

YEAR-END REVIEW 2020

Salida Parks and Recreation



SALIDA
Colorado





MISSION STATEMENT

To offer park and recreation services which are essential to the health and well-being of those who live, work and play in Salida. We do this through the provision and facilitation of parks, recreation, open spaces, and trails while working cooperatively with other service providers in order to maximize our common resources.

OVERVIEW

2020 was an unprecedented year for Salida Parks and Recreation. New leadership, a new Department Master Plan, staff reorganization, and the COVID-19 global pandemic all played a role in what the Department achieved. This year brought new priorities to the forefront of the Department's vision. Chief among those was ensuring that both our staff and our guests stayed safe and healthy. While we focused on community health, we also progressed towards the new goals set out by the Master Plan. We were able to spend time building administrative infrastructure that will help the new department flourish and succeed in the years to come. 2020 was a unique year and we are pleased to present you with this year-end review.

OBJECTIVE

Our year-end review highlights the accomplishments and steps the Department is taking towards our goals. These goals were set out by the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan and are laid out in detail over the next few pages. These goals include, Organizational Resilience, a Healthy Salida, Quality Infrastructure, Access and Equity, Connection through Recreation, and Community/Collaboration. We believe that these goals will improve the lives of all who live, work and play in Salida and would like to highlight the progress we've made towards all of those achievements this year.



P.R.O.S.T. MASTER PLAN

In January of 2020, Salida adopted a new Master Plan for our Parks, Recreation Open Space, and Trails. The City of Salida and the consulting company, 110%, had been working together for 8 months to put together this Master Plan that will provide a vision and direction for the future of Salida. This Master Plan was influenced by four public meetings with over 350 attendees, 12 staff and community focus groups, an online survey with more than 400 responses, and work sessions with Department staff members.

The 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes an analysis of the community's Parks and Recreation system's key issues. It includes the current conditions as well as demographic factors and trends; six recommended operating principles that emerged from the planning process including policy statements; concept plans for the City's two gateway parks, Centennial and Marvin; and a three-year action plan with desired outcomes to create momentum and set the stage for the future.

Essentially, the Master Plan was designed to be a flexible, high-level framework from which the Department can begin to best serve the community's needs and interests and be responsible stewards of resources including physical assets and tax dollars.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE

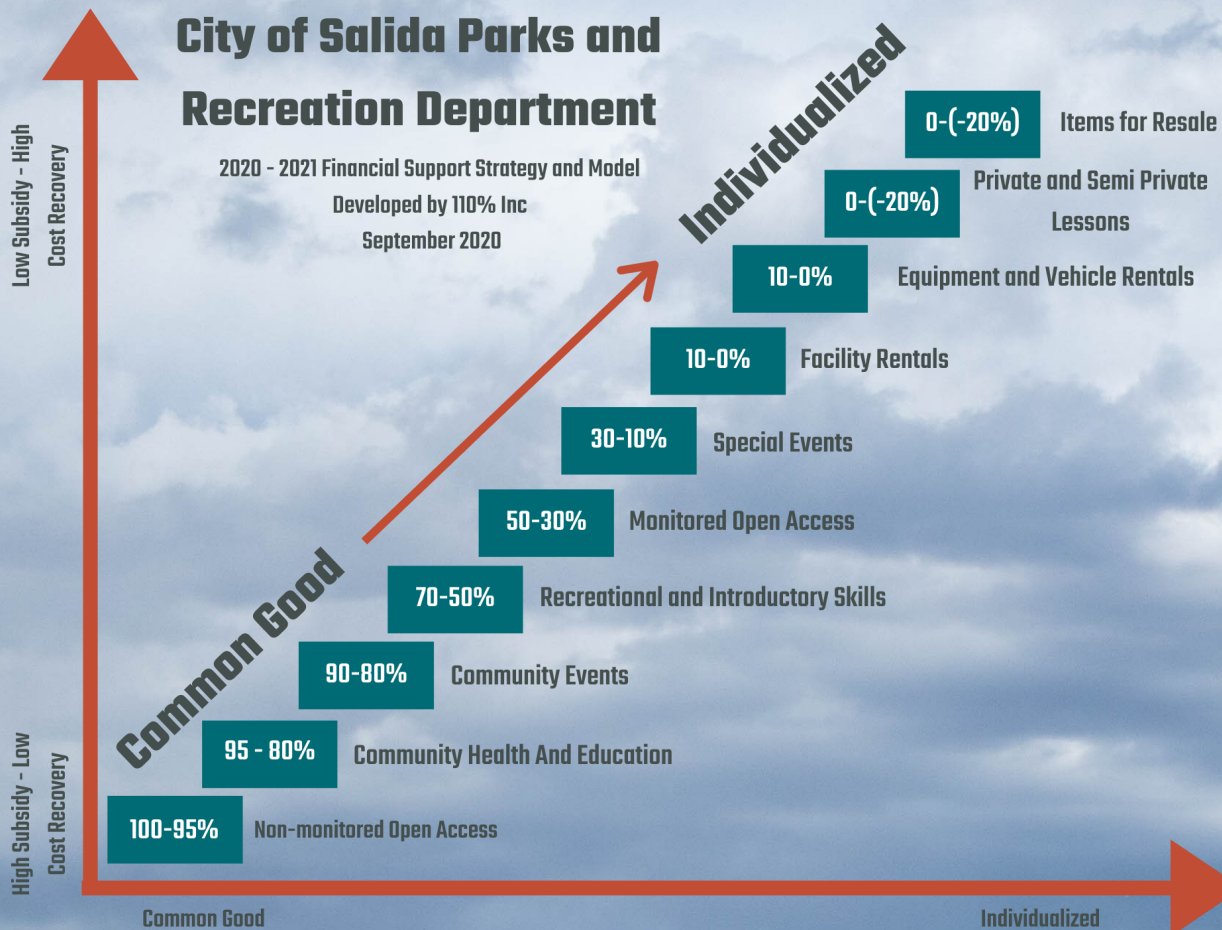
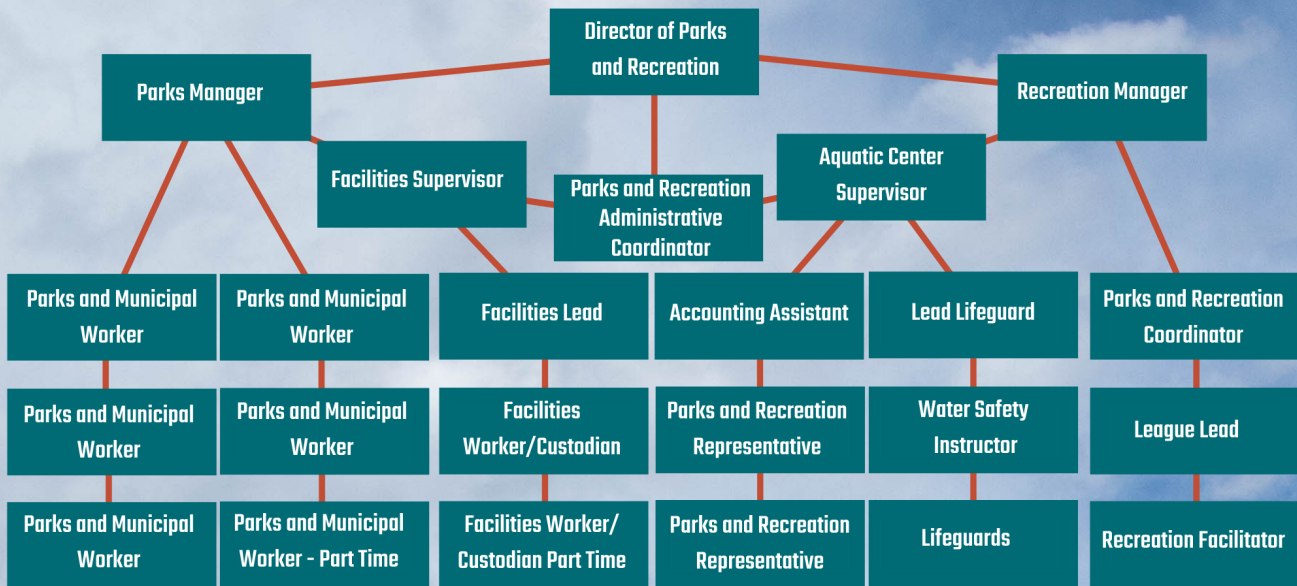
With the guidance of the 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Department underwent a financial support analysis. This process helped create a financial support philosophy and strategy for our organization. It provided useful tools and methods so that our Department can get to work and begin strengthening our commitment to financial discipline. The outcome of this analysis was a clear path forward on how tax dollars are spent, how services are priced, and how to address the changing social and political climate in Salida.

Another recommendation of the Master Plan was to dissolve the existing Recreation Advisory Board to create the more encompassing, Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) advisory board. The mission of the board is to guide the Parks and Recreation Department and Council in making decisions that affect the Department and the greater recreational community.

Quickly thereafter, the Parks and Recreation Department had the opportunity to restructure our Department in accordance with the Master Plan. This allowed us to work more efficiently as well as, reflecting the function and size of the recently formed Department.



City of Salida Parks and Recreation Department





A HEALTHY SALIDA

As the City of Salida closed down in March, the Parks and Recreation Department stepped up to provide support for Salidans to recreate outside and inside their homes.

The Recreation Division put on a “10k a day” program for the month of May to encourage Salidans to walk 10,000 steps a day. The division also enrolled the help of our staff to put on weekly Live Stream classes that ranged from Zumba to Self-Acupressure and partnered with local gyms to have socially distanced work out classes in our parks.

Our Parks crew was hard at work all summer to sanitize our playgrounds, remove trash and keep our outside parks, trail and open spaces maintained. We saw an increase in the use of our outdoor amenities and stepped up to meet the needs of our community. Our Department reallocated lifeguards as Parks attendants to answer questions, pick up trash and tend to potential sanitation needs.





QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Parks and Recreation Department was able to focus its efforts on infrastructure and new projects to improve the quality of life in Salida. The Parks and Recreation Department was awarded the Go Outdoors Colorado Grant and the Skatepark Project grant to build a 14,000 square foot skatepark. With the support of our community partner, Friends of Salida Skateparks, the Department began construction at Centennial Park this November and expects to finish in the summer of 2021.

During the beginning of the pandemic in March, the Aquatic Center closed and staff worked behind the scenes for several months to complete facility upgrades and implement new procedures that meet, or exceed, COVID-19 health guidelines. Some of those projects included deep cleaning of the entire facility, implementing a new registration software, creating a new COVID friendly front desk and lobby, upgraded the locker rooms and signage.

Other notable projects completed throughout this year include:

- Designed and installed Sonia's Memorial Garden which includes flagstone walks, a meditation garden, pergola, utilities and irrigation upgrades.
- The Riverside Park climbing wall was cleaned, repaired and repainted.
- Upgraded the Office Wave
- Parallel parking, drainage structures and sidewalks were added along Holman Avenue at Centennial Park
- Centennial courts saw improvements for parking, sidewalks, and electrical upgrades.
- The Loyal Duke Dog Park received new dog agility equipment with the assistance of a Scout Eagle Project
- A major clean up, the installation of a new batting cage and new infield dirt on the hardball field happened at Marvin Park
- Monarch Spur Trail saw the replacement of 12 interpretive panels.
- Infrastructure upgrade on the effluent discharge pipeline due to a Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment mandate





ACCESS AND SOCIAL EQUITY

As the recent 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan outlines, Salida is lucky to have a park within a 10-minute walking distance of every resident. So while other communities strive to reach that goal, Salida has already met it and is pursuing other sections of addressing access and social equity. One of those priorities has been to create a tree policy and recognizing the importance of trees and green space in our parks. As we move into spring 2021, we will be replanting 3 trees for each tree removed during the new Skate Park construction.

Additionally, the Department plans to strategically partner with nonprofits like Guidestone, SMT and SPOT to initiate planning for bike and pedestrian routes that intersect the city as well as, building community garden and food equity projects at key sites.

The Parks and Recreation Department sent two staff members to become ADA coordinators for the City. This step is the first of many to initiate an ADA Transition Plan for the City of Salida.

CONNECTION THROUGH RECREATION

Connection through recreation became more difficult this year due to social distancing guidelines and pandemic related restrictions. With that said though, Salida Parks and Recreation was able to achieve many of the goals listed in the Master Plan. One of the biggest changes we saw this summer was the seasonal creation of the F-street walking mall. The Parks and Recreation Department added extra planting and infrastructure to the walking mall which allowed restaurants and local businesses to safely spread out onto the street increasing capacity. Other goals, like “create activities and events for children with working parents” took a back seat in 2020. While these are still a priority, these courses were not feasible with our limited space, staffing, and the restrictions placed on our organization this year.

Community outreach is highlighted and something that the Department made significant progress on this past year. Before the pandemic at the beginning of 2020, we were also able to hold a Family Dance and a New Year’s Day 5k that encouraged socialization and brought families together. Once the Department moved towards socially distanced and virtual recreation, in-person events became more limited. Strides towards community outreach include the new city-wide newsletter, a new internal brand guide for the city, two community resource guides that were published, social media contests/content, and a guest satisfaction survey that was conducted at the Aquatic Center.



COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

This year the Department started working on the objectives listed in the Master Plan to improve community relationships and work on collaborative programs. Parks and Recreation partnered with Anytime Fitness to bring free exercise classes into Riverside Park. Our relationship with both the Salida School District and Salida Colorado Mountain College took steps forwards towards providing more joint programming in the future.

This year we were also able to partner with a number of community organizations including FIBArk, Articipate, Anytime Fitness, SPOT, Salida Mountain Trails, youth softball, Babe Ruth baseball, FOSS, CCAHA and Guidestone, to name a few. These partnerships were or are being solidified through MOUs, JUAs or IGAs.

During Sunfest, Parks and Recreation was able to help facilitate the event by providing an online registration system to maintain social distancing at the event as well as help the event coordinators to present a complete and safe plan to Chaffee County Public Health. Our Department facilitated this year's Babe Ruth baseball and youth softball season by assisting the local clubs with public health protocols, registration systems and working together to improve the playing fields.

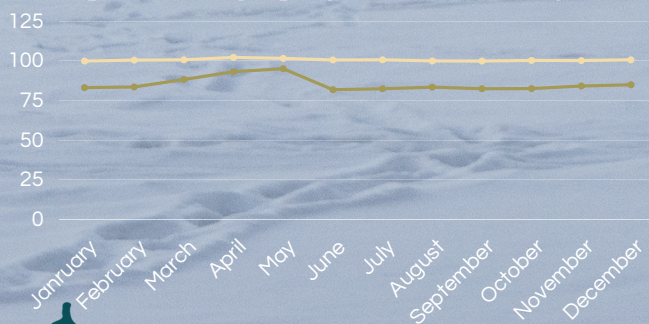
Communication is key when it comes to building community and this year, we were able to improve our community resource guide to help highlight our partners in the community.

1,077
Instagram
followers

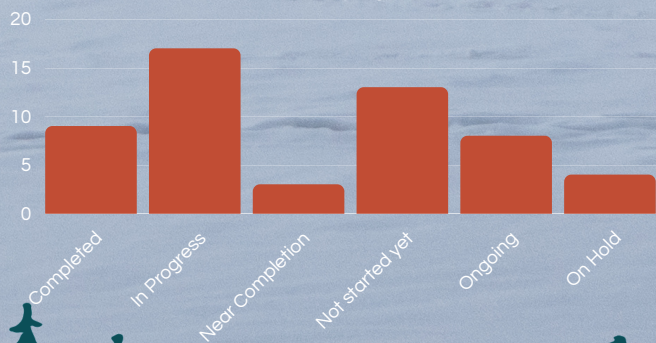
18.5% increase
in Facebook
Followers

9,000+
visits to the Salida Hot
Springs Aquatic Center

Average Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center Pool Temperatures



2020-2022 Master Plan Project Recommendations



WHO'S INVOLVED?

We have an amazing team at the Salida Parks and Recreation Department! We'd also like to thank all of our community partners and volunteers that make our programs possible.

STAFF

Diesel Post

Director of Parks and Recreation

Sara Law

Recreation and Aquatics Manager

Will Taliaferro

Parks and Facilities Manager

Jennifer Davison

Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center Supervisor

Dave Daley

Facilities Supervisor

Ryan Wiegman

Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Laura Pintane

Front Desk

Cat Hileman

Parks and Recreation Administrative Coordinator

Lee Hoxie

Parks Worker: Infrastructure Specialist

Lynn Giles

Parks Worker: Irrigation Specialist

Dale Williams

Parks Worker: Mechanic

Daniel Saul

Parks Worker: Facilities and Events Specialist

Sam Miller

Parks Worker

VOLUNTEERS

Andrew Walker
April Lee
April Asbury
Brook Cervenka
Daryl Huschka
Dee Danohue
Mark Donahue
Dena Gillis
Earl Walker
Ethan Smith
Isaac Asbury
Joanne Guatery

Jackie Shank
Jeff Yoder
Jerry Smith
Kristy Falcon
Lane Wilson
Molly Knight
Pati McNeil
Pierre Lescure
Rob White
Shawn Gillis
Susan Smith

PARTNERS

- Salida Boys and Girls Club
- Absolute Bikes
- Subculture Cyclery
- Chaffee County
- Salida School District
- Peak to Peak Pickleball Club
- Salida Tennis Club
- Soul Craft Brewery
- Oveja Negra
- Colorado Mountain Riders
- FIBArk
- Waste Management
- Salida Bike Co.
- Anytime Fitness
- Chaffee County Search and Rescue South
- Colorado Mountain College
- Friends of Salida Skate Parks
- Chaffee County Amateur Hockey Association
- Etc

PROST ADVISTORY BOARD

Daryl Huschka
Kristy Falcon
Jessica Downing
Amy Reed
Lisa DeYoung
Connor Maher
Adam Martinez
Rob White