

# ReCreate: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, City of Ft. Collins

## Sustainability and Environmental Planning Merit Award

[Website](#)

Fort Collins is known for its natural beauty, robust bicycle network, and outdoor recreation. Biking along the Poudre River Trail for fresh air or to commute. Walking into the foothills to decompress or to learn. Playing ball for the championship or between neighbors. Taking a dip to cool off or to maintain agility. Sliding through a grain silo or a sugar beet. Tree-lined streets becoming festival grounds. Public spaces are part of what makes Fort Collins Fort Collins. They attract residents and entice them to stay.

With exceptional natural resources, charm, and high quality of life, Fort Collins is expected to continue growing by nearly 40% between 2020 and 2040. In order to sustain Fort Collins's environmental assets, commitment to health and wellness, and overall quality of life, parks and recreation must keep up.

*RēCreate: Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is helping city parks and recreation become more sustainable through its holistic view, realistic accounting of benefits and costs, and commitment to equity.

### **A Holistic View**

Looking out 10 to 20 years, RēCreate sets a vision for how the City can help residents sustain and build wellness, curiosity, innovation, and community. It aligns the efforts of the various departments that manage parks, trails, and recreation facilities—as well as those that manage community gardens, natural areas, and stormwater utilities that contribute to the city's iconic, interconnected public space system. It acknowledges that parks and recreation are part of this holistic system that spans the natural and the designed, the big and the small, the urban and the suburban, but together brings beauty and a sense of place to Fort Collins.

While each part of the system has a different purpose, vision, and management structure, nature does not respect administrative boundaries, and residents' experiences should be seamless.

### **A Realistic Accounting of Benefits and Costs**

RēCreate provides a road map to making the best use of City resources. It acknowledges that parks and recreation provide immense value and offer benefits that touch each of the outcome areas used by City administrators for budgeting and tracking progress. An investment in parks and recreation is an investment in all of the city's priorities.

The plan outlines facility and program life cycles so that there is a transparent process for evaluating performance to inform realistic budgeting. All capital facilities and programs were evaluated to create an accurate snapshot of capital needs and opportunities for filling gaps.

### **A Commitment to Equity**

As RēCreate rethinks, renews, and reimagines parks and recreation in Fort Collins, the City remains committed to equity. The planning process engaged a representative cross-section of residents, and equity is interwoven

throughout the plan to ensure all community members benefit. It is evident in the plan's level of service metrics ensuring access to recreational amenities across the city. It is evident in recommendations to expand equitable program pricing strategies. It is evident in proposing that the City proactively and consistently engage with neighbors on future projects so that public space reflects their needs and values.