



CITY OF  
**THORNTON**

# Parks, Recreation, & Community Programs Visioning Plan Update

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April 22, 2025, Council Update Session

## Purpose

To provide Council with an update to the departments' Visioning Plan Initiative.

## Agenda

Parks play a crucial role in stabilizing neighborhoods and influence families in deciding where they want to live, work, and play.

- Purpose
- Deliverables (System review)
- Internal review of operations
- Current Status
- Remaining Work

# Prior division plans

Park & Open Space  
Arts & Culture  
Active Adults

*What should  
Thornton's Parks,  
Recreation &  
Community Programs  
Department look like  
in 20-years?  
How do we get  
there?*



## System Plan Deliverables

- Asset Inventory
- Equitable distribution of park amenities
- National Standards comparisons
  - Trust for Public Lands
  - National Recreation & Park Assoc.
- Park definitions & design standards
- Recreation program gap analysis and programming plan
- Survey data review and analysis (2020 and 2023 comparisons)
- Relation to Comprehensive Plan

## Organizational Review Deliverables

“Tell us what’s  
missing and not  
how to do it.”

Recommendations to create framework for the department in understanding our internal operational strengths and weaknesses (policies, procedures, data sets, etc.)

Department recommended action steps:

- Establish process to inventory flora & fauna
- Establish process to identify historically significant locations, structures, etc.
- Develop procedure to activate non-potable ponds for recreation
- Develop procedure to create asset management and lifecycle replacement plans
- Establish a methodology for fee development

# Current Status

## **Data Collection & Review Completed:**

- Asset Inventory
- Local comparison on amenities
- Local comparison on fees & charges

## **Community Engagement Starting:**

- Marketing and Outreach Strategy
- Technical Advisory & Citizen User groups
- Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC)
- Presentations to other Boards & Commissions
- Surveys

# Remaining Work

Benchmarks (how do we compare):

- Trust for Public Lands
- National Recreational & Parks Association
- Local Comparisons

Capital Improvement Program Prioritization

Events & Festivals Prioritization

Incorporation of Comprehensive Trail and Arts & Culture Master Plans

Identifying department data collection needs

Recommended short-term, mid-term and long-term action steps

Relationship of plan elements to Comprehensive Plan

Final report and recommendations