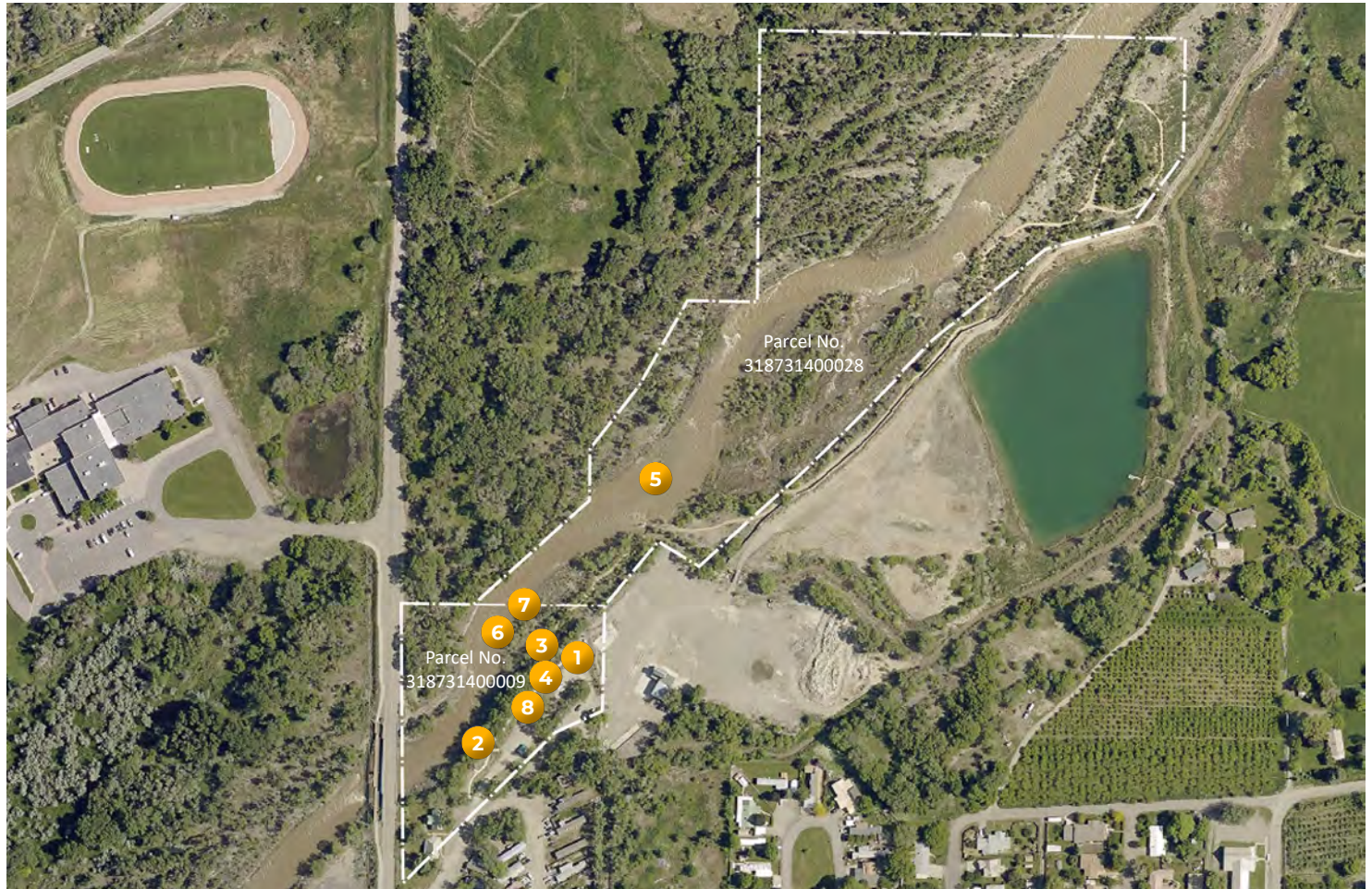
Overall Park Design and Ambiance: 3



**Table 12: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Paonia River Park Components**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Park Property (Parcel Nos. 318731400009 and 318731400028)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A great park with lots of fine details.</li> <li>▪ Park is located outside of the town limits.</li> </ul>
1	Trailhead	1	No	2	2	-
2	Passive Node	1	No	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ River overlook.</li> </ul>
3	Public Art	1	No	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Several unique art pieces, railings, and accents.</li> </ul>
4	Educational Experience	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interpretive signage throughout the park.</li> </ul>
5	Water, Open	1	No	2	2	-
6	Water Access, General	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public river access.</li> </ul>
7	Water Access, Developed	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boat ramp that serves as river put in and take-out.</li> </ul>
8	Large Shelter	1	No	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unique shelter construction and details.</li> </ul>

**Diagram 5: Map of Paonia River Park Components**



4. Poulos Park

Total Neighborhood GRASP® Score	10.8	Total Community GRASP® Score	10.8
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Table 13: Evaluation of Poulos Park Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance

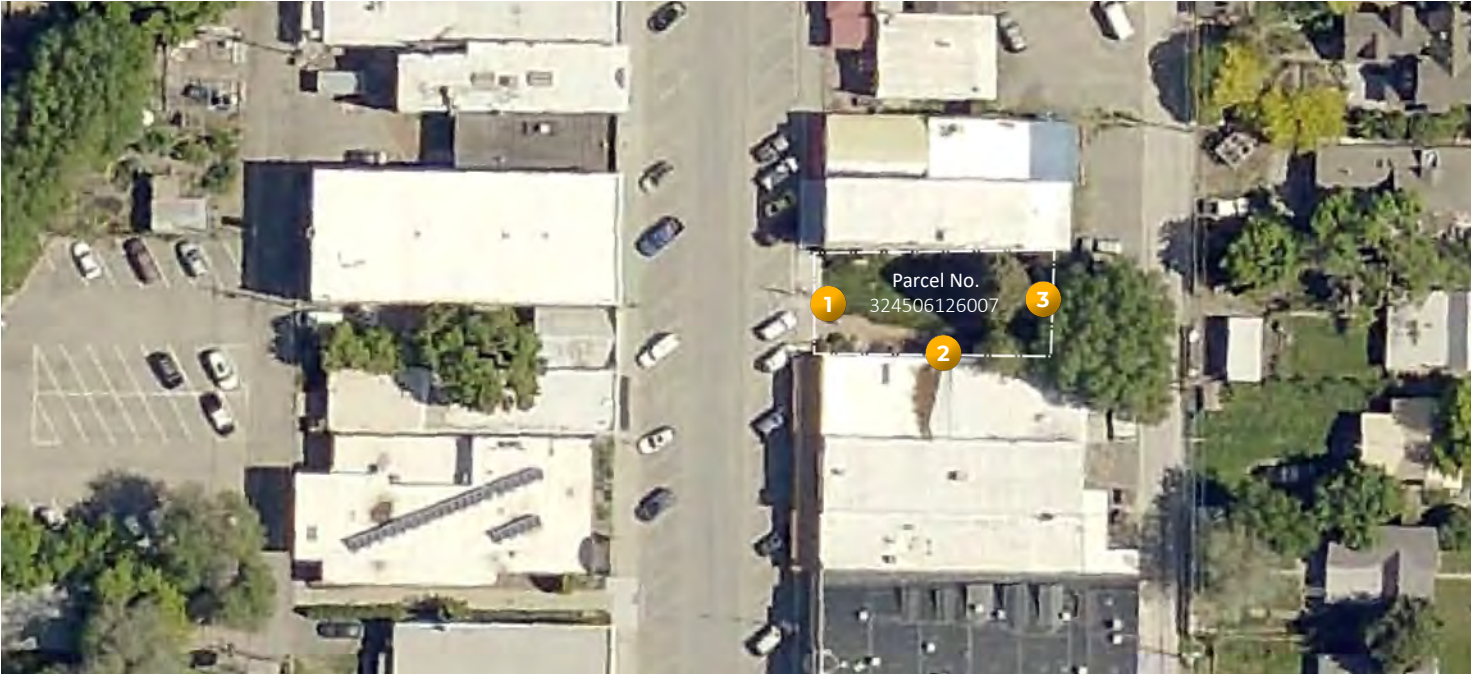
Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	2	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	2	Trail Connection	0	
BBQ Grills	0	Park Access	2	
Dog Pick-Up Station	0	Parking	2	
Security Lighting	1	Seasonal Plantings	2	
Bike Parking	0	Ornamental Plantings	2	
Restrooms	0	Picnic Tables	1	

Overall Park Design and Ambiance: 1

Table 14: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Poulos Park Components

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Park Property (Parcel No. 324506126007)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Small urban plaza in the middle of downtown.</li><li>▪ Turf in poor condition.</li><li>▪ Seating area tucked in back of lot with minimal visible contact with Grand Avenue.</li></ul>
1	Educational Experience	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Interpretive sign.</li></ul>
2	Public Art	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Large mural on building wall.</li></ul>
3	Passive Node	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Unique bench and seating area in back of the park.</li></ul>

Diagram 6: Map of Poulos Park Components





## 5. Lees Park

Total Neighborhood  
GRASP® Score **5.5**

Total Community  
GRASP® Score **5.5**

**Table 15: Evaluation of Lees Park Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance**

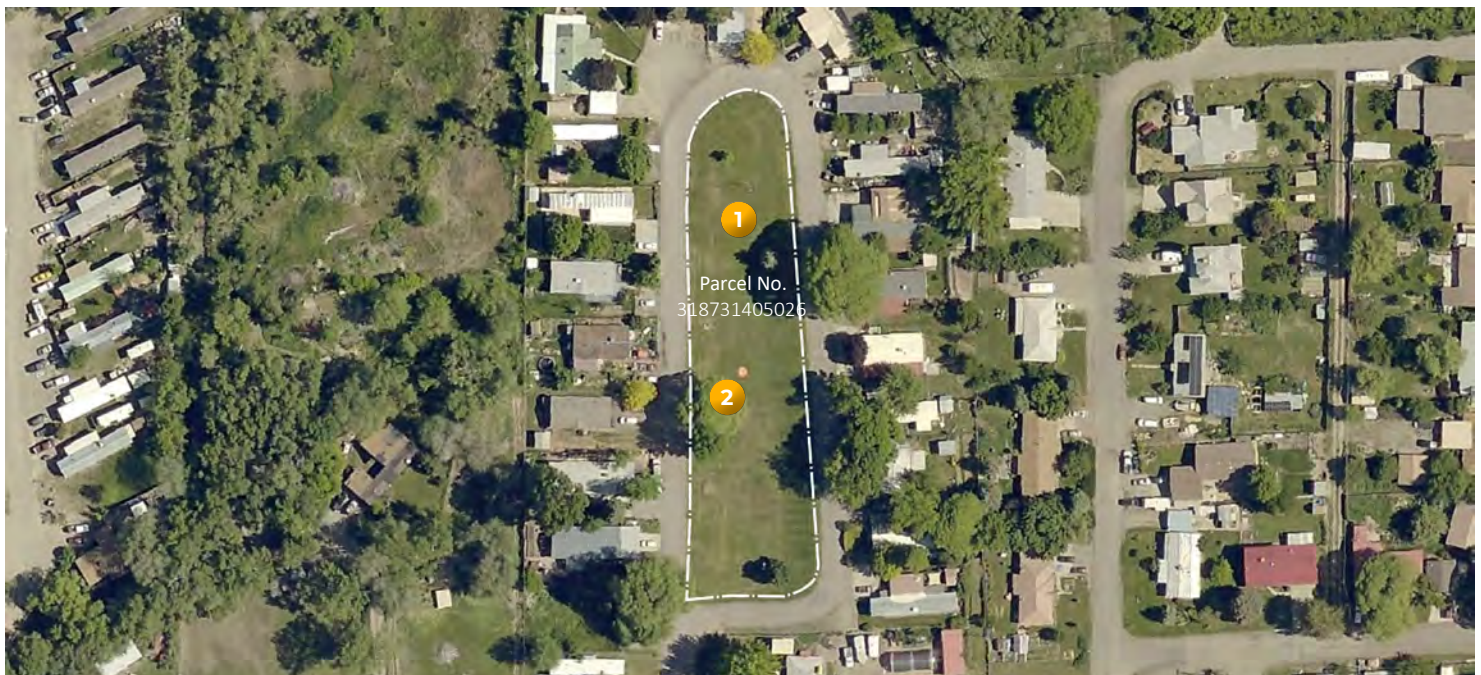
Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	1	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	1	Trail Connection	0	
BBQ Grills	0	Park Access	2	
Dog Pick-Up Station	0	Parking	1	
Security Lighting	0	Seasonal Plantings	0	
Bike Parking	0	Ornamental Plantings	0	
Restrooms	0	Picnic Tables	1	

**Overall Park Design and Ambiance: 1**

**Table 16: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Lees Park Components**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Park Property (Parcel No. 318731405026)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Park could use additional components.</li> <li>▪ Steep bank on the east side of park.</li> <li>▪ Parking limited to perimeter street parking.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	Open Turf	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Turf in decent condition.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	Playground, Local	1	No	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Playground in poor condition.</li> <li>▪ No surfacing material for playground.</li> <li>▪ Minimal elements that include a four bay swing set and a spinner.</li> </ul>

**Diagram 7: Map of Lees Park Components**



6. Energy Tech & North Fork School of Integrated Studies (NFSIS) Campus

Total Neighborhood GRASP® Score	25.2	Total Community GRASP® Score	34.8
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Table 17: Evaluation of Energy Tech & NFSIS Campus Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance

Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	2	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	2	Trail Connection	0	
BBQ Grills	0	Park Access	2	
Dog Pick-Up Station	0	Parking	2	
Security Lighting	2	Seasonal Plantings	0	
Bike Parking	2	Ornamental Plantings	0	
Restrooms	0	Picnic Tables	2	

Overall Campus Design and Ambiance: 2

Table 18: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Energy Tech & NFSIS Campus Components

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Campus Property (Parcel Nos. 324506159001; 324506105001; and 324506105002)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Campus grounds are in good condition and offer numerous components.</li><li>▪ Appears to be open to public outside of school hours.</li></ul>
1	Climbing, Designated	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Climbing structure near playground.</li></ul>
2	Public Art	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Wall mural.</li></ul>
3	Community Garden	2	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Small garden plots near school.</li></ul>
4	Small Shelter	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Shade sails near game court and multi-use pad</li></ul>
5	Basketball, Practice	4	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ On side of full basketball court.</li></ul>
6	Playground, Local	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Five play features on pea gravel.</li><li>▪ Two play structures, teeter totters, swings, and slide.</li></ul>
7	Multi-Use Pad	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Painted games.</li></ul>
8	Basketball Court	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Full court plus four other hoops.</li></ul>
9	Game Court	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Gaga ball.</li></ul>
10	Open Turf	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Could be a small rectangle.</li><li>▪ Has small goals but mostly open play.</li></ul>

Diagram 8: Map of Energy Tech & NFSIS Campus Components



## 7. Paonia K-8 Campus

Total Neighborhood  
GRASP® Score **15.4**

Total Community  
GRASP® Score **16.5**

**Table 19: Evaluation of Paonia K-8 Campus Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance**

Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	0	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	0	Trail Connection	0	
BBQ Grills	0	Park Access	2	
Dog Pick-Up Station	0	Parking	2	
Security Lighting	0	Seasonal Plantings	0	
Bike Parking	2	Ornamental Plantings	0	
Restrooms	0	Picnic Tables	0	

**Overall Campus Design and Ambiance: 2**

**Table 20: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Paonia K-8 Campus Components**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Campus Property (Parcel Nos. 318731400005; 318731400006; and 318731400007)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paonia K-8 Campus with plenty of room to add components and/or infrastructure.</li> <li>Field well located and could host games with proper amenities.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	Athletic Track	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soft-surface multi-lane track.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	Fitness Course	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course on soft surfacing.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	Volleyball Court	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court is poorly maintained.</li> </ul>



**Table 20: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Paonia K-8 Campus Components (continued)**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
4	Basketball Court	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Court in poor condition and hoops are failing.</li> </ul>
5	Multi-Use Pad	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Painted games on drive lane.</li> </ul>
6	Basketball, Practice	2	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hoops on parking lot.</li> </ul>
7	Rectangular Field, Large	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nice field.</li> <li>▪ Could host games with more infrastructure such as parking, bleachers, concessions, and restrooms.</li> </ul>
8	Athletic Track	1	No	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soft-surface track.</li> <li>▪ Minimal lanes and in poor condition.</li> </ul>
9	Rectangular Field, Large	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Turf appears to be in good shape.</li> </ul>

**Diagram 9: Map of Paonia K-8 Campus Components**



## 8. Volunteer Park Sports Complex

Total Neighborhood  
GRASP® Score **39.6**

Total Community  
GRASP® Score **44**

**Table 21: Evaluation of Volunteer Park Sports Complex Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance**

Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	1	<u>Rating System</u> 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Below Expectations 2 = Meets Expectations 3 = Exceeds Expectations
Seating	2	Trail Connection	0	
BBQ Grills	0	Park Access	1	
Dog Pick-Up Station	0	Parking	2	
Security Lighting	0	Seasonal Plantings	0	
Bike Parking	0	Ornamental Plantings	0	
Restrooms	2	Picnic Tables	2	

### Overall Park Design and Ambiance: 2

**Table 22: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Volunteer Park Sports Complex Components**

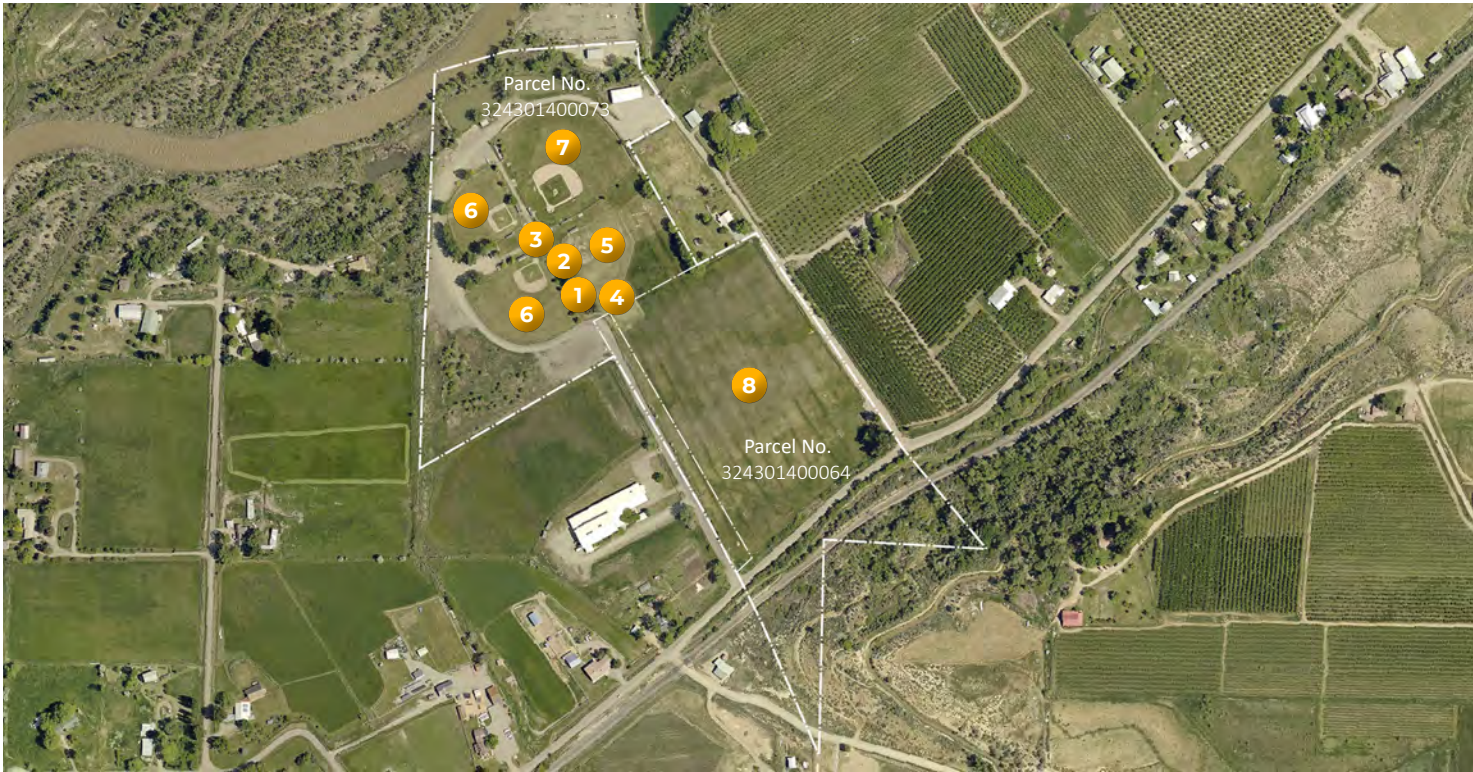
Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	Park Property (Parcel Nos. 324301400073 and 324301400064)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited access.</li> <li>▪ Decent complex but needs maintenance and likely needs improved irrigation.</li> <li>▪ Appears to be popular with dogs.</li> <li>▪ Limited restrooms near rectangles.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	Shelter, Large	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shelter close to playground with tables.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	Playground, Local	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small playground close to fields.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	Concessions	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Centrally located concession and restroom building.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	Diamond Field, Practice	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A small practice field or t-ball field.</li> <li>▪ Small backstop with wings and benches.</li> <li>▪ Some extended fencing but no outfield other than park perimeter.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	Diamond Field	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Skinned infield diamond with full backstop and concrete block (i.e., CMU) dugouts.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	Diamond Field	2	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two diamonds with grass infields, full backstop and concrete block (i.e., CMU) dugouts.</li> <li>▪ Infields are in poor condition.</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	Diamond Field	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Larger baseball diamond with grass infield and extended outfield.</li> <li>▪ This field has a batting cage, scoreboard, and a bullpen area that is in poor condition.</li> </ul>



Table 22: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Volunteer Park Sports Complex Components (continued)

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
8	Rectangular Field, Multiple	1	No	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Soccer goals present.</li><li>▪ Multiple fields in large area.</li><li>▪ Fields are fairly level and turf appears to be in decent condition.</li><li>▪ Fields are fenced but gates are down.</li><li>▪ Appears to be popular with dog owners.</li></ul>

Diagram 10: Map of Volunteer Park Sports Complex Components



9. Jumbo Mountain

Total Neighborhood GRASP® Score	4.4	Total Community GRASP® Score	4.4
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Table 23: Evaluation of Jumbo Mountain Comfort, Convenience, Design, and Ambiance

Drinking Fountains	0	Shade	2	Rating System
Seating	0	Trail Connection	3	0 = Not Applicable
BBQ Grills	0	Park Access	1	1 = Below Expectations
Dog Pick-Up Station	0	Parking	0	2 = Meets Expectations
Security Lighting	0	Seasonal Plantings	0	3 = Exceeds Expectations
Bike Parking	0	Ornamental Plantings	0	
Restrooms	0	Picnic Tables	0	

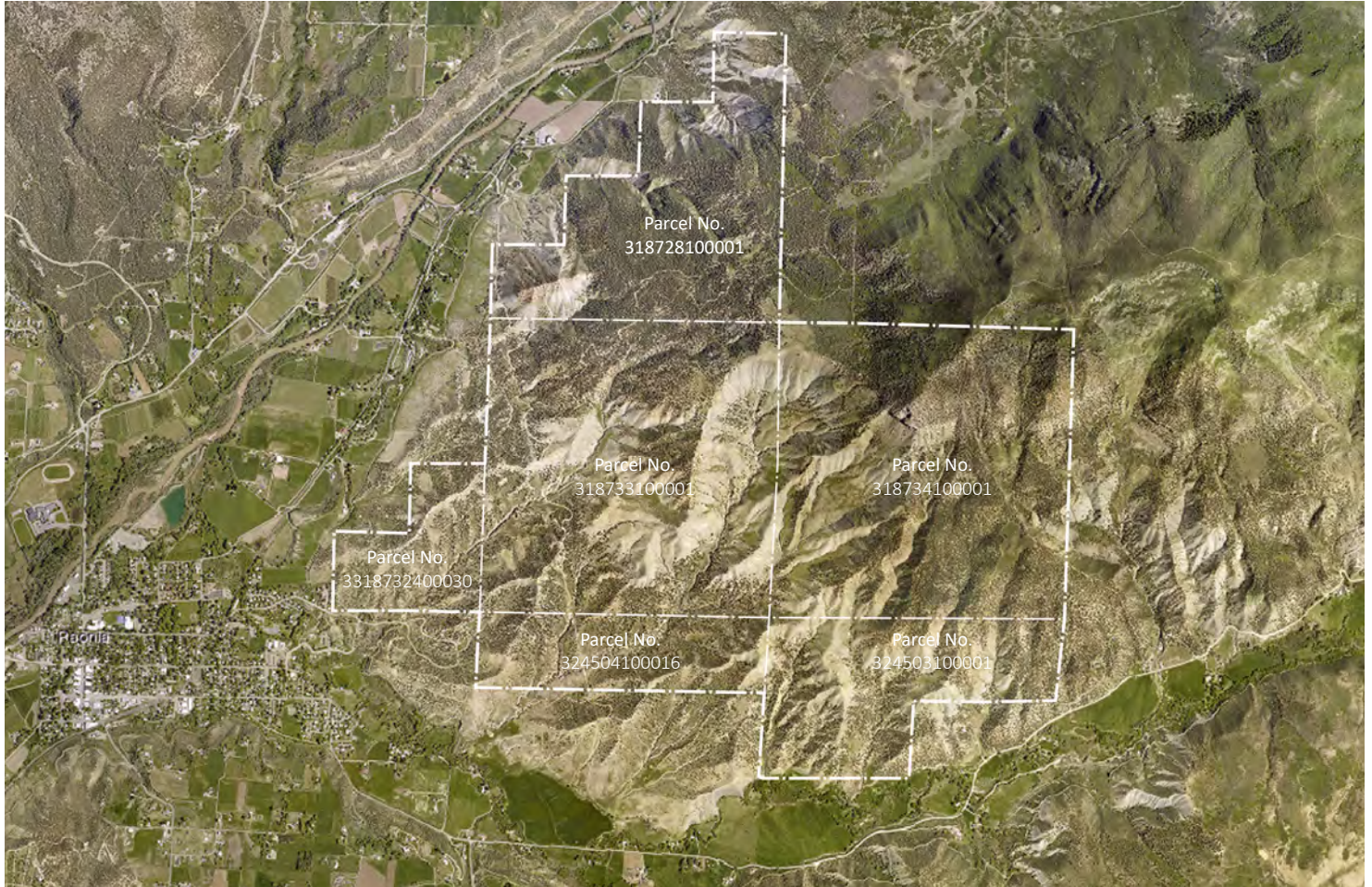
Overall Park Design and Ambiance: 2



**Table 24: Neighborhood and Community GRASP® Scores for Jumbo Mountain Components**

Map ID	Component	Quantity	Lights	Neighborhood Score	Community Score	General Comments & Observations
-	BLM Property <sup>1</sup> (Parcel Nos. 318732400030; 318733100001; 324504100016; 318734100001; 324503100001; and 318728100001)	1	-	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Large open space area with a number of popular trails throughout.</li> <li>▪ Access, from Paonia, is limited to a single gate.</li> <li>▪ Parking and amenities available at nearby Apple Valley Park.</li> </ul>

**Diagram 11: Map of Jumbo Mountain Components**



**NOTE:**

<sup>1</sup>The parcels shown on the map above do not represent all of the BLM lands that constitute Jumbo Mountain. The parcels shown represent the BLM lands that include the trails that comprise the Jumbo Mountain Trail System.

■ KEY ISSUES AND NEEDS

A number of key issues and needs emerged from the assessment of Paonia’s parks and recreation amenities and discussions with town staff, stakeholders, and members of the community. Those issues and needs are described on the following pages and recommended strategies for addressing them can be found in Part 3 of this Plan.

> On-going operation and maintenance of Paonia’s park, recreation, and trail assets.

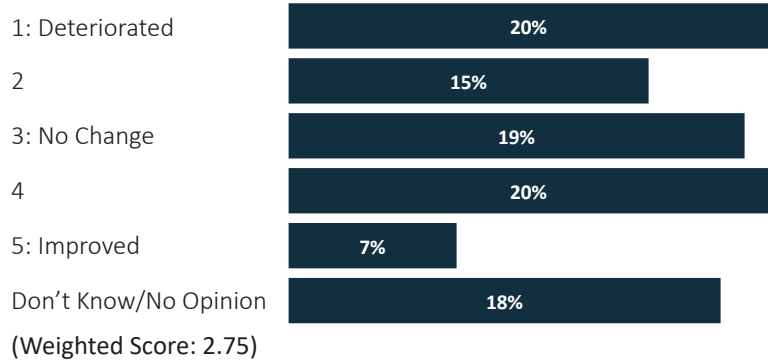
The operation and maintenance of Paonia’s existing park, recreation, and trail assets was identified as a top issue and need. For some members of the community it was difficult to contemplate ideas for the future given existing needs. The following comment, taken from the 2021 Community Survey, sums this up well...

“Take care of what we have before trying to add more.”

The following excerpts from the 2021 Community Survey further explain the community’s sentiments around the current condition of Paonia’s park, recreation, and trail assets.

Diagram 12: Results of Question 3a and 3b of the 2021 Community Survey

Question 3a. How have parks in Paonia changed, since you’ve lived here?  
(No. of Responses: 270)



Sample Comments from Question 3b. In a few words, please explain why you say that:  
(Total Responses: 98)

Sample Comments for "1: Deteriorated" (No. of Responses: 39)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town skips watering, reseeding, weeding overall care of parks except Poulos, Lees. Bad, bad, bad!</li><li>• They took the baseball fields out and haven't done any improvement since. Doesn't even get watered.</li><li>• The city park looks horrible in 30 years of living here it has never seen it look so bad.</li><li>• Park used to be lush and green. It's brown and dead now.</li><li>• Poor maintenance. Have a community day where community members come and do maintenance.</li></ul>
Sample Comments for "2" (No. of Responses: 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grass and trees used to be better taken care of.</li><li>• Less maintenance and upkeep, deteriorating walkways or paths.... restrooms closed.</li><li>• The town park looks terrible! At least add areas with drought tolerant plants for added beauty!</li><li>• The bathrooms aren't available and the landscape needs to be xeriscaped for drought. Less grass, more drought resistant plants, walkways and gathering areas.</li><li>• The grass hasn't been maintained.</li></ul>

The on-going upkeep of existing assets is a common challenge among park and recreation agencies. Strategies for improving on-going operation and maintenance are identified on pages 52-54.

> A system of parks, recreation, and trails that responds to the evolving needs of the community.

The changing pace of today’s world necessitates the compilation and analysis of data to identify and understand recreation trends. Understanding the participation levels, needs, and wants of local residents provides critical insights that should be used to inform the development of parks, recreation, and trail assets. Therefore, gathering local data and tailoring investments to trends in outdoor recreation, sports, and cultural programs will be key to ensuring that Paonia’s system of parks, recreation, and trails continues to serve the needs of the community.

Another need echoed throughout the PIM process is planning for locals first. The popularity of outdoor recreation in Colorado presents opportunities to grow and diversify Paonia's economy and the community recognizes that. However, concerns were expressed about a focus on drawing visitors to Paonia rather than prioritizing locals and the negative impacts that could result from becoming a popular destination, such as Moab. Based on the community's input, it will be important to prioritize local needs in planning for the future of parks, recreation, and trails in Paonia. It will also be important to plan for and manage impacts that result from increased usage of the town's assets.

**> Limited availability of water resources.**

Data from the National Integrated Drought Information System ([www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)) indicate that as of October 2019, Delta County has been in a drought that has ranged from "moderate" to "exceptional." The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook for March-May 2022, prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), predicts that the drought conditions in Delta County will persist. Additional information regarding drought conditions in Delta County between 2000 and 2022 can be found in the Appendices.

Given the drought conditions, there is a need for the town to be conscientious of the water resources required for the upkeep of local parks and to explore opportunities to moderate the consumption of these resources.

**> Preservation of Paonia's night sky.**

Impacts from light pollution, caused by excessive or poor use of artificial outdoor light, on quality of life has garnered greater attention in recent years. A growing number of communities are working to preserve their night sky and are benefiting from the economic opportunities emerging from their efforts (e.g., astrotourism).

There is an on-going community effort to craft, adopt, and implement a dark-sky friendly lighting ordinance for Paonia. The PIM planning process found that the community is interested in expanding opportunities for nighttime recreational activities. The dark-sky lighting ordinance and interest in nighttime recreation point to a need to preserve Paonia's night sky and invest in amenities to capitalize on this asset.

**> Maintaining and protecting local habitat.**

P-Hill, Jumbo Mountain, and the North Fork of the Gunnison River provide important habitat for local plant, animal, and insect species. Development of the town's parks, recreation, and trail assets has the potential to adversely impact local habitat. Therefore, there is a need for Paonia to balance the needs and desires of the community with the maintenance and preservation of the habitat for local plants, animals, and insects.

There are a number of resources available (e.g., Colorado Parks & Wildlife and the Western Slope Conservation Center) that can help to inform and guide these efforts. Maps of critical habitat can be found in the Appendices.

**> Tracking, coordinating, and pursuing grant funding.**

Each year, federal, state, and private grants become available, presenting opportunities to acquire funding for Paonia's parks, recreation amenities, trails, and natural areas (refer to pages 115-119 for information about these grants). However, most local entities (e.g., the town, the Nature Connection, NFPPRD, WSCC, NFTAG, etc.) have limited capacity to research, track, and pursue these grants. Further, there is a need for improved coordination and consensus among these entities on project prioritization and which grants to pursue.

**> Safe, comfortable, and convenient connections to popular destinations.**

There are a number of popular destinations in and around Paonia (e.g., Volunteer Park, Jumbo Mountain, Big B's Delicious Orchards, Town of Hotchkiss, etc.) that are not currently accessible via safe, comfortable, and convenient connections. There is a need for trails that provide non-motorized access (e.g., walking, biking, etc.) to these destinations. In working to enhance Paonia's transportation system, developing non-motorized connections to key destinations in and around the town will offer tremendous benefit to the community.

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1



2

# The Future of Paonia's Parks, Recreation & Trails

3

- + Strategies for Addressing Key Issues & Needs
- + Area Specific Concepts & Recommendations

4



Creating How We Recreate

## ■ STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING KEY ISSUES & NEEDS

The strategies recommended for addressing the key issues and needs identified via the PIM planning process are presented on the following pages. These strategies are intended to be implemented alongside the area specific concepts and recommendations on pages 57-90.

### > On-going operation and maintenance of Paonia's park, recreation, and trail assets.

**Strategy 1:** Create and adopt an easy to use, structured evaluation protocol for effective and efficient assessment of the town's park, recreation, and trail assets.

Creating an easy to use, structured evaluation protocol, should enable regular assessments of the town's park, recreation, and trail assets that result in comparable findings. The protocol needs to be simple to understand yet detailed enough to provide a thorough evaluation of Paonia's parks, recreation amenities, and trails. The development and implementation of such a protocol is intended to improve the efficiency and efficacy of assessing local assets and identification of maintenance priorities.

Recording information for each of the town's park, recreation, and trail assets (refer to the Example Evaluation Form below) will enable the condition of these assets to be tracked over time. In addition, the overall condition of the town's parks, recreation amenities, and trails can be determined, and tracked, by summing the score/rating of individual assets. Tracking the condition of assets can be used to inform maintenance needs and the use of an asset rating scale will allow for the identification of maintenance or replacement priorities (i.e., higher score = higher priority).

#### Example Evaluation Form

Park Name: Town Park		Date: May 2021	Evaluator: John Doe
ASSET TYPE	SCORE/RATING	MANUFACTURER	EVALUATION NOTES
Gazebo/Stage	3	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be re-painted/re-stained.</li> <li>Stage decking could benefit from replacement with more durable material (e.g., Trex).</li> </ul>
Playground Surfacing	3	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The surfacing of the playground could benefit from replacement with a more durable material.</li> <li>Border needs to be installed around playground area to improve containment of surfacing material.</li> </ul>
Athletic Field	4	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Border needs to be installed around playground area to improve containment of surfacing material.</li> </ul>

It is recommended that the following rating system be used to evaluate the town's assets:

#### Asset Rating System Criteria

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
1	New condition. No minor defects or any noticeable wear and tear. Proper design and immaculate appearance. No maintenance required.
2	Good condition. Minor defects, signs of minimal wear and tear, does not inhibit usability or impact safety, may need maintenance in the future. Good appearance. Lower priority maintenance.
3	Moderate condition. Some maintenance required to return to an acceptable appearance and usability level, some impacts to usability, but is safe to use for the time being. Somewhat acceptable appearance. Intermediate priority maintenance.
4	Poor condition. Significant impacts to usability, somewhat unsafe conditions. Poor appearance. High priority maintenance.
5	Extremely poor condition. Requires urgent attention, absolutely unusable and unsafe. Above the scope of general maintenance. Requires immediate closure and replacement. Horrendous appearance. Highest priority maintenance to return to usable condition.

## Strategy 2: Use long-term data to prioritize maintenance equitably and proactively.

The regular assessment of Paonia’s park, recreation, and trail assets (using the recommended evaluation protocol) and the resulting long-term records are to be used to effectively allocate funds and equitably prioritize the maintenance of such assets. It is recommend that an assessment of the town’s park, recreation, and trail assets occur annually.

The long-term data, collected via assessments, should be used to proactively plan for asset maintenance. Tracking the condition of the town’s park, recreation, and trail assets will allow for the prioritization of the most critically damaged assets (any assets rated in the 4-5 range are an urgent priority). Urgent priorities should be noted upon the completion of an assessment and reviewed during the town’s annual budgeting process.

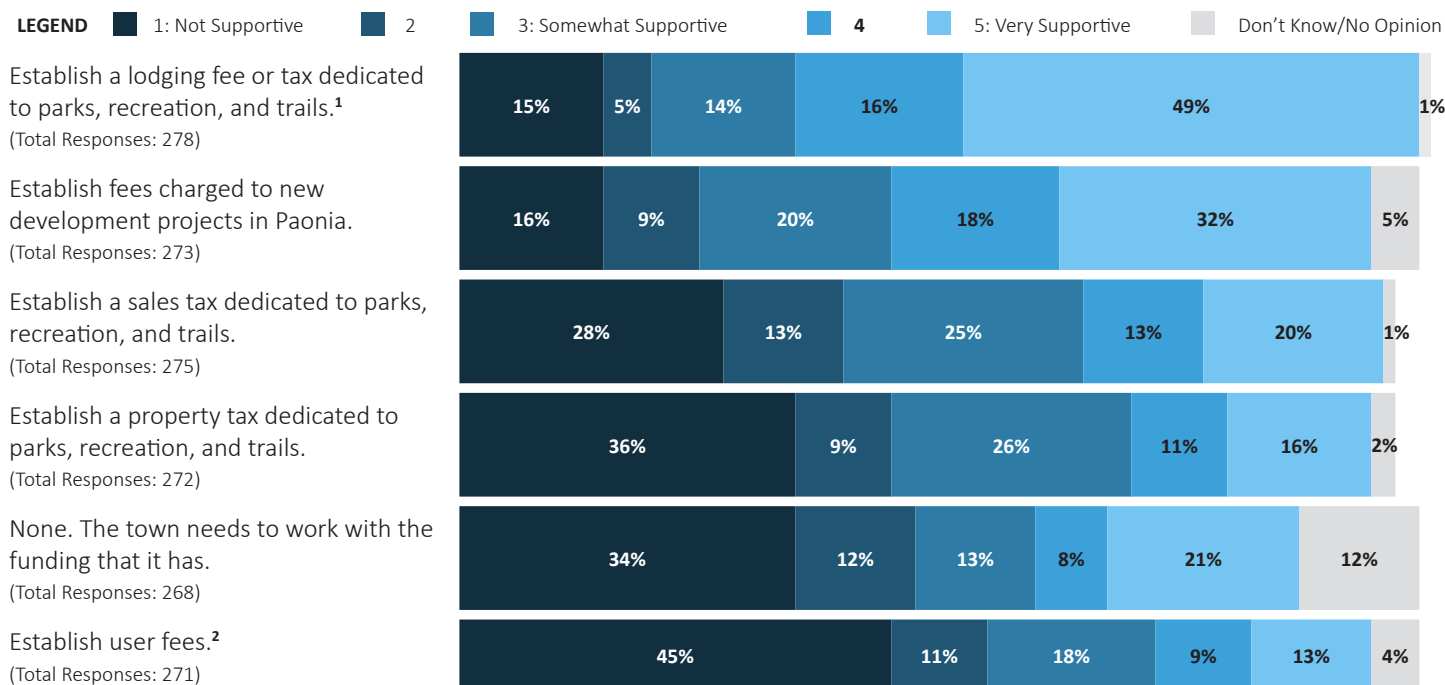
Once ample long-term data is collected, the town should be able to determine the average lifespan of certain assets. This will enable the town to predict when such assets will require maintenance and to budget for their upkeep. It is possible that the town will reach a point where the comprehensive evaluation of assets is not necessary because the long-term data allows for the maintenance or replacement to be determined without an evaluation. Allowing long-term data to guide the maintenance of, and investment in, Paonia’s park, recreation, and trails assets will improve the efficiency of managing these assets.

## Strategy 3: Explore options for a dedicated funding source for parks, recreation amenities, and trails.

Historically, the town has had limited funding for the operation, maintenance, and development of its parks, recreation amenities, and trails. Given that adequate funding is an essential resource, respondents to the 2021 Community Survey were asked to offer input on potential sources of revenue. The option that received the greatest level of support was a lodging fee or tax dedicated to parks, recreation, and trails in Paonia. The complete results of this survey question are presented in Diagram 13.

**Diagram 13: Results of Question 1 of the 2021 Community Survey**

Question 1. Funding is an essential resource needed for operating, maintaining, and making improvements to Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities/facilities, and trails. With that in mind, please indicate your level of support for the following potential sources of funding.<sup>3</sup>



Notes:

<sup>1</sup>A Lodging fee or tax would be charged to/paid by guests staying at hotels, bed & breakfasts, Airbnbs, etc. in Paonia.

<sup>2</sup>User fees would be charged to/paid by those that use Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities/facilities, and/or trails to host recreation programs, events, etc.

<sup>3</sup>Grants are not listed as an option because they are not available for operation and/or maintenance activities.

It is recommended that the town further investigate the feasibility of a dedicated source of revenue, specifically a lodging fee or tax, for parks, recreation, and trails. To be effective, a lodging fee or tax will need to include short-term vacation rentals (e.g., AirBnbs, VRBOs, etc.), as well as more traditional lodging facilities (e.g., hotels, motels, etc.). The local lodging community may be more supportive of such a fee or tax if a percentage of revenue is allocated to marketing Paonia (in hopes of increasing overnight visits) and the rest to operating, maintaining, and improving parks, recreation amenities, and trails.

**Strategy 4:** Develop and adopt standards for the use of durable, low-maintenance building materials in parks and natural areas.

The evolution of building materials offers a variety of opportunities to utilize products that are durable and require little to no maintenance. Use of these materials should help to reduce the need for on-going upkeep of the town's park, recreation, and trail assets. It is recommended that the town develop, adopt, and implement standards for the use durable, low-maintenance building materials.

**Strategy 5:** Explore annexation of the Paonia River Park and restructuring of the park's management.

The Paonia River Park is located outside of the town's limits and is under Delta County's jurisdiction. By annexing the River Park into Paonia, the town will gain regulatory authority over the park (most notably land use authority) and the town's Police Department will have jurisdiction over any enforcement issues. While there is no water or sewer infrastructure in the River Park, bringing it into the town would allow for in-town rates to be charged if water and/or sewer service was ever extended to the park.

The Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC) and the town are jointly responsible for the management of the River Park. WSCC has indicated that, as an organization, it is not well-suited to manage the park. It is recommended that WSCC and the town reexamine their existing agreement and explore options for shifting management responsibilities to the town. If the town takes over management responsibilities, it is recommended that WSCC find a way to offer on-going support, such as an annual financial contribution.

## **> A system of parks, recreation, and trails that responds to the evolving needs of the community.**

**Strategy 1:** Collaborate with local partners to monitor the community's recreation needs.

To better understand the community's recreation needs, it is recommended that the town partner with the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District, the Nature Connection, the School District, the Library District, and other appropriate entities to conduct periodic surveys. The findings of these surveys should be used to inform and guide investment in local parks, recreation amenities, trails, and natural areas. Tracking the results of these surveys, over time, will enable the town and its partners to identify local trends.

**Strategy 2:** Explore opportunities to re-purpose and/or expand existing facilities.

Given local funding constraints, opportunities to re-purpose and/or expand existing facilities should be explored prior to investing in the construction of new and/or specialized facilities.

## **> Limited availability of water resources.**

**Strategy 1:** Develop and adopt standards for the use of water-wise landscaping in Paonia's parks.

It is recommended that the town develop, adopt, and implement horticultural standards for Paonia's parks that emphasize the use of water-wise plant species. The Colorado State University Extension for the Tri-River Area ([tra.extension.colostate.edu](http://tra.extension.colostate.edu)) may be able to assist in developing such standards. A list of water-wise plant species suitable for the local hardiness zone (Zone 5a) is provided in the Appendices.

**Strategy 2:** Prioritize the use of raw water and efficient irrigation systems that conserve water resources.

It is recommended that the town conduct periodic analyses of the systems used to irrigate local parks to identify opportunities to enhance the efficacy and efficiency of those systems.

## **> Preservation of Paonia's night sky.**

**Strategy 1:** Inventory and develop a replacement plan for lighting, in town parks, that is not dark-sky friendly.

Replacement of outdated luminaires in Paonia's parks could offer a number of benefits to the community, including, but not limited to: (1) improved safety by eliminating over-lighting and glare; (2) enhanced visual appearance of vegetation, amenities, and buildings by installing lights with warmer colors; and (3) reduced operational costs by replacing inefficient and obsolete lighting with low maintenance and low cost LED lighting. By ensuring that lighting in Paonia's parks is dark-sky friendly, the town can support the health of the community by improving artificial nighttime lighting<sup>1</sup> and create greater opportunity for astrotourism.

It is recommended that the town collaborate with Dark Skies Paonia, and other interested parties, to inventory existing lighting and develop a plan for replacing lighting that does not conform to dark-sky lighting standards.

## **> Maintaining and protecting local habitat.**

**Strategy 1:** Partner with local entities to maintain and protect habitat areas in Paonia.

It is recommended that the town collaborate with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, WSCC, and other appropriate organizations on projects that have the potential to adversely impact habitat areas within, or adjacent to, Paonia. The goal is to maintain, protect, and where possible, enhance, local habitat. A map of critical habitat is included in the Appendices.

## **> Issue: Tracking, coordinating, and pursuing grant funding.**

**Strategy 1:** Collaborate with local partners on the prioritization of projects and grant opportunities.

It is recommended that the town work with the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District, WSCC, The Nature Connection, the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition (NFVCC), the North Fork Trails Advocacy Group (NFTAG), and other pertinent groups to build consensus around the prioritization of implementation projects and grants to be pursued. The objective is to minimize competition for, and consolidate resources in the pursuit of, grant funding.

**Strategy 2:** Leverage the town's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to pursue grant funding.

Between 2012 and 2021, the town's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) generated an average of \$8,002 per year. These funds have primarily been used for the inspection and maintenance of public trees, repairs and upgrades to facilities in the town's parks, and minor park improvements. Given the amounts generated by the CTF and the town's limited capacity to research, track, and apply for grants, it is recommended that options for leveraging CTF funds to obtain more substantial funding be explored to support the implementation of this Plan.

## **> Issue: Safe, comfortable, and convenient connections to popular destinations.**

**Strategy 1:** Collaborate with area agencies, organizations, and property owners to further enhance the local system of soft-surface trails.

Paonia is surrounded by privately-owned properties and creating non-motorized connections to destinations outside of the town will likely be challenging. It is recommended that the town collaborate with area agencies (e.g., Delta County, the BLM), local organizations (e.g., The Nature Connection, WSCC), local advocacy groups (e.g., NFTAG), and interested property owners, to explore connections to popular destinations outside of Paonia and enhance the local system of soft-surface trails.

**Strategy 2:** Identify and pursue opportunities to enhance the in-town system of sidewalks in order to provide connections between popular destinations.

If the walk to a park, the downtown, or other destination is difficult or unsafe, people will be less apt to make the trip without driving. That's why creating a strategically connected network of sidewalks that are well maintained, properly lit, and lined with varied and interesting streetscapes, is critical. As the town works to further enhance the its sidewalk network, it is recommended that heavily traveled routes between key destinations be prioritized.

**Strategy 3:** Establish a “Rails-to-Trails” or “Rails-with-Trails” initiative to explore using the Union Pacific Railroad corridor for a regional trail system .

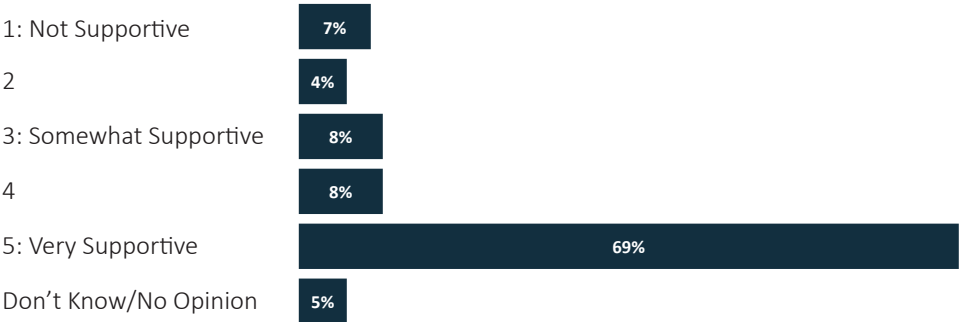
The North Fork Branch of the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad runs between the West Elk Mine, east of Somerset, and the City of Delta. In Delta, the North Fork Branch ties into the Montrose Branch. The Montrose Branch runs between the City of Montrose and the City of Grand Junction. A map of the railroad is offered in the Appendices.

The community expressed interest in a regional trail system that connects Paonia with Hotchkiss and other popular destinations and requested that use of the railroad corridor for such a trail system be investigated.

**Diagram 14: Results of Question 14 of the 2021 Community Survey**

If, in the future, there was an opportunity to convert the Union Pacific railroad corridor into a regional trail system, how supportive would you be of doing this?

(No. of Responses: 268)



(Weighted Score: 4.34)

UP was contacted to inquire about their plans for the North Fork Branch and it was indicated that there are no plans to stop service along this segment of the railroad. While there are no plans to stop rail service, it is recommended that the community establish a “Rails-to-Trails” initiative to begin bringing together key stakeholders and exploring options for the railroad if and when trains do stop. According to resources available on the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy’s website (<https://www.railstotrails.org/>), once abandonment proceedings are initiated with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) there is limited time before the railroad becomes abandoned. Once abandoned, ownership of a corridor may be transferred to adjacent property owners making it exceedingly difficult to use the corridor for a trail system. Establishing a proactive group that works to anticipate the future of the North Fork Branch should improve chances of using the railroad for a regional trail system.

Alternatively, a “Rails-with-Trails” initiative could be considered to explore use of the North Fork Branch for a trail system while the line is still in service. Safety is clearly a key concern to consider for a rail-with-trail project. Both the railroad and potential trail manager(s) are likely to be apprehensive about locating a public trail close to an active railroad. Fortunately, there are various levels of protection available to railroads and trail managers and a growing number of rail-with-trail projects across the United States that serve as examples for how to do this safely. For additional information visit the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy’s website (<https://www.railstotrails.org/>).

**Strategy 4:** Explore opportunities to develop access to Jumbo Mountain from Minnesota Creek Road.

Existing access to Jumbo Mountain from Paonia, at the east end of Pan American Avenue, is located in a perpetual access easement (reception no. 693462) that only allows for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. Given the restrictive nature of this easement and the potential for overcrowding at this access point, with increased use of Jumbo Mountain, the community has expressed a desire to explore options for a second access point off of Minnesota Creek Road. The hope is that a second access point will:

- Allow for a greater variety of users to access Jumbo Mountain.
- Enable the development of beginner and intermediate trails that improve access to Jumbo Mountain.
- Disperse user traffic, limit potential overcrowding at access points, and mitigate negative impacts that could arise from increased popularity of Jumbo Mountain.



## ■ AREA SPECIFIC CONCEPTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific concepts for enhancing Paonia's system of parks, recreation amenities, and trails are presented on the following pages. These concepts are offered to further explain and illustrate the strategies and actions of this Plan and to guide and inform future investment and change in these locations. These concepts were used to develop the initial cost estimates and material lists intended to support local efforts to obtain grant funding. The cost estimates and material lists are provided in the Appendices.

These concepts are preliminary in nature. In many cases, additional work will be necessary to further detail specific designs and to refine potential costs. Additional outreach and engagement with the community will be necessary to provide opportunities for the public to weigh in on detailed design work. The town should use future outreach and engagement efforts to explore potential partnerships with property owners, business owners, developers, area agencies, and other stakeholders.

Area specific concepts were prepared for the following locations:

- 1 Town Park
- 2 Apple Valley Park & Jumbo Mountain
- 3 P-Hill
- 4 North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor ("North Fork Corridor")





**Town Park**

Town Park is one of the larger public spaces in Paonia. It offers ample opportunity to create a place that provides amenities for the diverse group of people who call Paonia home.

Input gathered over the course of the PIM process identified a number of ideas for enhancing Town Park. These enhancements range from the removal of the BBQ pits scattered throughout the park to the design and construction of a new skateboard park and dog park.

This illustrative site plan depicts the overall concept proposed for Town Park. Details for each enhancement can be found on pages 60-67.



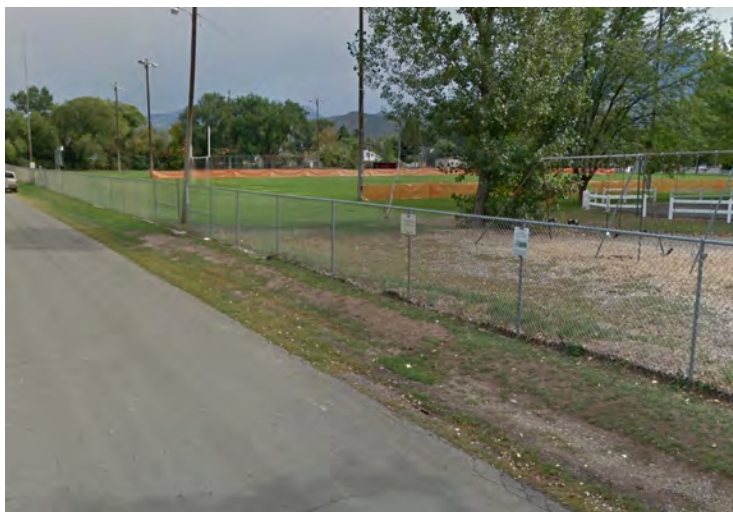
5-Foot-Wide Soft-Surface Path  
(approx. 2,700 linear feet)







## 1 Remove Chain-Link Fencing and BBQ Pits



### Project Details:

- Remove the chain-link fence along 5<sup>th</sup> Street and explore the feasibility of re-purposing the fencing for the proposed dog park.
- Install vinyl split-rail fencing to match existing fencing along the western edge of the park adjacent to North Fork Avenue.
- Remove the BBQ pits scattered throughout the park.

## 2 Design and Construct a New Skateboard Park



### Project Details:

- Work with local advocates to pursue grant funding for the design and construction of a new skateboard park (“skate park”).
- Once funding has been secured, work with local advocates to prepare and issue an RFP(s) for the design and construction of the skate park. A single RFP could be issued, requesting proposals from design and build firms, or two RFPs could be issued, one for a design firm and one for a construction firm.
- Hire a design consultant to work with the community to prepare a detailed design for, and to oversee the construction of, the skate park. In developing the detailed design, it is recommended that the feasibility of a landscaped berm be explored to buffer the skate park from adjacent properties.
- Work with local advocates and the design consultant to hire a well-qualified contractor. It will be important to hire a contractor who understands the unique needs of skate parks (e.g., smooth concrete) and a proven ability to successfully build such parks.
- The types of features desired in the skate park include: (1) a 5-step staircase with a handrail and ledges; (2) a funbox/pyramid with a rail and a ledge; (3) curved ledges (that could be designed as concrete planters); (4) 4-foot (tall) quarter pipes; (5) a manual box with a ledge (that could be designed as a concrete planter); (6) a flat rail; (7) a round rail; (8) a 4-foot (tall) bowl with a hip, roller, and a ramp; (9) shade trees; and (10) lighting for evening skateboarding. Refer to the Appendices for a detailed design concept for the new skateboard park.
- Any lighting to be installed must be dark-sky compliant and the use of solar-powered lighting is recommended.



### 3 Design and Construct a Dog Park



#### Project Details:

- Install a 6-foot-tall fence around the perimeter of the area designated for the dog park. It is recommended that 90-degree angles in the fencing be avoided to minimize the potential for a dog(s) to be cornered by another dog(s).
- The dog park is to be divided into two areas- an area for small dogs and an area for large dogs.
- Separate, double-gated entries are to be provided for the two areas to allow park users to take their dogs off-leash in a confined area.
- Install dog waste stations, shaded seating areas, potable water features for park users and their dogs, and signs with regulations for the dog park. Work with the community to identify other amenities (e.g., agility features) to be installed in the dog park.
- It is recommended that the entry to the dog park be surfaced with crusher fines and that the remainder of the park be surfaced with a durable, low-maintenance grass, turf, and/or wood mulch product.
- Explore the feasibility of constructing additional on-street parking along 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This would provide convenient parking for the dog park, as well as the athletic field in Town Park. It is recommended that this parking be surfaced with gravel.

### 4 Playground Area Enhancements



#### Project Details:

- Replace the existing wood chip playground surfacing with engineered wood fiber (EWF). The manufacturer of the EWF will need to be consulted with to determine the depth of material needed.
- Install a durable, low-maintenance edging around the perimeter of the playground area to contain the surfacing material. If necessary, install ADA compliant ramps to provide access over the playground perimeter.
- Install a new unisex restroom near the playground area. The appearance of the restroom should be similar to that of the other buildings in Town Park. The new restroom is to be a year-round facility, ADA compliant, plumbed, and connected to the town's water and sewer system.
- It is recommended that a prefabricated restroom building be considered.



## 5 Gazebo and Stage Enhancements



### Project Details:

- Replace the stage decking with a composite material (e.g., Trex) to improve durability and reduce the need for maintenance. The floor joists beneath the stage may need to be upgraded to support a composite material.
- Work with local artists to explore creative ways to re-paint the gazebo.
- Work with local event producers to:
  - Install weatherproof clips, hooks, or similar type of feature around the back of the stage to allow for the installation of temporary backdrops.
  - Design and install a steel lighting bar above the stage to accommodate lighting for music performances, community events, etc.
  - Identify and install needed electrical upgrades.
- Re-seed and irrigate the “dance floor” area in front of the stage. Using a grass species that is durable, drought-tolerant, and requires minimal maintenance (e.g., tall fescue grass) is recommended.
- Construct a 5-foot-wide ADA compliant crusher fines path between the ramp to the stage and the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street/North Fork Avenue.

## 6 Design and Construct Dumpster Enclosures

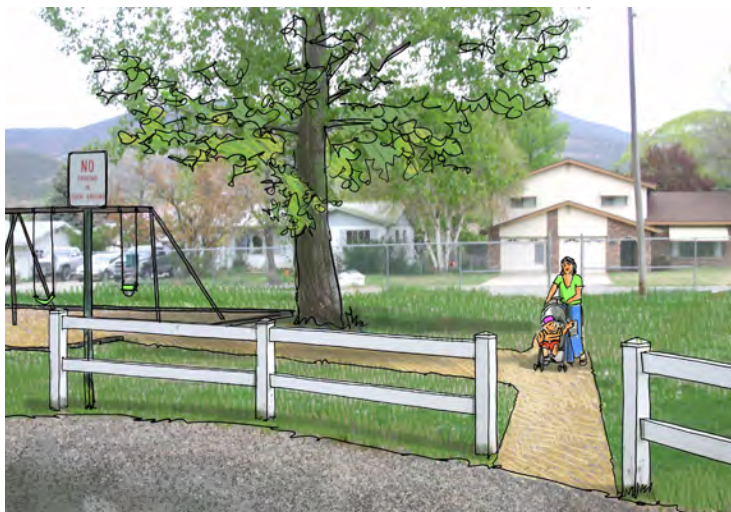


### Project Details:

- Hire a consultant and/or a contractor to design and construct enclosures for the dumpsters in Town Park. Alternatively, prefabricated enclosures could be considered.
- Place the enclosures in locations that are convenient to park users and easily accessed by garbage removal vehicles.
- Work with local artists to explore options for enhancing the appearance of the enclosures (e.g., painted murals).



## 7 Construct ADA Access Improvements and a Walking/Exercise Path



### Project Details:

- Construct a 5-foot-wide (minimum) ADA compliant crusher fines path connection between:
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the cul-de-sac for the parking area in Town Park.
  - The intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street/North Fork Avenue and the proposed walking/exercise path.
  - The existing restrooms in Town Park and the proposed walking/exercise path along 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - The Miners Memorial Plaza and the proposed walking/exercise path.
- Design and construct a 5-foot wide (minimum) ADA compliant crusher fines walking/exercise path around the perimeter of Town Park. Shaded seating areas are to be integrated with the walking/exercise path.
- Work with the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, Paonia Creative District, and local plant enthusiasts to integrate public art and native landscape displays along the walking/exercise path. The goal is to create an art/botanical walk. The Town of Carbondale's "Art Around Town" program could serve as inspiration for this. Additional information regarding Carbondale's program can be found here:

[https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/boards\\_&\\_commissions/public\\_arts\\_commission/2020\\_art\\_around\\_town.php](https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/boards_&_commissions/public_arts_commission/2020_art_around_town.php)

## 8 Restroom Building Enhancements



### Project Details:

- Upgrade the existing bathroom building in Town Park to be a year-round facility. Currently, these bathrooms must be closed during the winter because the building is not insulated or heated.
- Install a durable, low maintenance veneer (e.g., engineered wood siding, fiber cement siding, stone, faux stone, faux wood tiles, corrugated metal, and/or brick) over the exterior of the concrete block walls to enhance the aesthetics of the building.



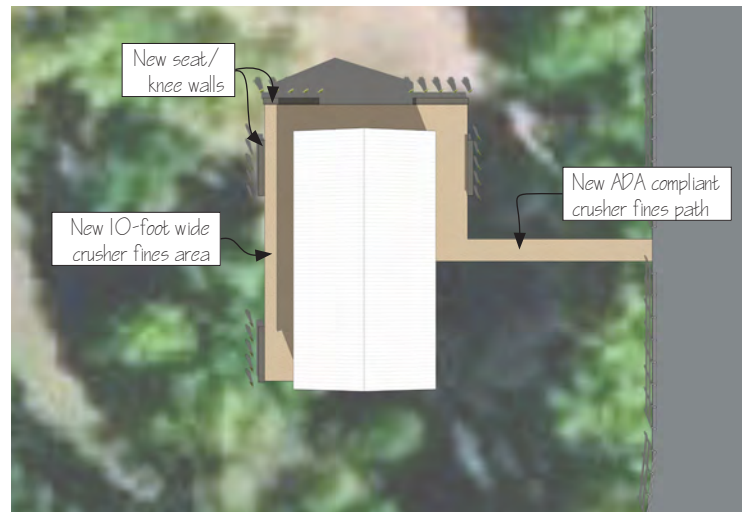
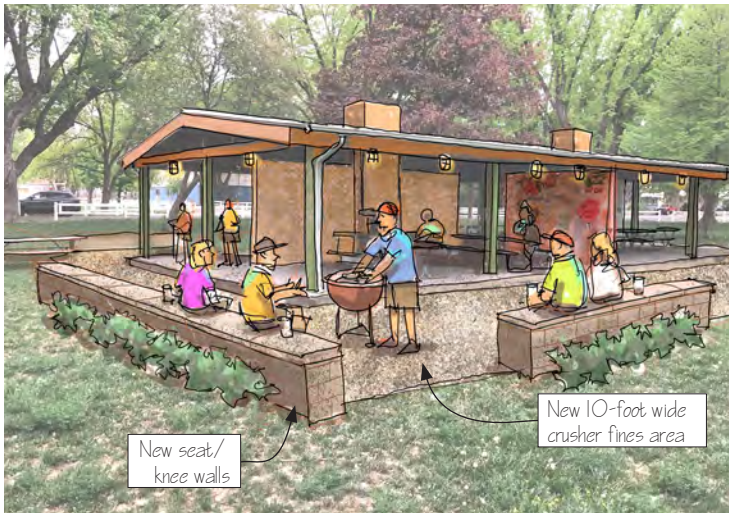
## 9 Maintain and Enhance Existing Athletic Field



### Project Details:

- It is anticipated that high school football games will no longer be hosted at the athletic field in Town Park. The field remains a valuable asset and it is recommended that it be maintained for sporting activities and community events.
- It is recommended that the following enhancements be made to the athletic field:
  - Targeted dirt work to level the field in certain areas, specifically the northwest corner.
  - Relocation of the overhead power lines along the south end of the field.
  - Improved maintenance of the field's grass.
- Explore the feasibility of constructing additional on-street parking along 5<sup>th</sup> Street. This would provide convenient parking for the athletic field and the proposed dog park. It is recommended that this parking be surfaced with gravel.

## 10 Main Picnic Shelter Enhancements

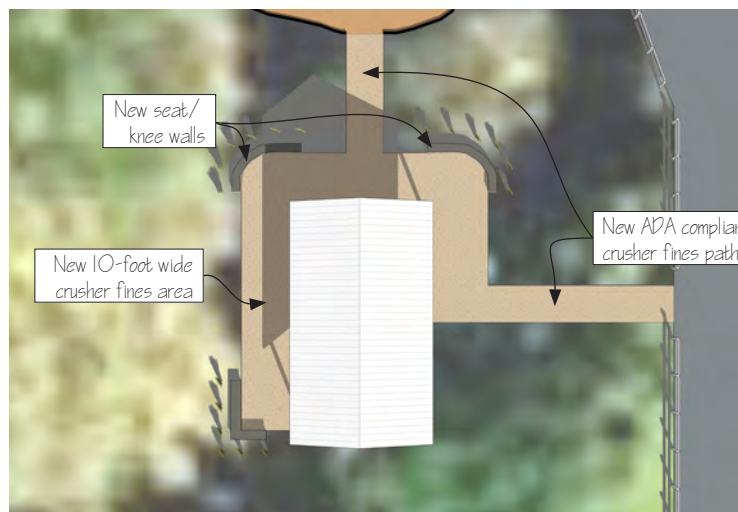
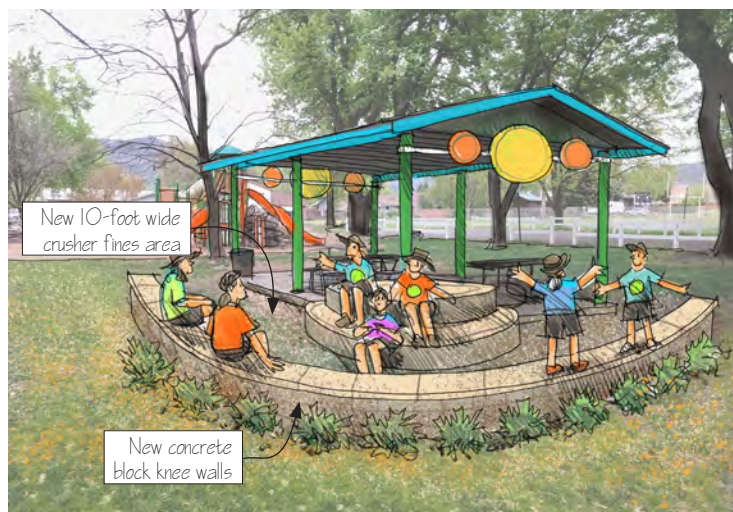


### Project Details:

- Construct a 10-foot-wide crusher fines area around the west, north, and east sides of the picnic shelter, which may require modifications to the park's irrigation system, and a 5-foot-wide (minimum) ADA compliant crusher fines path between the picnic shelter and the nearby parking area.
- Construct concrete block seat/knee walls around the perimeter of the crusher fines area. It is recommended that the dimensions of these walls be roughly 15-feet-long by 16-inches-wide by 16-inches-tall and that a 2-inch-thick cap be installed on the walls to bring their total height to 18-inches. Using tumbled concrete blocks or installing a veneer (e.g., stone, faux stone, faux wood tiles, fiber cement siding, corrugated metal, and/or brick) over the seat/knee walls is encouraged to improve their appearance.
- Install native, drought-tolerant, low maintenance landscaping adjacent to the seat/knee walls to help soften their appearance and to integrate them with the rest of the park.
- Re-paint and upgrade the lighting for the picnic shelter (the existing mural is to be preserved and lighting is to be dark-sky compliant). Work with local artists to explore opportunities to further enhance the shelter's appearance.



## 11 Secondary Picnic Shelter Enhancements



### Project Details:

- Construct a 10-foot-wide crusher fines area around the west, north, and east sides of the picnic shelter, which may require modifications to the park's irrigation system, and a 5-foot-wide (minimum) ADA compliant crusher fines path between the picnic shelter and the nearby parking area and between the picnic shelter and the adjacent playground area.
- Construct concrete block seat/knee walls around the perimeter of the crusher fines area. It is recommended that these walls be roughly 16-inches-wide by 16-inches-tall and that a 2-inch-thick cap be installed on the walls to bring their total height to 18-inches. Using tumbled concrete blocks or installing a veneer (e.g., stone, faux stone, faux wood tiles, fiber cement siding, corrugated metal, and/or brick) over the seat/knee walls is encouraged to improve their appearance.
- Install native, drought-tolerant, low maintenance landscaping adjacent to the seat/knee walls to help soften their appearance and to integrate them with the rest of the park.
- Explore the installation of dark-sky friendly LED lighting for the picnic shelter.
- Work with local artists to explore opportunities to further enhance the shelter's appearance.

## 12 Peony Planting Bed Enhancements



### Project Details:

- Work with local plant experts to explore the feasibility of enhancing the existing Peony planting beds in Town Park.
- If possible, design and install planting bed improvements, without damaging the existing Peonies.
- If possible, integrate the park's existing irrigation system with the improved planting beds. If this is not possible, it is recommended that enhancements to the planting beds include "self-watering" systems (i.e., sub-irrigation system) to minimize on-going maintenance and maximize water efficiency.
- Integrate the planting beds with the walking/exercise path around Town Park.
- Design, fabricate, and install signage that offers information about the Peonies, and other plants, in the planting beds.

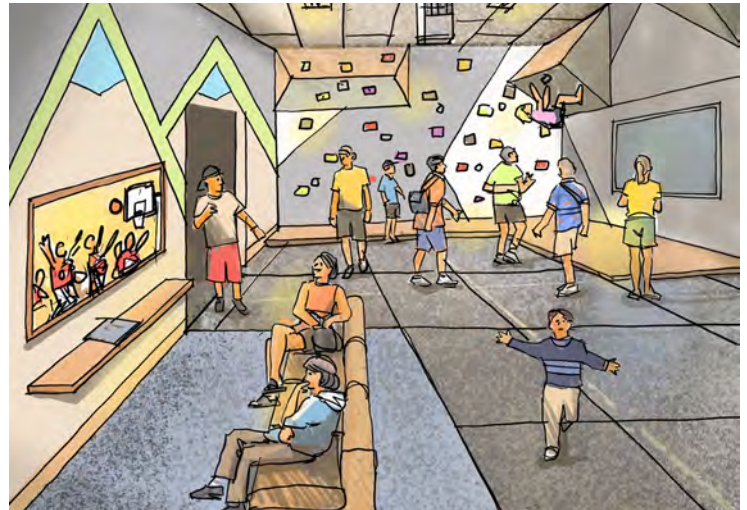


## 13 Ellen Hansen Smith Center Interior & Exterior Enhancements



### Project Details:

- Install new signage to improve the identification, and community awareness, of the “Smith Center.”
- Enhance the entrance to make the facility more welcoming and inviting. Enhancements could include larger front doors (with windows), new exterior lighting (that is dark-sky compliant), and improved signage. Use of solar-powered outdoor lighting is encouraged.
- Install windows and/or garage doors on the north and south side of the building to enable people to see inside the Smith Center and improve natural lighting and air circulation. These improvements are intended to strengthen the relationship between the Smith Center, Town Park, and 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Develop a shaded outdoor plaza/seating area on the north side of the Smith Center to activate the front of the facility and strengthen its relationship with the rest of Town Park.
- Work with local artists to explore creative enhancements to exterior of the Smith Center.



### Project Details:

- Develop and implement a plan for additional enhancements to the interior of the Smith Center. Based on input from the 2021 Community Survey, some of the more popular ideas for the Smith Center include:
  - Transforming it into a community center that offers amenities and activities for all ages, with a focus on local youth and seniors (e.g., indoor sports, after school programs, community education classes, fitness equipment, a bowling alley, roller-skating rink, and/or a video arcade). It was also suggested that it be used to store tools that could be checked out by community members.
  - Space for classes, meetings, workshops, and other gatherings.
  - A place to host live music, live performances, dances, birthday parties, weddings, and other types of community events. Several respondents suggested that the Smith Center be used as a rental venue.
- Some of the key issues, noted by survey respondents, that should be addressed include the building’s heating and cooling system (specifically cooling during the summer), lack of natural lighting, acoustics, and the overall appearance.



## 14 Explore Ideas for Enhancing the Miners Memorial Plaza



### Project Details:

- Explore additional enhancements to the Miners Memorial Plaza to encourage greater use of this part of Town Park. Enhancements to consider include:
  - Installation of a shade structure(s).
  - Installation of tables with mosaic squares to accommodate gaming activities (e.g., chess, checkers, etc.).
  - Installation of a permanent outdoor piano.
  - Construction of a concrete fire pit (wood burning) and seating area.
  - Installation of planters with native, drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plants to enhance the landscaping of the plaza.
  - Collaboration with the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition and Paonia Creative District on a “Sculpture Garden” in the plaza.

## 15 Explore Ideas for Re-Purposing Skate Park



### Project Details:

- Work with the community to explore options for a temporary re-use of the existing skateboard area. The hope is to use this space for a future expansion of the skateboard park. Such an expansion may include the construction of additional area for the skateboard park, a pump track, a BMX track, bike jumps, and/or other similar types of features.
- Explore the feasibility of re-purposing the chain-link fencing for the proposed dog park.

## 16 Upgrade Infrastructure for Event Vendors



### Project Details:

- Work with local event producers to identify and install additional utility hook ups (specifically electrical outlets) for vendors in Town Park.



## Apple Valley Park & Jumbo Mountain

At 6.62 acres, Apple Valley Park is the largest public space in Paonia. Its existing amenities and proximity to Jumbo Mountain and Minnesota Creek present a variety of opportunities to transform the park into a truly unique place.

Input gathered over the course of the PIM planning process identified a number of ideas for enhancing Apple Valley Park. Those improvements range from repairs to the looped walking path to transforming the park into the trailhead for the Jumbo Mountain Trail System by installing signage and amenities for trail users, such as a trail map, a bike repair tools, and a potable water spigot.

The illustrative site plan, included below, sets forth the overall concept for the future of Apple Valley Park. More specific detail for each enhancement proposed for Apple Valley Park can be found on pages 70-74.

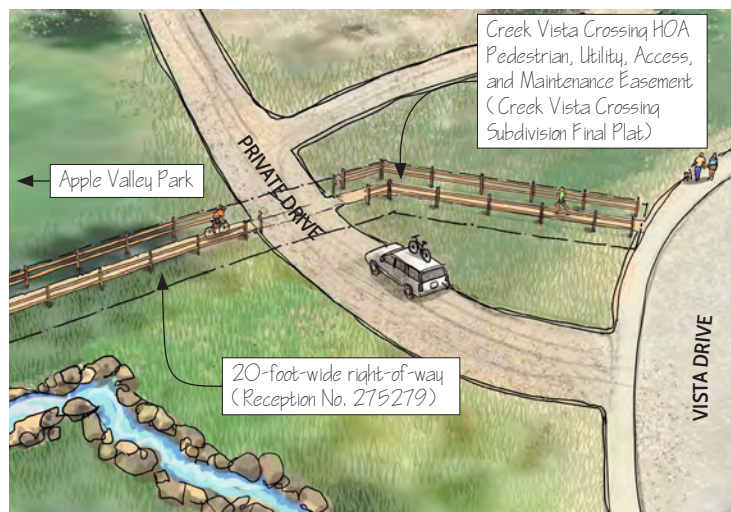








# 1 Define an Access Route Between Apple Valley Park and Jumbo Mountain



## Project Details:

- Work with the town's attorney to clarify existing public access between the eastern end of Apple Valley Park and Vista Drive.
- Work with private property owners and the Creek Vista Crossing Homeowner's Association to:
  - Explore the feasibility of a public access easement between the eastern end of Apple Valley Park and Vista Drive.
  - Identify and implement measures to reduce conflicts between the property owners and park/trail users. These measures could include the installation of split rail fencing and signage.
- Design, fabricate, and install wayfinding signage along the access route to guide users from Apple Valley Park to the Jumbo Mountain trail system.
- Work with local trail users to identify enhancements to the existing path system in Apple Valley Park to improve movement between the parking lot and the eastern end of the park. These enhancements could include widening of the existing path, drainage improvements, and the installation of geotextile fabric, edging, and new crusher fines.
- Work with the Hawks Haven Homeowner's Association to explore the feasibility of a single-track trail along the western edge of Vista Drive to enhance access between Apple Valley Park and the Jumbo Mountain trails. The intent is to locate this trail within the existing 24-foot-wide public pedestrian and bike use easement (reception no. 693461).



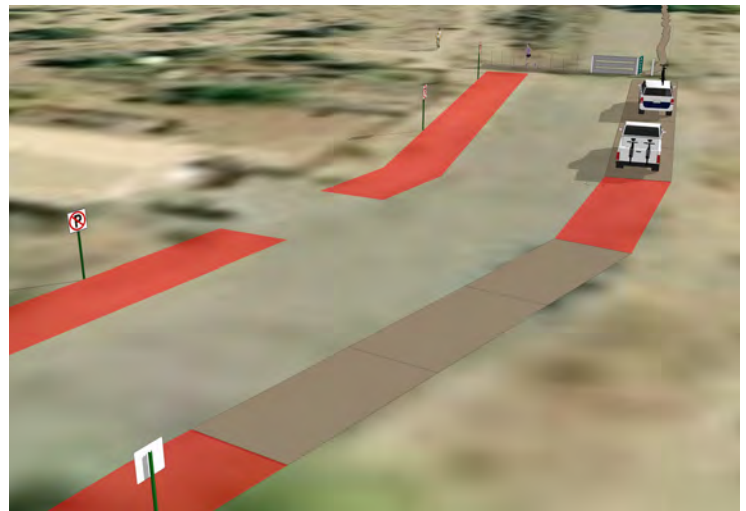
## 2 Establish Apple Valley Park as the Trailhead for the Jumbo Mountain Trail System



### Project Details:

- Work with the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, Paonia Creative District, NFTAG, BLM, and other interested parties to design, fabricate, and install signage at the eastern end of the Apple Valley Park parking lot.
- Work with the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, Paonia Creative District, and NFTAG to design, fabricate, and install wayfinding signage throughout Paonia that guides trail users to Apple Valley Park.
- Collaborate with trail users to identify trailhead amenities to be provided in Apple Valley Park (e.g., a bike repair station(s), a potable water spigot, etc.).
- Partner with local businesses, organizations, governmental entities, and other appropriate parties to raise awareness that Apple Valley Park is the designated trailhead for the Jumbo Mountain trail system.

## 3 Improve Existing Trailhead Area at the Eastern End of Pan American Avenue



### Project Details:

- Sign, stripe, and/or construct a limited number of on-street parking spaces along the southern edge of Pan American Avenue. It is recommended that any constructed parking spaces be surfaced with gravel.
- Consider designating some of the on-street spaces along Pan American Avenue as parking for the elderly and those with disabilities.
- Install “No Parking” signs along the northern and southern edges and the eastern extent of Pan American Avenue where on-street parking is to be prohibited. Enforcement by the town may be necessary if trail users disregard the parking restrictions. It is recommended that enforcement actions begin with a “grace period” where friendly, informational materials are provided to those violating the parking restrictions. Following the grace period, tickets should be issued for parking violations until there is consistent compliance with the parking restrictions.
- Work with NFTAG and other relevant organizations to design, fabricate, and install informational signage in strategic locations (e.g., east end of Pan American Avenue and Vista Drive) to direct trail users to park and access Jumbo Mountain from Apple Valley Park.



#### 4 Define and Enhance Access to Minnesota Creek in Apple Valley Park



##### Project Details:

- Identify a limited number of locations along Minnesota Creek to provide public access to the creek. It is recommended that these locations be “reinforced” to mitigate impacts to the creek. This could include the installation of boulder terracing to provide convenient access to the creek while protecting the creek bank from erosion.
- Work with a consultant and/or a contractor to design, permit, and construct public access improvements along Minnesota Creek.
- Work with WSCC, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and other experts to develop and implement measures, such as informational signage, to discourage the public from accessing Minnesota Creek in undesigned areas. The goal of this work is to protect the riparian areas along the creek from park user impacts.

#### 5 Restroom Building Enhancements



##### Project Details:

- Re-paint or replace the existing siding, fascia, and doors to the restroom building.
- Install a durable, low maintenance veneer (e.g., engineered wood siding, fiber cement siding, stone, faux stone, faux wood tiles, corrugated metal, and/or brick) over the exterior of the concrete block walls to enhance the aesthetics of the bathroom building.
- Work with local artists to explore other options for enhancing the overall appearance of the restroom building.



## 6 Design and Construct Dumpster Enclosures



### Project Details:

- Hire a consultant and/or a contractor to design and construct an enclosure for the dumpster in Apple Valley Park. Alternatively, a prefabricated enclosure could be considered.
- Place the enclosure in a location that is convenient to park users and easily accessed by garbage removal vehicles.
- Work with local artists to explore options for enhancing the appearance of the enclosures (e.g., painted murals).

## 7 Repair and Improve the Looped Trail System in Apple Valley Park



### Project Details:

- Repair and improve the existing walking/exercise path in Apple Valley Park. It is recommended that repairs include drainage improvements and the installation of geotextile fabric, edging, and new crusher fines.
- Portions of the Apple Valley Park trail system are located at the base of the hill along the north side of the park. These sections of trail are impacted by erosion from the hill. It is recommended that measures be taken to stabilize the hill and reduce erosion. Such measures could include landscaping the hill, installing boulder terracing, and working with property owners (at the top of the hill) to address drainage issues that may be contributing to erosion.



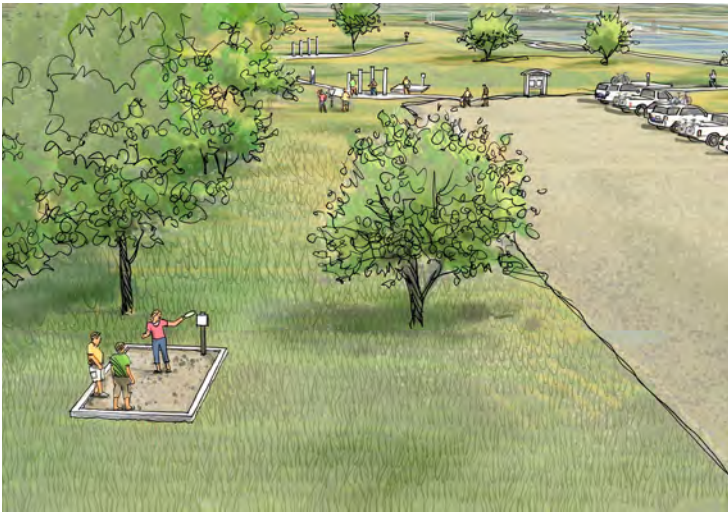
## 8 Playground Area Enhancements



### Project Details:

- Replace the existing wood chip playground surfacing with engineered wood fiber (EWF). The manufacturer of the EWF will need to be consulted with to determine the depth of material needed.
- Install edging around the perimeter of the playground areas in Apple Valley Park to contain surfacing material where necessary.
- Install ADA compliant ramps to provide access over the playground perimeter where necessary.

## 9 Disc/Frisbee Golf Course Enhancements



### Project Details:

- If there is interest, engage local disc/frisbee golf enthusiasts in developing a plan for enhancing the existing course in Apple Valley Park. Enhancements to the course could include the installation of tee boxes, additional holes, and signage.
- Work with local disc/frisbee golf enthusiasts to design and construct the enhancements identified.

## 10 Picnic Shelter Enhancements



### Project Details:

- Re-paint the existing picnic shelter.

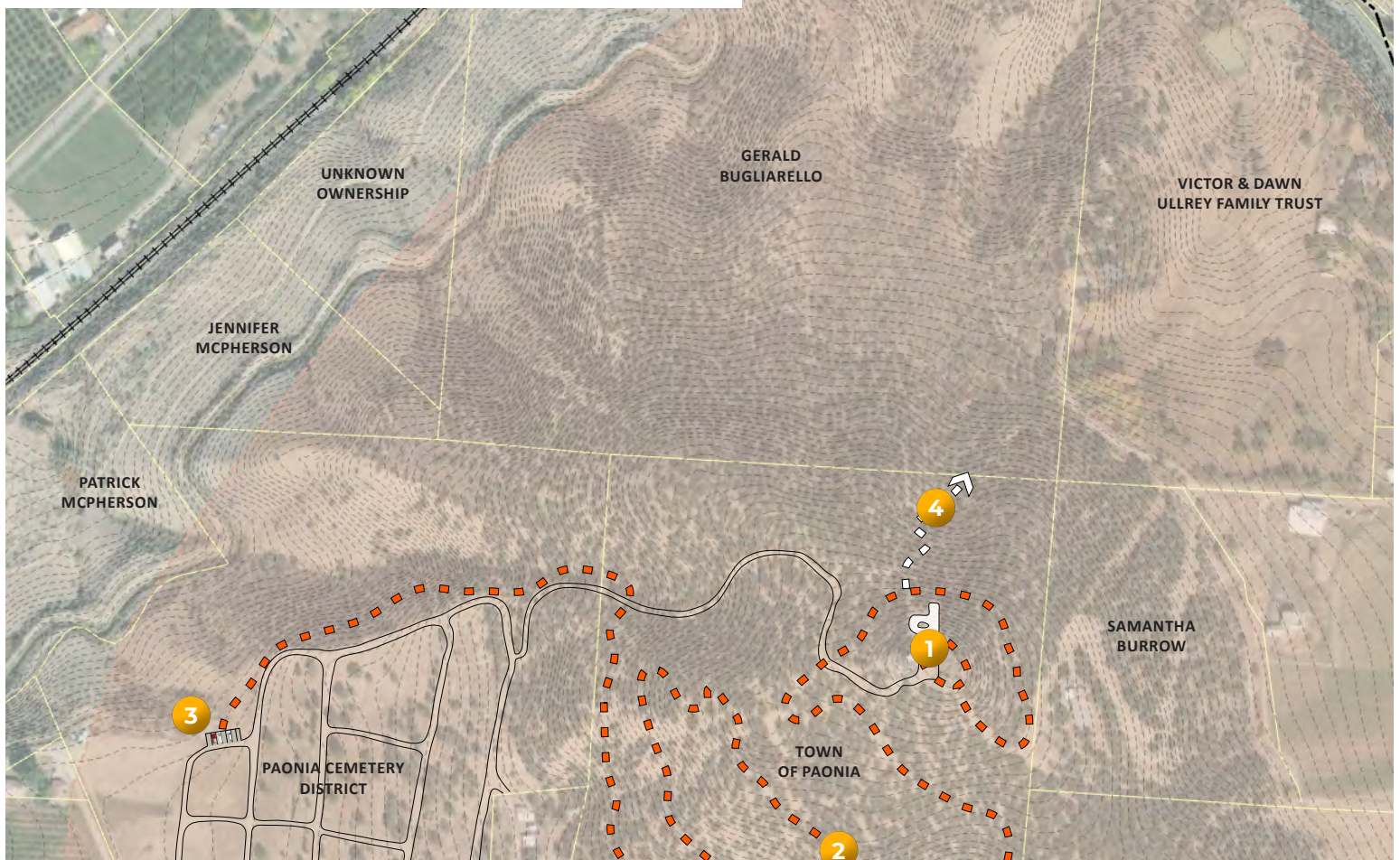


## P-Hill

“P-Hill” is located at the southern end of Grand Avenue. It is the hill that displays the letter “P” visible from Paonia. The town owns roughly 24.5 acres that encompass the top of P-Hill. The town-owned property on P-Hill presents an opportunity to expand the town’s trail system, as well as create a unique amenity- an overlook of Paonia and the North Fork Valley.

P-Hill provides critical habitat for local wildlife, specifically Mule Deer. Improvements to P-Hill will need to be balanced with protecting and preserving this important habitat.

This illustrative plan portrays the overall concept for the future of P-Hill. Additional detail for the proposed enhancements is provided on pages 76-77.



### LEGEND

- ■ ■ ■ Potential Trail Alignment | Phase I
- □ □ □ Potential Trail Alignment | Phase II
- ⋯ Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area
- Parcel Boundaries
- - - Town of Paonia Boundary
- - - - 5-Foot Contours

Data Source(s): Delta County Assessor; and CPW



## 1 Design and Construct a P-Hill Overlook and Astro-Park



### Project Details:

- Hire a consultant and/or a contractor to design and construct an overlook at the top of P-Hill. It is recommended that the overlook be surfaced with a durable, permeable, natural material (e.g., crusher fines) and a concrete block wall and/or a railing (with minimum height of 36-inches) be incorporated to enhance safety. It is recommended that a stone veneer and cap (that matches the surrounding geology) be installed on the concrete block wall to enhance the its appearance.
- Work with key stakeholder groups (e.g., Dark-Skies Paonia, owners of the telecommunication equipment on P-Hill, etc.) on the design and construction of the overlook.
- Design, fabricate, and install informational signage for the overlook. Such signage could provide information about natural features (e.g., mountain peaks, North Fork of the Gunnison River, etc.), interesting sites visible from the overlook, facts about local astronomy, the history of the “P”, and/or local marketing efforts to encourage visitors to use certain tags when posting to social media.

## 2 Design and Construct Phase I of a P-Hill Trail System

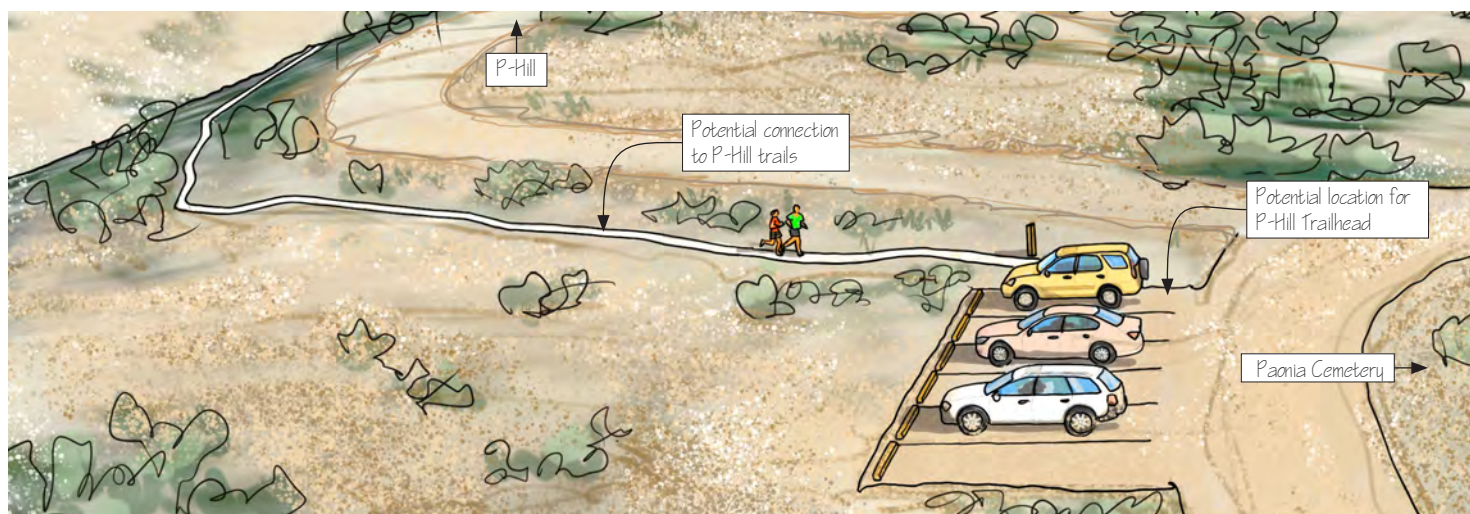


### Project Details:

- Work with local stakeholder groups and volunteers to identify a route for, and to construct, a trail system on the town-owned property on P-Hill. Best practices will need to be employed in the design and construction of the trail to ensure it is sustainable. The P-Hill trail system is intended for walking, hiking, trail running, and similar activities, but not for mountain biking, e-bikes, etc.
- P-Hill provides important habitat for local wildlife. It will be necessary to collaborate with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, WSCC, and other relevant stakeholder groups to identify and implement measures to mitigate potential impacts on wildlife. An initial recommendation from Colorado Parks & Wildlife is to have a seasonal closure of any trails on P-Hill from December 1 through April 3. Other measures to consider include restrictions on certain activities (e.g., dogs), and/or recommendations for how to align the trail system.
- Work to integrate unique features, such as a stair climb, with the P-Hill trail system.
- Provide a connection between the trail system and the overlook.



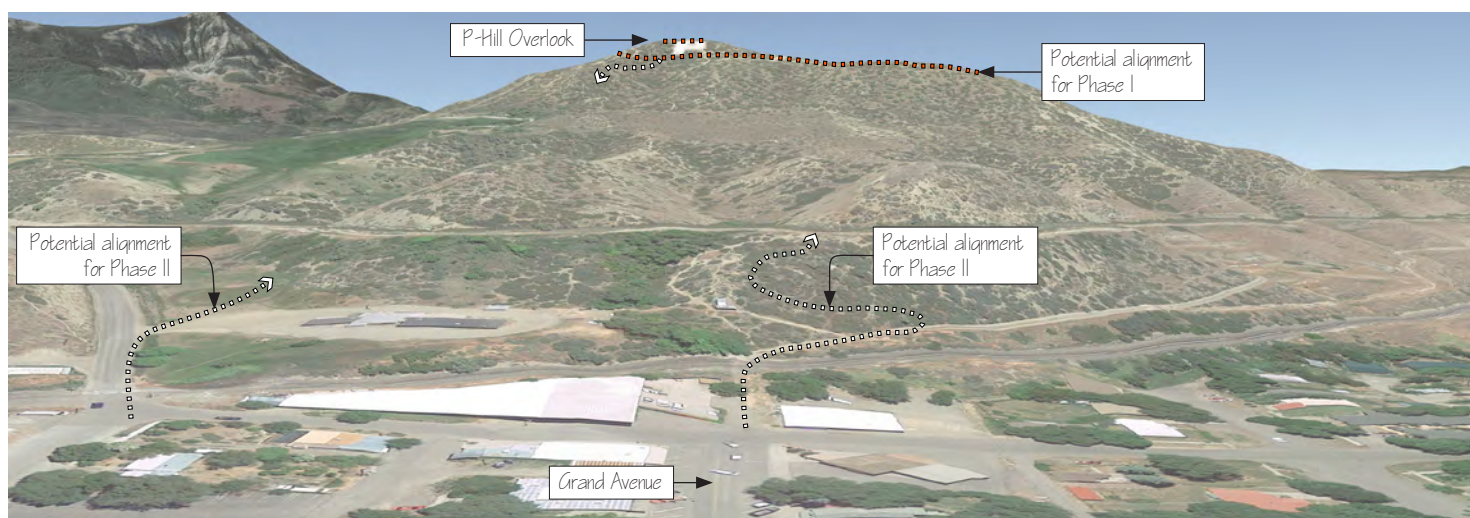
### 3 Design and Construct a Trailhead Area and Connector Trail for the P-Hill Trail System



#### Project Details:

- Work with the Paonia Cemetery District to explore a small trailhead area and a connection between the trailhead and the P-Hill trail system. A potential location for a trailhead is identified on the overall concept plan for P-Hill (refer to page 75). It is recommended that trailhead amenities include a graveled parking area, waste/recycling bins, and, signage. The trailhead is intended to serve as an amenity for trail users and visitors to the cemetery.
- If agreeable to the Paonia Cemetery District:
  - Establish a public access easement for the trailhead area and the connector trail.
  - Work with a consultant and/or a contractor to design and construct the trailhead area.
  - Work with local stakeholder groups and volunteers to identify a route for, and construct, the connector trail.
- In the long-term, it is recommended that consideration be given to the installation of a waterless, unisex restroom at the trailhead.

### 4 Design and Construct Phase II of a P-Hill Trail System



#### Project Details:

- Work with private property owners and key stakeholders (e.g., Stewart Ditch Company) to explore a trail connection between Phase I of the P-Hill trail system and downtown Paonia.
- If agreeable to private property owners and stakeholders:
  - Establish a public access easement for the trail connection between downtown Paonia and the town-owned property on P-Hill.
  - Work with local stakeholder groups and volunteers to identify a route for, and construct, the trail connection between downtown Paonia and Phase I of the P-Hill trail system.
  - Design, fabricate, and install wayfinding signage for the trail system.
- P-Hill provides critical wildlife habitat. It will be necessary to collaborate with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, WSCC, and other relevant stakeholder groups to implement measures to mitigate potential impacts on wildlife. Refer to the description for Phase I of the P-Hill Trail System for measures to consider.



**North Fork Corridor**

In this Plan, the “corridor” for the North Fork of the Gunnison River is consider to be the area between the Paonia River Park and Volunteer Park.

This illustrative plan presents ideas for enhancing the portion of the river corridor between the Paonia River Park and Grand Avenue. It focuses on improving connections between the River Park, the Paonia K-8, and downtown Paonia. Additional detail for the proposed enhancements be found on pages 86-90.





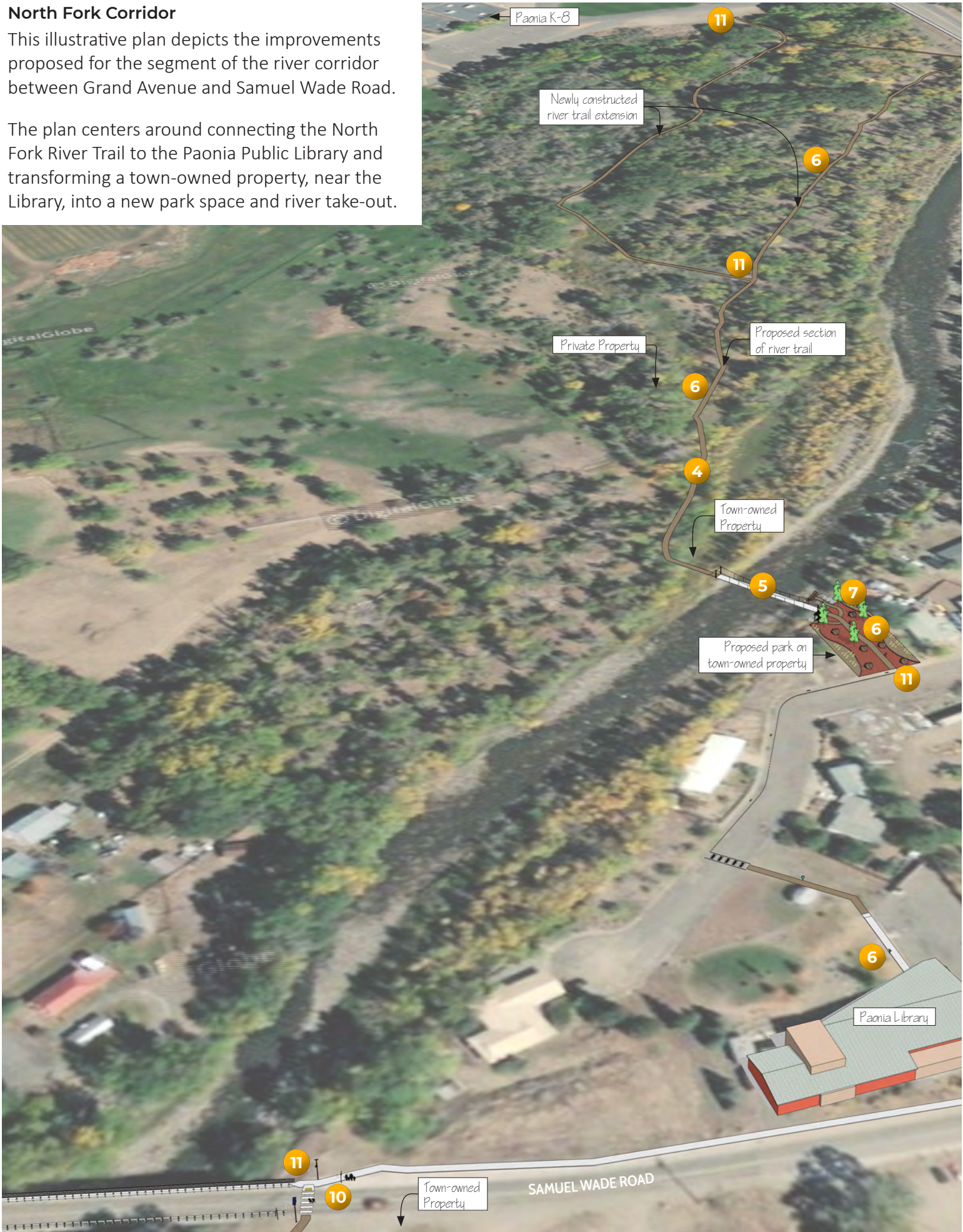




**North Fork Corridor**

This illustrative plan depicts the improvements proposed for the segment of the river corridor between Grand Avenue and Samuel Wade Road.

The plan centers around connecting the North Fork River Trail to the Paonia Public Library and transforming a town-owned property, near the Library, into a new park space and river take-out.









### North Fork Corridor

This illustrative plan depicts improvements proposed for the portion of the river corridor between Samuel Wade Road and the Volunteer Park Sports Complex.

The focus of this plan is a potential option for a trail connection between the Paonia Public Library and Volunteer Park. This would also serve as a further extension of the North Fork River Trail system.

There are a number of challenges associated with this option including, obtaining permission from private property owners for the trail and mitigating potential impacts on floodplain and riparian areas. In addition, Colorado Parks & Wildlife recommends that a trail in this location have a seasonal closure from December 1 through April 3.

An alternative option for a walking and biking connection between Paonia and Volunteer Park is presented on pages 84-85. This alternative proposes routing the trail along the north side of Mathews Lane, which would avoid potential impacts to the riparian environment along the river corridor.









## Mathews Lane

An alternative to a walking and biking connection along the river corridor, is a trail along the north side of Mathews Lane. Based on a preliminary investigation of recorded documents, it appears that the right-of-way for Mathews Lane (J 75 Drive) is between 40-feet and 60-feet wide, although input from locals indicates that some sections of the road may be within a prescriptive easement. The existing roadway is approximately 24-feet-wide, not including shoulders.

If the right-of-way for Mathews Lane is 40-feet-wide there appears to be sufficient room for a widened shoulder and a 6-foot-wide soft-surface trail along the north side of the road. The trail would offer a much improved connection between Paonia and Volunteer Park and the widened shoulder would serve as a buffer between trail users and traffic on Mathews Lane.

A conceptual design for Mathews Lane that depicts the widened shoulder and soft-surface trail is provided on page 89.









## 1 Explore a Permanent Restroom Facility in the Paonia River Park



### Project Details:

- Work with WSCC to explore the feasibility of a permanent, ADA compliant, unisex restroom in the Paonia River Park. There are no existing utilities in the River Park so a prefabricated, waterless restroom building should be considered.
- Hire a consultant to design and/or a contractor to install the restroom in the River Park. It is recommended that the restroom be located in a shaded location, away from activity areas in the park (e.g., the picnic shelter).

## 2 Install Additional Informational Signage in the Paonia River Park



### Project Details:

- Collaborate with WSCC on the design, fabrication, and installation of informational signage in the Paonia River Park to supplement the existing signs.
- The additional signage is intended to inform park users of the impacts that certain types of activities (e.g., off-leash dogs, not picking up dog waste, etc.) have on the riparian ecosystem in hopes of encouraging park users to comply with the River Park's rules.

## 3 Design and Construct a Crossing of Grand Avenue



### Project Details:

- Partner with Delta County, the School District, WSCC, the Nature Connection, and other relevant stakeholders on the design and construction of a crossing of Grand Avenue. The goal of this crossing is to improve the safety of walking/biking to/from the Paonia K-8 and to connect the Paonia River Park and river trail with the recently constructed sections of the river trail.
- It is recommended that the Grand Avenue crossing incorporate the following elements:
  - Highly visible crosswalk striping.
  - School or pedestrian crossing signage.
  - Pedestrian-scale, dark-sky compliant lighting to illuminate the crossing.
  - An ADA compliant connection to the existing sidewalk along Grand Avenue.
  - Transverse rumble strips to alert drivers of the crossing.
- It is also recommended that a radar speed sign, oriented towards drivers entering Paonia on Grand Avenue, be considered.



#### 4 Design and Construct an Extension of the River Trail Between the Paonia K-8 and Paonia Library



##### Project Details:

- Acquire a land dedication or an easement for the proposed section of the river trail between the Paonia K-8 and the Paonia Library. The language of an easement should allow for a variety of users (e.g., pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) and signage (e.g., wayfinding/trail signs and StoryWalk® signs) along the trail.
- Work with property owners, local stakeholder groups, and volunteers to identify a route for, and construct, the proposed section of trail between the Paonia K-8 and the Paonia Library. Best practices will need to be employed in the design and construction of the trail to ensure that is sustainable and limits impacts on the surrounding riparian ecosystem.

#### 5 Design and Construct a Pedestrian Bridge for the North Fork River Trail



##### Project Details:

- Hire a consultant to design and a contractor to install a pedestrian bridge over the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The bridge is to be located on town-owned property (parcel no. 324506201006) and will provide a key connection for the river trail.
- It is recommended that a creative design for the bridge (e.g., swinging/suspension bridge) be considered.



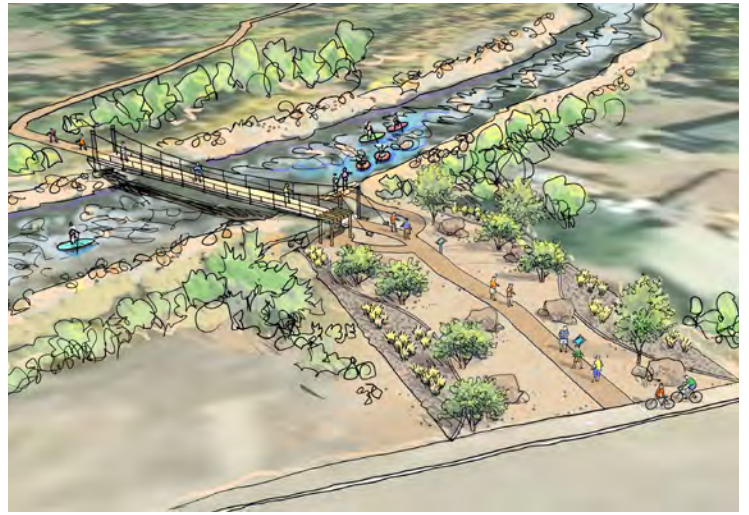
## 6 Develop a StoryWalk® Along the River Trail



### Project Details:

- Work with Delta County Libraries on the design, fabrication, and installation of StoryWalk® signs along the North Fork River Trail.

## 7 Design and Construct New Park and Take-Out



### Project Details:

- Hire a consultant to design and/or a contractor to construct a low-maintenance, water-wise neighborhood park on town-owned property (parcel no. 324506201006). The park is intended to serve as a landing for the new pedestrian bridge over the North Fork of the Gunnison River and an in-town river take-out.
- It is recommended that the park be designed to provide shaded seating along the river, public access to the river, and to incorporate StoryWalk® signs.

## 8 Construct Safety Improvements along Grand Avenue



### Project Details:

- Continue to pursue funding for the implementation of Grand Avenue safety improvements. These improvements include:
  - Constructing a sidewalk along the west side of Grand Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and the end of the existing sidewalk (to the north) that connects to the Paonia K-8.
  - Eliminating the right-hand turn lane at the intersection of Grand Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street to make this into a T-intersection.
  - Reclaiming and landscaping the area used for the right-hand turn lane.
  - Constructing a sidewalk along the east side of Grand Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Installing new or improved crossings of Grand Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Hire a contractor to make improvements to Grand Avenue.
- Explore the installation of dark-sky compliant, pedestrian-scale lighting along Grand Avenue and at crossings of Grand Avenue to enhance the safety and comfort of nighttime sidewalk users. Solar lights should be considered to avoid the need for modifications to any electrical infrastructure along Grand Avenue.



## 9 Explore Options for a Trail between Paonia and Volunteer Park



### Project Details:

- Work with Delta County, the Nature Connection, WSCC, local youth, private property owners, and other relevant stakeholders to explore a soft-surface trail connection between Paonia and Volunteer Park. Potential options for this connection include:
  - A 6-foot-wide (minimum) ADA compliant crusher fines trail along the north side of Mathews Lane in Delta County's right-of-way; OR,
  - A 6-foot-wide (minimum) ADA compliant crusher fines trail along the south side of the North Fork of the Gunnison River that would also serve as an extension of the North Fork River Trail system.
- If a trail along the south side of the river is identified as the preferred option, work with private property owners to establish a public access easement and partner with local stakeholders, volunteers, or a contractor to construct the connection.
- If a trail along the north side of Mathews Lane is identified as the preferred option, work with the county, local volunteers, or a contractor to construct the connection.

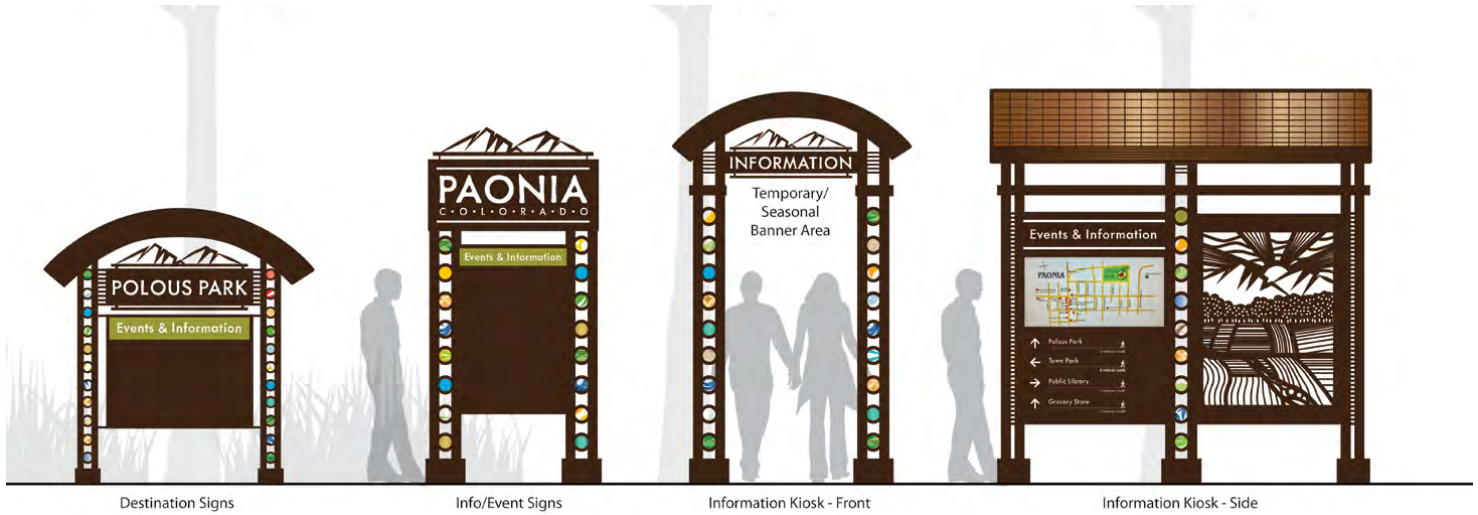
## 10 Design and Construct a Crossing of Samuel Wade Road



### Project Details:

- If a trail between Paonia and Volunteer Park is constructed along the south side of the river, hire a consultant to design and/or a contractor to construct a crossing of Samuel Wade Road. This crossing will improve safety for those traveling between Paonia and Volunteer Park.
- It is recommended that this crossing include the following elements:
  - Highly visible crosswalk striping.
  - Pedestrian crossing signage.
  - Pedestrian-scale, dark-sky compliant lighting to illuminate the crossing.
  - An ADA compliant connection to the existing sidewalk along Samuel Wade Road.
- It is also recommended that a radar speed sign, oriented towards drivers entering Paonia on Samuel Wade Road, be considered.

## 11 Design and Install Wayfinding Signage along the North Fork River Trail



### Project Details:

- Collaborate with the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, Paonia Creative District, WSCC, the Nature Connection, Delta County, and other appropriate stakeholders to design, fabricate, and install wayfinding signage along the North Fork River Trail. Suggested locations for such signage is identified on the conceptual plans for the river corridor on pages 78-83.

## 12 Explore a Public-Private Partnership for Developing the “Old Lagoon Site” Property



### Project Details:

- Explore a public-private partnership for the development of the town’s “Old Lagoon Site,” located on the southwest side of Samuel Wade Road (parcel no. 324506200005). It is recommended that such a partnership strive for a “win-win scenario” that offers benefits to both the community and the developer of the property.
- Prepare and issue an RFP for the development of the old lagoon site. The purpose of the RFP is to establish a partnership with a private entity to develop the property and create a development plan that incorporates community benefits, which could include:
  - An affordable housing development.
  - A Paonia visitor center.
  - In-town camping.
  - Improved public river access and a boat ramp.





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## Making Things Happen

- + Keys to Successful Implementation
- + Potential Funding Sources
- + Organizational Capacity
- + The Action Plan
- + Federal, State & Private Financial Assistance/Grant Programs
- + Crowdfunding Platforms




4



Creating How We Recreate

■ **KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION**


Successful implementation of the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan will be contingent upon the following:

**Community Support & Buy-In**

Without community support and buy-in, successful implementation can be quite challenging. When a community is not in favor of what is being done, push back from the public will likely be encountered when trying to move forward with implementation efforts.

The purpose of the PIM planning process was to offer numerous opportunities for people to participate and provide input on the future of Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails. The input provided by the community serves as the foundation of this Plan and was used to formulate its strategies, concepts, and actions.


Continuing to share information about the Plan and encouraging on-going community involvement with implementation efforts will help to sustain the support and buy-in established over the course of the PIM planning process.

**Organizational Capacity**

“Organizational capacity” (i.e., someone to lead, manage, organize, coordinate, and advocate) is an essential component of successful implementation and one that is often overlooked. Town staff is usually the go to for implementation efforts. However, this can backfire as staff becomes overburdened and is unable to allocate the time and effort necessary.

A key to the successful implementation of this Plan will be to have a person or a group of people that can focus their time and effort on ensuring that the projects identified move forward.


The town will likely need to spearhead efforts to identify the person or group of people best suited to lead the implementation of this Plan. Information about potential people and organizations to consider for this role is included on the following pages.

**Funding**

When community plans, such as this Plan, are prepared, the inevitable question is- how do we actually fund all of the great ideas that have been identified?

This plan recognizes that it is challenging to accomplish much without adequate funding for design work, materials, labor, etc. It is also understood that small, rural communities, such as Paonia, have limited financial resources.

An in-depth discussion regarding potential funding options for the implementation of this plan has been included on the following page, as well as on pages 115-119. The hope is that this information will provide access to financial resources that help Paonia achieve its aspirations.

**A Detailed List Of Specific Things To Do**

The Action Plan, starting on page 96, offers a list of specific implementation projects (i.e., actions). These actions were identified as specific things that the community can do to work to achieve its aspirations for Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails.

The implementation actions presented in the Action Plan are organized by priority (i.e., Top, Mid-Level, and Low-Level). The priority and timing assigned to each action is intended to serve as a guide and may shift based on opportunities (e.g., grant funding becoming available) and/or changes in community priorities.

For each item listed in the Action Plan, the responsible party, potential partners, resources available/needed, and measures of success have been defined.



## ■ POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

It is recommended that a multi-pronged approach be developed for implementing this Plan. The outcome will ideally be the compilation of financial resources from various sources. This approach will help ensure that implementation is not reliant on a sole source of funding. The successful accrual of multiple financial resources could enable Paonia to move forward on a number of implementation projects in the near-term.

Listed below are potential funding sources to be considered:

### 1. General Fund

The town's General Fund (primarily funded by local sales and property tax revenues) can serve as a source of funding for implementation projects. However, the General Fund must also provide funding for the many services provided by the town and for other projects in the community. When possible, it is recommended that monies from the town's General Fund be leveraged by combining with funds from other sources (e.g., grants).

### 2. Conservation Trust Fund

The town's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) is a special revenue fund established for Lottery Funds that the town receives from the State of Colorado. These funds can only be used for specific purposes including the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites and/or for capital improvements for recreational purposes on any public site (refer to the Appendices for a detailed list of eligible expenditures). Between 2012 and 2021, the town's CTF generated an average of \$8,002 per year. Given the limited funds generated by the CTF, it is recommended that options to leverage the CTF to obtain more substantial amounts of funding be explored.

### 3. Dedicated Source of Funding

Establishing a dedicated source of funding (e.g., a lodging tax) for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of Paonia's parks, recreation amenities, and trails could enable the town to enhance the condition of these assets and allow the town to make improvements to address the community's needs and/or wants. A number of Colorado communities (e.g., Town of Eagle, Gunnison County, etc.) have been successful at creating dedicated funding sources for parks, recreation, trails, and open space and could serve as case studies for Paonia.

### 4. Federal, State, and Private Financial Assistance/Grant Programs

There are a number of federal, state, and private financial assistance/grant programs to consider for funding the implementation of projects identified in this Plan. Information about programs that are relevant to Paonia is offered on pages 115-119. Given the fluid nature of these programs it will be important to track each program to stay on top of eligibility requirements, key dates, and funding availability.

### 5. Strategic Partnerships

Strategic partnerships between the town, the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District (NFPPRD), the Nature Connection, WSCC, Delta County, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), and other relevant institutions and organizations, could serve as an effective way to fund specific implementation projects.

### 6. Volunteer Opportunities

Creating opportunities for people to donate to and/or volunteer for implementation projects could help to: (1) Create local ownership; (2) Reduce costs; and, (3) Provide an option for people to contribute financially if they are otherwise unable to contribute to implementation efforts.

### 7. Creative Funding Ideas

- **Fundraising Events and Campaigns.** There are a variety of creative ways that local events or campaigns could be utilized to generate funding for the town's parks, recreation amenities, and/or trails. It is recommended that any fundraising effort have a specific goal in mind so that people know what they are contributing to.
- **Crowdfunding.** Crowdfunding platforms helped revolutionize the startup industry at the turn of the decade. Now, crowdfunding is being used to supporting social causes, making it easier for people to invest in the transformation of their community. A list of crowdfunding platforms to consider for raising funding is provided on page 120.

■ **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

**1. Town Staff**

The town could explore hiring a part-time or full-time employee to spearhead implementation efforts. Successful implementation will necessitate a staff position that can focus on overseeing projects and pursuing various financial resources. Burdening existing staff with these duties is not likely to be successful.

**2. Volunteer Organization/Committee**

The Community Action Team, or similar type of volunteer organization, could provide the organizational support necessary for implementing the Plan. Strong leadership and commitment from volunteers will be necessary to ensure that this approach is effective. Paonia’s elected officials will need to instill this organization with some authority so that they can bring about meaningful change.

■ **ABOUT THE ACTION PLAN**

The Action Plan outlines specific projects that the town may pursue – either alone, or in partnership with others- to support implementation of this Plan. The Action Plan is intended to be used as a tool to guide capital investments, work plans, and allocation of staff time and other town resources.

The implementation actions presented in the Action Plan are organized by priority (Top, Mid-Level, Low-Level). These priorities were developed from the input provided by stakeholders and the community over the course of the PIM planning process. The priority and timing assigned to each action is intended to serve as a guide and may shift based on opportunities (e.g., grant funding becomes available) and/or changes in the community’s priorities.

**TOP PRIORITIES |** Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years

These actions are the community’s top priorities and may already be an on-going effort. Top priorities are intended to be implemented within the next 5 years.

**MID-LEVEL PRIORITIES |** Timeframe: Within Next 10-Years

These actions are mid-level priorities and are intended to be implemented within the next 10 years.

**LOW-LEVEL PRIORITIES |** Timeframe: Within Next 15-Years

These are important actions, but higher ranking priorities take precedence. Low-level priorities are intended to be implemented at some point within the next 15 years.

For each action listed, the responsible party (i.e., lead), potential partners, resources available and needed, and measures of success are defined.

**1. Responsibility**

For each action, the town department, elected or appointed body, area agency, and/or other party considered best-suited for leading the effort has been identified. Potential partners that could play a supporting role have also been identified.

**2. Resources Available/Needed**

The types of resources needed to implement the actions identified in this Plan vary. The categories of resources that are likely available or needed for each action are listed in the Action Plan. These categories include:

- **Staff Time.** Many of the implementation actions will require town staff time for completion or on-going administration. Some of these actions build on efforts that are currently underway, while others may require town staff to allocate additional time on top of their current responsibilities.



Successful implementation of the Plan will rely heavily on adequate time and effort being allocated to the actions identified. New part-time, full-time, and/or contract staff may be required to achieve this. If so, the town will need to give consideration to how to fund any additional positions.

- **Outside Support/Expertise.** Outside support (e.g., consultants, contractors, area organizations/agencies, etc.) or other specialized services may be required to successfully implement a number of the actions listed in the Action Plan. Funding for outside support and/or specialized services will need to be addressed.
- **Funding.** Funding is an essential resources necessary for implementation. There are a number of monetary resources that the town could look to tap into for implementing this Plan, including: the town's General Fund; a lodging tax; federal, state, and private financial assistance/grant programs; and crowdfunding.
- **Jurisdiction/Regulatory Authority.** The Town of Paonia has a number of regulatory tools at its disposal that could be used to support implementation of this Plan. These include: annexation, zoning, subdivision and design regulations, and code enforcement.

In certain instances, the town does not have jurisdiction, such as areas located outside of the town limits under Delta County's jurisdiction. To implement actions that are outside of the town's jurisdiction, it will be critical for the town to work in partnership with the responsible agency.

- **Political Support/Will.** Paonia's Town Board is responsible for overseeing the allocation of town resources, as well as establishing priorities for town staff. This is also true for the Board of Directors for the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District, Board of County Commissioners, and so forth. Having the support of relevant elected bodies will be key to making things happen in Paonia.

There may be implementation actions that not everyone in the community is on-board for. In these instances, it will be important for the elected bodies to reflect on the broad-based input from public that was gathered via the PIM process and do their best to make decisions that reflect the community's aspirations and priorities.

- **Collaboration/Partnerships.** A number of actions identified in the Action Plan necessitate collaboration and partnerships with agencies, organizations, and/or other interested parties in the region, such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Delta County, Delta County School District, the Nature Connection, Delta County Public Library District, North Fork Valley Creative Coalition (NFVCC), the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District, Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC), or the North Fork Trail Advocacy Group (NFTAG).



### 3. Measures of Success

It is important to identify measures of success (i.e., metrics) for actions, so that progress can be tracked and accomplishments can be celebrated. Assessing progress and celebrating milestones can maintain focus, sustain momentum, and provide excitement for moving projects towards successful completion.



Measures of success have been identified for each action presented on the following pages. These metrics are intended to provide guidance for the type of information or data to be collected to track progress being made on each implementation action.

## ■ THE ACTION PLAN



### TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
 <b>Community Initiative Action 1:</b>  Explore transitioning the Community Action Team to an “Implementation Committee” tasked with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advising the town on prioritization of implementation efforts.</li> <li>▪ Serving as the lead for, or a partner on, implementation projects.</li> <li>▪ Supporting efforts to continue raising awareness about, and engaging the community with, implementation efforts</li> <li>▪ Helping to celebrate the successful completion of implementation projects.</li> </ul> It is recommended that the Implementation Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish a committee structure and consider nominating a chairperson.</li> <li>▪ Host meetings to sustain the cohesion and momentum of the group.</li> </ul>	<b>Lead:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <b>Potential Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFPPRD</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> <li>▪ NFTAG</li> <li>▪ School District</li> <li>▪ Delta County Libraries</li> <li>▪ Other Interested Parties</li> </ul>	<b>Available:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town’s General Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with the NFPPRD, WSCC, The Nature Connection, NFTAG, School District, Delta County Library District, and other interested parties on the implementation of this Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Political Support/Will               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from the Town Board to empower the Implementation Committee with the ability to assist with and support implementation efforts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteers to serve on the Implementation Committee.</li> <li>- Sustained volunteer participation on the Implementation Committee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Level of interest and participation in the Implementation Committee.</li> <li>▪ Increased community awareness of and participation in implementation efforts.</li> <li>▪ Number of implementation projects that the Implementation Committee is involved with.</li> <li>▪ Number of celebrations hosted to recognize the completion of projects.</li> </ul>
 <b>Community Initiative Action 2:</b>  Develop and implement a comprehensive and sustainable plan (including an evaluation protocol) for the on-going operation and maintenance of Paonia’s park, recreation, and trail assets.	<b>Lead:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <b>Potential Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFPPRD</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ Other Local Organizations</li> </ul>	<b>Available:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with the NFPPRD, WSCC, and other local organizations to develop and implement an operation and maintenance plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To create and implement the operation and maintenance plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A contract labor position(s) that is responsible for the implementation of the town’s operation and maintenance plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding for a town staff or contract labor position(s) that is tasked with implementing the town’s operation and maintenance plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaboration with local organizations on the development and implementation of an operation and maintenance plan for park, recreation, and trail assets.</li> <li>▪ Creation and implementation of an operation and maintenance plan.</li> <li>▪ Integration of the operation and maintenance plan with the town’s annual budgeting process.</li> <li>▪ Establishment of a town staff or contract labor position(s) tasked with implementing the town’s operation and maintenance plan.</li> <li>▪ Enhanced up-keep of the town’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails.</li> <li>▪ Improving public opinion of the condition of the town’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails.</li> </ul>





ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Community Initiative Action 3:</b></p> <p>Identify and implement dark-skies projects associated with Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails. It is recommended that such projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of glowstones (<a href="http://www.glowstones.com">www.glowstones.com</a>) with Paonia’s parks and trails.</li> <li>An inventory of existing outdoor lighting in Paonia’s parks and recommendations for making existing lights dark-sky compliant.</li> <li>Development of dark-skies routes that connect night sky viewing sites (e.g., Paonia River Park, Town Park, Apple Valley Park, Volunteer Park, etc.) and that offer maps, signs, and other amenities for sharing information about the local night sky.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dark Skies Paonia</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> <li>Local Volunteers &amp; Advocates</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and private grant programs.</li> <li>Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town has authority to make improvements to town-owned properties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for collaboration between Dark Skies Paonia and the town on dark-skies projects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with dark-skies projects.</li> <li>On-going upkeep of dark-skies amenities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultant, contractor, and/or volunteers to lead and/or assist with the implementation of dark-skies projects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for the implementation of dark-skies projects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of dark-skies projects implemented.</li> <li>Number of outdoor lights redesigned and/or retrofitted to be dark-sky friendly.</li> <li>Reduced light pollution from the town’s parks and recreation amenities.</li> <li>Establishment of dark-skies routes.</li> <li>Installation of maps, signs, and other amenities that share information about Paonia’s night sky.</li> <li>Increasing number of people getting out to enjoy Paonia’s night sky.</li> <li>Number of measures in place to protect Paonia’s night sky.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Community Initiative Action 4:</b></p> <p>Establish a “Rails-to-Trails” or “Rails-with-Trails” initiative to explore using the railroad corridor for a regional trail system.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Multi-Entity Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> <li>Delta County</li> <li>Other Delta County Municipalities</li> <li>Union Pacific Railroad</li> <li>NFTAG</li> <li>WSCC</li> <li>Interested Community Members</li> <li>Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and private grant programs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online resources, specifically the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s website (<a href="http://www.railstotrails.org">www.railstotrails.org</a>).</li> <li>Expertise of nearby entities involved in a successful Rails-to-Trails initiative (e.g., the Rio Grande Trail in the Roaring Fork Valley).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support and/or participate in a Rails-to-Trails or Rails-with-Trails initiative.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Political Will/Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support from municipal and county elected officials for a Rails-to-Trails or Rails-with-Trails initiative.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-entity collaboration on a Rails-to-Trails or Rails-with-Trails initiative.</li> <li>Collaboration and partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for a Rails-to-Trails or Rails-with-Trails initiative.</li> <li>Funding for the acquisition of the railroad corridor, if applicable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going communication and positive relationship with the Union Pacific Railroad.</li> <li>Greater awareness of the regional level of support for a Rails-to-Trails or Rails-with-Trails initiative.</li> <li>Increased awareness of the value of proactively planning for the future of the railroad.</li> <li>Establishment and maintenance of a regional multi-entity committee.</li> <li>Number of entities supportive of, and involved in, aa Rails-to-Trails or Rails-with-Trails initiative.</li> <li>Better understanding of the value of the existing railroad infrastructure and options for preserving the infrastructure.</li> <li>Use of the railroad corridor for a regional trail system.</li> <li>Number of users/popularity of the regional trail system.</li> </ul>



## TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Community Initiative Action 5:</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain a comprehensive calendar of events for Paonia and the surrounding area.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultant</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Event Producers</li> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ Delta County Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State grant programs.</li> <li>- Opportunity to utilize funding from a dedicated source of funding (e.g., a Lodging Tax).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with local event producers on the development of a comprehensive calendar of events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Person(s) to facilitate the development, implementation, and maintenance of a comprehensive calendar of events.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going collaboration and coordination with local event producers to maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date calendar of events.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding for the development, implementation, and on-going maintenance of a comprehensive calendar of events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of a comprehensive calendar of events.</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness of the calendar of events.</li> <li>▪ Number of local event producers utilizing the calendar of events to advertise.</li> <li>▪ On-going maintenance of a calendar of events.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Community Initiative Action 6:</b></p> <p>Establish policies and regulations for parklets in Paonia. It is recommended that these policies and regulations, at a minimum, address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Impact on on-street parking.</li> <li>▪ Safety and liability issues.</li> <li>▪ Rules for how parklets can be used (e.g., Will smoking and/or drinking be allowed? Can parklets be used for the display of merchandise, art, etc.?).</li> <li>▪ Maintenance and storage.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to the Appendices for example parklet policies and regulations to consider.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Business &amp; Property Owners</li> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> <li>▪ CIRSA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to develop and adopt policies and regulations for parklets and to allow parklets to be installed in the town's rights-of-way.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insights from other Colorado communities that have enacted policies and regulations for parklets.</li> <li>- Online and print resources with information regarding parklets.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To facilitate the preparation of policies and regulations for parklets in Paonia.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Political Will/Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from the town's elected officials for the adoption of parklet policies and regulations and to allow parklets to be installed in the town's rights-of-way.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with local business and property owners to develop policies and regulations for parklets.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development and adoption of policies and regulations for parklets in Paonia, specifically in the downtown area.</li> <li>▪ Collaboration with local business and property owners on the creation of policies and regulations for parklets.</li> <li>▪ Compliance with the town's parklet policies and regulations.</li> <li>▪ Increased activity in the downtown resulting from parklets.</li> <li>▪ Increased sales tax revenues resulting from parklets.</li> <li>▪ Successful balance between parklets and the availability of on-street parking.</li> </ul>






ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Trail/Mobility Action 1:</b></p> <p>Construct a pedestrian crossing on Grand Avenue to improve safe and convenient access to the Paonia K-8 School and the Paonia River Park.</p> <p>Refer to page 86 for a conceptual diagram of this pedestrian crossing.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ Delta County</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ School District</li> <li>▪ Dark Skies Paonia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State grant programs.</li> <li>- Strategic Partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with Delta County on an enhanced crossing design that includes the proposed improvements presented on page 86.</li> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with local organizations on innovative lighting for the crossing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and construction of a crossing that includes the proposed improvements presented on page 86.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Successful collaboration with Delta County on the design and construction of the crossing that includes the proposed improvements depicted on page 86.</li> <li>▪ Successful collaboration with local organizations on the design and installation of innovative lighting for the crossing.</li> <li>▪ Design and construction of a safe, effective, and well-illuminated street crossing.</li> <li>▪ Improved sense of safety, comfort, and convenience when traveling between the Paonia River Park and the Paonia K-8.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Trail/Mobility Action 2:</b></p> <p>Improve access to Jumbo Mountain from Apple Valley Park via Vista Drive.</p> <p>It is recommended that improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The design, fabrication, and installation of wayfinding signage along the access route between Apple Valley Park and Jumbo Mountain (via Vista Drive).</li> <li>▪ Construction of a single-track trail along the west side of Vista Drive, within the existing access easement.</li> <li>▪ The design, fabrication, and installation of wayfinding signage along the Jumbo Mountain trails.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to page 70 for conceptual diagrams and a detailed list of the proposed access improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ NFTAG</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighboring Property Owners</li> <li>▪ Pan American &amp; Hawks Haven HOAs</li> <li>▪ BLM</li> <li>▪ Delta County</li> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Strategic partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to install signage on town-owned lands.</li> <li>- Existing public access easements.</li> <li>- Existing path through Apple Valley Park to Vista Drive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Political Will/Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town and County elected officials and BLM supportive of efforts to enhance usability of Jumbo Mountain.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for multi-entity collaboration on the layout, design, fabrication, and installation of access improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To explore and pursue additional public access easement(s), if necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and/or construction of access improvements.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of access route.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permission from BLM to install signage on Jumbo Mountain.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Successful collaboration with project partners on the layout, design, fabrication, and installation of access improvements.</li> <li>▪ Number of wayfinding signs installed.</li> <li>▪ Positive feedback from trail users on the access improvements and signage.</li> <li>▪ Improved usability and functionality of the Jumbo Mountain trail system.</li> <li>▪ Popularity/use of Apple Valley Park and new access route.</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness of Apple Valley Park being the main trailhead for Jumbo Mountain.</li> <li>▪ Identification and implementation of solutions for mitigating impacts on neighboring property owners.</li> </ul>

## TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Trail/Mobility Action 3:</b></p> <p>Construct safety improvements along Grand Avenue to improve non-motorized circulation and connectivity between downtown Paonia, the Paonia K-8, the Paonia River Park, and the North Fork River Trail.</p> <p>Refer to page 88 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of the proposed safety improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School District</li> <li>▪ Delta County</li> <li>▪ Neighboring Property &amp; Business Owners</li> <li>▪ Solar Energy Institute</li> <li>▪ Dark Skies Paonia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State grant programs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements within the right-of-way for Grand Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Political Support/Will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from the town's elected officials for improvements to Grand Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For safety improvements and pedestrian-scale, dark-sky friendly lighting for sidewalks and crossings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with potential partners on the design and installation of pedestrian-scale lighting along Grand Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-entity funding for the construction and installation of Grand Avenue improvements.</li> <li>▪ Completed construction of safety improvements along Grand Avenue.</li> <li>▪ Multi-entity collaboration on the design and installation of lighting for the new Grand Avenue sidewalks and crossings.</li> <li>▪ Number of people, specifically local youth, traveling to/from the Paonia K-8 via Grand Avenue.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Trail/Mobility Action 4:</b></p> <p>Construct an extension of the North Fork River Trail to connect the Paonia K-8 with the Paonia Library. This includes the installation of a pedestrian bridge over the river.</p> <p>Refer to page 87 for a conceptual alignment of the proposed trail extension and a conceptual diagram of the pedestrian bridge.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Property Owners</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ CPW</li> <li>▪ Army Corps. of Engineers</li> <li>▪ NFTAG</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> <li>▪ School District</li> <li>▪ Delta County Libraries</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing grant funding obtained.</li> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town-owned property on the north and south side of the river provides a location for the pedestrian bridge.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued collaboration with property owners, Nature Connection, WSCC, etc. on the alignment, design, and construction of the trail extension and pedestrian bridge.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the construction of the trail extension and/or the pedestrian bridge.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permission from property owners to construct the trail extension across private property.</li> <li>- Permitting from the Army Corps. of Engineers to construct a pedestrian bridge, if necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the construction of the trail extension and pedestrian bridge.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquisition of a land dedication or easement(s) for the trail.</li> <li>▪ Multi-entity collaboration on the alignment, design, and construction of the trail extension and pedestrian bridge.</li> <li>▪ A trail alignment that minimizes potential impacts on floodplain areas and important riparian areas (e.g., wetlands).</li> <li>▪ Funding for the design and/or construction of the trail extension.</li> <li>▪ Funding for the design and/or construction of the pedestrian bridge over the river.</li> <li>▪ Completed construction of the trail extension and pedestrian bridge.</li> <li>▪ Growing popularity of the river trail/number of trail users.</li> <li>▪ Preservation of the river corridor as wild, riparian habitat.</li> </ul>



**TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)**


ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
 <b>Trail/Mobility Action 5:</b>  Explore the feasibility of a trail that provides a non-motorized connection (i.e., walking, biking, etc.) between Paonia and Volunteer Park.  Refer to pages 82-85 and 89 for conceptual alignments and designs for this trail connection.	<b>Lead:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> <li>Delta County</li> </ul> <b>Potential Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property Owners</li> <li>WSCC</li> <li>CPW</li> <li>The Nature Connection</li> <li>Dark Skies Paonia</li> </ul>	<b>Available:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State grant programs.</li> <li>Strategic partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town authority to make improvements to town roads and the Old Lagoon Site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with the design and/or construction of a trail connection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permission from property owners to construct trail across their property or, permission from the county to construct trail in right-of-way for Mathews Lane.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For trail design and construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for collaboration with potential partners on the alignment, design, and construction of a trail.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition of a land dedication or easement(s) for the trail, if necessary.</li> <li>Multi-entity collaboration on the design and construction of the trail connection.</li> <li>Completed construction of the trail connection.</li> <li>Design and construction of a safe, convenient, and well-illuminated crossing of Samuel Wade Road.</li> <li>Number of people, specifically local youth, walking and biking between Paonia and Volunteer Park via the trail connection.</li> <li>Preservation of the river corridor as wild, riparian habitat.</li> </ul>
 <b>Town Park Action 1:</b>  Remove chain-link fencing along 5 <sup>th</sup> Street and the BBQ pits in the park.  <b>Note:</b> Chain-link fencing could be re-purposed for the proposed dog park.	<b>Lead:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> </ul> <b>Potential Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<b>Available:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town authority to remove fencing and BBQ pits.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To remove fencing and BBQ pits.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of chain-link fencing and BBQ pits.</li> <li>Positive public feedback on the removal of fencing and BBQ pits.</li> <li>Creative re-use or recycling of fencing and/or BBQ pits.</li> </ul>
 <b>Town Park Action 2:</b>  Craft a detailed design for and construct a new skateboard park (“skate park”) in Town Park.  Refer to page 60 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of ideas for the new skate park.	<b>Lead:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Consultant and/or Contractor</li> </ul> <b>Potential Partners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> <li>Local Youth, Advocates &amp; Volunteers</li> <li>NFPPRD</li> <li>Delta County</li> <li>School District</li> <li>NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> <li>Dark Skies Paonia</li> <li>Neighboring Property Owners</li> </ul>	<b>Available:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing funds acquired.</li> <li>State and private grant programs.</li> <li>Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> <li>Funding from project partners.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued collaboration with project partners on the design and construction of the new skate park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with the construction of the new skate park.</li> <li>On-going upkeep of the skate park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultant to design and a contractor to construct the new skate park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To complete the design and construction of the new skate park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-entity contributions to the design and construction of the new skate park.</li> <li>Preparation and issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP).</li> <li>Collaboration with project partners on the hiring of a well-qualified consultant and contractor.</li> <li>Collaborative process resulting in a final, detailed design for the skate park.</li> <li>Mitigation of potential impacts on park neighbors.</li> <li>Completed construction of the skate park.</li> <li>Number of skate park users/popularity of the skate park.</li> <li>Future enhancements to and/or expansion of the skate park.</li> <li>On-going upkeep of the skate park.</li> </ul>

## TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Town Park Action 3:</b></p> <p>Develop a detailed design for, and construct, a dog park in Town Park.</p> <p>Refer to page 61 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of ideas for the proposed dog park.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Consultant and/or Contractor</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> <li>Local Volunteers &amp; Advocates</li> <li>NFPPRD</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and private grant programs.</li> <li>Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> <li>Consider adopting a fee to support the on-going upkeep of the dog park.</li> <li>Crowdfunding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration with the community on the design and construction of the dog park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To lead or assist with the construction of the dog park.</li> <li>On-going upkeep of the dog park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to construct, the dog park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the design and construction of the dog park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-entity contributions to the design and construction of the dog park.</li> <li>Preparation and issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP).</li> <li>Collaborative design process resulting in a final, detailed design for the dog park.</li> <li>Mitigation of potential impacts on park neighbors.</li> <li>Completed construction of the dog park.</li> <li>Number of dog park users/popularity of the dog park.</li> <li>Future enhancements to the dog park.</li> <li>On-going upkeep of the dog park.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Town Park Action 4:</b></p> <p>Make improvements to the gazebo and stage in Town Park.</p> <p>Refer to page 62 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of the proposed improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Event Producers</li> <li>Local Volunteers</li> <li>NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private and state grant programs.</li> <li>Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parties, specifically event producers, interested in collaborating with the town on improvements to the stage and gazebo.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To lead or assist with the installation of improvements.</li> <li>On-going upkeep of the gazebo.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultant to design, and/or contractor to construct, improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the design and/or installation of improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of grant funding acquired for the design and construction of improvements.</li> <li>Successful collaboration with project partners on the design and construction of improvements.</li> <li>Number of improvements made.</li> <li>Positive community feedback on the improvements made.</li> <li>Expanded use of the stage resulting from the improvements made.</li> <li>On-going upkeep of the gazebo, stage, and "dance floor" area in front of the gazebo.</li> </ul>



**TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)**



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Town Park Action 5:</b></p> <p>Make improvements to the playground area in Town Park, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Installation of new surfacing material.</li> <li>▪ Installation of a border around the playground.</li> <li>▪ Construction of a new unisex bathroom near the playground.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to page 61 for a detailed list of the proposed improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> <li>▪ NFPPRD</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private and state grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with project partners on the installation of improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the installation of improvements to the playground.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of playground area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to construct, improvements, as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the installation of playground improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of grant funding acquired for the design and construction of playground improvements.</li> <li>▪ Number of improvements made.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the improvements made.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the playground area.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Town Park Action 6:</b></p> <p>Develop a detailed design for, and construct, enclosures for the dumpsters in Town Park.</p> <p>Refer to page 62 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of the proposed improvements.</p> <p>It is recommended that the design and construction of dumpster enclosures for Town Park be coordinated with the dumpster enclosures for Apple Valley Park.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> <li>▪ Local Waste Hauler</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with local artists on creative designs for the enclosures.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the installation of enclosures.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the enclosures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to construct, the enclosures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and construction of the enclosures.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of grant funding acquired for the design and construction of the dumpster enclosures.</li> <li>▪ Number of dumpster enclosures constructed.</li> <li>▪ Number of dumpster enclosures that display the talents of local creatives.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the enclosures.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the dumpster enclosures.</li> </ul>

## TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Town Park Action 7:</b></p> <p>Construct ADA compliant crusher fines paths to improve accessibility.</p> <p>Construct an ADA compliant walking/exercise path around Town Park. Work to integrate shaded seating areas, public art, and/or native landscaping displays with the path.</p> <p>Refer to page 63 for a conceptual diagram of the proposed access improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Volunteers &amp; Advocates</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private and state grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the access improvements.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of paths.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor to install improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the construction of improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of access improvements constructed.</li> <li>▪ Improved ADA access to and within Town Park.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the access improvements made.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of paths.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Town Park Action 8:</b></p> <p>Work with local plant experts to explore options for improving the existing Peony planting beds.</p> <p>Refer to page 65 for a conceptual diagram and a list of potential ideas for improving the planting beds.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Plant Experts</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going upkeep of planting beds.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor to install improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and/or construction of planting bed improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of planting bed improvements made.</li> <li>▪ Health of the Peonies and other plants in the planting beds.</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness of the Peonies and their connection to Paonia's history.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the planting beds.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Town Park Action 9:</b></p> <p>Renovate the restroom building in Town Park and upgrade it to be a year-round facility.</p> <p>Refer to page 63 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of proposed improvements.</p> <p>It is recommended that the renovation of the restroom building in Town Park be coordinated with the renovation of the restroom building in Apple Valley Park (refer to Apple Valley Park Action 4).</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contractor</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with the NFVCC/Paonia Creative District on creative improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with improvements.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the restrooms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor to install improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding for improvements to the restroom building.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of improvements made to the restrooms.</li> <li>▪ Fewer instances of vandalism.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the improvements made to the restrooms.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the restrooms.</li> </ul>





**TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)**

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Apple Valley Park Action 1:</b></p> <p>Install improvements that work to establish Apple Valley Park as the designated trailhead for Jumbo Mountain.</p> <p>Refer to page 71 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of ideas for proposed improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFTAG</li> <li>▪ BLM</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers &amp; Advocates</li> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Apple Valley Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with the community on the trailhead improvements to be installed.</li> <li>- Collaboration with NFVCC/Paonia Creative District on the design, fabrication, and installation of trailhead and wayfinding signage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the installation of trailhead improvements.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of trailhead improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to install, the trailhead improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design, fabrication, and installation of trailhead improvements and wayfinding signage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of trailhead improvements installed.</li> <li>▪ Installation of wayfinding signage.</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness of Apple Valley Park being the designated trailhead for the Jumbo Mountain trails.</li> <li>▪ Increased use of Apple Valley Park by users of the Jumbo Mountain trails.</li> <li>▪ Decreased usage and improved management of parking at the end of Pan American Avenue.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Apple Valley Park Action 2:</b></p> <p>Develop a detailed design for, and construct, an enclosure for the dumpster in Apple Valley Park.</p> <p>Refer to page 73 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of the proposed improvements.</p> <p>It is recommended that the design and construction of the dumpster enclosure in Apple Valley Park be coordinated with the dumpster enclosures for Town Park (refer to Town Park Action 6).</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Apple Valley Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with local artists on creative designs for the enclosure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the installation of the dumpster enclosure.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the enclosure.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to construct, the enclosure.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and construction of the enclosure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of grant funding acquired for the design and construction of the dumpster enclosure.</li> <li>▪ Completed construction of the dumpster enclosure.</li> <li>▪ A dumpster enclosure that displays the talents of local creatives.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the dumpster enclosure.</li> </ul>



## TOP PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 5-Years (continued)

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Apple Valley Park Action 3:</b></p> <p>Repair and improve the existing trail system and exercise stations in Apple Valley Park. Recommended improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rebuilding portions, or the entirety, of the existing trail system to conform to the trail design standards set forth in the Appendices.</li> <li>▪ Rebuilding the exercise stations to install geotextile fabric, edging, and new crusher fines.</li> <li>▪ Stabilization of the hillside on the north side of Apple Valley Park and adjustments to the park's irrigation system to minimize erosion issues.</li> <li>▪ Making drainage improvements where necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to page 73 for a conceptual diagram of proposed improvements.</p> <p>It is recommended that the repairs and improvements to the trail system and exercise stations be coordinated with trailhead improvements (refer to Apple Valley Park Action 1).</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFTAG</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Apple Valley Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with local trail advocates and volunteers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the repairs and improvements to the trail system.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the trail system and exercise stations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor and/or local volunteers to make repairs and improvements to the trail system and exercise stations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For repairs and improvements to the trail system and exercise stations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of grant funding acquired for repairs and/or improvements.</li> <li>▪ Level of volunteer participation in the construction of repairs and/or improvements.</li> <li>▪ Length of trail system repaired and/or improved.</li> <li>▪ Number of exercise stations repaired and/or improved.</li> <li>▪ Minimization of erosion issues along the north side of Apple Valley Park.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the trail system and exercise stations.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Apple Valley Park Action 4:</b></p> <p>Renovate the restroom building in Apple Valley Park.</p> <p>Refer to page 72 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of proposed improvements.</p> <p>It is recommended that the renovation of the restroom building in Apple Valley Park be coordinated with the renovation of the restroom building in Town Park (refer to Town Park Action 9).</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contractor</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Apple Valley Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with local artists on creative improvements to the restroom building.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the improvements to the restroom building in Apple Valley Park.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the restrooms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor to install improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding for improvements to the restroom building.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of improvements made to the restrooms.</li> <li>▪ Fewer instances of vandalism.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the improvements to the restrooms.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the restrooms.</li> </ul>





ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Community Initiative Action 6:</b></p> <p>Explore a dedicated funding source (e.g., a lodging tax) for the operation, maintenance, and development of the town’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails.</p> <p>Refer to the Appendices for examples of dedicated funding sources that have been adopted by other Colorado communities.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Business Owners &amp; Advocates</li> <li>Trust for Public Lands (<a href="https://www.tpl.org/">https://www.tpl.org/</a>)</li> <li>Advocacy Advance (<a href="https://www.advocacyadvance.org/#">https://www.advocacyadvance.org/#</a>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town has authority to create a ballot initiative for a dedicated funding source.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights from other Colorado communities that have established a dedicated funding source for parks, recreation, trails, and/or open space.</li> <li>Trust for Public Lands or Advocacy Advance may be able to assist with a ballot initiative.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with the preparation of a ballot initiative.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polling of the community to better understand support for a dedicated funding source.</li> <li>Consultant to prepare revenue projections and/or ballot language for a proposed funding source.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Political Will/Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support from the town’s elected officials for pursuing a dedicated funding source.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration with local business owners on the structure of a dedicated funding source.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For polling, revenue projections, and the preparation of ballot language.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A collaborative effort that results in a “win-win” ballot initiative for a dedicated funding source.</li> <li>Community approval of a dedicated funding source.</li> <li>Increase in revenue for the operation, maintenance, and development of Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails.</li> <li>Improving community sentiments regarding the condition of Paonia’s parks, recreation amenities, and trails.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Community Initiative Action 7:</b></p> <p>Explore an “Art in the Parks” initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to identify opportunities for local artists to display their talents, while enhancing the aesthetic of amenities and facilities in the town’s parks.</p> <p>For example, working with local artists to paint a mural on the exterior of the Ellen Hansen Smith Center to enhance its appearance.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town</li> <li>NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Artists</li> <li>Local Schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and private grant programs.</li> <li>Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town has the authority to make properties, facilities, and rights-of-way available for art displays.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights from other Colorado communities that have enacted similar types of public art programs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To lead or assist with an “Arts in the Parks” initiative.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration with NFVCC/Paonia Creative District, local artists, and local schools on the development and implementation of an “Arts in the Parks” initiative.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and implementation of an “Art in the Parks” initiative.</li> <li>Number of entities contributing to the “Art in the Parks” initiative.</li> <li>Number of opportunities for local youth to collaborate with, and be mentored by, local artists.</li> <li>Number of amenities and facilities in the town’s parks that display local artwork.</li> </ul>

## MID-LEVEL PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 10-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Trail/Mobility Action 7:</b></p> <p>Construct a trail system on P-Hill for running, walking, hiking, and similar types of non-mechanized activities.</p> <p>Refer to pages 75-77 for a conceptual diagrams of the proposed P-Hill trail system.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CPW</li> <li>▪ NFTAG</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> <li>▪ Paonia Cemetery District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to town-owned property on P-Hill.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with CPW, WSCC, and other interested parties on strategies for minimizing impacts on wildlife.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permission from the Paonia Cemetery District for the siting and construction of a trailhead area, which may include a parking area and a restroom facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and/or construction of a trail system on P-Hill.</li> <li>- For the design and/or construction of a trailhead area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Length of trail constructed on P-Hill.</li> <li>▪ Number of trail users/popularity of P-Hill trail system.</li> <li>▪ Preservation of existing wildlife habitat.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Trail/Mobility Action 8:</b></p> <p>Construct a StoryWalk® along the North Fork River Trail.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delta County Libraries</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ School District</li> <li>▪ Private Property Owners</li> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delta County Library District.</li> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to town-owned properties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interest from the Library District to construct a StoryWalk® along the North Fork River Trail.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To assist with the installation of StoryWalk® signs along the river trail.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permission from WSCC, the School District, and private property owners to install StoryWalk® signs along the portions of the river trail on properties owned by these entities or persons.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design, fabrication, and installation of StoryWalk® signs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement between the town and the Library District for the upkeep of StoryWalk® signs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permission from the town, WSCC, School District, and private property owners to install StoryWalk® signs along the North Fork River Trail.</li> <li>▪ Funding for the design, fabrication, and installation of StoryWalk® signs.</li> <li>▪ Number of StoryWalk® signs installed along the river trail.</li> <li>▪ Popularity of the sections of the river trail with StoryWalk® signs, specifically by local youth.</li> <li>▪ Agreement between the town and the Library District for the upkeep of the StoryWalk® signs.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the StoryWalk® signs.</li> </ul>



# MID-LEVEL PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 10-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Trail/Mobility Action 9:</b></p> <p>Explore a second access to Jumbo Mountain from Minnesota Creek Road.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFTAG</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Private Property Owners</li> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ Delta County</li> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> <li>▪ BLM</li> <li>▪ CPW</li> <li>▪ NFPPRD</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers &amp; Advocates</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> <li>- Strategic partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for multi-entity collaboration on the acquisition, design, and construction of a southern access to the Jumbo Mountain.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permission from private property owners to access the Jumbo Mountain from Minnesota Creek Road.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to build, a new access and/or trailhead area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the acquisition of an easement or property.</li> <li>- For the design and/or construction of a new southern access and trailhead area.</li> <li>- For the on-going upkeep of the new access and trailhead area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-entity collaboration on the acquisition of an easement or property that allows for a new access to Jumbo Mountain.</li> <li>▪ Collaborative process that results in a design for a new access and trailhead area.</li> <li>▪ Construction of a new, sustainable trail access and trailhead area.</li> <li>▪ Greater opportunity for a broader range of user groups to access and enjoy Jumbo Mountain.</li> <li>▪ Distribution of trail users between Apple Valley Park and the new access off of Minnesota Creek Road.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the new access and trailhead area.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Town Park Action 10:</b></p> <p>Make enhancements to the picnic shelters in Town Park.</p> <p>Refer to pages 64-65 for a conceptual diagram and detailed list of proposed improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFVCC/Paonia Creative District</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to the amenities in Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with the NFVCC/Paonia Creative District, local artists, and local schools on creative enhancements to the picnic shelters.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the enhancements to the picnic shelters.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local volunteers and/or a contractor to make enhancements to the picnic shelters.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and/or construction of enhancements to the picnic shelters.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of enhancements made to the picnic shelters.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the enhancements made to the picnic shelters.</li> <li>▪ Increased use of the picnic shelters, resulting from the improvements made.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the picnic shelters.</li> </ul>

## MID-LEVEL PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 10-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Town Park Action 11:</b></p> <p>Install a unisex restroom near the playground area in Town Park.</p> <p>The new restroom is to be plumbed, connected to the town's water and sewer system, and a year-round facility.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the installation of the new restroom building.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to install, the new restroom.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and/or construction of the new restroom in Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Installation of a new unisex restroom near the playground in Town Park.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the new restroom.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the new restroom.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Town Park Action 12:</b></p> <p>Work with local event producers to develop and implement a plan for improving the infrastructure for events in Town Park (e.g., installing additional utility hook-ups for event vendors).</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Event Producers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the preparation and implementation of a plan for improving the infrastructure for events in Town Park.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the infrastructure for events in Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to install, the infrastructure improvements in Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and construction of infrastructure improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with local event producers on the location and design of infrastructure improvements for events in Town Park.</li> <li>- Agreement between the town and event producers that addresses payment for utilities consumed during events in Town Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of infrastructure improvements made.</li> <li>▪ Positive feedback from event producers and/or vendors regarding the improvements made to Town Park.</li> <li>▪ Expanded use of Town Park for community events as a result of the improvements made.</li> <li>▪ Establishment of a town policy regarding payment for utilities consumed during an event hosted in Town Park.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the infrastructure for events in Town Park.</li> </ul>



## MID-LEVEL PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 10-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Town Park Action 13:</b></p> <p>Develop and implement a plan for additional interior enhancements to the Ellen Hansen Smith Center (“Smith Center”).</p> <p>Refer to page 66 for a conceptual diagram and a list of the community’s ideas for enhancing the Smith Center.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Smith Center Volunteer Organization</li> <li>▪ NFPPRD</li> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> <li>▪ Local Schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to the Smith Center.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community input on the future of the Smith Center collected via the 2021 Community Survey.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the enhancements to the interior of the Smith Center and/or the on-going operation and management of the Smith Center.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to develop a detailed plan for, and a contractor to construct, interior enhancements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and construction of interior enhancements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further collaboration with stakeholders and the community on a detailed plan for the future of the Smith Center.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborative process that results in a detailed plan for the future of the Smith Center that balances existing and proposed uses.</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the plan for the Smith Center.</li> <li>▪ Multi-entity contribution to the interior enhancements to the Smith Center.</li> <li>▪ Number of interior enhancements made.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the interior enhancements made.</li> <li>▪ Expanded community use of the Smith Center.</li> <li>▪ On-going operation and upkeep of the Smith Center.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Apple Valley Park Action 5:</b></p> <p>Explore improved access to Minnesota Creek.</p> <p>Refer to page 72 for a conceptual diagram of proposed improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Nature Connection</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ CPW</li> <li>▪ USFS</li> <li>▪ Army Corps. of Engineers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to Apple Valley Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with access improvements to Minnesota Creek.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to construct, access improvements to Minnesota Creek.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and construction of access improvements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permit(s) from the local Floodplain Administrator and/or the Army Corps. of Engineers to make modifications to Minnesota Creek.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved access to Minnesota Creek in designated areas.</li> <li>▪ Increased use of Minnesota Creek in designated areas.</li> <li>▪ Reduced access/use of Minnesota Creek in non-designated areas.</li> <li>▪ Mitigation of impacts on riparian areas and the water quality of Minnesota Creek.</li> </ul>

## MID-LEVEL PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 10-Years (continued)



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Paonia River Park Action 1:</b></p> <p>Explore the feasibility and construction of a permanent restroom facility in the River Park.</p> <p>It is recommended that a composting restroom be considered to reduce the need to extend water and sewer infrastructure into the River Park.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> <li>- Strategic partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town and WSCC authority to make improvements to the River Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued collaboration between the town and WSCC on enhancements to the River Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town and/or WSCC staff to lead or assist with the construction of a permanent restroom.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the restroom.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to develop a design for, and/or a contractor to construct, the restroom, as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and/or construction of a permanent restroom.</li> <li>- For the on-going upkeep of the restroom.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-entity contribution to the design and construction of a permanent restroom.</li> <li>▪ Completed construction of a permanent restroom in the River Park.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on a permanent restroom in the River Park.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the restroom.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>P-Hill Action 1:</b></p> <p>Design and construct an overlook and stargazing area (Astro-Park) at the top of P-Hill.</p> <p>Refer to page 76 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of the proposed improvements</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dark Skies Paonia</li> <li>▪ CPW</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ Entities with Equipment on P-Hill</li> <li>▪ Local Volunteers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to the town-owned property on P-Hill.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support from Dark Skies Paonia for a stargazing area at the top of P-Hill.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the design and construction of P-Hill improvements.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the P-Hill overlook and stargazing area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to design, and/or a contractor to construct, the P-Hill overlook and stargazing area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and construction of an overlook and stargazing area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for collaboration with CPW and WSCC to mitigate potential wildlife impacts and with the entities that have equipment at the top of P-Hill.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Successful collaboration with Dark Skies Paonia, CPW, WSCC, the entities with equipment on P-Hill, and other appropriate parties on the design and construction of an overlook and stargazing area.</li> <li>▪ Multi-entity contributions to the design and construction of an overlook and stargazing area.</li> <li>▪ Completed construction of an overlook and stargazing area at the top of P-Hill.</li> <li>▪ Number of users/popularity of the overlook and stargazing area.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the overlook and stargazing area.</li> <li>▪ Successful mitigation of potential impacts on wildlife and telecommunication equipment.</li> </ul>



**LOW-LEVEL PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 15-Years (continued)**

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Town Park Action 14:</b></p> <p>Renovate the exterior of the Ellen Hansen Smith Center (“Smith Center”).</p> <p>Refer to page 66 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of proposed improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Smith Center Volunteer Organization</li> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to the Smith Center.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with local artists on creative enhancements to the exterior of the Smith Center.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with enhancements to the exterior of the Smith Center.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the exterior of the Smith Center.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to develop a design for, and/or a contractor to make, exterior enhancements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design and/or construction of exterior enhancements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further collaboration with stakeholders and the community on a detailed plan for the future of the Smith Center.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completed renovation of the exterior of the Smith Center.</li> <li>▪ Improved integration of the Smith Center with the rest of Town Park.</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness of the Smith Center and its function.</li> <li>▪ Murals or other art by local artists displayed on the exterior of the Smith Center.</li> <li>▪ Positive community feedback on the exterior enhancements made.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the exterior of the Smith Center.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Town Park Action 15:</b></p> <p>Explore further enhancements to the Miners Memorial Plaza in Town Park.</p> <p>Refer to page 67 for a conceptual diagram and a detailed list of proposed improvements.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Community</li> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town’s General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town has authority to make improvements to the plaza.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with local artists on creative enhancements to the Miners Memorial Plaza.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with enhancements to the plaza.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of the plaza.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborative process that results in a shared plan for enhancements to the plaza.</li> <li>▪ Number of additional enhancements made to the plaza.</li> <li>▪ Expanded use of the plaza resulting from the improvements made.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the plaza.</li> </ul>

## LOW-LEVEL PRIORITIES | Timeframe: Within Next 15-Years (continued)

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	RESOURCES	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p> <b>Paonia River Park Action 2:</b></p> <p>Design, fabricate, and install supplemental signage in the River Park to educate park users about the impacts of certain activities (e.g., off-leash dogs, not picking up dog waste, etc.) to further protect the river's ecosystem and water quality.</p> <p>Refer to page 86 for additional information regarding the proposed signage.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NFVCC/ Paonia Creative District</li> <li>▪ CPW</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> <li>- Strategic partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town and WSCC authority to make improvements to the River Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued collaboration between the town and WSCC on enhancements to the River Park.</li> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with the NFVCC/Paonia Creative District and/or CPW on additional signage for the River Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town and/or WSCC staff to lead or assist with the design and installation of signage.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of signage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to develop a design for, and/or a contractor to install, additional signage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the design, fabrication, and/or installation of additional signage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of additional signs installed.</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness of the importance of obeying the River Park's rules.</li> <li>▪ Increased compliance with the River Park's rules.</li> <li>▪ Reduced user impacts on the river's ecosystem and water quality.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of the signage in the River Park.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>Old Lagoon Site Action 1:</b></p> <p>Create and implement a detailed plan for the development of the "Old Lagoon Site" (the town-owned property located on the southwest side of Samuel Wade Road). It is recommended that this plan include improved public access to the North Fork of the Gunnison River.</p> <p>A potential concept for the development of the Old Lagoon Site is presented on page 90.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Town</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Community</li> <li>▪ Colorado Brownfields Program (i.e., CDPHE)</li> <li>▪ WSCC</li> <li>▪ CPW</li> </ul>	<p><b>Available:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and private grant programs.</li> <li>- Town's General Fund and/or Conservation Trust Fund.</li> <li>- Colorado Brownfields Program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Jurisdiction/Reg. Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town authority to develop a plan for and make improvements to town-owned property.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Collaboration/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to collaborate with WSCC, CPW, etc. on solutions for mitigating potential impacts to the river corridor.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To lead or assist with the preparation and implementation of a plan for the Old Lagoon Site.</li> <li>- On-going upkeep of any public improvements made.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Outside Support/Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultant to develop a detailed plan for the Old Lagoon Site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the preparation and implementation of a detailed plan for the Old Lagoon Site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborative process that results in a detailed plan for development of the Old Lagoon Site.</li> <li>▪ Successful implementation of the plan for the Old Lagoon Site.</li> <li>▪ Improved public river access.</li> <li>▪ Preservation of the river corridor as wild, riparian habitat.</li> <li>▪ On-going upkeep of any public improvements made in conjunction with the development of the Old Lagoon Site.</li> </ul>



## FEDERAL, STATE & PRIVATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/GRANT PROGRAMS

This Plan notes that there are a number of financial assistance/grant programs for Paonia to explore for funding implementation efforts. Listed on the following pages are programs to be considered. A list of additional grant opportunities can be found at: [https://grantswest.com/colorado\\_grant\\_deadlines](https://grantswest.com/colorado_grant_deadlines). Due to the fluid nature of these programs it will be important to monitor and gather updated information on a regular basis (e.g., annually).

### Federal Financial Assistance/Grant Programs

NAME OF PROGRAM/GRANT	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/GRANT
<b>1. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/assets/hsip">https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/assets/hsip</a>  OR  Traffic Safety & Engineering Services 303.757.9654	The HSIP is a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that funds highway safety projects aimed at reducing fatalities and serious injuries. Colorado's HSIP funds are administered by the Traffic Safety & Engineering Services branch of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).  Bicycle and pedestrian projects (e.g., bike lanes, bike parking, crosswalks and signage) are eligible for HSIP funding. Any improvements funded by HSIP <b>MUST USE</b> crash data to demonstrate that there is a safety issue that the improvements will help to address.
<b>2. USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan &amp; Grant Program (CFDLG)</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/co">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/co</a>  OR  Amy Crick 970.399.8195 <a href="mailto:amy.crick@usda.gov">amy.crick@usda.gov</a>	The USDA's CFDLG Program, in Colorado, is a program that offers affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas (a place with less than 20,000 residents). An essential community facility is defined as "a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings." Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.  The programs funding priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less.</li> <li>▪ Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state non-metropolitan median household income.</li> </ul>

### State Financial Assistance/Grant Programs

NAME OF PROGRAM/GRANT	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/GRANT
<b>1. Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) Grant</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://cdola.colorado.gov/funding-programs/energy/mineral-impact-assistance-fund-grant-eiaf">https://cdola.colorado.gov/funding-programs/energy/mineral-impact-assistance-fund-grant-eiaf</a>  OR  Dana Hlavac 970.903.0230 <a href="mailto:dana.hlavac@state.co.us">dana.hlavac@state.co.us</a>	The EIAF is administered through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). EIAF funds can be used for a variety of public purposes including technical assistance, planning, construction of capital assets, maintenance of public facilities, and the provision of public services. All grants require a 50/50 match, unless financial circumstances warrant a reduction. The most successful applications are those that demonstrate: (1) urgency; (2) local commitment to getting a project done; (3) a high priority for the proposed application; (4) readiness to start work; and (5) a relationship to energy and mineral impact in rural Colorado.  There are three types of EIAF grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Administrative Planning Grants for up to \$25,000.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Tier 1 Grants for up to \$200,000.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Tier 2 Grants for amounts over \$200,000 but not more than \$750,000.</i></li> </ul>
<b>2. Safe Routes to School (SRTS)</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.codot.gov/programs/bikeped/saferoutes">https://www.codot.gov/programs/bikeped/saferoutes</a>  OR  Melissa Houghton 720.307.6704 <a href="mailto:melissa.houghton@state.co.us">melissa.houghton@state.co.us</a>	Colorado's SRTS program uses a comprehensive approach to make walking and biking routes to school safe for children. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) administers Colorado's SRTS program. SRTS funding can be used for two types of projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Infrastructure (capital) such as lighting, street striping, bicycle racks, sidewalks, signing, etc. In addition to these capital improvements, all infrastructure projects must also complete an educational component in their award.</li> <li>▪ Non-Infrastructure (education, encouragement, and enforcement) programs. Education projects may include pedestrian safety training, bicycle safety training. Encouragement may be bike rodeos, walk/bike to school day.</li> </ul>

## State Financial Assistance/Grant Programs (continued)

NAME OF PROGRAM/GRANT	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/GRANT
<b>3. Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/rural-economic-development-initiative">https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/rural-economic-development-initiative</a>  OR  Patrick Garrett 720.403.3865 <a href="mailto:patrick.garrett@state.co.us">patrick.garrett@state.co.us</a>	<p>The REDI program aims to help rural communities comprehensively diversify their local economy and create a more resilient Colorado. The most successful REDI applications are those from towns/cities with fewer than 25,000 people and with projects that are a priority for the community and create and retain jobs through direct or indirect means.</p> <p>There are four categories of projects that are eligible for REDI funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Direct or Indirect Job Creation and Retention.</b> Eligible projects include those that: attract and retain business; support startups or business expansion; or attract new industries. Infrastructure and place-making projects that enable a local government to activate a space for entrepreneurs and businesses; actionable economic development/diversification plans; marketing studies; or consulting services for specific project implementation are also eligible.</li> <li>▪ <b>Capacity Building.</b> Under special circumstances, DOLA will consider funding local economic development capacity. Staff must be tied to a specific outcome, project, and timeline, which contributes to goals of job creation, business attraction/retention, and economic resilience.</li> <li>▪ <b>Economic Resilience.</b> Economic resilience is the ability of a community's economy, and systems that support the economy, to withstand disruption and thrive in the face of change. Eligible projects are those that: build economic resiliency; address local economic disruptions and economic recovery; or result in studies, plans, designs, or plans that support job growth and the systems that draw people to live and work in a community such as childcare, transit, attainable housing, and activated downtowns.</li> <li>▪ <b>Supports Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.</b> Entrepreneurial ecosystems provide trainings, networking opportunities, and infrastructure to support local entrepreneurs. Eligible projects include: accelerator and incubator programs or projects; or infrastructure that supports entrepreneurs (e.g., coworking spaces, maker spaces, innovation centers, etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>4. Colorado State Outdoor Recreation Grant</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-state-outdoor-recreation-grant">https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-state-outdoor-recreation-grant</a>  OR  Matt Nunez 720.812.2181 <a href="mailto:matthew.nunez@state.co.us">matthew.nunez@state.co.us</a>	<p>To assist with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office has roughly \$4 million in competitive grants available to support the outdoor recreation industry throughout Colorado. This recovery program is funded by Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).</p> <p>Projects that are eligible for funding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outdoor recreation infrastructure upgrades.</li> <li>▪ Technical and planning assistance related to outdoor recreation.</li> <li>▪ Marketing and promotion of outdoor recreation events and assets.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor recreation workforce development.</li> <li>▪ Other related outdoor recreation projects.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Grant Programs</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx">https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx</a>  OR  CPW Grants Unit <a href="mailto:DNR_CPW_Grants@state.co.us">DNR_CPW_Grants@state.co.us</a>	<p>CPW has a number of programs to help fund projects developed or led by outside (non-CPW) personnel or groups. Programs are available to assist communities with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning, constructing, and maintaining non-motorized trails.</li> <li>▪ Creating opportunities for underserved youth and their families to get involved in recreational activities.</li> <li>▪ Improving fishing opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Protecting important wildlife habitat and/or providing sustainable wildlife-related recreational access to the public.</li> <li>▪ Wildlife rehabilitation efforts.</li> <li>▪ Protecting wetlands and wetland-dependent wildlife.</li> <li>▪ Maintaining off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail systems.</li> <li>▪ Establishing, improving, or expanding shooting ranges (including archery).</li> <li>▪ Enhancing trails and amenities for snowmobile users.</li> </ul> <p>Focus areas, eligibility requirements, matching fund requirements and other aspects of CPW's grants vary for each program.</p>



## State Financial Assistance/Grant Programs (continued)

NAME OF PROGRAM/GRANT	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/GRANT
<p><b>6. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grant Programs</b></p> <p>For More Information:  <a href="https://goco.org/programs-projects/our-grant-programs">https://goco.org/programs-projects/our-grant-programs</a>  OR  Katie Smith  720.576.2315  <a href="mailto:ksmith@goco.org">ksmith@goco.org</a></p>	<p>Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) offers a variety of grant programs that can be used to fund outdoor recreation and land conservation projects in the state of Colorado. Relevant GOCO grant programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Land Acquisition Grants.</b> Grants that support important landscape, waterway, habitat, and public access land protection priorities. (<a href="https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/land-acquisition">https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/land-acquisition</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Community Impact Grants.</b> Grants used to develop and revitalize parks, trails, school yards, fairgrounds, environmental education facilities, and other outdoor projects that enhance a community's quality of life and access to the outdoors. (<a href="https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/community-impact">https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/community-impact</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>RESTORE Colorado Grants.</b> Grants for improving and restoring Colorado's rivers, wetlands, grasslands, forests, and other critical habitat. (<a href="https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/restore-colorado">https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/restore-colorado</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Stewardship Impact Grants.</b> Grants that support collaborative stewardship work that demonstrates meaningful improvements to ecological and recreational amenities. (<a href="https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/stewardship-impact">https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/stewardship-impact</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Conservation Service Corps Grants.</b> Grants used to employ conservation service corps crews for projects such as trail building, fire mitigation/restoration, and eradicating invasive species. (<a href="https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/conservation-service-corps">https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/conservation-service-corps</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Fellowship Program.</b> A program that supports positions at partner organizations for young people to prepare for careers in the outdoors and gain meaningful experience in the fields of conservation, recreation, and stewardship. (<a href="https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/fellowship-program">https://goco.org/programs-projects/grant-programs/fellowship-program</a>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Colorado Office of Economic Development &amp; International (OEDIT) Trade Programs and Funding</b></p> <p>For More Information:  <a href="https://oedit.colorado.gov/programs-and-funding">https://oedit.colorado.gov/programs-and-funding</a>  OR  303.892.3840  <a href="mailto:oedit.info@state.co.us">oedit.info@state.co.us</a></p>	<p>OEDIT has a number of programs and funding available to support the implementation of this Plan. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Colorado Arts Partnership Grant.</b> This grant helps Colorado schools provide art instruction and can be used to fund a variety of projects including mural or installation projects, arts festivals, performing arts productions, and master classes with guest artists. (<a href="https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-arts-partnership-grant">https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-arts-partnership-grant</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Colorado Rural Academy for Tourism Studio 101.</b> A four-month program and grant opportunity that provides training on integrating tourism into economic development strategies. (<a href="https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-rural-academy-for-tourism-studio-101">https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-rural-academy-for-tourism-studio-101</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Film Festival Support and Promotion Grant.</b> A grant that provides financial support to help communities start and host successful film festivals in Colorado. (<a href="https://oedit.colorado.gov/film-festival-support-promotion-grant">https://oedit.colorado.gov/film-festival-support-promotion-grant</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Tourism Management Grant.</b> A grant provides funding to support projects that develop, enhance, or better manage visitor experiences. (<a href="https://oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-management-grant">https://oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-management-grant</a>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Colorado Brownfields Partnership</b></p> <p>For More Information:  <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/brownfields">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/brownfields</a>  OR  970.340.2959  <a href="mailto:info@cobrownfieldspartnership.org">info@cobrownfieldspartnership.org</a></p>	<p>The Colorado Brownfields Partnership provides communities with access to state programs that support local efforts to assess and/or cleanup brownfields sites. These programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Site Assessments.</b> Available for public and non-profit groups interested in better understanding environmental issues potentially hindering redevelopment of property. (<a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/brownfields">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/brownfields</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Program.</b> Provides public and private property owners with the resources to facilitate cleanups, as well as assurances against regulatory enforcement. (<a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/voluntary-cleanup">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/voluntary-cleanup</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Revolving Loan Fund.</b> Financing for the cleanup of unused or underused contaminated properties. (<a href="https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/brownfields-revolving-loan-fund">https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/brownfields-revolving-loan-fund</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Grants &amp; Tax Credits.</b> Grant funds or tax credits to assist with/incentivize the remediation of properties that contain environmental hazards. (<a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/brownfields">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/brownfields</a>)</li> </ul>

## Private Financial Assistance/Grant Programs

NAME OF PROGRAM/GRANT	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/GRANT
<b>1. AARP Community Challenge Grant</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/">https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/</a>  OR <a href="mailto:CommunityChallenge@AARP.org">CommunityChallenge@AARP.org</a>	<p>The AARP Community Challenge grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide “Livable Communities” initiative. AARP’s grant program is intended to help communities make immediate improvements and jump-start long-term progress in support of residents of all ages.</p> <p>Grant funds can be used for projects related to: creating vibrant public spaces; delivering a range of transportation and mobility options; supporting the availability of a range of housing options; or, the demonstration of the tangible values of being a “Smart City” (i.e., using data to increase quality of life).</p> <p>The grant program is open to: 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations; government entities; and, other types of organizations considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><i>Since 2017, the average grant amount has been \$11,500 and the largest grant awarded was \$50,000. AARP reserves the right to award compelling projects of any dollar amount.</i></p>
<b>2. National Association of Realtors (NAR) Placemaking Program and Grant</b>  For More Information: <a href="http://www.realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/placemaking">http://www.realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/placemaking</a>  OR Catherine Mesick <a href="mailto:PlacemakingGrants@nar.realtor">PlacemakingGrants@nar.realtor</a>	<p>This grant is intended to fund the creation of new, outdoor public spaces and destinations in a community. Grant funding is only available to state and local REALTOR® Associations.</p> <p>There are two levels of grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Level 1 Grants.</b> Grant funds can be used for demonstration and temporary projects to provide an opportunity to test the viability of permanent projects that increase community livability and downtown revitalization. Types of projects eligible for Level 1 Grants include temporary parklets, parks, pedestrian plazas, or bike lanes. <i>Level 1 Grant requests can be for up to \$1,500.</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Level 2 Grants.</b> Grant funds can be used to fund the creation of new public spaces and destinations in a community accessible to everyone and open at all, or most, times. Types of projects eligible for Level 2 Grants include new parks, pocket parks, plazas, parklets, alley activations, trails, dog parks, play/fitness areas, or community gardens. <i>Level 2 Grant requests can be for up to \$5,000.</i></li> </ul> <p>An association can be approved for one Level 1 and one Level 2 grant per year.</p>
<b>3. The Trail Fund Program</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.americantrails.org/the-trail-fund">https://www.americantrails.org/the-trail-fund</a>  OR <a href="mailto:trailfund@americantrails.org">trailfund@americantrails.org</a>	<p>The Trail Fund is administered by the Trails Move People Coalition, a diverse coalition of trail user groups, led by American Trails, and offers grants for three priorities issues: (1) trail maintenance; (2) trail research and data collection; and (3) stewardship training.</p> <p>The Trail Fund offers grants on an annual cycle, typically available in the Spring, and the total amount of funding available and number of grants awarded varies from year to year.</p> <p><i>Grants typically range from \$2,000 to \$15,000.</i></p>
<b>4. National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town Grant</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/grant-program-description">https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/grant-program-description</a>  OR <a href="mailto:OT@arts.gov">OT@arts.gov</a>	<p>Our Town is the NEAs’ creative placemaking grants program. Through project-based funding, the program supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes.</p> <p>Types of project eligible for the Our Town Grant include: arts festivals; temporary or permanent displays of public art; the design of a building or space dedicated to creating and/or showcasing arts and culture; or the design of elements of infrastructure or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, and artist-produced streetscape elements).</p> <p>These projects require a partnership between a local government entity and nonprofit organization. One of these must be a cultural organization and should engage in partnership with other sectors such as agriculture and food, economic development, education and youth, environment and energy, health, housing, public safety, transportation, and workforce development.</p> <p><i>Grants range from \$25,000 to \$150,000, with a minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount.</i></p>



## Private Financial Assistance/Grant Programs (continued)

NAME OF PROGRAM/GRANT	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/GRANT
<b>5. Gates Family Foundation</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/strategic-priorities/vibrant-communities/">https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/strategic-priorities/vibrant-communities/</a>  OR  Lisa Rucker 303.722.1881 <a href="mailto:lrucker@gatesfamilyfoundation.org">lrucker@gatesfamilyfoundation.org</a>	<p>The Gates Family Foundation offers a number of grant opportunities. One of the foundation's strategic priorities is "Vibrant Communities." Under this priority, the Gates Family Foundation offers grants for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-Modal Mobility</li> <li>▪ Placemaking</li> <li>▪ Economic Opportunity</li> <li>▪ Community Planning</li> <li>▪ Informed Communities</li> <li>▪ Food Systems</li> </ul> <p>The Gates Family Foundation supports Vibrant Communities by making available the following types of grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Strategic Grants</b> (<a href="https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/types-of-support/strategic-grants/">https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/types-of-support/strategic-grants/</a>)</li> <li>▪ <b>Capital Grants</b> (<a href="https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/types-of-support/capital-grants/">https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/types-of-support/capital-grants/</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>6. Anschutz Family Foundation</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://anschutzfamilyfoundation.org/our-grantmaking/">https://anschutzfamilyfoundation.org/our-grantmaking/</a>  OR  303.293.2338 <a href="mailto:info@anschutzfamily.org">info@anschutzfamily.org</a>	<p>The Anschutz Family Foundation accepts online grant applications twice a year during its spring and fall funding cycle. Grant requests must be for activities in Colorado and that fit within one or more of the foundation's funding areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth Development &amp; Outdoor Programs</li> <li>▪ Community &amp; Capacity Building</li> <li>▪ Early Childhood Development</li> <li>▪ Senior Programs</li> <li>▪ People with Disabilities</li> <li>▪ Self-Sufficiency, Families &amp; Literacy</li> <li>▪ Homeless &amp; Disadvantaged</li> <li>▪ Crisis Intervention</li> </ul> <p><i>Grants typically range between \$5,000 to \$10,000.</i></p>
<b>7. Boettcher Foundation</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://boettcherfoundation.org/grants-overview/">https://boettcherfoundation.org/grants-overview/</a>  OR  Nancy Hershfield <a href="mailto:nancy@peopleforbikes.org">nancy@peopleforbikes.org</a>	<p>The Boettcher Foundation has two priority areas with three annual funding cycles. Those priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Transformational Initiatives.</b> The Boettcher Foundation looks to invest in organizations and initiatives that strive to innovate and create positive change in Colorado communities.</li> <li>▪ <b>Community Connections.</b> The Boettcher Foundation also looks to invest in initiatives or infrastructure projects that bring together, support, or deepen the connections between individuals and/or organizations</li> </ul> <p><i>Historically, grants have ranged from \$25,000 to \$75,000.</i></p>
<b>8. Daniels Fund</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.danielsfund.org/grants/overview">https://www.danielsfund.org/grants/overview</a>  OR  Owen McAleer 720.941.4464 <a href="mailto:OMcAleer@DanielsFund.org">OMcAleer@DanielsFund.org</a>	<p>The Daniels Fund has defined two regions in Colorado- the Front Range and Colorado Outstate - each with its own unique grantmaking strategies and objectives. For the Colorado Outstate region, the Fund's grantmaking approach emphasizes the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilities that accommodate and encourage community gatherings, such as senior centers, youth centers, and community sports complexes.</li> <li>▪ Collaborative initiatives and partnerships working to achieve community-wide results.</li> <li>▪ Youth programs, especially those that focus on career and technical education, and entrepreneurship.</li> <li>▪ Programs that have regional impact, address community challenges at the systemic level, and/or generate strong local support from the community.</li> <li>▪ Proven programs that deliver prevention education and/or treatment for substance addiction.</li> </ul>
<b>9. US Bank Community Possible Grant</b>  For More Information: <a href="https://www.usbank.com/about-us-bank/community/community-possible-grant-program.html">https://www.usbank.com/about-us-bank/community/community-possible-grant-program.html</a>  OR  866.366.7072 <a href="mailto:usbanksupport@cybergrants.com">usbanksupport@cybergrants.com</a>	<p>Through the Community Possible Grant Program, US Bank partners with organizations that focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>PLAY.</b> Creating vibrant communities through arts, culture, and places to play.</li> <li>▪ <b>WORK.</b> Supporting workforce education and prosperity.</li> <li>▪ <b>HOME.</b> Working to revitalize communities through safe and affordable housing.</li> </ul> <p>Organizations must be based in, and serve, designated US Bank communities. When considering funding US Bank prioritizes organizations that focus on more than one of the issues listed above.</p>

## ■ CROWDFUNDING PLATFORMS

Information about options for crowdfunding platforms to consider to support implementation projects is offered below. The National Recreation and Park Association offers a “NRPA Crowdfunding Toolkit” that can be accessed at: <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/51120e425b4846f2b59b910a30ae7753/crowd-funding-toolkit.pdf>

CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM	DESCRIPTION OF PLATFORM	FOR MORE INFORMATION
1. Patronicity	Patronicity is an organization that works with communities to create online crowdfunding campaigns for public improvement projects. These campaigns not only provided valuable income for projects (that may be beyond the budgets of cash-strapped municipal governments) but also provide incredible community building experiences that bring people together in support of improving the livability of their community.	<a href="https://www.patronicity.com/#/">https://www.patronicity.com/#/</a>
2. Ioby	Ioby stands for “in our backyards,” but it also stands for taking care of each other, for civic participation, and for trusting neighbors to know what’s best for the neighborhood. Ioby is an organization that gives local leaders the ability to crowdfund the resources they need to build real, lasting change from the ground up. Their crowdfunding platform helps connect local leaders with support and funding from their communities.	<a href="https://www.ioby.org/">https://www.ioby.org/</a>
3. Plumfund	Plumfund’s fundraising website allows anyone to raise money online for community projects. It’s simple: (1) create a Plumfund campaign; (2) spread the word; and, (3) start collecting funds. Plumfund offers no platform fees and very low transaction fees.	<a href="https://www.plumfund.com/community-crowdfunding/">https://www.plumfund.com/community-crowdfunding/</a>
4. StartSomeGood	StartSomeGood is an organization that supports your cause-driven crowdfunding efforts, innovative partnerships and social entrepreneur education. Whether big or small, if you have an idea to change your world, or want to support people who do, StartSomeGood can help. StartSomeGood will work with you to refine your story, identify your target market and plan your outreach strategy.	<a href="https://startsomegood.com/">https://startsomegood.com/</a>

## ■ GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATION	TERM/DEFINITION
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CIP	Capital Improvements Plan
CIRSA	Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency
CPW	Colorado Parks & Wildlife
CR	County Road
Delta County	Delta County Staff, Elected Officials, and/or Appointed Officials
Federal Programs/Grants	Federal Agency Financial Assistance and Grant Programs (refer to page 115)
HOA	Homeowners Association
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement
NFTAG	North Fork Trails Advocacy Group



## ■ GLOSSARY (continued)

ABBREVIATION	TERM/DEFINITION
NFPPRD	North Fork Pool, Park, and Recreation District
NFVCC	North Fork Valley Creative Coalition
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
Planning Region 10	Encompasses Garfield County; Mesa County; Moffat County; Rio Blanco County; and, Routt County.
Police Department	Town of Paonia Police Department
Private Programs/Grants	Private Organization Financial Assistance and Grant Programs (refer to pages 118-119)
Public Works	Town of Paonia Public Works Department
Reg. Authority	Regulatory Authority
RFP	Request for Proposals
SDO	Colorado State Demography Office
SH-133	State Highway 133
State Programs/Grants	State of Colorado Financial Assistance and Grant Programs (refer to pages 115-117)
Town	Town of Paonia Staff, Elected Officials, and/or Appointed Officials
USFS	United States Forest Service
WSCC	Western Slope Conservation Center

## ■ DEFINITIONS

GRASP® OUTDOOR COMPONENT TYPE	DEFINITION
Basketball Court	A dedicated full-sized outdoor court with two goals.
Basketball, Practice	A basketball goal for half-court play or practice. Includes goals in spaces associated with other uses.
Climbing, Designated	A designated climbing feature or structure designed specifically for climbing activities. May include specific child play features.
Climbing, General	Indicates allowance for users to participate in a climbing activity. Receives a quantity of one for each park or other location.
Concession	A facility used for the selling, rental, or other provision of goods and services to the public.
Diamond Field	Describes softball and baseball fields of all kinds suitable for organized diamond sport games. Not specific to size or age-appropriateness.
Diamond Field, Complex	Multiple ballfields at a single location suitable for tournaments.
Diamond Field, Practice	Describes any size of grassy area used for practice. Distinguished from ballfield in that it doesn't lend itself to organized diamond sport games. Distinguished from open turf by the presence of a backstop.
Disc Golf	Describes a designated area that is used for disc golf. Quantities: 18 hole course = 1; 9 hole course = .5
Educational Experience	Signs, structures, or features that provide an educational, cultural, or historic experience. Receives a quantity of one for each contiguous site. Distinguished from public art by presence of interpretive signs or other information.
Event Space	A designated area or facility for an outdoor class, performance, or special event including amphitheater, band shell, stage, etc.
Fitness Course	One or more features intended for personal fitness activities. Receives a quantity of one for each complete grouping.
Game Court	Outdoor court designed for a game other than tennis, basketball, volleyball, as distinguished from a multi-use pad including bocce, shuffleboard, lawn bowling, etc. Type specified in comments. Quantity counted per court.

## ■ DEFINITIONS (continued)

GRASP® OUTDOOR COMPONENT TYPE	DEFINITION
Garden, Community	Describes any garden area that provides community members a place to have a personal vegetable or flower garden.
Historic Feature	A feature that is historic in nature but does not include interpretation or educational elements.
Loop Walk	Opportunity to complete a circuit on foot or by non-motorized travel mode. Suitable for use as an exercise circuit or for leisure walking. Quantity of one for each park or other location unless more than one distinct circuit is present.
Multi-Use Pad	A paved area that is painted with games such as hopscotch, 4 square, tetherball, etc. Often found in school yards. As distinguished from “Games Court “ which is typically single use.
Open Turf	A grassy area that is not suitable for programmed field sports due to size, slope, location or physical obstructions. May be used for games of catch, tag, or other informal play and uses that require an open grassy area.
Passive Node	A place that is designed to create a pause or special focus within a park and includes seating areas, plazas, overlooks, etc. Not intended for programmed use.
Pickleball Court	A designated court designed primarily for pickleball play.
Picnic Ground	A designated area with a grouping of picnic tables suitable for organized picnic activities. Individual picnic tables are accounted for as Comfort and Convenience modifiers.
Playground, Destination	Playground that attracts families from the entire community. Typically has restrooms and parking on-site. May include special features like a climbing wall, spray feature, or adventure play.
Playground, Local	Playground that is intended to serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Includes developed playgrounds and designated nature play areas. Park generally does not have restrooms or on-site parking.
Public Art	Any art installation on public property. Receives a quantity of one for each contiguous site.
Rectangular Field, Large	A field large enough to host one adult rectangular field sport game such as soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. Approximate field size is 180’ x 300’ (60 x 100 yards). Field may have goals and lining specific to a certain sport that may change with permitted use.
Rectangular Field, Multiple	A large open grassy area that can be arranged in any manner of configurations for any number of rectangular field sports. Sports may include, but are not limited to: soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. Field may have goals and lining specific to a certain sport that may change with use.
Rectangular Field, Small	Accommodates at least one youth field sport game but too small to for a regulation adult field sport. Sports may include, but are not limited to: soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. Field may have goals and lining specific to a certain sport that may change with permitted use.
Shelter, Large	A shade shelter or pavilion large enough to accommodate a group picnic or other event for a minimum of 13 seated whether or not benches or picnic tables are provided.
Shelter, Small	A shade shelter, large enough to accommodate a family picnic or other event for approximately 4-12 persons with seating for a minimum of 4. Covered benches for seating up to 4 people included as a modifier in comfort and convenience scoring and should not be included here.
Skate Feature	A stand-alone feature primarily for wheel sports such as skateboarding, in-line skating, etc. May or may not allow free-style biking. May be associated with a playground but is not part of it. Dedicated bike facilities are categorized as “Bike Course.”
Skate Park	An area set aside primarily for wheel sports such as skateboarding, in-line skating, etc. Attracts users from the entire community. May or may not allow free-style biking. May be specific to one user group or allow for several user types. Can accommodate multiple users of varying abilities. Typically has a variety of concrete or modular features.
Tennis Court	One regulation court suitable for recreation and/or competitive play. Quick Start or other non-standard types specified in comments.
Tennis, Practice Wall	A wall intended for practicing tennis.
Track, Athletic	A multi-lane, regulation sized running track appropriate for track and field events.
Trail Access Point	A location that allows trail access but has limited other amenities more often association with a trailhead.

## ■ DEFINITIONS (continued)

GRASP® OUTDOOR COMPONENT TYPE	DEFINITION
Trail, Primitive	An unpaved trail that provides recreational opportunities or connections to users. Minimal surface improvements that may or may not meet accessibility standards.
Trailhead	A designated staging area at a trail access point. May include restrooms, an information kiosk, parking, drinking water, trash receptacles, seating, etc.
Volleyball Court	One full-sized court. May be hard or soft surface, including grass and sand. May have permanent or portable posts and nets.
Wall Ball Court	Walled courts associated with sports such as handball and racquetball. Type specified in comments.
Water Access, Developed	A developed water access point including docks, piers, kayak courses, boat ramps, fishing facilities, etc. Specified in comments including quantity.
Water Access, General	The general ability to access the edge of open water. May include undeveloped shoreline. Typically receives quantity of one for each contiguous site.
Water, Open	A body of water such as a pond, stream, river, wetland with open water, lake, or reservoir.

## ■ PHOTO CREDITS

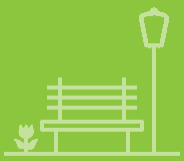
PAGE	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO CREDIT
12	Photographs of PIM community engagement activities.	Western Slope Consulting
34	Photographs of Apple Valley Park, Town Park, Paonia River Park, and Volunteer Park	Western Slope Consulting
34	Photograph of community event in Poulos Park posted to Paonia In Motion website.	Unknown
36-47	Aerial images of Paonia's parks, school campuses, and naturals areas.	Delta County
60	Photograph of Town Park along 5th Street.	Google Earth
60-67	Photographs of Town Park.	Western Slope Consulting
61	Photograph of prefabricated restroom building.	publicrestroomcompany.com
67	Photograph of Mountain Harvest Festival.	mountainharvestfestival.org
67	Photograph of Miners Memorial Plaza.	Town of Paonia
69-74	Photographs of Apple Valley Park.	Western Slope Consulting
70, 71	Photographs of the eastern end of Vista Drive and Pan American Avenue.	Google Earth
76	Photographs of P-Hill.	Western Slope Consulting
86	Photograph of waterless prefabricated restroom building.	romtec.com
88	Photograph of StoryWalk® sign.	Delta County Independent
88, 89	Photograph of Grand Avenue and Mathews Lane.	Google Earth
87, 90	Photographs of town-owned properties.	Western Slope Consulting
90	Rendering of wayfinding signage.	Paonia Creative District

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## PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

