



**CITY OF LARAMIE**  
**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
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January 22, 2016

To: All Interested Parties  
Fr: Paul Harrison, Parks and Recreation Director   
Re: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

In March of 2011 the Council approved Resolution 2011-25 creating a citizen Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to assist with the completion of a Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan for the City and all City owned properties. In June of 2011 the Council appointed eleven citizen volunteer members to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee has held regular meetings, typically twice per month since their kickoff meeting on July 28, 2011 for a total of over 81 public meetings developing the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**The Parks and Recreation Master Plan:**

The following vision statements below are the framework and inspiration approved by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

1. Provide equitable parks and recreation services and opportunities to all areas and people of the community.
2. Develop a parks, trails, recreation and natural areas system that is specific to Laramie and the surrounding community.
3. Establish new parks in conjunction with proposed development or in areas of park deficiency; parks should be considered no different than other vital infrastructure, such as streets, sidewalks and utilities.
4. Improve the visual appearance of our community through beautification of City-owned areas by improving their recreational and natural area qualities.
5. Provide for the future needs of the community in relation to parks, recreation, trails and natural areas through sound planning and visionary foresight.
6. Establish a funding mechanism that provides for parks, recreation, trails and natural areas that adequately serves the population, based on population growth and development pressures.
7. Provide for a continuous mobility loop around (and throughout) the community for off-street bike and pedestrian paths that allow users to access parks, recreation and natural areas.
8. City and Albany County should work together to secure permanent access east of the City to ensure preservation of the natural areas, and at a minimum access to the National Forest.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is 481 pages beginning with the executive summary, six chapters and appendices that detail the major elements within the Plan that include Parks and Recreation Service Areas; Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment; and Parks and Facilities Analysis.

Chapters one, two and three are the essential background information for the Plan, and include the benefits of the Plan, the relationships to other Plans and Codes, the population and demographics of Laramie, and the history of Parks and Recreation in Laramie.

**Chapter four** details the Parks, Trails, Recreation and Natural Area classifications, standards and service levels.

**Chapter five** details the revision of park service areas and needs assessment by both current population and future population projections along with spatial analysis.

**Chapter six** details the current state of parks and recreation facilities analysis and future needs.

**The Approval/Adoption Process:**

Following the over 81 Ad Hoc Committee meetings, countless edits, revisions and updates to the Plan, staff, at the direction of the Ad Hoc Committee began the approval and adoption process under the premise that the Plan as developed, is a good planning document for the Laramie community and that the City of Laramie Comprehensive Plan and the Albany County Comprehensive Plan supports the need for long range Parks and Recreation planning. At that time, the draft Master Plan still contained elements located both inside City limits and outside City limits but within 1-mile extraterritorial area of the City. On May 5, 2015 City staff presented the draft Master Plan to the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. At this meeting the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Ad Hoc Advisory Committee recommended approval of the plan. Following the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Ad Hoc Advisory Committee the draft Master Plan was brought before the Laramie Planning Commission on August 24, 2015. At their August 24, 2015 meeting the Laramie Planning Commission remanded the draft Master Plan back to the Ad Hoc Committee with the following recommendations:

1. Removal in their entirety the three service areas (listed below) in the one-mile extraterritorial area and all references to them:
  - a. Service Area 23
  - b. Service Area 24
  - c. Service Area 25
2. Removal of all future extraterritorial needs text boxes on the maps.
3. Removal of all numbered interface area icons on the maps and in the text.
4. Removal of all text references throughout the Master Plan document that relates to areas outside the City limits.
5. And direct staff to work with the County to come up with a Parks and Recreation Plan for the extraterritorial area.

On September 30, 2015 the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee met to consider the recommendations of the Planning Commission. At their meeting, the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee generally recommended approval of the Planning Commission's August 24, 2015 recommendations. Items 2, 3, 4 & 5 were approved by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee as recommended. Item 1 was also approved as recommended, however instead of "removal in their entirety" the service areas were retained as placeholders within the document, however all recommendations (except one standard recommendation) and information related to the Service Areas were stripped out. The only information retained in these Service Areas were background information related to total needs based on total area and projected population (no future elements remained) along with the recommendation that the City and County work together to develop future Parks and Recreation needs in these Service Areas. Finally, the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee recommended a table be added to the Plan that provided an overview of the whole community related to total area and projected population. To be clear, elements outside City Limits still exist within the draft Master Plan, however those elements that reference property outside City Limits only remain on City owned property.

With these revisions now complete, the draft Master Plan is ready for public inspection and will begin the review process within the next month. As noted during the first attempt at approval, the

City will bring this draft Master Plan through the approval process as defined in Wyoming State Statutes. The staff anticipates the approval process to start with the Parks, Tree, and Recreation Advisory Board, then to the City of Laramie Planning Commission and then concluding with the Laramie City Council as detailed below:

- City's Parks, Tree and Recreation Advisory Board - Wednesday February 10, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the large conference room at the Laramie Recreation Center, 920 Boulder Drive
- City's Planning Commission – Monday February 22, 2016 at 4:30 pm in the City Council Chambers, 406 Ivinson Street
- City Council Regular Meeting – Tuesday March 1, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the City Council Chambers, 406 Ivinson Street

If the City's Planning Commission adopts the Plan and the Council certifies the Planning Commission's adoption, the City will forward the adopted Plan to the Albany County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Albany County Commissioners for possible concurrence of the Plan due to the Parks and Recreation elements denoted on City owned property outside of the City Limits.

The draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be viewed on line at the City of Laramie website ([www.cityoflaramie.org](http://www.cityoflaramie.org)) and can be viewed in hard copy at the following locations: City of Laramie Annex (405 Grand Avenue), Laramie Community Recreation Center (920 Boulder Drive) and Albany County Public Library (310 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street). Public comments to the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be emailed to [PTRMasterPlan@cityoflaramie.org](mailto:PTRMasterPlan@cityoflaramie.org).

If you have any further questions or concerns on the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan, please contact my office at your convenience.

Cc: Laramie City Council  
Parks, Trails and Recreation Ad Hoc Advisory Committee  
Janine Jordan, City Manager  
Todd Feezer, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation  
Derek Teini, Principal Planner