



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Meeting Agenda

Town Council

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

[Link to Watch or Comment Virtually: https://bit.ly/TC2025-4thTuesday](https://bit.ly/TC2025-4thTuesday)

I. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of the Agenda

IV. Consent Agenda

6:30-6:35 p.m.

[25-138](#)

Approval of the August 12, 2025 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments:

[08-12-2025 Council Minutes](#)

[25-343](#)

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the Purchase of an Optical Gas Imaging Camera from ChampionX, LLC

Attachments:

[Resolution 25-144](#)

[ChampionX Purchase Order](#)

[Trade Compliance Certificate](#)

[AURA OGI Camera Quote](#)

[25-454](#)

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Barn Rehabilitation Project at Schofield Farm

Attachments:

[Resolution 25-142](#)

[Written Findings/Recommendation from HPAB](#)

[Application](#)

[Schofield CoA Narrative](#)

[Schofield CoA Drawings](#)

[25-458](#)

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the First Amendment to the General Services Agreement with BC Interiors for Town Hall Phase II Furniture

Attachments: [Resolution 25-146](#)
[Amendment](#)

V. Public Comment On Non-Agenda and Consent Items only.

6:35-6:45 p.m.

(This agenda item provides the public an opportunity to discuss items that are not on the agenda or consent agenda items only. The Town Council is not prepared to decide on matters brought up at this time, but if warranted, will place them on a future agenda.)

VI. General Business

[25-463](#) Town Banner, Flag and Street Décor Policy

Attachments: [Option 1. Current Erie Flag and Decor Policy 2024.03.01](#)
[Option 2-Local Proclamations + Banners edits to Current Policy](#)
[Option 3-US CO Town flags only + Banners edits to Current Policy](#)
[Option 2-Local Proclamations + Banners](#)
[Option 3-US CO Town flags only + Banners](#)

6:45-7:45 p.m.

*Presenter(s): Malcolm Fleming, Town Manager
Kendra Carberry, Town Attorney*

[25-462](#) 2025 Performing Arts Center (PAC) Feasibility Study Report

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

7:45-8:45 p.m.

*Presenter(s): Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation
Stacey McMath, Senior Consultant, Webb Mgmt
Chris Wineman, Principal, Semple Brown*

[25-461](#) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Playbook

Attachments: [Resolution 25-143](#)
[2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan](#)
[Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report](#)
[Appendix B: PROST Maps](#)
[Presentation](#)

8:45-9:45 p.m.

*Presenter(s): Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation
Michelle Regan, Senior Associate, DTJ Design
Keith Walzak, Director of Urban Design & Planning, DTJ Design*

[25-479](#) 119th & Baseline Land Acquisition - Coordination with Lafayette and Boulder County

9:45-10:15 p.m.

Presenter(s): Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation

VII. Council Member Reports and Announcements

10:15-10:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

10:30 p.m.

(The Town Council's Goal is that all meetings be adjourned by 10:30pm. An agenda check will be conducted at or about 10:00 p.m., and no later than at the end of the first item finished after 10:00 p.m. Items not completed prior to adjournment will generally be taken up at the next regular meeting.)



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-138, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

Approval of the August 12, 2025 Town Council Meeting Minutes

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Operations

PRESENTER(S): Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk

TIME ESTIMATE: 0 minutes

For time estimate: please put 0 for Consent items.

FISCAL SUMMARY:

NA

POLICY ISSUES:

NA

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes from the August 12, 2025 Town Council Meeting.

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

NA

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

NA

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community
- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

File #: 25-138, **Version:** 1

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. 08-12-2025 Council Minutes



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Link to Watch or Comment Virtually: <https://bit.ly/TC2025-2ndTuesday>

I. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Mayor Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Bell, Council Member Pesaramelli, Council Member O'Connor, Council Member Baer, Council Member Mortellaro, and Council Member Hoback

III. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Bell made a motion to approve the Agenda. Council Member Mortellaro seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote at 6:31 p.m.

Ayes 7 - Mayor Moore
Mayor Pro Tem Bell
Council Member Pesaramelli
Council Member O'Connor
Council Member Baer
Council Member Mortellaro
Council Member Hoback

IV. Consent Agenda

[25-137](#) Approval of the July 22, 2025 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [07-22-2025 Council Minutes](#)

[25-455](#) Approval of July 29, 2025 Town Council Special Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [07-29-2025 Council Special Meeting Minutes](#)

[25-367](#) **A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the Assignment of the Town of Erie 2025 Private Activity Bond Allocation to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority**

Attachments: [Resolution 25-131](#)
[Assignment of Allocation](#)
[Request from BCHA](#)
[Town of Erie Private Activity Bond Allocation Notice Letter](#)

[25-414](#) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the Third Amendment to Disposition and Development Agreement with Evergreen-County Line & Erie Parkway, L.L.C. for the Erie Town Center

Attachments: [Resolution 25-135](#)
[Third Amendment to the DDA](#)
[Existing DDA](#)

[25-427](#) An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Accepting the Transfer of Real Property from Morgan Hill Metropolitan District No. 3 to the Town and Approving the Associated Special Warranty Deed

Attachments: [Ordinance 027-2025](#)
[Deed](#)

[25-432](#) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the Purchase of Mobile Generator from Cummins for Mobile Bypass System

Attachments: [Resolution 25-139](#)
[Agreement Amendment](#)
[Cummins Purchase Agreement](#)

[25-417](#) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving an Amendment to the Construction Contract with Territory Unlimited, Inc. for the Erie Commons Irrigation Pond Improvements

Attachments: [Resolution 25-137](#)
[Erie Commons Irrigation Pond Amendment](#)

[25-422](#) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the Second Amendment to the Development Agreement for Westerly Filing No. 1

Attachments: [Resolution 25-134](#)
[Second Amendment to Development Agreement \(Westerly Filing No. 1\)](#)
[First Amendment to Development Agreement \(Westerly Filing No. 1\)](#)
[Original Development Agreement \(Westerly Filing No. 1\)](#)

[25-408](#) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the Engagement Letter and Legal Services Agreement with the Law Firm of

Lyons Gaddis for Water Legal Matters

Attachments: [Resolution 25-129](#)
[Introduction and File Transfer Request Letter](#)
[Engagement Letter](#)

[25-457](#)

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Appointing Alex Wicks to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

Attachments: [Resolution 25-141](#)
[Alex Wicks Application](#)

[25-425](#)

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the First Amendment to the Construction Contract with JOC Construction for the Kenosha Farms Culvert Replacement

Attachments: [Resolution 25-140](#)
[Kenosha Farms Culvert Amendment](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Bell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Mortellaro seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote at 6:33 p.m.

Ayes 7 - Mayor Moore
 Mayor Pro Tem Bell
 Council Member Pesaramelli
 Council Member O'Connor
 Council Member Baer
 Council Member Mortellaro
 Council Member Hoback

V. Public Comment On Non-Agenda and Consent Items only.

Mayor Moore read the Public Comment rules and opened Public Comment at 6:34 p.m.

The following spoke:

1. Samantha Haggstrom signed up to speak but did not appear.
2. Pamela Teixeira spoke about the airport noise.
3. Leshan Jain spoke about an invitation to join Raksha Bandhan.
4. Melita Pierce spoke about the construction contract on Erie Makerspace (25-437).
5. David Bickford spoke about the construction contract on Erie Makerspace (25-437).

With no additional speakers in person or online virtually, Mayor Moore closed Public Comment at 8:46 p.m.

VI. General Business[25-437](#)

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving a Construction Contract with JOC Construction for the Construction of the Erie Makerspace

Attachments: [Resolution 25-136](#)
[Construction Contract](#)

Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Julian Jacquin, Director of Economic Development & TOEURA, presented the item at 6:48 p.m.

Council Member Pesaramelli made a motion to approve Resolution 25-136; Approving a Construction Contract with JOC Construction for the Construction of the Erie Makerspace. Council Member Baer seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote at 7:03 p.m.

Ayes 7 - Mayor Moore
Mayor Pro Tem Bell
Council Member Pesaramelli
Council Member O'Connor
Council Member Baer
Council Member Mortellaro
Council Member Hoback

[25-368](#)

Housing Needs Assessment Requirement of SB24-174

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[DRCOG Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#)
[SB24-174 Signed Act](#)
[Staff Presentation](#)

Eric Leverage, Housing Management Analyst, presented the item at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Moore asked Council Members to submit comments to staff to discuss at a future meeting. Once reviewed by Council, those comments will be given to DRCOG.

[25-214](#)

PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Amending Chapters 6 and 7 of Title 10 of the Erie Municipal Code Removing Alternative Standards for Affordable Housing Projects

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 023-2025](#)
[PC Resolution No P25-07](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Staff Presentation](#)
[Planning Commission Meeting Minutes May 7](#)
[Planning Commission Meeting Minutes June 18](#)
[Public Comment to Planning Commission June 18](#)
[Draft Planning Commission Meeting Minutes July 2](#)
[Notice](#)

Mayor Moore opened the Public Hearing at 7:41 p.m.

Sarah Nurmela, Planning and Development Director, and Kelly Driscoll, Planning Manager, presented the item at 7:42 p.m.

The following spoke:

1. Janet Brown
2. Bob Braudes
3. Ed Guignon
4. Ben Hemphill
5. Cliff Zwart

Mayor Moore closed the Public Comment portion of the Public Hearing at 8:04 p.m.

Council Member Mortellaro made a motion to approve Ordinance 023-2025; Amending Chapters 6 and 7 of Title 10 of the Erie Municipal Code Removing Alternative Standards for Affordable Housing Projects. Mayor Pro Tem Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote at 8:33 p.m.

Ayes 4 - Mayor Moore
 Mayor Pro Tem Bell
 Council Member O'Connor
 Council Member Mortellaro

Nayes 3 - Council Member Pesaramelli
 Council Member Baer
 Council Member Hoback

VII. Council Member Reports and Announcements

Council Members spoke about the following issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Bell spoke about flight patterns at the airport. Once a plane is in the air, it is not in Erie, it is in airspace, and there are limitations as to what the Town can do. FlightAware.com is a great website to view where flights are coming from and their flight patterns. Please be aware the the airport's Air Fare is on September 7th.

Council Member O'Connor spoke about attending the Erie Sustainability Advisory Board Charrette held earlier in the day. Please check out all the current rebate programs at www.erieco.gov.

Council Member Pesaramelli had nothing to share.

Council Member Hoback mentioned that he will be at the "Coffee with Residents" inside Starbucks @ 9-mile on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Council Member Mortellaro stated that the survey results will be discussed at next Tuesday's Special Meeting. He also mentioned the Being Better Neighbors (BBN) is putting on multiple events at Erie Fest and that there is a groundbreaking at Firestation #15 on August 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Council Member Baer talked about the CML Baseball League has begun with games being on Thursday nights. She also mentioned that at DRCOG there was an update from Xcel mentioning 45 billion in improvements with 25 billion coming to Colorado. She also had an interview with the Sustainability Resilience Team and suggested that other Council Members sign up to do the same.

Mayor Moore spoke about attending the Erie Sustainability Advisory Board Charrette earlier today. He also mentioned that Erie Fest is going to be awesome and reminded everyone that the survey results will be discussed at next week's meeting. He will also be joining Council Member Hoback on Saturday, at Starbucks for Coffee with Residents.

VIII. Adjournment

Mayor Moore adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Approved _____
Mayor

Attest _____
Town Clerk



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-343, **Version:** 2

SUBJECT:

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the Purchase of an Optical Gas Imaging Camera from ChampionX, LLC

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services

PRESENTER(S): David Frank, Director of Environmental Services

TIME ESTIMATE: 0 minutes

For time estimate: please put 0 for Consent items.

FISCAL SUMMARY:

Cost as Recommended:	\$112,950
Balance Available:	\$115,000
Fund	Capital Improvements Fund
Line Item Number:	110-25-115-600190-000000
New Appropriation Required:	No

POLICY ISSUES:

A resolution is required under the purchasing policy for expenses in excess of \$100,000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council adopt the resolution authorizing the purchase of the optical gas imaging camera to ensure the health and safety of Erie residents and regulatory compliance of producers, transporters, and distributors of hydrocarbons.

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- The Town of Erie has an interest in facilitating thorough inspections of oil and gas locations.
- Staff will utilize an optical gas imaging camera to do this and report on other potential hydrocarbon and volatile organic compound emission sources.

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

To facilitate thorough inspections of oil and gas location, as well as other potential hydrocarbon and

volatile organic compound emission sources, staff will utilize an optical gas imaging camera. The camera detects light in the mid infrared spectrum to detect leak and emission sources in real time. A key requirement is that the equipment is intrinsically safe (being incapable of releasing sufficient electrical or thermal energy under normal or abnormal conditions to cause ignition of a hazardous atmospheric mixture) and thus will not require "hot work" or other permits to be brought onto location.

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community
- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution 25-144
2. ChampionX Purchase Order
3. AURA OGI Camera Quote
4. Trade Compliance Certificate

**Town of Erie
Resolution No. 25-144**

**A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving
the Purchase of an Optical Gas Imaging Camera from ChampionX,
LLC**

Whereas, the Town wishes to purchase an Optical Gas Imaging Camera from ChampionX, LLC.

Now Therefore be it Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Erie, Colorado, that:

Section 1. The Town Council hereby approves the purchase of an Optical Gas Imaging Camera from ChampionX for \$112,950. The Town Manager is authorized to sign the purchase order attached hereto.

Adopted this 26th day of August, 2025.

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk



TOWN OF ERIE

PO Box 750
 645 Holbrook St.
 Erie, CO 80516
 PH: (303) 926-2753
 FAX: (303) 926-2705

PURCHASE ORDER

PO Number: 016538

Date: 06/27/2025

Requisition #: 016538

Vendor #: 10328

ISSUED TO: CHAMPIONX LLC
 2445 TECHNOLOGY FOREST BLVD
 B4 FI 12
 THE WOODLANDS, TX 77381

SHIP TO: Town of Erie
 645 Holbrook Street
 P.O. Box 750
 Erie, CO 80516

ITEM	UNITS DESCRIPTION	GL ACCT #	PROJ ACCT #	PRICE	AMOUNT
1	0 AURA OGI camera only	110-25-115-600190-00000C		0.00	112,950.00

SUBTOTAL:	112,950.00
TOTAL TAX:	0.00
SHIPPING:	0.00
TOTAL	112,950.00

1. Original invoice with remittance slip must be sent to: Town of Erie, PO Box 750, 645 Holbrook St., Erie, CO 80516.
2. Payment may be expected within 30 days of receipt of goods and invoice.
3. C.O.D. shipment will not be accepted.
4. Purchase Order numbers must appear on all shipping containers, packing slips and invoices. Failure to comply with the above request may delay payment.
5. All goods are to be shipped F.O.B. Destination unless otherwise stated.
6. All materials and services are subject to approval based on the description on the face of the purchase order or appendages thereof. Substitutions are not permitted without approval of the Requesting Department. Material not approved will be returned at no cost to the Town.
7. All goods and equipment must meet or exceed all necessary city, state and federal standards and regulations.
8. Vendor or manufacturer bears risk of loss or damage until property received and/or installed.
9. Seller acknowledges that the buyer is an equal opportunity employer. Seller will comply with all equal opportunity laws and regulations that are applicable to it as a supplier of the buyer.
10. The Town is exempt from all federal excise and state tax – Fed ID# 84-0198350 - State ID# 98-04943-0000

Trade Compliance Certificate

To ChampionX LLC:

We understand and acknowledge that ChampionX LLC (“Company”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of ChampionX Corporation, a U.S. company (collectively with its affiliates, “ChampionX”), and is subject to certain trade compliance laws and regulations that may impose restrictions on the products and services sold by ChampionX LLC. Accordingly, TOWN OF ERIE, COLORADO (“Customer”) hereby acknowledges and/or certifies to the following:

1. Customer will not export, re-export, transfer, share, or otherwise dispose of the products, software, or technology acquired from ChampionX in violation of: (a) U.S. export control laws and regulations, including the U.S. Export Administration Regulations; (b) U.S. sanctions laws and regulations, including the economic sanctions regulations administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”); and (c) any applicable non-U.S. laws and regulations not in conflict with U.S. law (“Trade Laws”).
2. Unless authorized under U.S. law, Customer will not export, re-export, transfer, share, or otherwise dispose of the products, software, or technology acquired from ChampionX: (a) to or for any individual or entity located in Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, or the Crimea, Luhansk or Donetsk regions of Ukraine; or (b) to or for any individual or entity designated on any prohibited party list maintained by the U.S. Government, including OFAC’s List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons and Sectoral Sanctions Identifications List, and the Bureau of Industry and Security’s Entity List and Denied Persons List.
3. Customer certifies that it will not take any action or fail to take any action that would be inconsistent with or in violation of Trade Laws or cause ChampionX to be in violation of Trade Laws.
4. Customer shall promptly disclose to ChampionX any material change of facts or intentions described in this certification that occur after the date of this certification.
5. Customer will comply with all applicable anti-corruption laws and regulations, including the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and similar laws of other applicable jurisdictions.
6. ChampionX reserves the right to refuse to conduct business with parties who fail to certify to the foregoing. Misrepresentations concerning final destination, end-user

identity, end-use or the obligations set forth herein may result in the immediate termination of warranties and any agreements or business with ChampionX.

Customer Name:	Town of Erie, Colorado
Customer Address:	645 Holbrook St. Erie, CO 80516
Name of Authorized Signatory:	David Frank
Position/Title:	Director of Environmental Services
Signature:	
Date:	Aug 19, 2025

Town of Erie

AURA OGI© Camera Proposal

ChampionX LLC | Emissions Technologies

07 March 2025

This document contains the confidential and/or proprietary information of ChampionX and its affiliates ("ChampionX"). The recipient agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the terms of this document, and shall not reproduce it by any means, disclose the contents of it to any third party, or use the contents of it for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was intended by ChampionX. This document is provided on an "as is" basis without warranties of any kind. ChampionX expressly disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, or suitability for any purpose, title, and non-infringement. While reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of this document, ChampionX does not represent or warrant that the contents of this document are accurate, complete, reliable, current, or error-free, and given the dynamic nature of the oilfield business, actual conditions and circumstances will differ from those evaluated in formulating the contents of this document or the advice contained therein. In no event shall ChampionX or any of its affiliates be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever resulting from reliance on the contents of this document or its advice. If a party's request for, or review of, this document or the advice contained therein shall be deemed such party's implied consent and agreement to all the foregoing.

Dear Ben,

On behalf of ChampionX, I am pleased to submit our proposal for the AURA OGI© camera to **Town of Erie**. As a leader in emissions detection technologies with over a century of oilfield services expertise, we are well-positioned to support your emissions detection and monitoring efforts. We share your commitment to deliver energy safely and responsibly.

The AURA OGI© camera combines cutting-edge MidWave InfraRed (MWIR) technology with unmatched precision, efficiency, and ease of use to deliver reliable insights for regulatory compliance, leak detection, or environmental initiatives. ChampionX rigorously tests its technology in diverse conditions, ensuring the AURA OGI© camera meets RFP requirements and achieves exceptional detection performance.

Key Benefits of the AURA OGI© Camera:

- **High-Resolution Imaging:** Detect smaller leaks with precision, thanks to its 4x higher resolution than standard systems.
- **Built-In Smart Routing:** Simplify surveys and onboard new technicians effortlessly, aligning with Appendix K compliance.
- **Metadata Integration:** Streamline regulatory reporting with embedded sensor and location data in every file.
- **Field-Proven Durability:** Robust design, supported by ChampionX's comprehensive training and quick-replacement program, ensures uptime and operational reliability.

ChampionX is not just a technology provider but a trusted partner. We work closely with our clients to understand their challenges, offering tailored solutions backed by our in-basin support and dedicated expertise.

Thank you for considering ChampionX Emissions Technologies. We look forward to the opportunity to work together and help you achieve your emissions reduction goals.

Sincerely,

Madie Kilcrease

Sales Associate II

ChampionX Emissions Technologies

T: 832-954-3065 | E: madie.kilcrease@championx.com

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PRICING7

ABOUT US

TRUSTED INDUSTRY PARTNER

ChampionX is a global leader in chemistry solutions, artificial lift systems, advanced digital technologies, and emissions management, enabling clients to extract hydrocarbons safely, efficiently, and sustainably. Our cutting-edge solutions enhance production and environmental performance, empowering clients to drive success and excel across their operations.

EMISSIONS TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION

We have established a division that is exclusively focused on supporting clients that face rapidly evolving regulations as well as their own sustainability, and operational efficiency goals. With a keen understanding of the complexities and nuances associated with emissions regulations, and a growing toolbelt of technologies, our Emissions Technologies division is committed to supporting clients in navigating emissions management and the industry effectively. Our approach combines tailored strategies with advanced technologies and ongoing support, ensuring clients meet their emissions monitoring needs, achieve reduction goals, and excel in a regulated industry.

TAILORED SOLUTION APPROACH

ChampionX provides customized emissions monitoring solutions designed to meet each client’s specific needs, assets, goals, and regulatory requirements. By tailoring our approach, we ensure a more effective and precise emissions management strategy. Our solutions enable clients to improve operational efficiency, maintain compliance, and take a proactive role in environmental stewardship. Below are the services and solutions the ChampionX Emissions team uses to create a comprehensive monitoring program for our customers.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Soofie® Continuous Emissions Monitoring
- Surveys Fixed Wing Surveys
- Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR)
- Software & Dashboard Analytics
- AURA OGI© Camera
- Drone & Helicopter Surveys

OPTICAL GAS IMAGING | AURA OGI™

The AURA OGI© camera combines cutting-edge MidWave InfraRed (MWIR) technology with ChampionX's 140+ years of energy industry expertise to provide a reliable, high-performance solution for gas leak detection and documentation. Designed by a pioneer in Optical Gas Imaging technology, the AURA OGI© ensures unparalleled accuracy and efficiency in emissions monitoring.

Key Benefits:

- **High-Resolution Imaging:** Captures images with 4x the resolution of standard systems, enabling operators to detect smaller leaks with greater precision.
- **Built-In Smart Routes and Navigation:** Simplifies and standardizes surveys, making leak detection and documentation faster, more consistent, and easier to onboard new technicians.
- **Integrated Metadata Encoding:** Automatically embeds onboard sensor and location metadata directly into image files, streamlining compliance, auditability, and reporting processes.
- **Engineered for Compliance and Connectivity:** Supports regulatory requirements with features designed to meet rigorous standards, including smart routing for Appendix K compliance. Cloud connectivity options ensure seamless access to data for informed decision-making.
- **Reliable and Operator-Friendly:** Built for field conditions, the AURA OGI© is robust, user-friendly, and supported by ChampionX's comprehensive training, in-basin support, and quick replacement program to minimize downtime.

The AURA OGI© camera delivers industry-leading performance to help operators meet emissions monitoring goals efficiently and accurately. Whether for regulatory compliance, LDAR programs, or environmental initiatives, the AURA OGI© is a trusted solution to ensure safety, operational excellence, and environmental stewardship.

CAMERA FEATURES & CAPABILITIES

Mid-Wave Infrared Camera

Detects hydrocarbon gases with precision

HD Visible Light Camera

Captures high-resolution images and videos to complement MWIR data

Rangefinder

Ensures operators maintain optimal calibration distance, enhancing accuracy and reliability during leak detection surveys

Background Temperature Sensor:

Advanced temperature sensing to improve image quality

Remote Viewing Tablet

Full bidirectional remote control and monitoring of the AURA OGI® camera

- Samsung® Industrial CID2 touchscreen tablet.

NUC Temperature Selection

Adapts to environmental temperature changes

Gas Enhancement Mode

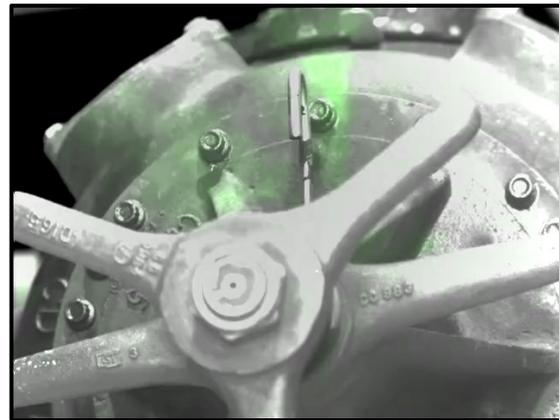
Enables clear visualization of gas leaks, with green highlighted plumes.

Camera Select (EO/MWIR):

Allows for seamless switching between MWIR and EO modes.

Rotary Encoder: Enhances image quality by allowing precise adjustments to brightness and contrast, across varying lighting conditions.

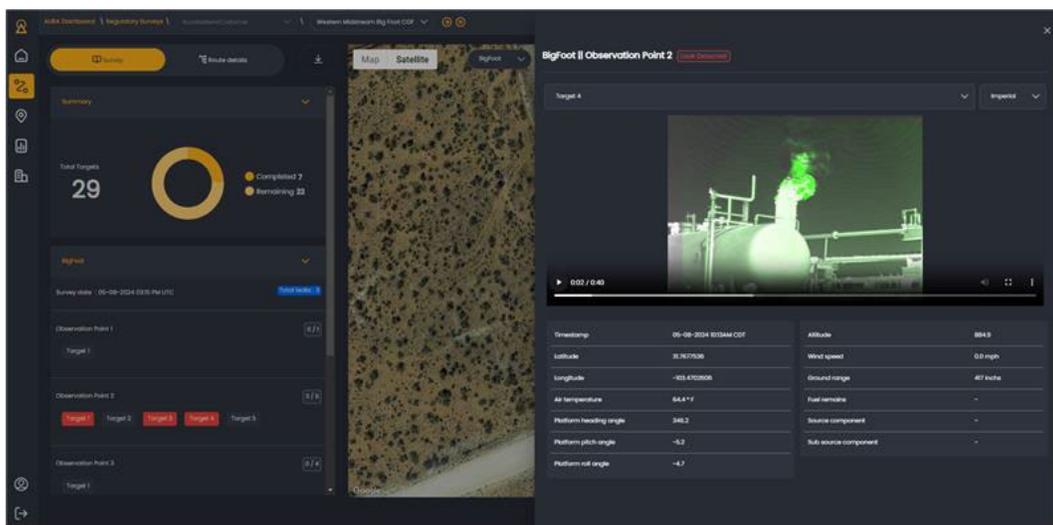
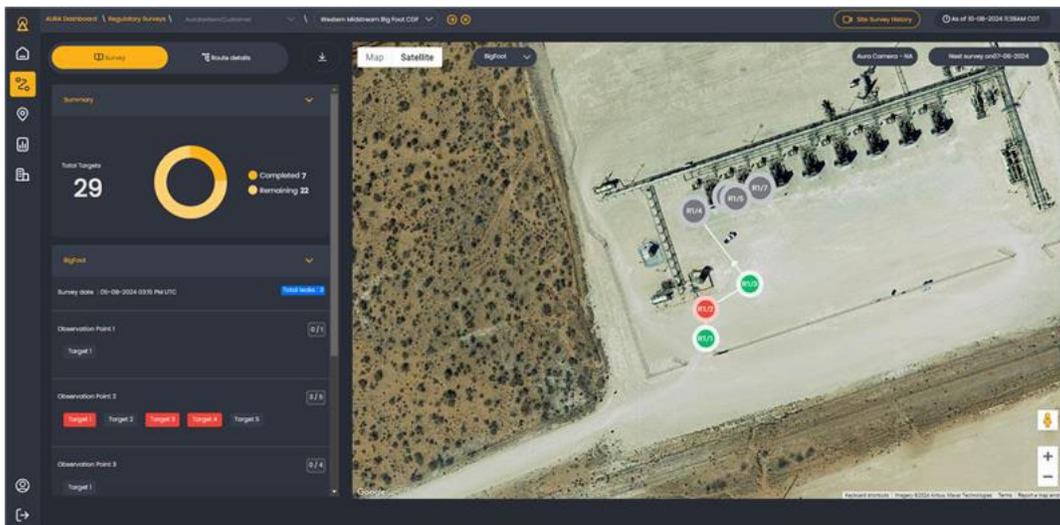
Mode Select: Simplifies operations offerings tailored modes for operations, training, and system adjustments.



AURA DIGITAL DASHBOARD

- Access regulatory and voluntary survey data in a centralized location to confirm detected leaks and monitor repair timelines
- View and download survey images, videos and metadata directly to your device
- Integrate your survey data into your ERP system seamlessly
- Bulk upload all your sites to the dashboard

Routing and targeting data storage dashboard example:



AURA TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ATTRIBUTE	AURA OGI
MWIR Resolution (H x V / Pixels)	640 x 512 / 327,680
Viewfinder Resolution (H x V)	1280 x 1024
Screen / Tablet Resolution (size / pixels)	8": 1920 x 1200 Wireless Tablet
EO Camera Resolution	1920 x 1200 (2.3MP)
Country of Origin	USA
MWIR Lens	25mm manual focus
Optional Bayonet mount Lens	Yes: 50mm optional
Rangefinder (Max Range / Accuracy)	131' / 1" @ 16'
Background Temp Measurement	Yes: Non-Thermometric
Metadata Encoding on video	Yes: Frame level (MISB 0601.8)
GPS	Yes: GNSS -RTK/ IMU
External Communications	Wi-Fi
Environmental Ingress Rating	IP.54
Weight	6.6 lbs.
Size (L x H x W)	13" x 6.26" x 5.2"

AURA COMPLETE PACKAGE



PRICING

CAMERA ONLY

PURCHASE CHECKLIST	PN	ITEM	CONTENTS	UNITS	UNIT PRICE (USD)	TOTAL PRICE (USD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900001	AURA OGI© Kit	AURA OGI© MWIR Camera	1	\$112,000	\$112,000
			Neck Strap	1		
			Hand Strap	1		
			Travel Case	1		
			25MM Lens	1		
			AURA OGI© Battery	2		
			3 Bay Charger	1		
			Android Tablet	1		
					TOTAL (USD)	\$112,000

CAMERA WITH RTK AND ANEMOMETER

PURCHASE CHECKLIST	PN	ITEM	CONTENTS	UNITS	UNIT PRICE (USD)	TOTAL PRICE (USD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900001	AURA OGI© Kit	AURA OGI© MWIR Camera	1	\$112,000	\$112,000
			Neck Strap	1		
			Hand Strap	1		
			Travel Case	1		
			25MM Lens	1		
			AURA OGI© Battery	2		
			3 Bay Charger	1		
			Android Tablet	1		
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900209	RTK	RTK/LORA Base Station	1	\$2,500	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900211	ANE	Anemometer	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
					TOTAL (USD)	\$116,000

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

PURCHASE CHECKLIST	PN	ITEM	CONTENTS	UNIT OF MEASURE	PRICE PER MONTH (USD)
<input type="checkbox"/>		Routing	Tracking and logging of paths for inspections	Per month/camera	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/>		Targeting	Identification of target for OGI Inspections	Per month/camera	\$250
				TOTAL (USD)	\$ 0

ADDITIONAL / SPARE PARTS

PURCHASE CHECKLIST	PN	ITEM	CONTENTS	UNITS	UNIT PRICE (USD)	TOTAL PRICE (USD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900208	50MM	50mm MWIR Lens, F1.5, manual focus	0	\$14,000	\$14,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900070	Straps	Hand and Neck Straps	0	\$513	\$513
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900144	PDA	Class1/Div2 Android Tablet	0	\$3,955	\$3,955
<input type="checkbox"/>	1900207	Battery	AURA OGI© Battery	0	\$475	\$475
					TOTAL (USD)	\$ 0

SHIPPING

PURCHASE CHECKLIST	PN	ITEM CONTENTS	UNITS	UNIT PRICE (USD)	TOTAL PRICE (USD)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1900303	Shipping for AURA OGI© (Required)	1	\$950	\$950
				TOTAL (USD)	\$950



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-454, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Barn Rehabilitation Project at Schofield Farm

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation

PRESENTER(S): Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation

TIME ESTIMATE: 0 minutes

FISCAL SUMMARY: N/A

POLICY ISSUES:

Per municipal code, a Certificate of Appropriateness is required for any physical work on a historically designated structure, and the Schofield Barn rehabilitation has met this requirement with HPAB's unanimous recommendation for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness.

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- Per municipal code, Council must approve a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) for any physical work on a historically designated structure.
- The Schofield Barn rehabilitation will restore masonry, roofing, siding, windows, and doors, ensuring the structure can serve as an event, meeting, and interpretive space for the community.
- The Historic Preservation Advisory Board reviewed the project on July 28 and unanimously recommended approval of the CoA.

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

Over the past several months, Town staff worked with Form+Works Design Group and the State Historical Fund to develop construction documents for the rehabilitation of the Schofield historic barn. The barn, built around 1905, is the largest and most iconic structure on the property and will be restored to serve as a community event, meeting, and interpretive space. The rehabilitation scope

includes masonry repair, structural reinforcement, roofing replacement, siding restoration, and rehabilitation of windows and doors. Construction plans are 100% complete, and work will begin following approval of a construction contract.

Per Town code, structures with historic designation require a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) before any physical work can proceed. Staff submitted a CoA application for the Schofield Barn rehabilitation and presented the project to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) on July 28. HPAB unanimously voted to recommend approval of the CoA, and the request now moves to Council for final action.

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community
- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution
2. Written Findings/Recommendation from HPAB
3. Application
4. Schofield CoA Narrative
5. Schofield CoA Drawings

**Town of Erie
Resolution No. 25-__**

**A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving a
Certificate of Appropriateness for the Barn Rehabilitation Project
at Schofield Farm**

Whereas, the Town filed an application for a certificate of appropriateness (the "Application") pursuant to Section 3-3-14 of the Erie Municipal Code (the "Code") to rehabilitate the historic barn at Schofield Farm;

Whereas, Section 3-3-14 of the Code requires a public hearing by the Town Council prior to approval of the Application;

Whereas, Section 3-3-18 of the Code provides the criteria for consideration of a certificate of appropriateness;

Whereas, on July 28, 2025, the Historic Preservation Advisory Board considered the Application, and recommended that the Town Council approve the Application;

Whereas, on August 26, 2025, the Town Council held a properly-noticed public hearing on the Application; and

Whereas, the Town Council, upon reviewing the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, hearing statements of staff and the public, and giving due consideration to the matter, finds and determines as provided below.

Now Therefore be it Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Erie, Colorado, that:

Section 1. Findings. The Town Council hereby finds that the rehabilitation of the historic barn at Schofield Farm, as proposed in the Application, meets all of the applicable criteria set forth in Section 3-3-18 of the Code, in that:

- a. The rehabilitation will not detrimentally alter, destroy or affect any architectural or landscape feature that contributes to the original historic designation of Schofield Farm;
- b. The rehabilitation will be visually compatible with designated historic structures located on the property in terms of designs, finish, material, scale, mass and height; and
- c. In finding compatibility, the Town Council has considered the criteria outlined in Section 3-3-18.B. of the Code.

Section 2. Decision. Based on the foregoing findings, the Town Council hereby approves the Certificate of Appropriateness for the rehabilitation of the big barn at Schofield Farm as described in the Application.

Adopted this 26th day of August, 2025.

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk

**Town of Erie
Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB)**

The written findings of the HPAB regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application HP2025-00001 for Rehabilitation work on the Schofield Barn, located at 2203 N 111TH ST, Erie, CO are as follows:

On July 28, 2025, the HPAB held a meeting in which the HP2025-00001 application was discussed. In regards to this application, the HPAB found that:

Findings.

Specifically, the Application satisfies the following criteria set forth in Section 3.3.18(B) of the UDC:

1. The effect on the general historic and architectural character of the structure and property;

The rehabilitation work will maintain the historic and architectural character of the structure and property.

2. The architectural style, arrangement, texture and material used on the existing and proposed structures and their relation to and compatibility with other structures;

There are no new structures proposed with this Certificate of Appropriateness application.

3. The size of the structure, its setbacks, location, and the appropriateness thereof when compared to existing structures and the site;

N/A – No new structures are proposed with this Certificate of Appropriateness application.

4. The compatibility of accessory structures and fences with the main structure on the site, and other structures;

N/A – no new accessory structures or fences are proposed with this Certificate of Appropriateness.

5. The effects of the proposed work in creating, changing, destroying, or otherwise impacting the exterior architectural features of the structure upon which such work is done;

The exterior architectural work will help preserve and rehabilitate the existing historic features and materials.

6. The condition of existing improvements and whether they are a hazard to public health and safety;

The rehabilitation work will enhance the condition and safety of the structure.

7. The effects of the proposed work upon the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of the property; and

The rehabilitation work will return the structure to a more stabilized condition, ensuring the continuation of this important historic resource and enhancing its ability to be actively used.

8. Compliance with the United States Secretary of the Interior's "Standards For Rehabilitation."

The rehabilitation work is consistent with the SOI's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Structures.

Section 2. Recommendation. Based on these Findings, the Erie HPAB recommends approval to Town Council for the Schofield Barn COA, HP2025-00001.


Mike Turner, HPAB Chair

July 28, 2025

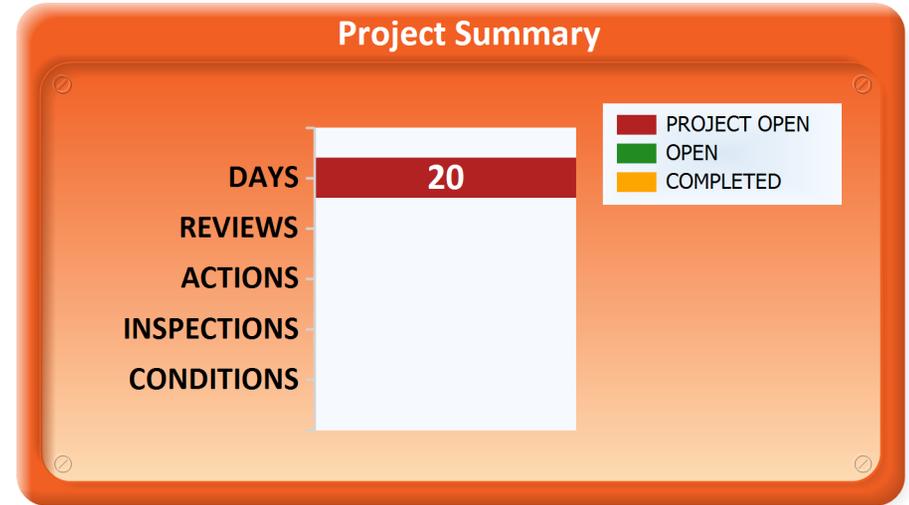


Project Details

Town of Erie

PROJECT NUMBER
HP2025-00001

Description: Rehabilitation Work for the Schofield Barn	Status: IN REVIEW
Type: HPAB	Status Date: 8/5/2025
Subtype: CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS	Applied: 7/16/2025
Address: 2203 N 111TH ST	Approved:
City, State, Zip: ERIE, CO 80516	Closed:
Project Manager: Harry Brennan	Expired:
Details:	



ADDITIONAL SITES

CHRONOLOGY

CONDITIONS

CONTACTS

NAME TYPE	NAME	ADDRESS1	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
APPLICANT	Luke Bolinger							lbolinger@erieco.gov
OWNER	TOWN OF ERIE	PO BOX 98	ERIE	CO	80516			

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INSPECTIONS

INSPECTION TYPE	INSPECTOR	SCHEDULED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	RESULT	REMARKS	NOTES
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REVIEWS

BOND INFORMATION



Project Details

Town of Erie

PROJECT NUMBER
HP2025-00001

ATTACHMENTS						
Attachment Type	CREATED	OWNER	DESCRIPTION	PATHNAME	SUBDIR	ETRAKIT ENABLED
DOC	7/17/2025	Harry Brennan	Town of Erie_Drawing Excerpts.pdf	Town of Erie_Drawing Excerpts.pdf		1
DOC	7/17/2025	Harry Brennan	Town of Erie_Historic Images.pdf	Town of Erie_Historic Images.pdf		1
DOC	7/17/2025	Harry Brennan	Town of Erie_Images.pdf	Town of Erie_Images.pdf		1
DOC	8/5/2025	Harry Brennan	Project Details	Project Details.pdf		0
DOC	8/5/2025	Harry Brennan	Project Details_1	Project Details_1.pdf		0

Brief Narrative

The Town of Erie's Barn at Schofield Farm, the most iconic and largest building on the property, was constructed around 1905 with pre-cast blocks made on-site using a Wizard Block Maker from Sears Roebuck, set atop a concrete foundation. The Town plans to preserve this unique structure by rehabilitating it for use by the Erie community as an event, meeting, and interpretive space. The scope of this application will address exterior improvements, including masonry, structural, roofing, exterior wood siding, trim, windows, and doors rehabilitation as prescribed in the Historic Structures Assessment. Interior work will be a separate project scope, fully utilizing Town funds and address the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades across all three levels, as well as ensuring ADA accessibility. The Barn will serve as the cornerstone of Schofield Farm, offering much needed space for the community and highlighting the historical significance of early farming life in Erie.

Detailed Scope

The proposed project is the exterior rehabilitation of the historic barn on the property. Interior improvements will be funded with Town funds as a separate project. The barn has three levels: the basement (originally used to house cows), the first floor (originally used to house horses), and a second floor (originally used as a hayloft). The exterior of the building is constructed of pre-cast blocks, manufactured on-site with a Wizard Block Maker from Sears Roebuck. The blocks are set atop a concrete foundation. Above the block, the east and west end walls are wood-framed and clad with horizontal painted wood siding.

The exterior windows on the barn are typically wood-framed pivot windows. These windows vary in size and configuration between the floor levels. There are two basement windows on the south elevation and four basement windows on the north elevation. There are six windows on the north and south elevations at the first-floor level. There are two windows on the east elevation at the first-floor level. There are two windows at the east and west elevations on the second floor.

To the north of the barn, the loafing shed shares its south wall with the north wall of the barn. The west wall is constructed with a concrete foundation, atop which is wood framing clad with corrugated metal panels. The north wall of the loafing shed is constructed of wood framing with plank siding. The loafing shed has a medium gable roof, which is covered with corrugated metal roofing panels. The loafing shed is not included in this project scope, but it is important to note that it will be rehabilitated with Town funding as part of a later phase.

After consultation with a State Historical Fund Historic Resource Specialist, the Town is proposing the following scope to focus this project on the exterior rehabilitation of the barn,

utilizing a combination of Town funds and State Historical Fund dollars. The interior rehabilitation will be 100% funded by the Town, but the interior plans and specifications will be shared with SHF for approval. The Town has already conducted environmental testing on the building. The lead paint on the doors and windows, and asbestos in the window glazing putty, can be safely handled by the contractor. No other abatement will be needed as part of the project. There is no ground disturbance associated with the project. However, should the need arise, Form+Works will engage a qualified firm, such as Metcalf Archaeology, to perform any necessary monitoring. Such costs will be 100% covered by the Town.

The original concrete block walls and poured concrete foundation walls are intact but require rehabilitation. To preserve the barn's structural integrity, cracks in the poured concrete foundation will be sealed using epoxy. Damaged masonry blocks will be repaired or replaced to match the original materials. Where needed, patches will be installed to blend seamlessly with the historic fabric. Where diagonal cracks are present in the masonry walls, they will be stitched using Heli-ties or a similar system to ensure long-term stability. The walls will be cleaned with an approved restoration cleaner using the gentlest means possible, and approximately 25% of the block will be repointed using mortar matching the original. Rehabilitation of the exterior concrete and block will prioritize maintaining the historic appearance.

Historic photos show that the barn was originally roofed with wood shingles. At an unknown date, these shingles were replaced with asphalt shingles, and the cupola was removed. The existing asphalt shingles will be removed, leaving the original framing, skip sheathing, and later-added OSB decking in place. Retaining these materials will preserve the interior appearance of the second-floor ceiling.

A new cedar shingle roof will be installed, including necessary underlayments, flashings, cedar breather, and ridge vent, enhancing the barn's durability while maintaining its historic look. Insulation will be added within the new exterior roofing assembly to preserve the interior character of the barn. The cupola will be reconstructed to match its original design based on historic photographs. The fascia will be rehabilitated to accommodate the insulation, and the soffit and fascia will be restored to their original profiles. Roof insulation will taper to minimize visual changes to the roof eaves and trim. Sheet metal gutters and downspouts will be installed to prevent moisture damage.

The original exterior windows and doors remain in place but are in poor condition. Deterioration includes paint failure, wood rot, broken glazing, deteriorated glazing putty, and missing or damaged components. To preserve the barn's exterior character, 24 existing windows will be carefully restored. Four existing exterior swinging doors and two sets of large sliding barn doors will also be rehabilitated. Restoration work will include replacing missing or deteriorated wood, epoxy repair of minor wood damage, glazing replacement, hardware repair or replacement, and priming and painting of wood surfaces. New entry systems will be installed just inside the sliding doors on the east and west first-floor elevations to allow modern, functional entrances while retaining the barn's historic appearance. These improvements will ensure ADA-compliant access while maintaining the barn's original openings.

The north and south gables will be rehabilitated to improve energy efficiency while preserving their historic appearance. Existing horizontal siding will remain in place, and new Zip panels will be added to provide insulation and structural stability. Zip panels are a high-performance sheathing product that integrates insulation, moisture protection, and air sealing. Historic-looking siding will be installed over the panels to reflect the original design. Where feasible, original exterior woodwork in the center of each gable will be preserved and rehabilitated. For the east and west gable ends, bypassing doors are proposed for the enlarged openings. The upper panel could be the historic hayloft door, with a lower panel that slides vertically beneath it. The added trim needed to accommodate insulation and siding will allow space to create a dual-track system for the bypass doors. These changes will preserve original materials while adding natural light to the second-floor event space, enhancing the barn's functionality for events.

All methods and materials proposed for this project follow best practices in historic preservation. Epoxy crack repair and Heli-ties provide structural integrity while preserving original materials. Cedar shingles and restored doors and windows maintain the barn's historic aesthetic. Modern insulation systems like Zip panels improve energy performance and allow for future HVAC installation. These strategies honor the barn's unique architectural character while preparing it for sustainable community use.

The project will comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and will follow guidance from the National Park Service's Preservation Briefs.

Luke Bolinger, CPRP | Director of Parks & Recreation

Town of Erie | Parks & Recreation

Phone: 303-926-2796

www.erieco.gov/parksandrec | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



North side of barn showing
cattle and shelter

Machine shed + barn 1961

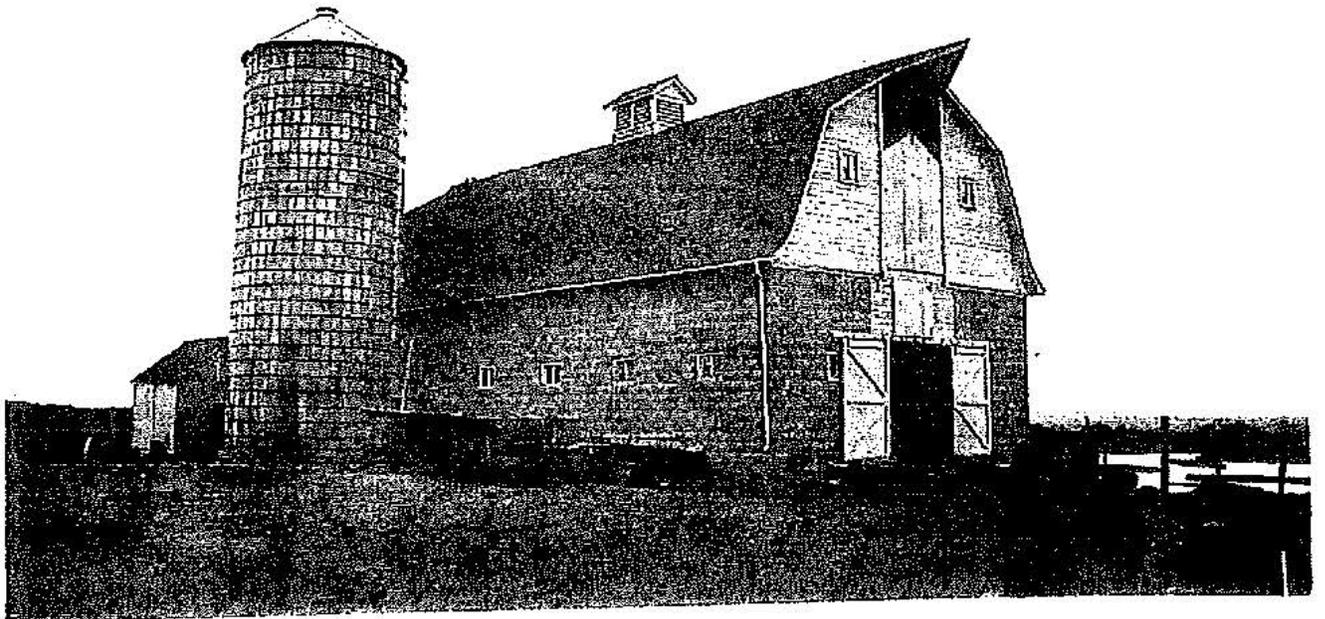
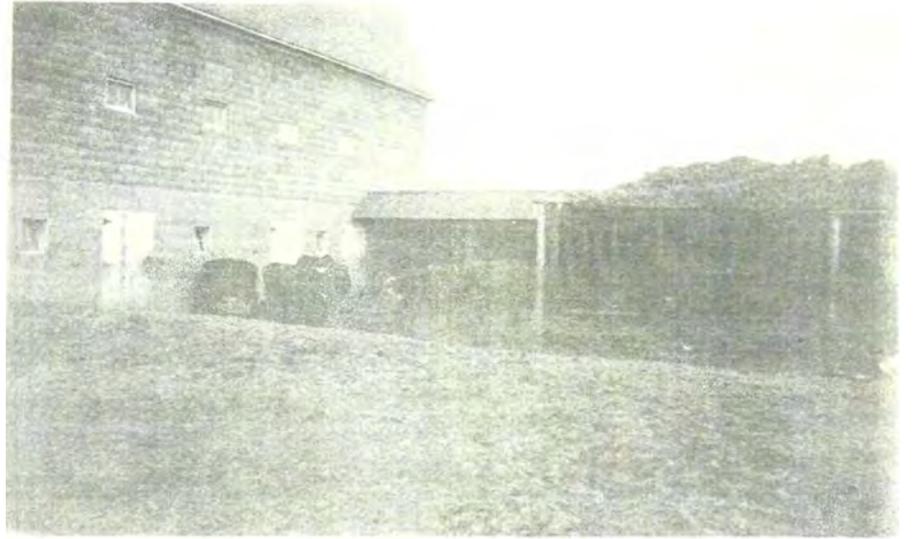




Figure 1: Overall view of the east and south elevations of the barn.



Figure 2: Overall view of the west elevation of the barn.



Figure 3: Overall view of the north elevation of the barn.



Figure 4: Detail view of exterior condition of west elevation sliding doors.



Figure 5: Interior conditions typical at east and west sliding doors (shown from the interior).



Figure 6: Siding, trim, and window conditions at the west gable end.



Figure 7: Masonry, trim, and eave conditions at the west gable end.



Figure 8: Detail view of exterior window and masonry conditions. Note deterioration of original wood windows and cracks visible in the concrete block masonry.



Figure 9: Detail view of exterior conditions at north-facing basement level door.



Figure 10: Detail view of roof and eave conditions.



Figure 11: Overall view of second floor hayloft space. Note that exterior insulation is proposed at the roof and gable ends to maintain the historic character and appearance of this unique space (interior work not in scope).



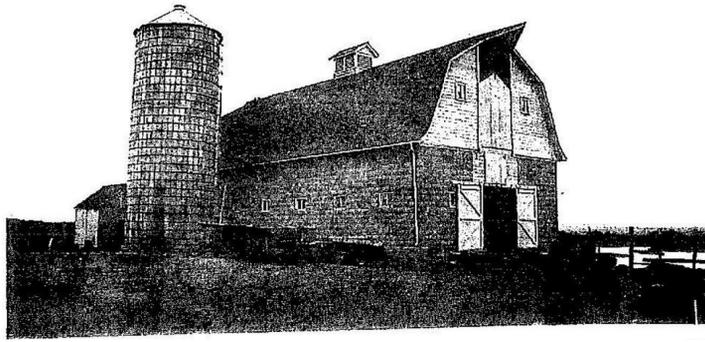
Figure 12: Cracks visible at concrete block on the second floor of the building. Note that some of the cracks visible on the exterior telegraph through to the interior (interior not in scope).



Figure 13: Typical conditions at the first floor level interior of the barn (not in scope).



Figure 14: Typical conditions at the basement level of the barn (not in scope).



4 HISTORIC PHOTO OF BARN WITH CUPOLA
1/4" = 1'-0"

NOTE: DRAWINGS ARE EXCERPTED FROM A LARGER SET AND SHOW MORE WORK THAN IS INCLUDED IN THE GRANT SCOPE. DRAWINGS ARE INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

ROOF PLAN NOTES:

GENERAL NOTES:

- NOT ALL KEYNOTES ARE USED ON ALL SHEETS. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY IN FIELD ALL DIMENSIONS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.
- NOTIFY ARCHITECT IF CONDITIONS IN FIELD DO NOT MATCH CONDITIONS SHOWN ON DRAWINGS.
- COORDINATE SITE ACCESS AND STAGING AREAS WITH OWNER PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.

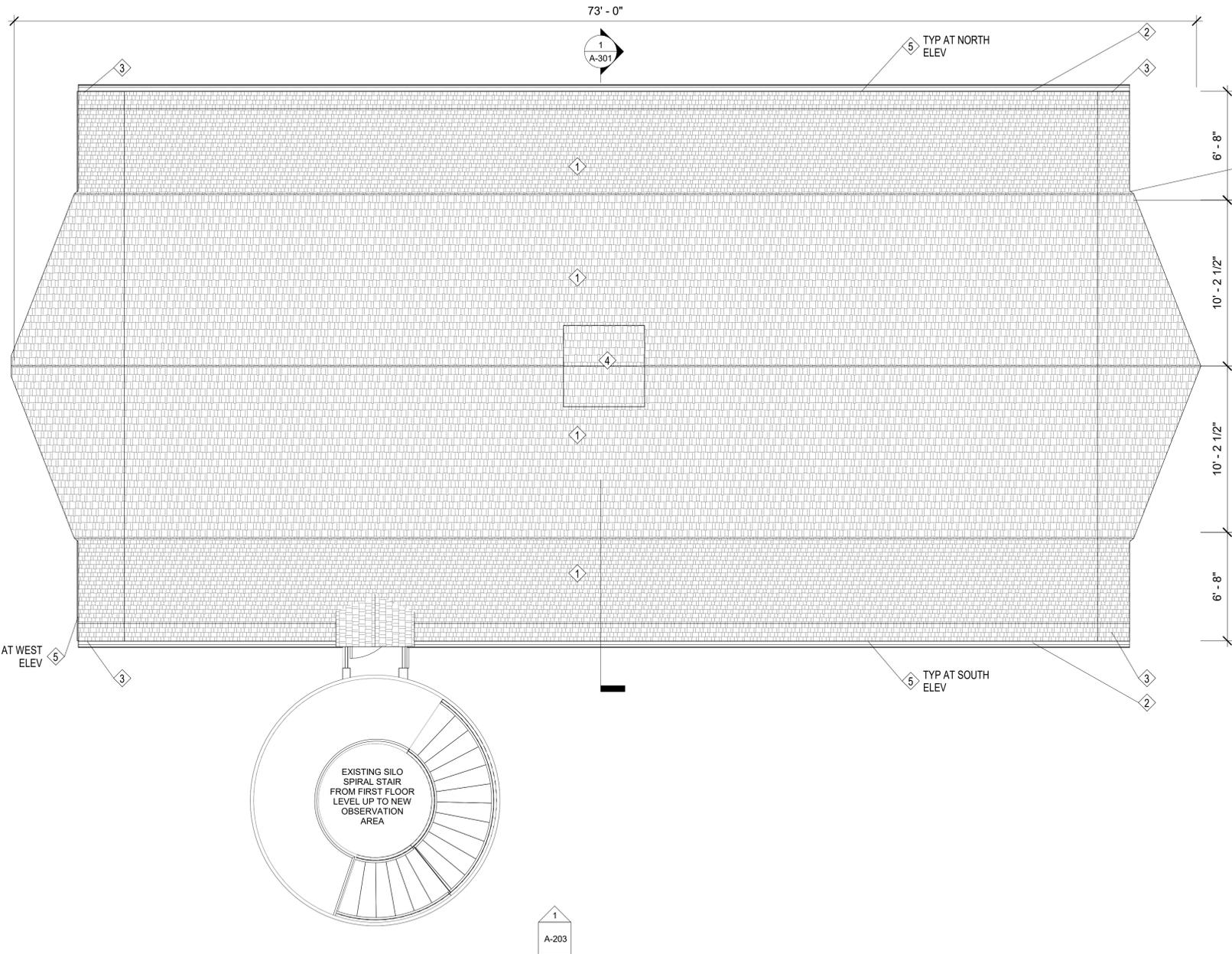
KEYNOTES

1. INSTALL NEW WOOD SHINGLE ROOF SYSTEM INCLUDING:
 - A. STRUCTURAL PANEL SHEATHING
 - B. RIGID INSULATION TO ACHIEVE R-30
 - C. ICE AND WATER SHIELD
 - D. CEDAR BREATHER
 - E. WOOD SHINGLES TO MATCH HISTORIC
2. INSTALL GUTTER. GUTTER PROFILE AND COLOR TO BE SELECTED AND APPROVED BY OWNER, ARCHITECT, AND HISTORY COLORADO STAFF.
3. INSTALL DOWNSPOUT AND SPLASHBLOCK. DOWNSPOUT PROFILE AND COLOR TO BE SELECTED AND APPROVED BY OWNER, ARCHITECT, AND HISTORY COLORADO STAFF.
4. INSTALL CUPOLA TO MATCH HISTORIC PHOTOS
5. REHABILITATE WOOD FASCIA AND EAVES

formworks
design group, LLC

P.O. Box 476
Eastlake, Colorado 80614
www.formworksgroup.com
303.598.6545

Schofield Farm -
Barn Rehabilitation
2203 N 111th Street
Erie, Colorado 80516



TYP AT WEST ELEV

TYP AT SOUTH ELEV



3 INTERIOR VIEW OF ROOF FRAMING
1/4" = 1'-0"

EXISTING ROOF FRAMING AND HISTORIC SHEATHING TO REMAIN AT INTERIOR OF SECOND FLOOR. NOTE THAT INSULATION IS PROPOSED TO EXTERIOR OF SHEATHING TO RETAIN THE CHARACTER OF THE SECOND FLOOR SPACE IN THE BARN.



2 EAVE DETAIL PHOTO
1/4" = 1'-0"

EXISTING ROOF EDGE PROFILE TO BE ADJUSTED TO ACCOMMODATE THE ADDITION OF INSULATION TO EXTERIOR OF SHEATHING.

INSULATION WILL BE TAPERED AT LOWEST SLOPE TRANSITION TO MAINTAIN PROFILE TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

CABLE END TRIM WILL BE REPLACED WITH WIDER TRIM TO CONCEAL INSULATION

EXISTING GABLE END SIDING TO REMAIN; EXTERIOR RIGID INSULATION AND MATCHING SIDING TO BE INSTALLED.

INSULATION AND NEW SIDING WILL PROJECT APPROXIMATELY 4 INCHES BEYOND EXISTING GABLE END PLANE.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

No.	Description	Date

Project Number 24-037
Date FEBRUARY 28, 2025
Drawn By JRR
Checked By NFL
Scale As indicated

ROOF PLAN

A-120

5 BIG BARN ROOF
1/4" = 1'-0"



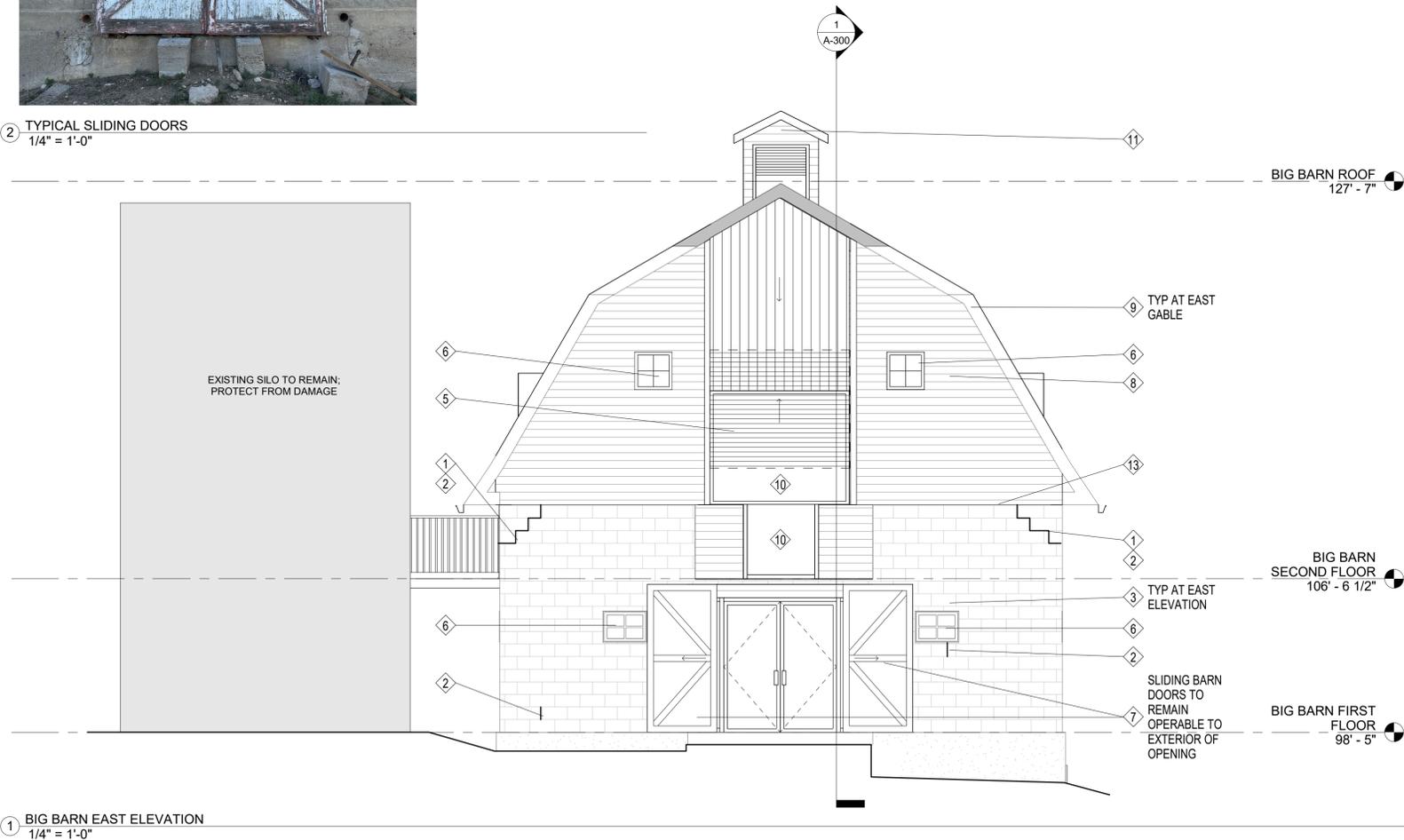
NOTE: DRAWINGS ARE EXCERPTED FROM A LARGER SET AND SHOW MORE WORK THAN IS INCLUDED IN THE GRANT SCOPE. DRAWINGS ARE INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE ONLY.



REHABILITATE TWO (2) LEAF SLIDING DOORS AT EAST AND WEST ELEVATIONS SUCH THAT DOORS ARE FULLY OPERABLE ALONG EXTERIOR SLIDING TRACK

UPON COMPLETION OF WOOD REHABILITATION, PREP, PRIME, AND PAINT INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DOOR, FRAME, AND TRIM COMPONENTS

2 TYPICAL SLIDING DOORS
1/4" = 1'-0"



1 BIG BARN EAST ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"

ELEVATION NOTES:

GENERAL NOTES:

- NOT ALL KEYNOTES ARE USED ON ALL SHEETS. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY IN FIELD ALL DIMENSIONS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.
- NOTIFY ARCHITECT IF CONDITIONS IN FIELD DO NOT MATCH CONDITIONS SHOWN ON DRAWINGS.
- COORDINATE SITE ACCESS AND STAGING AREAS WITH OWNER PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.
- ASSUME APPROXIMATELY 20% OF MASONRY REQUIRES REPOINTING IN ADDITION TO AREAS SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED ON ELEVATION DRAWINGS.
- PATCH CONCRETE FOUNDATION AT ALL LOCATIONS OF DETERIORATION AND PENETRATIONS FROM USE AS AN AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

KEYNOTES

1. INSTALL HELIBAR TIES AT CRACK REFER TO STRUCTURAL FOR SPACING. REPOINT AND PATCH MASONRY AS NEEDED UPON COMPLETION OF INSTALLATION.
2. REPOINT MASONRY
3. CLEAN EXTERIOR MASONRY TO REMOVE BIOLOGICAL GROWTH AND ATMOSPHERIC STAINING
4. REPAIR CRACK OR DETERIORATION IN CONCRETE FOUNDATION. REPAIR TO INCLUDE EPOXY INJECTION AND INSTALLATION OF PATCHING MATERIAL TO MATCH EXISTING ADJACENT MATERIALS.
5. INSTALL VERTICAL BYPASS SHUTTERS TO EXTERIOR OF GLAZING. SHUTTER PANELS TO MATCH THE HISTORIC APPEARANCE OF THE EXTERIOR SIDING SUCH THAT WHEN CLOSED, THE ORIGINAL APPEARANCE OF THE BARN IS RETAINED FROM THE EXTERIOR. RETAIN AND REHABILITATE ORIGINAL HAYLOFT DOOR IN UPPER SECTION OF OPENING.
 - A. USE EXISTING INTERIOR WEIGHT POCKETS FOR WEIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH PANELS.
 - B. COORDINATE REINSTALLATION OF EXTERIOR TRIM TO EITHER SIDE OF OPENING TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR BYPASS TRACKS WITHIN TRIM ASSEMBLY.
6. REHABILITATE EXTERIOR WINDOW. NOTE THAT ALL WINDOWS REQUIRE LEVEL 03 REHABILITATION FOLLOWING THE NPS PRESERVATION BRIEF GUIDELINES.
7. REHABILITATE EXTERIOR DOOR. NOTE THAT ALL EXISTING EXTERIOR DOORS REQUIRE LEVEL 03 REHABILITATION FOLLOWING THE NPS PRESERVATION BRIEF GUIDELINES.
8. INSTALL RIGID INSULATION TO EXTERIOR OF EXISTING WOOD SIDING. NOTE THAT INSULATION IS BEING INSTALLED TO EXTERIOR FACE OF SIDING TO RETAIN THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING. INSTALLATION OF RIDING INSULATION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:
 - A. CLEAN EXISTING EXTERIOR WOOD SIDING
 - B. REMOVE EXISTING WOOD TRIM INCLUDING EXTERIOR WINDOW TRIM AND HAYLOFT DOOR TRIM AND TRACKS
 - C. INSTALL 3" THICK RIGID INSULATION TO EXTERIOR OF EXISTING SIDING TO ACHIEVE R-18 INSULATION VALUE
 - D. INSTALL WEATHER BARRIER TO EXTERIOR OF INSULATION
 - E. INSTALL NEW WOOD SIDING MATCHING THE ORIGINAL WOOD SIDING
 - F. REINSTALL WOOD TRIM INCLUDING WINDOW TRIM AND HAYLOFT DOOR TRIM AND TRACKS
 - G. PREP, PRIME, AND PAINT EXTERIOR TRIM AND SIDING
9. REPLACE FASCIA TRIM TO ACCOMMODATE THICKNESS OF ROOF INSULATION.
10. INSTALL FIXED WINDOW WITH WOOD FRAME.
11. RECONSTRUCT CUPOLA USING HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS AND EVIDENCE OF PLACEMENT BASED ON EXISTING ROOF FRAMING CONDITIONS.
12. EXISTING WOOD SIDING TO REMAIN; REHABILITATE WOOD, PREP, PRIME, AND PAINT.
13. INSTALL NEW PAINTED WOOD TRIM AT WOOD TO MASONRY TRANSITION.
14. PATCH CONCRETE TO MATCH EXISTING ADJACENT MATERIAL.

formworks
design group, LLC

P.O. Box 476
Eastlake, Colorado 80614
www.formworksgroup.com
303.598.6545

Schofield Farm -
Barn Rehabilitation
2203 N 111th Street
Erie, Colorado 80516

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

No.	Description	Date

Project Number 24-037
Date FEBRUARY 28, 2025
Drawn By JRR
Checked By NFL
Scale As indicated

EAST ELEVATION

A-200



NOTE: DRAWINGS ARE EXCERPTED FROM A LARGER SET AND SHOW MORE WORK THAN IS INCLUDED IN THE GRANT SCOPE. DRAWINGS ARE INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

ELEVATION NOTES:

GENERAL NOTES:

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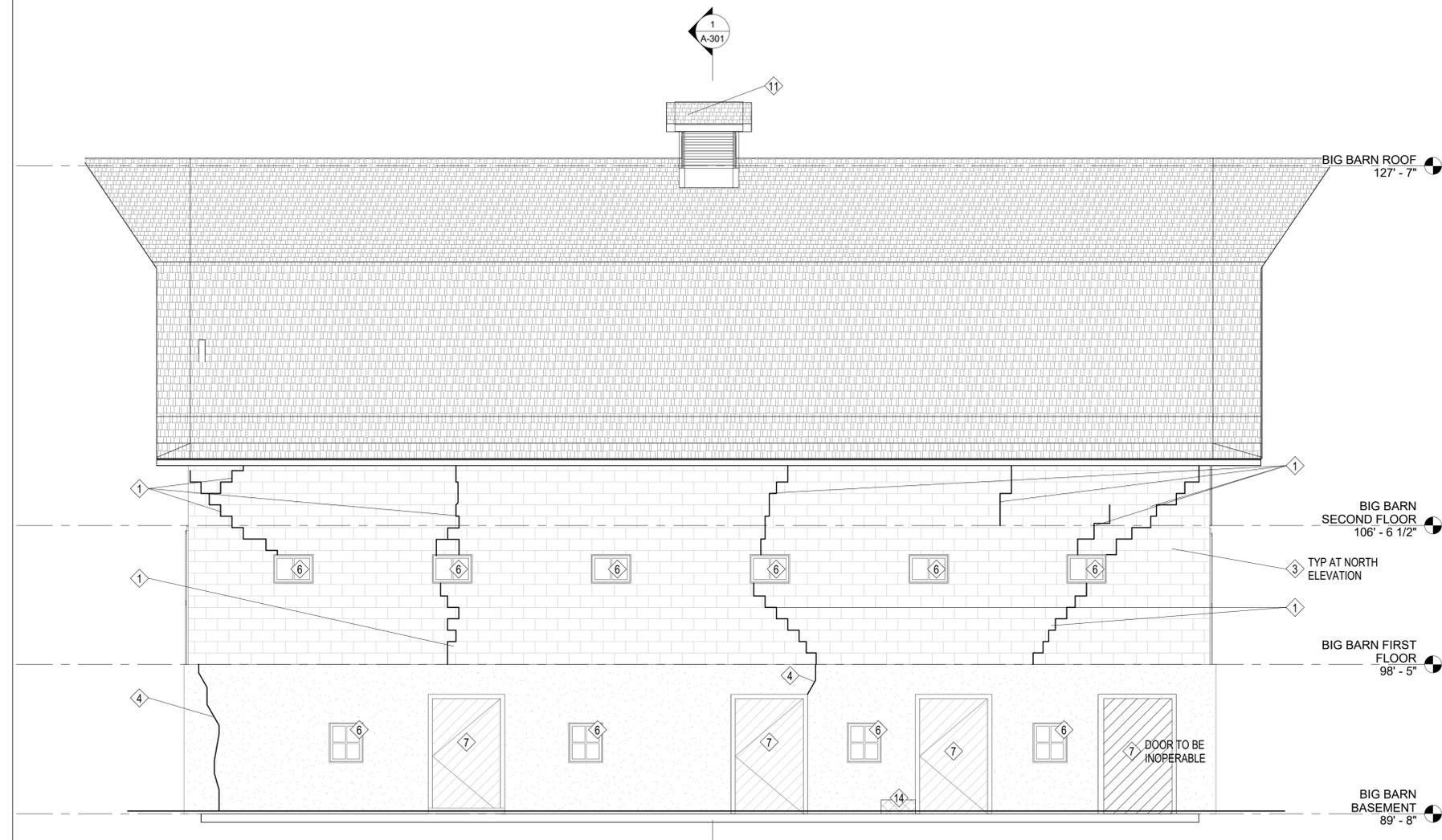
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formworks
design group, LLC

P.O. Box 476
Eastlake, Colorado 80614
www.formworksdesigngroup.com
303.598.6545

Schofield Farm -
Barn Rehabilitation
2203 N 111th Street
Erie, Colorado 80516



1 BIG BARN NORTH ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

No.	Description	Date

Project Number 24-037
Date FEBRUARY 28, 2025
Drawn By JRR
Checked By NFL
Scale As indicated

NORTH ELEVATION

A-201



NOTE: DRAWINGS ARE EXCERPTED FROM A LARGER SET AND SHOW MORE WORK THAN IS INCLUDED IN THE GRANT SCOPE. DRAWINGS ARE INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

ELEVATION NOTES:

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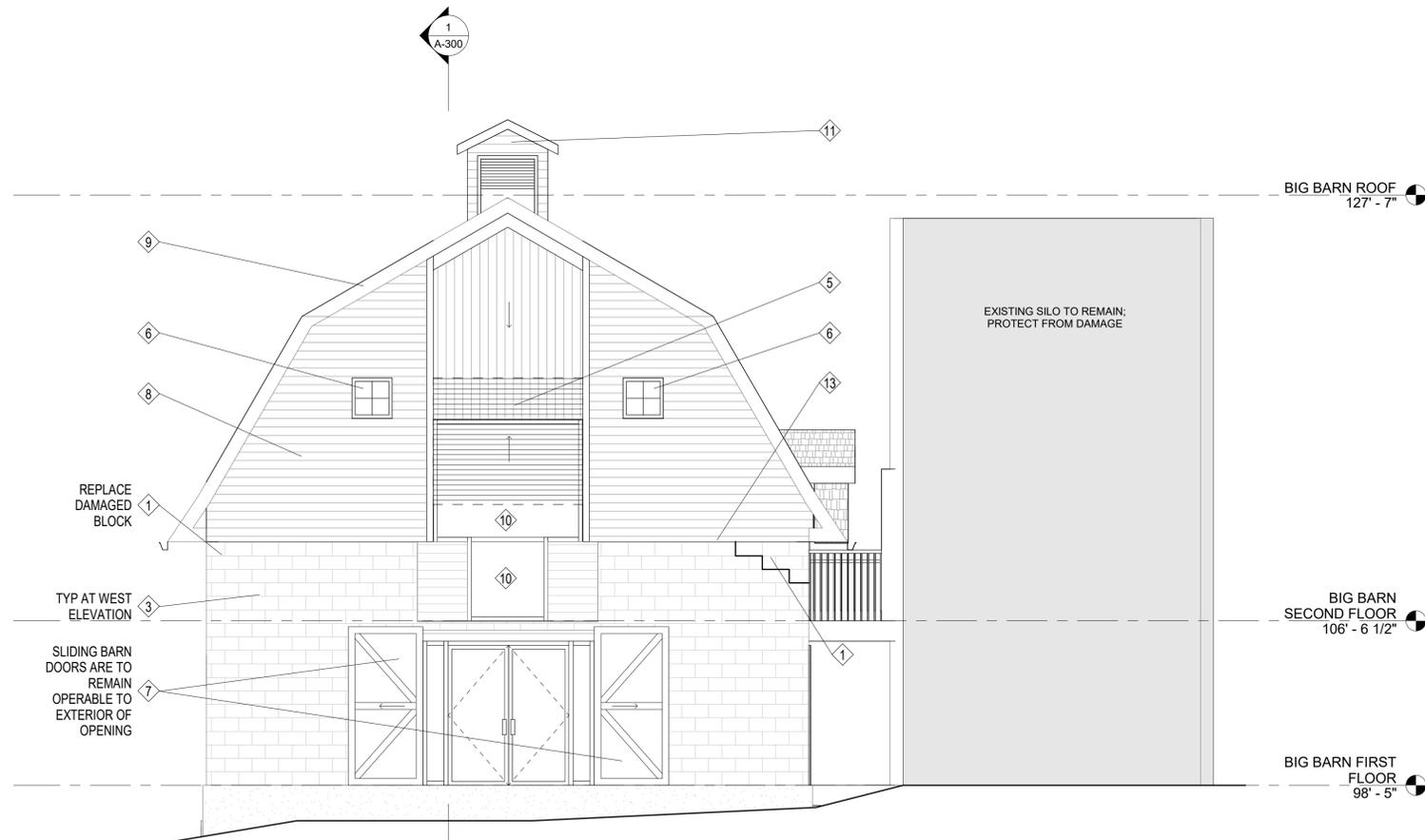
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

No.	Description	Date

Project Number 24-037
Date FEBRUARY 28, 2025
Drawn By JRR
Checked By NFL
Scale As indicated

WEST ELEVATION

A-202



1 BIG BARN WEST ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"



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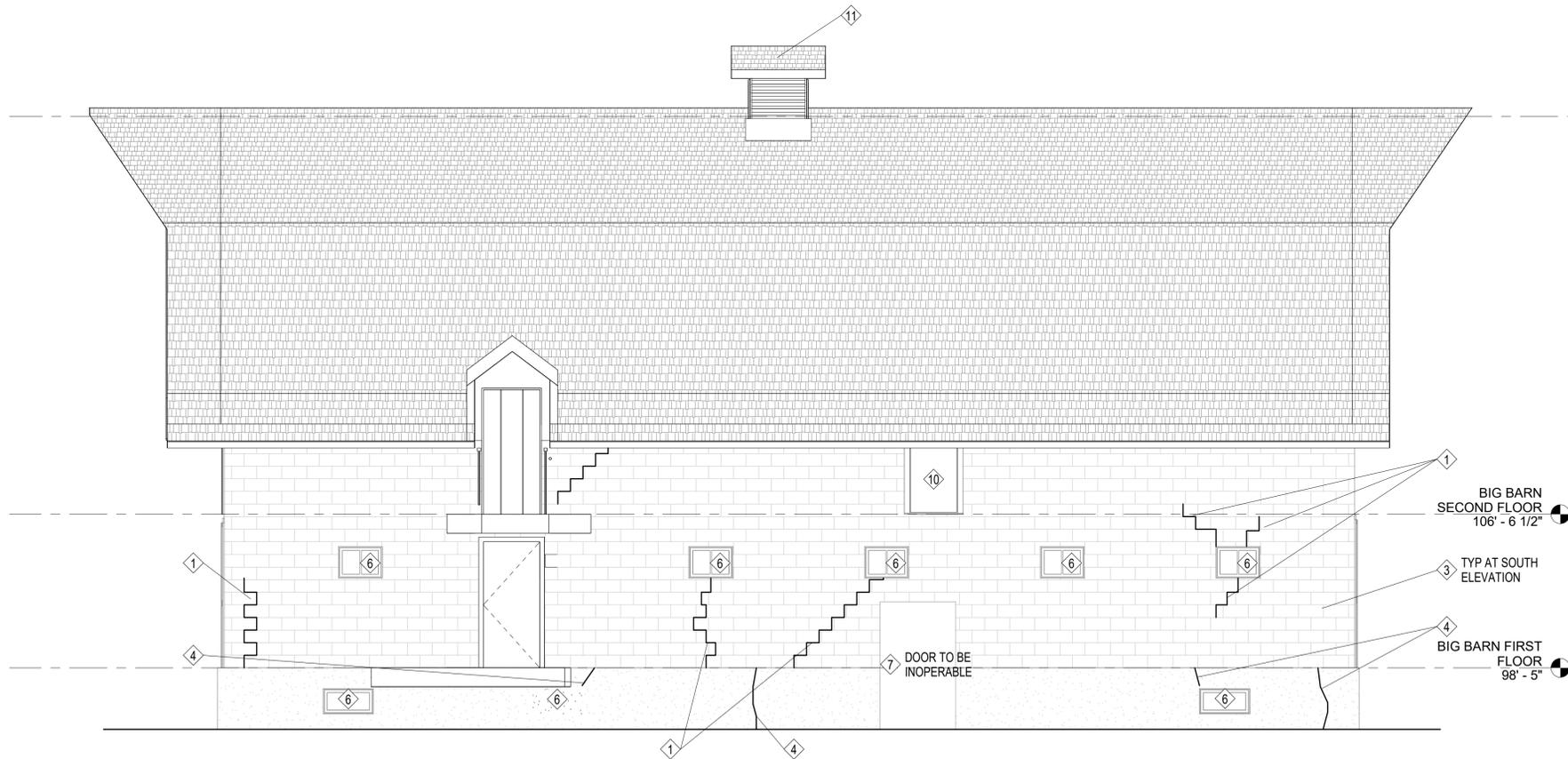
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1 BIG BARN SOUTH ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"

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DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

No.	Description	Date

Project Number 24-037
Date FEBRUARY 28, 2025
Drawn By JRR
Checked By NFL
Scale As indicated

SOUTH ELEVATION

A-203





TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-458, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the First Amendment to the General Services Agreement with BC Interiors for Town Hall Phase II Furniture

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTER(S): David Pasic, Public Works Director
Chad Alexander, Facilities Division Manager

TIME ESTIMATE: 0 minutes
For time estimate: please put 0 for Consent items.

FISCAL SUMMARY:

Cost as Recommended:	\$330,067.19
Balance Available:	\$1,104,287
Fund	General, Water, Wastewater, Public Facilities Impact
Line Item Number:	310-70-440-605000-100199
	110-70-440-605000-100199
	500-70-440-605000-100199
	510-70-440-605000-100199
New Appropriation Required:	No

POLICY ISSUES:

This resolution facilitates the purchase of new furniture, and the re-use of existing furniture needed for the phase II building renovation to keep the Town Hall Expansion Project on schedule.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Resolution

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- The original agreement covered only Phase I of the project (procuring and installing furniture for the new construction portion of Town Hall). This Amendment adds Phase II to the Scope (procuring and installing furniture in the renovated portion of Town Hall).

- The Amendment needs to be approved at the Aug. 26 Council meeting to ensure adequate lead time for furniture procurement and installation to keep the Town Hall project on schedule.
- BC Interiors proposal was developed using OMNIA Partners cooperative purchasing pricing, which is competitively bid pricing that has been adopted by the State of Colorado. This procurement method ensures the Town receives the most competitive pricing possible for select goods and services.
- Approving the Amendment allows for the procurement and installation of furniture needed by Town staff to occupy the building upon completion of the phase II renovation.

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

On April 26, 2024, Town Council adopted the 2024 First Supplemental Budget, which included capital budget for the Town Hall Expansion Project.

On Sept. 10, 2024, Town Council approved a General Services Agreement with Bottom Line Design LLC d/b/a BC interiors for the Town Hall Project Phase 1 furniture. This Amendment addresses the furniture needs for phase II.

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community
- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution
2. Amendment

**Town of Erie
Resolution No. 25-146**

**A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving
the First Amendment to the General Services Agreement with BC
Interiors for Town Hall Phase II Furniture**

Whereas, on September 10, 2024, the Town and BC Interiors entered into a General Services Agreement; and

Whereas, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement.

Now Therefore be it Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Erie, Colorado, that:

Section 1. The Town Council hereby approves the First Amendment to the General Services Agreement with BC Interiors in substantially the form attached hereto, subject to approval by the Town Attorney. Upon such approval, the Mayor is authorized to execute the First Amendment on behalf of the Town.

Adopted this 26th day of August, 2025.

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk

First Amendment to Agreement for Services
(Town Hall Expansion and Renovation (P22-517))

This First Amendment to Agreement for Services (the "Amendment") is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2025 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the Town of Erie, a Colorado home rule municipality with an address of 645 Holbrook Street, P.O. Box 750, Erie, CO 80516 (the "Town"), and Bottom Line Design, LLC d/b/a BC Interiors, an independent contractor with a principal place of business at 3550 Frontier Ave. Ste C2 Boulder, CO, 80301 ("Contractor") (each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties").

Whereas, on September 10, 2024, the Parties entered into an Agreement for General Services (the "Agreement"); and

Whereas, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement as set forth herein.

Now Therefore, for the consideration hereinafter set forth, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Compensation. Section III of the Agreement is hereby amended to read as follows:

III. Compensation.

In consideration for the completion of the Scope of Services by Contractor, the Town shall pay Contractor \$234,343.21 for Phase 1 and \$330,067.19 for Phase II, as defined in **Exhibit A-1**. This amount shall include all fees, costs and expenses incurred by Contractor, and no additional amounts shall be paid by the Town for such fees, costs and expenses. Contractor may submit periodic invoices, which shall be paid by the Town within 30 days of receipt.

2. Scope of Services. **Exhibit A** to the Agreement is hereby replaced with **Exhibit A-1**, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference:

3. Remainder of Agreement. Except as expressly modified herein, the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

In Witness Whereof, the Parties have executed this First Amendment as of the Effective Date.

Town of Erie, Colorado

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk

Contractor

DocuSigned by:
David Chapman
0A6D4AB254D24BD...

State of Colorado)
) ss.
County of _____)

The foregoing instrument was subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me
this ____ day of _____, 2025, by _____ as
_____ of Bottom Line Design, LLC d/b/a BC Interiors.

My commission expires:

(Seal)

Notary Public

Exhibit A-1 Scope of Services

Phase I:

Contractor shall procure, deliver, and install all new furniture required for the Town Hall Renovation pursuant to Contractor's Phase I proposal, Order #75809, dated August 20, 2024, and Phase I Furniture Package document dated July 27, 2024. Contractor shall move all existing furniture to be re-used from the original Town Hall building and reconfigure as necessary in the new building addition or move to temporary on-site storage if furniture is not needed until Phase II.

Phase II:

Contractor shall procure, deliver, and install all new furniture required for the Phase II - Town Hall Building Renovation (P22-517) pursuant to Contractor's Phase II proposal, Order #76763, dated July 30, 2025, Phase II Furniture Package document dated June 23, 2025, and final Phase II furniture floor plan dated June 20, 2025. Contractor shall move all existing furniture stored on site or installed in Phase I as necessary and reconfigure/install.



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-463, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

Town Banner, Flag and Street Décor Policy

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Operations

PRESENTER(S): Malcolm Fleming, Town Manager
Kendra Carberry, Town Attorney

TIME ESTIMATE: 60 minutes

For time estimate: please put 0 for Consent items.

FISCAL SUMMARY: N/A

POLICY ISSUES:

The Town currently follows an Administrative Policy to determine what flags, other than the United States flag, may fly and when they may fly, on Town-controlled flag poles, as well as what street décor may be installed on Town-controlled property. Council asked staff to prepare options for amending that policy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the options staff have prepared to amend the existing policy and, by motion passed by roll call vote, approve Option 2 to give staff clear direction on this matter and enable the Town, when there is Council support, to fly flags reflecting Council's proclamations, including flags for Juneteenth and Pride Month, as has been done since 2021 in the case of Juneteenth and since 2022 in the case of Pride Month.

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

Town Council asked Town staff to prepare options for amending the Town's current administrative policy on flags and street décor. The options staff prepared include:

- Option 1: Current Policy
- Option 2: Current Policy amended to add provisions providing for flying flags associated with an official proclamation approved by resolution of the Town Council, during the period of time associated with the proclamation.
- Option 3: Current Policy amended to provide for flying only the United States flag, the Colorado State flag, the Town of Erie flag, and a POW/MIA flag.

- Both Option 2 and Option 3 also include amendments to provide for flying the Town of Erie flag (if one is adopted), as well as displaying banners on streetlights owned or controlled by the Town.
- Additionally, both Options 2 and 3 also include amendments that refer to the University of Colorado Monthly Awareness Calendar instead of an incomplete list of heritage celebrations.
- Finally, both Options 2 and 3 also amend the definition of Street Décor to eliminate “paint” from the definition to avoid situations that would require ongoing maintenance.

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

In 2021, to ensure the Town’s actions were permitted by law and evolving legal caselaw, and after consulting with the Town Attorney and the Town Council, the Town Manager adopted an administrative policy covering the display of flags on flagpoles owned or controlled by the Town. In 2022, and again after consulting with the Town Attorney and Town Council, the Town Manager amended the policy to cover displays of street décor on property owned or controlled by the Town. That current Town policy limits flying of flags on Town controlled flag poles to:

- The United States flag;
- The Colorado State flag;
- A flag associated with an official proclamation or order of the President of the United States, during the period of time associated with the proclamation or order;
- A flag associated with an official proclamation or order of the Governor of the State of Colorado, during the period of time associated with the proclamation or order;
- A POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) flag, at any time; and
- A "Fallen Heroes" or similar flag, recognizing a deceased member of the United States Armed Forces, at any time.

The current policy also specifies the Town Manager may approve the installation of street décor if the Town Manager determines that the street décor complies with the policy and applicable law.

In accord with this policy, the Town has flown flags for Juneteenth every year since 2021, and for Pride Month every June since 2022.

During June 2025, after Town staff had raised the Pride flag on Town flag poles in celebration of Pride Month, it was pointed out that although Town Council Members had read and commented positively on the Town’s Pride Month Proclamation, there did not appear to be either an official Presidential or Gubernatorial proclamation on Pride Month. Consequently, it appeared that flying the Pride flag was inconsistent with the current policy and the flags were taken down. On June 24, 2025, the Town received a copy of a Proclamation from Governor Polis proclaiming the month of June, 2025 as Pride Month in the State of Colorado. Reflecting that proclamation, Town staff raised the

Pride flags on Town owned flag poles and flew them through the end of June.

During the Town Council's June 24 meeting [Public Comments <https://erie.granicus.com/player/clip/3383?view_id=9&redirect=true>](https://erie.granicus.com/player/clip/3383?view_id=9&redirect=true) section, 18 people spoke about the Town's Flag policy, Pride Month, and the impact of removing the Pride flags had on them. To avoid a similar situation in the future, Town Council can expand the instances in which the Town may fly flags to include observances covered by a Proclamation adopted by a Resolution of the Town Council. Option 2 attached does this.

Alternatively, Town Council may wish to limit the instances in which the Town may fly flags or install street décor to only the United States flag, the Colorado State flag, the Town of Erie flag (if one is adopted), and a POW/MIA flag, and focus other celebration or awareness actions on banners and street décor. Option 3 attached does this.

Adding the Banners section is intended to cover the Town's practice of having "Hometown Hero" and similar banners on Town-owned streetlights. Deleting "paint" from the definition of Street Décor reflects the additional maintenance considerations associated with paint on streets.

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community
- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Option 1: Current Flag and Décor Administrative Policy
2. Option 2: Edits to current policy to provide for flags to be flown in accord with Town Council Proclamations and to add banners
3. Option 3: Edits to current policy to provide only U.S., Colorado, Town of Erie, and POW/MIA flags, and to add banners
4. Option 2 Clean version
5. Option 3 Clean version



Town of Erie

Flag and Street Decor Policy

Effective Date: June 10, 2021	Revision/Review Date: March 1, 2024	Prepared By: Gabi Rae, CCE Director
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Policy Purpose:

The purpose of the Town of Erie Flag and Street Decor Policy (the "Policy") is to establish a policy for the display of flags on flagpoles and the display of street decor on property owned or controlled by the Town. This Policy is not intended to create any public forum or limited public forum, and by enacting this Policy, the Town is not intending to regulate the content of flags or street decor except as expressly allowed by applicable law.

Applicability

This Policy applies to flags physically attached to any flagpole owned or controlled by the Town, as well as the painting or other decoration of any public street owned or controlled by the Town.

Definitions:

- **Flag-** any fabric, banner, or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns, or symbols that is attached to a flagpole.
- **Street Decor-** paint, chalk, writing, or art on streets owned or controlled by the Town, excluding unauthorized graffiti.

Flags

The Town may fly any of the following flags on flagpoles owned or controlled by the Town, at any time:

- The United States flag;
- The Colorado State flag;
- A flag associated with an official proclamation or order of the President of the United States, during the period of time associated with the proclamation or order;
- A flag associated with an official proclamation or order of the Governor of the State of Colorado, during the period of time associated with the proclamation or order;
- A POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) flag, at any time; and
- A "Fallen Heroes" or similar flag, recognizing a deceased member of the United States Armed Forces, at any time.

The Governor of the State of Colorado is authorized to order that the United States flag and the Colorado State flag be lowered to half-staff at federal and state buildings in Colorado, and in such case, the Town will lower all flags on its flagpoles accordingly.

All flags shall comply with the Town's sign code.

The Town Manager shall determine the placement of flags and the duration of the placement; provided that, on any flagpole, the United States flag shall always be highest, followed by the State of Colorado flag (if flying), followed by the other flags in any order; and further provided that the flying of the United States flag and the State of Colorado flag shall comply with all other applicable regulations.

Street Decor

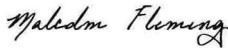
The Town Manager may approve the installation of street decor if the Town Manager determines that the street decor complies with this Policy and applicable law.

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DocuSigned by:

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Malcolm Fleming, Town Manager

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Town of Erie

Banner, Flag and Street Décor Policy

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TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-462, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

2025 Performing Arts Center (PAC) Feasibility Study Report

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation

PRESENTER(S): Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation
Stacey McMath, Senior Consultant, Webb Mgmt
Chris Wineman, Principal, Semple Brown

TIME ESTIMATE: 60 minutes

FISCAL SUMMARY:

N/A

POLICY ISSUES:

While there are no immediate policy implications, the construction and operation of a Performing Arts Center (PAC) would carry significant long-term policy considerations for the Town. A facility of this type would require Town Council to establish future direction on funding mechanisms for both capital construction and ongoing operations, including acceptable subsidy levels.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

None - presentation only.

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- Presentation of the Performing Arts Center feasibility study findings, assessing market demand, facility needs, and alignment with Town goals.
- Council will need to consider long-term policy direction on funding mechanisms, governance structure, and integration with the Town Center development.
- No immediate actions are required, but future decisions will determine the project's scope, timing, and operational model.

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

In the 2023 Community Survey, the Town asked: "As part of the Town Center project, in addition to a small/medium size grocery store and a hotel, the Town Center plans call for a Civic Building. Please indicate your level of support for the following civic uses in this location." Options included:

- Performing/Cultural Arts Center
- Museum
- Town Government Office Space
- Multi-Purpose Center
- Teen and/or Older Adult Center

Respondents ranked the Performing/Cultural Arts Center highest for overall support at 87%, followed by the Multi-Purpose Center at 85%. The next question asked if residents would support a tax or bond measure to fund the civic services, and 59% indicated “Yes” for the Performing/Cultural Arts Center. In a separate November 2024 Parks & Recreation community survey developed by Magellan Strategies, more than 2,000 respondents participated, with 65% expressing strong or moderate support for building a new performing arts center in Erie and 70% indicating they were very or somewhat likely to attend events there. Based on this feedback, staff engaged a consultant to explore the feasibility of constructing and operating a PAC in Erie.

As part of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Strategic Plan update, the Town engaged Webb Mgmt and Semple Brown to assess the Performing Arts Center’s (PAC) viability, community impact, financial implications, construction costs, and operational considerations.

The feasibility process included:

- Market analysis of a 15-mile radius around Erie
- Competitive and comparable facility inventory
- 29 confidential interviews and two focus groups with cultural leaders, Town staff, and residents
- Analysis of PROST questionnaire responses

Webb Mgmt and Semple Brown also advanced the PAC concept beyond the market study and needs assessment. It included developing a functional space program for a 650-seat fixed-seating theater with supplemental multi-use studio spaces, preparing capital cost estimates and an economic impact analysis, and identifying sustainable funding mechanisms and governance models to ensure long-term success.

It should be noted that according to the recent Town of Erie In-Depth Community Survey which closed on Aug. 1, 2025, 28% of respondents indicated a PAC as a high priority, 42% as a low priority, and 30% were neutral.

Staff and the consultant team are presenting these findings to Council for consideration.

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community

File #: 25-462, **Version:** 1

- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Presentation

Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study

Presentation to Erie Town Council
August 26, 2025
Town Hall
645 Holbrook St

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Presentation
 - I. Market Study
 - II. Needs Assessment
 - III. Recommendations
 - IV. Comparable Projects
 - V. Cost Estimate
 - VI. Economic Impact
3. Q&A

Introductions



National arts management consulting firm



Stacey McMath
Senior Consultant,
Webb Mgmt



Local architecture firm with leading experience building Colorado arts facilities



Chris Wineman
Principal, Semple
Brown Design

Feasibility Study Goals

Testing the potential for a Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Erie

The purpose of this study was to assess the viability, community impact, potential locations, financial implications, and operational considerations for establishing a Performing Arts Center within the community.

The impetus for this study was a question on a community survey where 65% of respondents indicated that they strongly supported or somewhat supported the Town of Erie building a new performing arts center. 70% of respondents indicated that they were very or somewhat likely to attend an event at a new PAC.

This feasibility study is conducted in parallel with a strategic plan update for Erie's parks, recreation, open space, and trail amenities.



Study Components

Phase One:

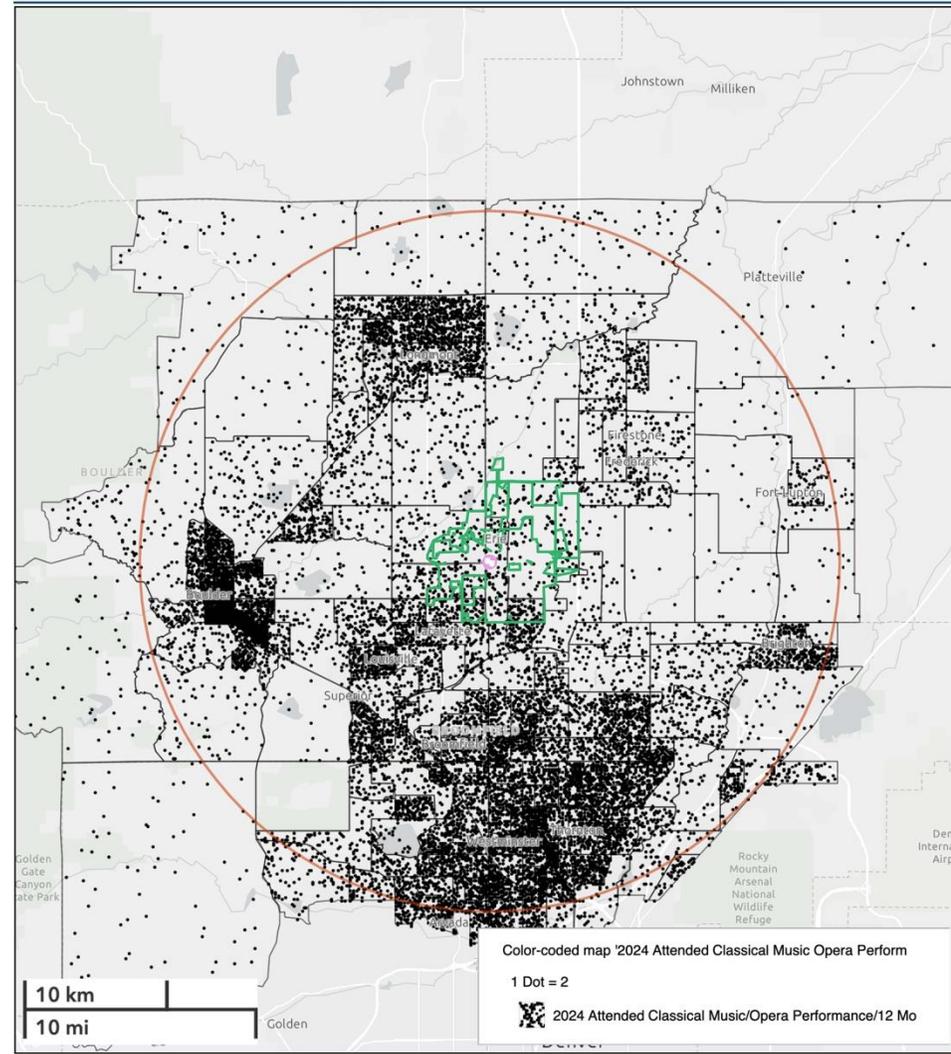
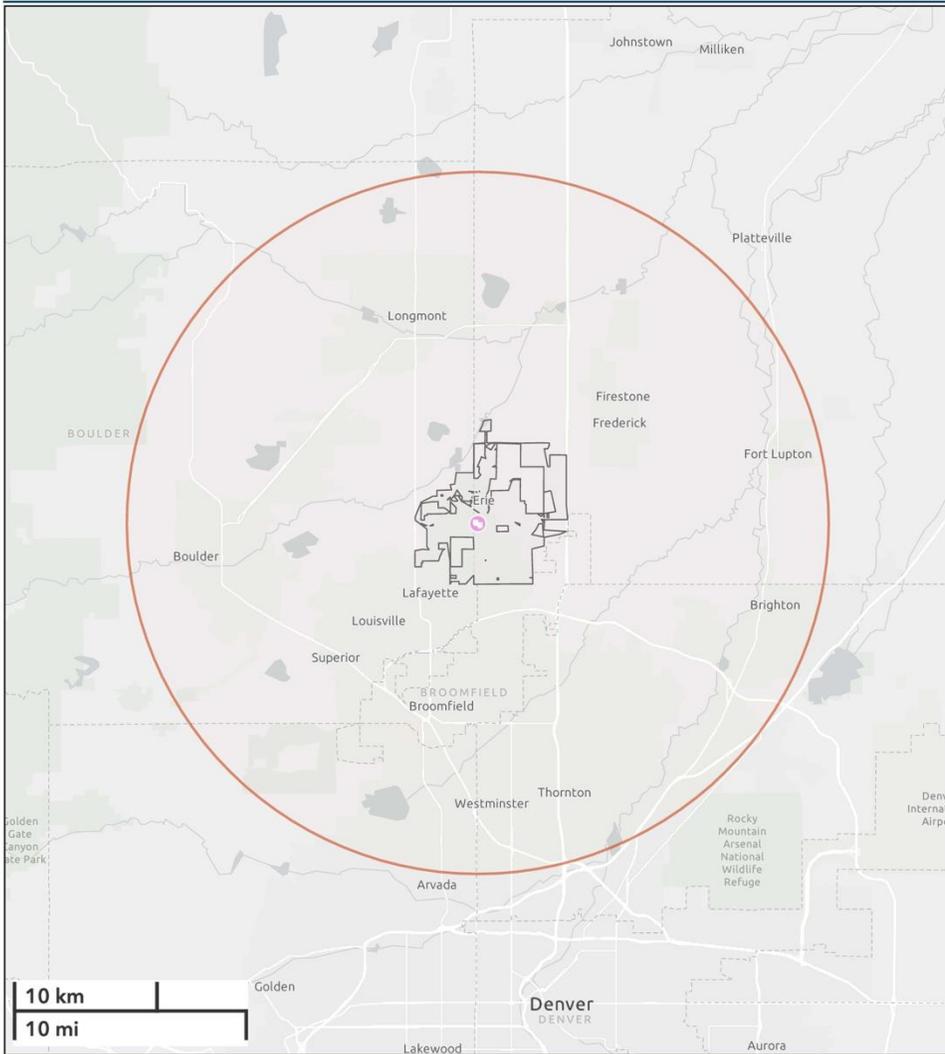
- One-on-one and group meetings
- Market Analysis
- Forces & Trends
- Facility Inventories
- User Demand and Utilization
- Community Benefits Assessment
- Facility Recommendations

Phase Two:

- Site Review
- Physical & Operating Assumptions
- Functional Space Program
- Capital Cost Estimate
- Economic Impact

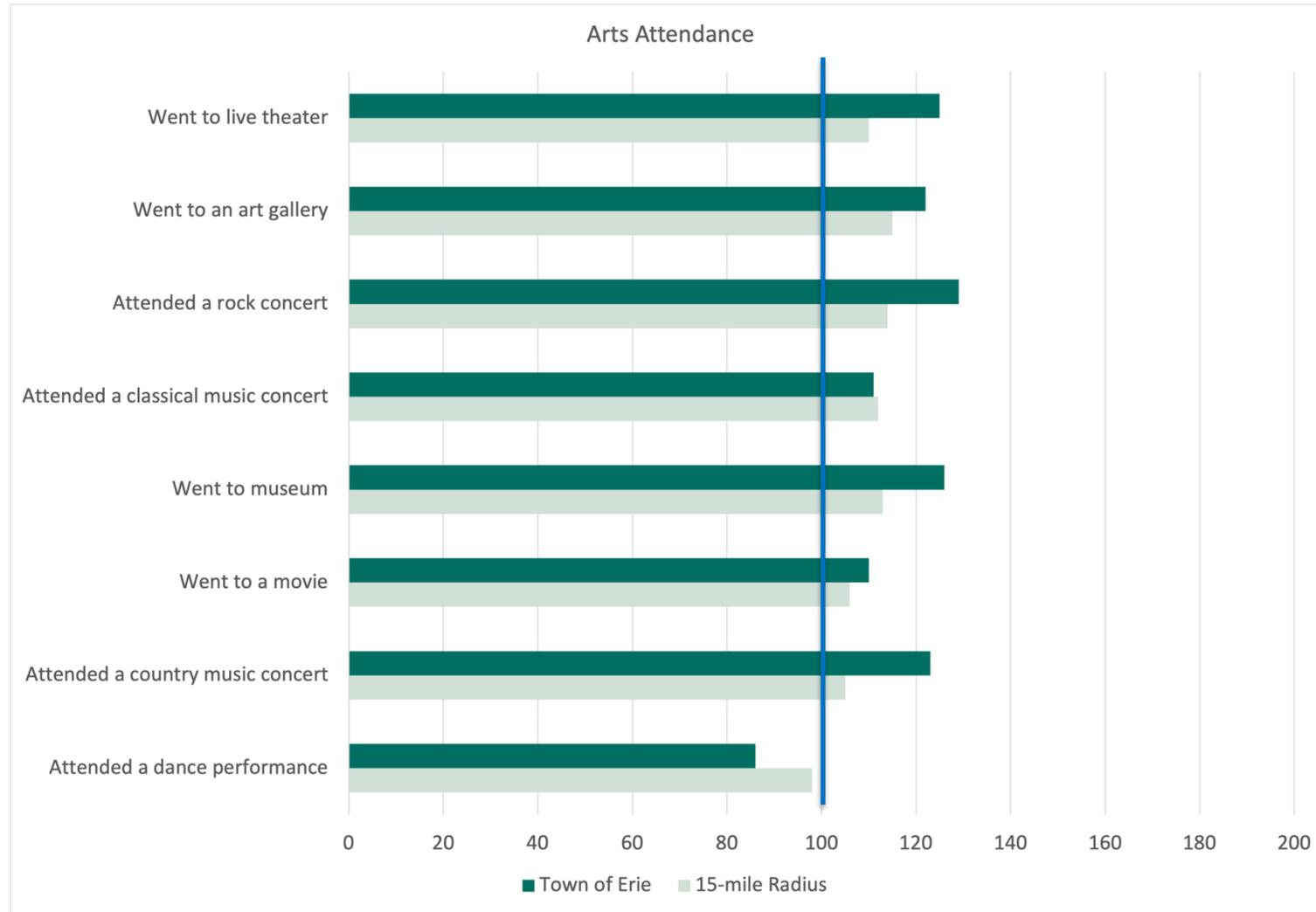
Market Study

Market Area: a 15-mile radius



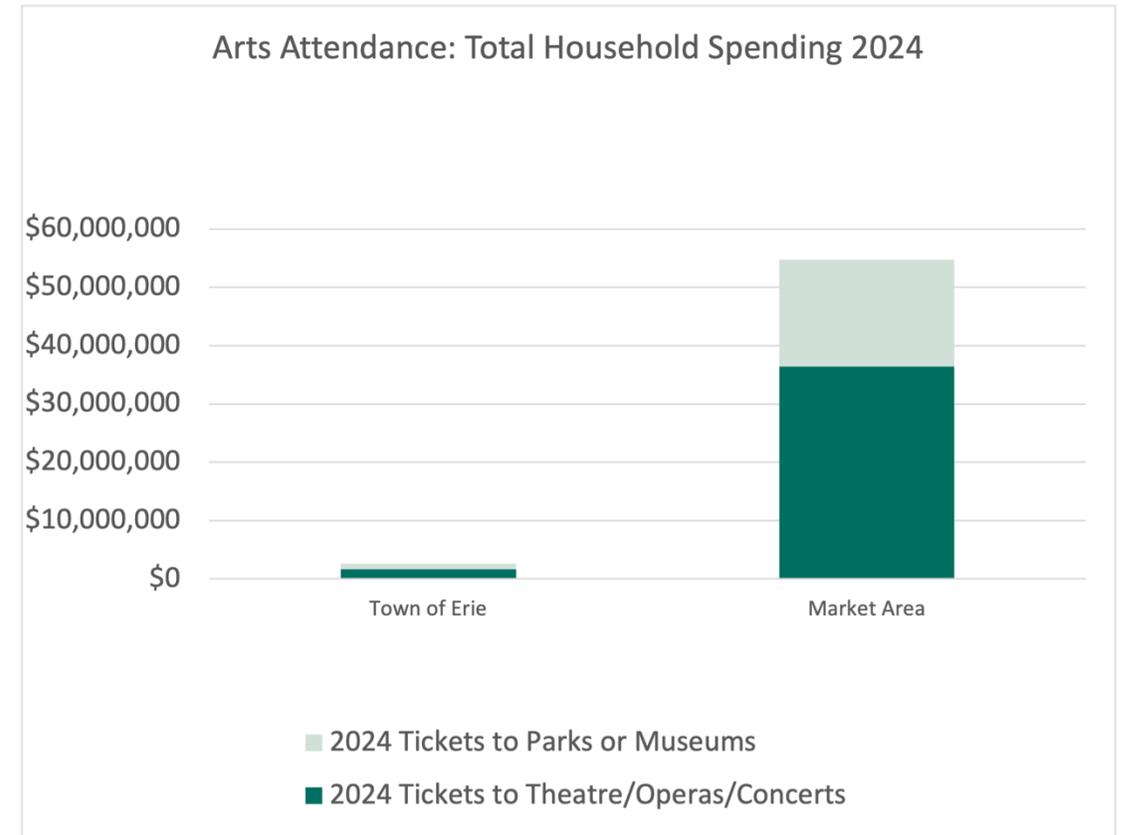
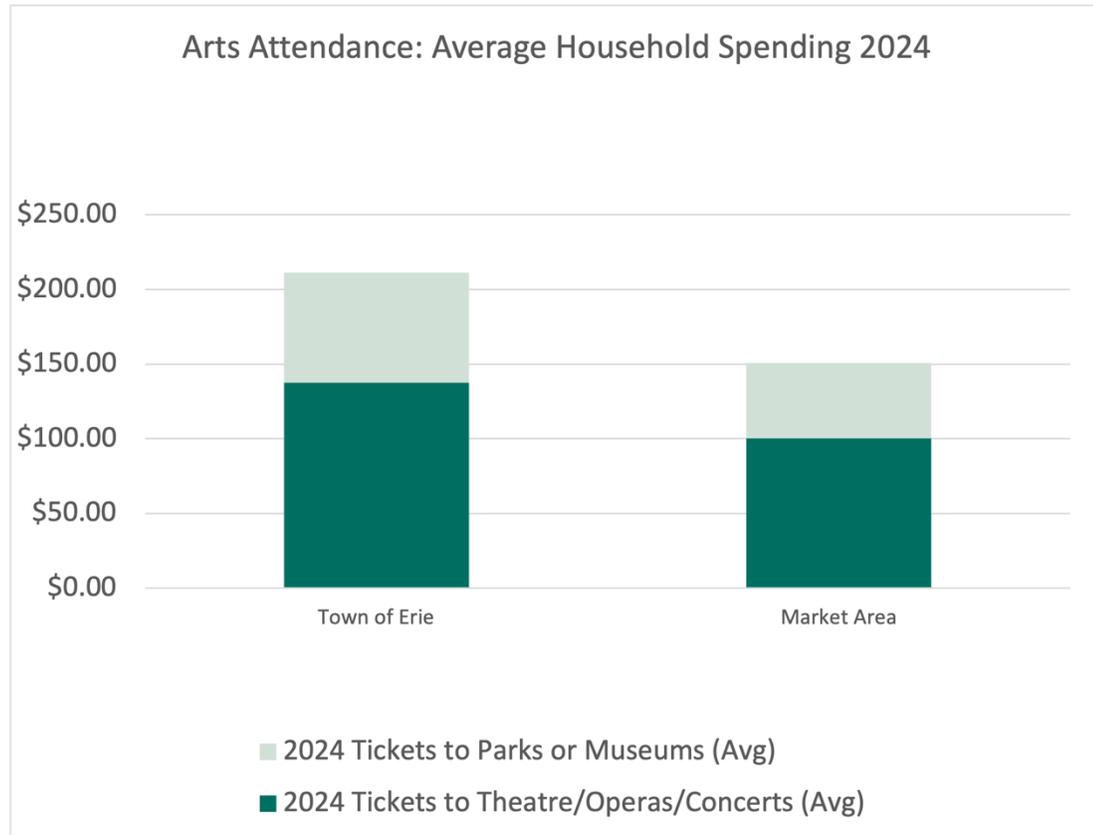
Source: Esri

Arts Attendance Potential



Source: Esri

Economic Indicators



Source: Esri

County Arts Vibrancy

Southern Methodist University's DataArts initiative provides an Arts Vibrancy scores for counties across the US. Each score shows how a county performs relative to other counties on a scale of 0-100.

Boulder County performs better than 96% of counties nationwide on SMU's arts vibrancy index. Adams County performs better than 93% of counties in the US, and Weld County performs better than 75%.

96/100

Boulder County

93/100

Adams County

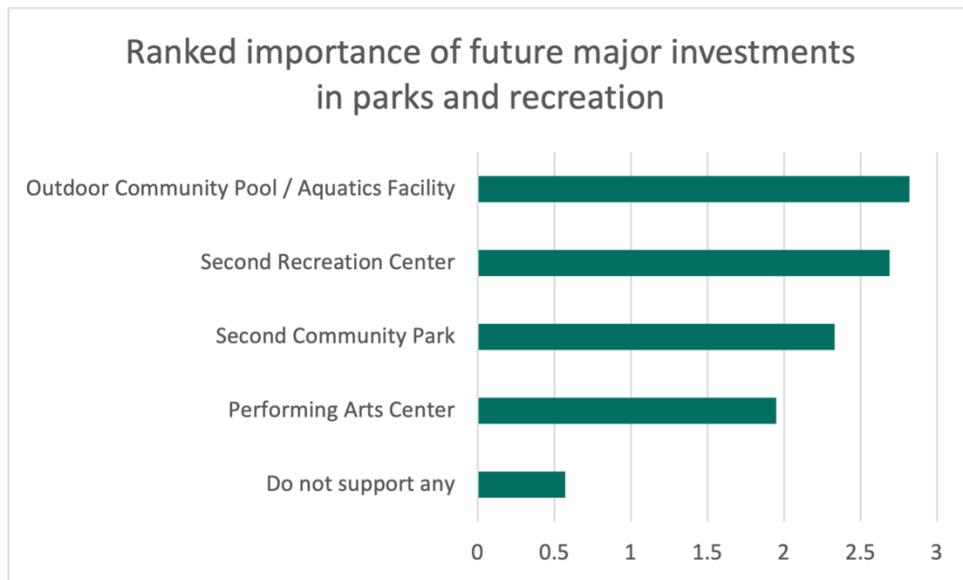
75/100

Weld County

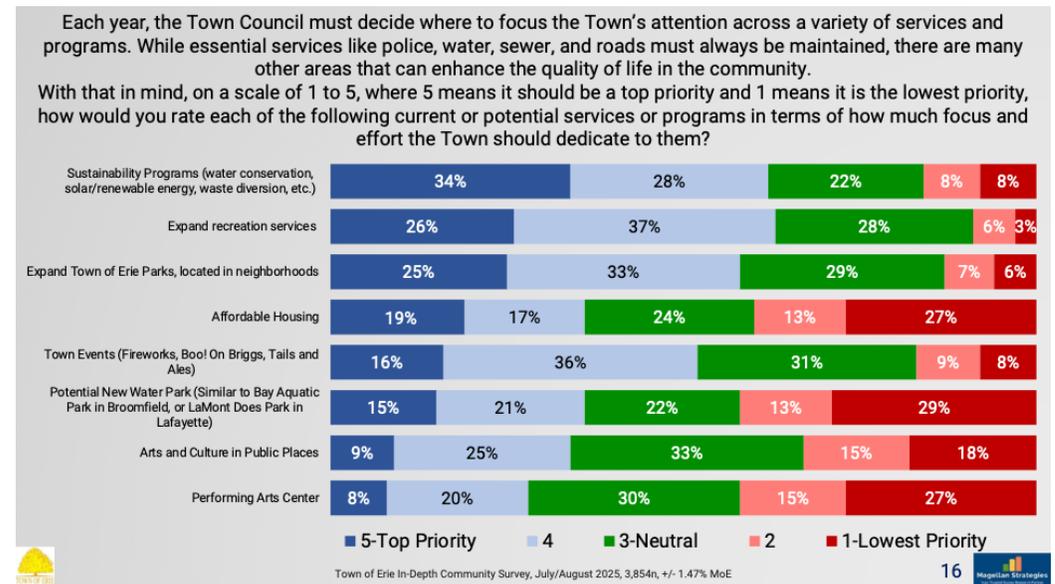
Source: SMU DataArts

Concerns: Community Support

- There is limited infrastructure for arts advocacy in Erie.
- Residents are aware of failed initiatives and projects.
- Interviewees and survey respondents suggested that there may not be community support to fund a new arts center.



Source: Engage Erie PROST Survey as of 5/30/25 n726



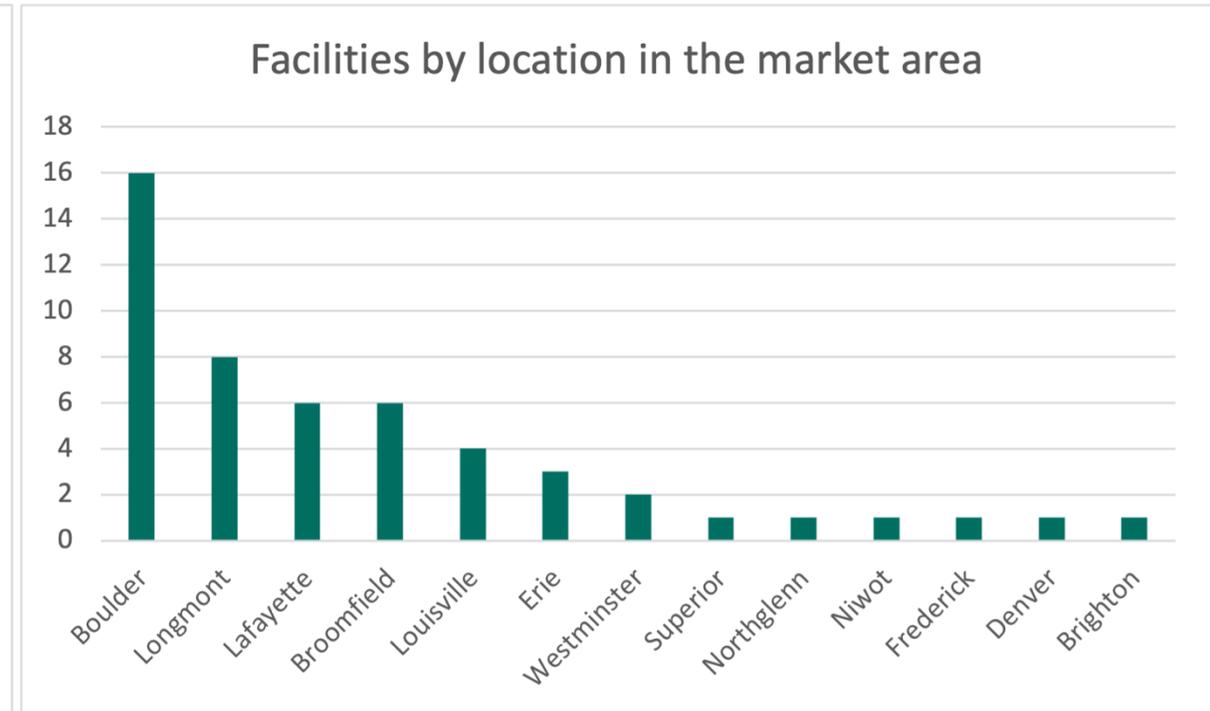
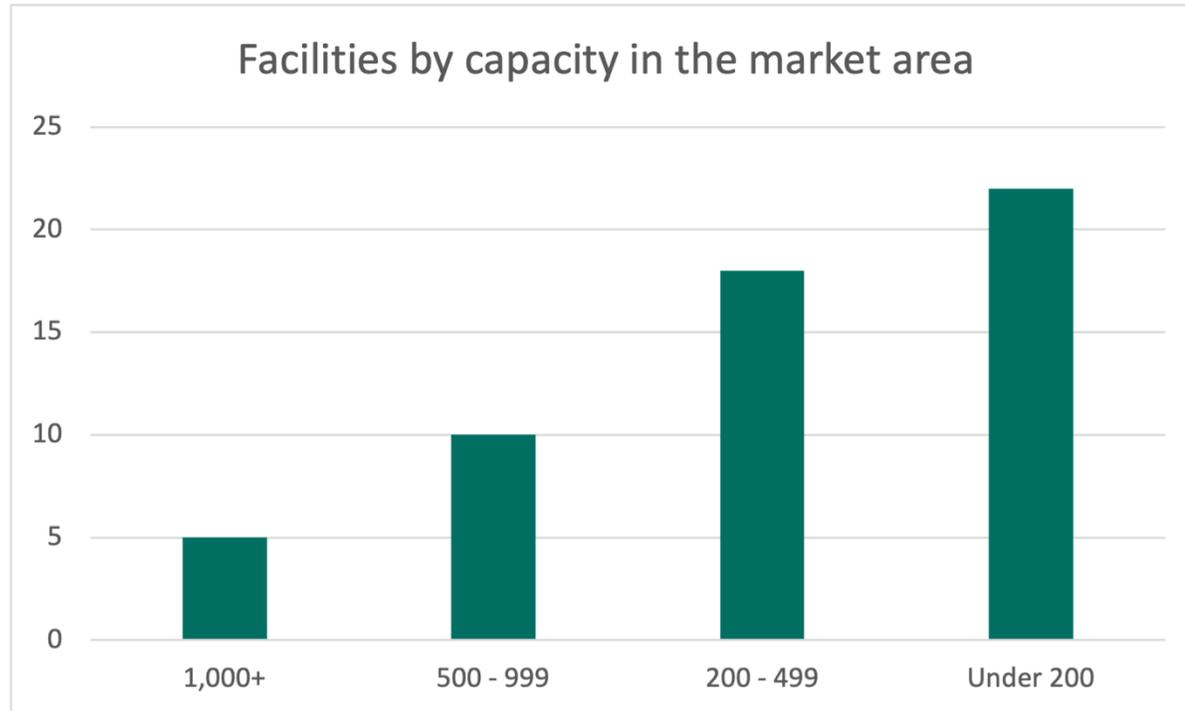
Source: Town of Erie In-Depth Community Survey July/August 2025 n3,845

Market Study: Conclusions

- Town of Erie residents have demographic indicators that correlate with a high potential for arts participation.
- The market area has high potential for arts attendance and contributions.
- A new venue would rely on the potential market in a fifteen-mile radius around the Town of Erie.
- The market has strong potential to support a facility once constructed, but there may be limited community support for a new building.

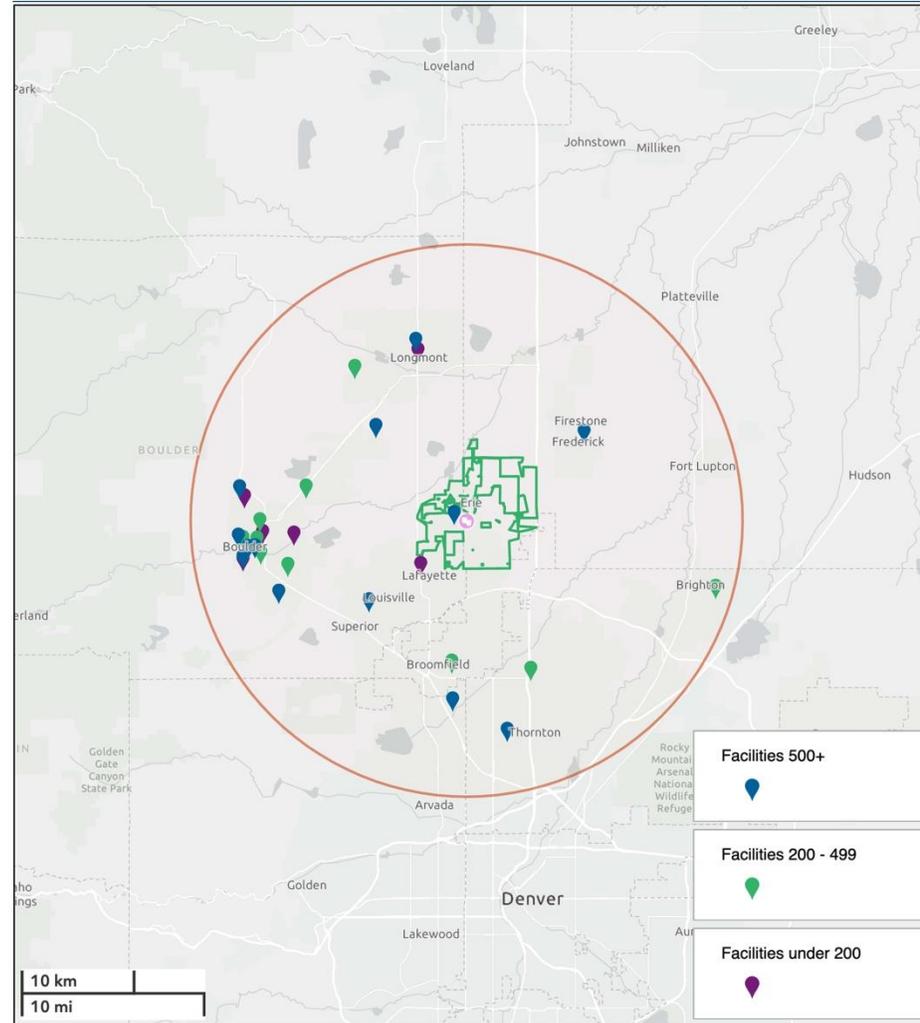
Needs Assessment

Performing Arts Facilities Inventory



Mapping the Inventory

The venue situation is DIRE. There is Mackie, but nobody likes using it. Its too big, its very expensive, and its not professionally handled. The churches are too small and too churchy and you can't use the public schools because they can kick you out.
- Interview participant

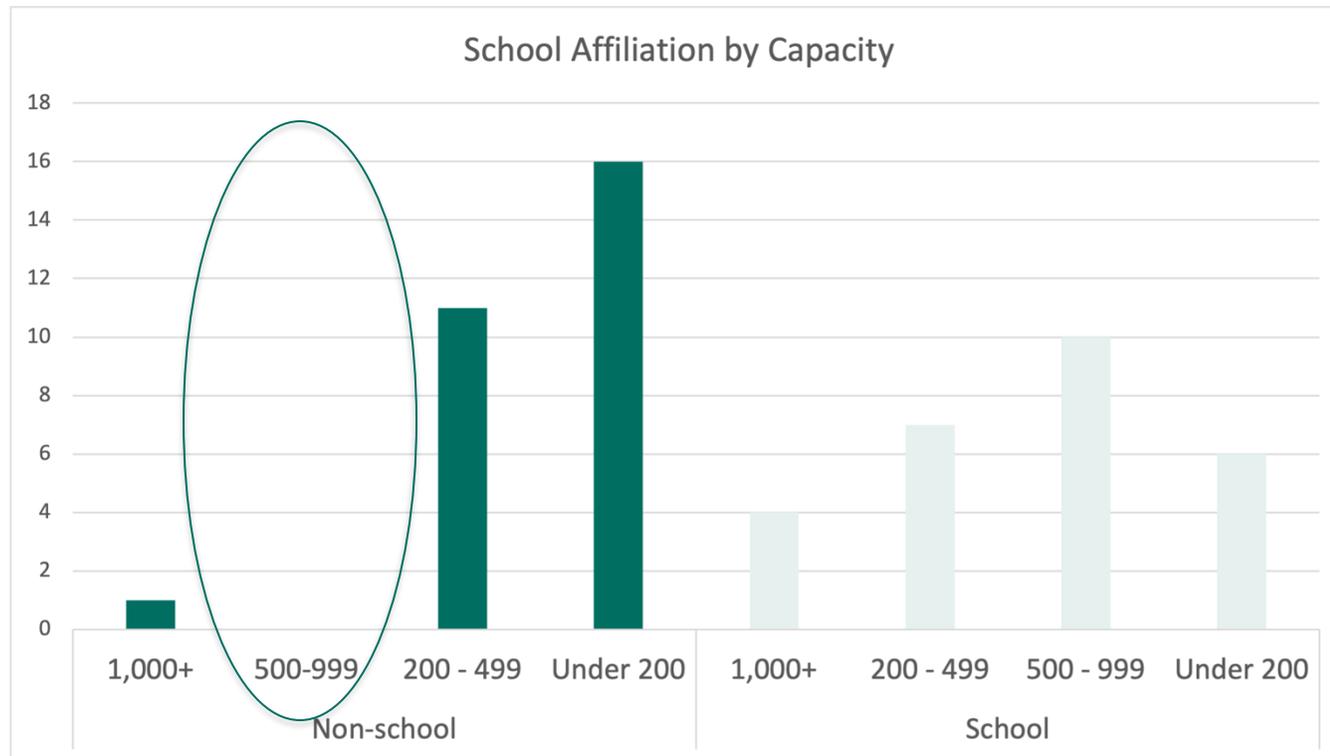


Source: Webb Mgmt Facilities Inventory. Esri

Mapping the Inventory

There is not a single performing arts facility over 500 seats in the market area that is independently operated and meets the needs of local arts nonprofits.

A performing arts center will greatly benefit Erie and its image.
- Survey Respondent



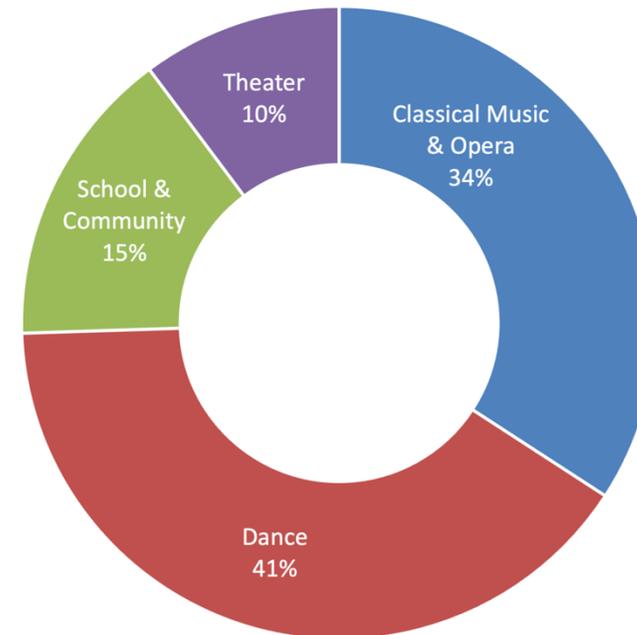
Source: Webb Mgmt Facilities Inventory. Esri

User demand

The organizations below suggested that, provided it met their needs, they could activate a new performing arts center for approximately 155 days per year.

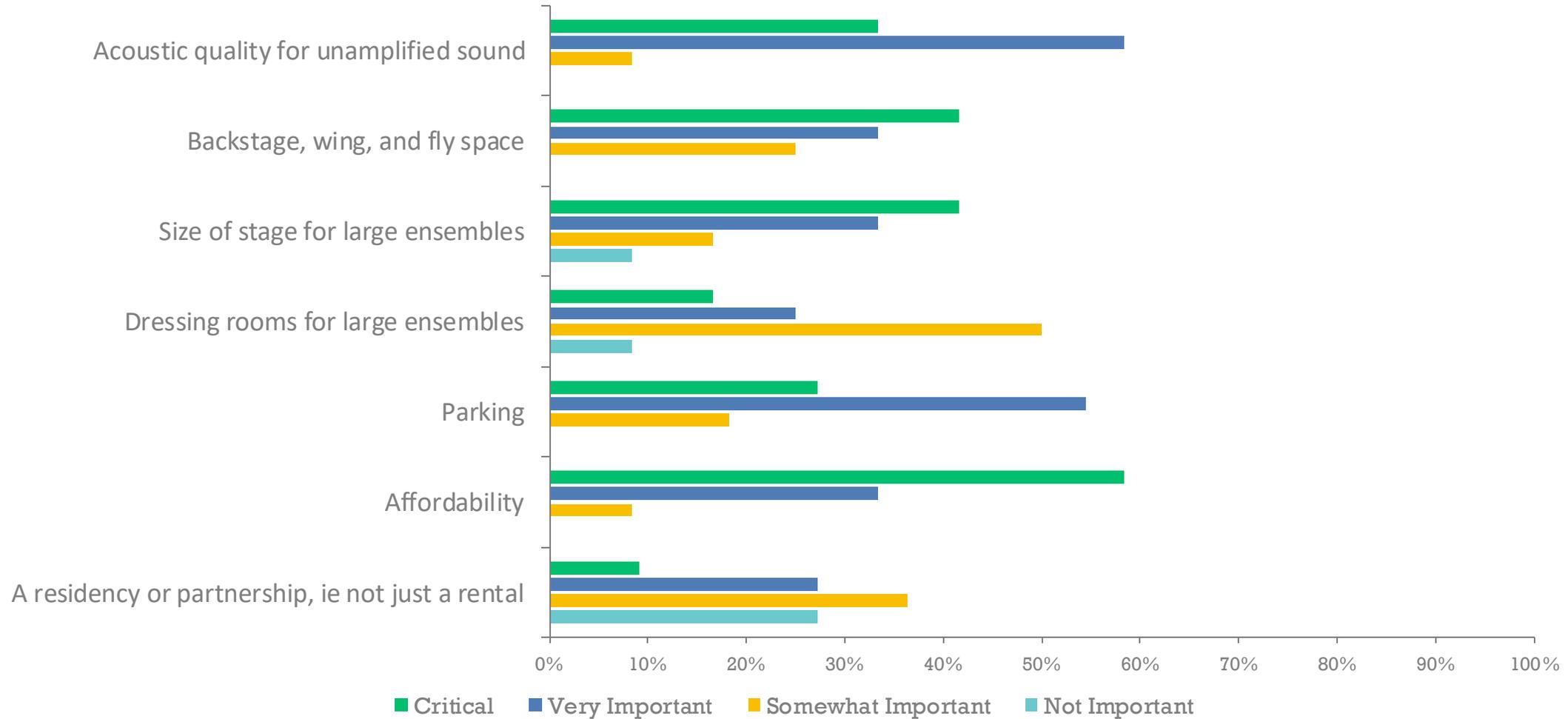
The Cultural Caravan
Boulder Opera
Boulder Symphony & Music Academy
Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra
Boulder Valley School District
St. Vrain Valley School District
Boulder Ballet
Dancespace
Danse Etoile Ballet
David Taylor's Zikr Dance Ensemble
Parasol Arts
Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

Performance days by discipline



Source: Webb Mgmt User Survey

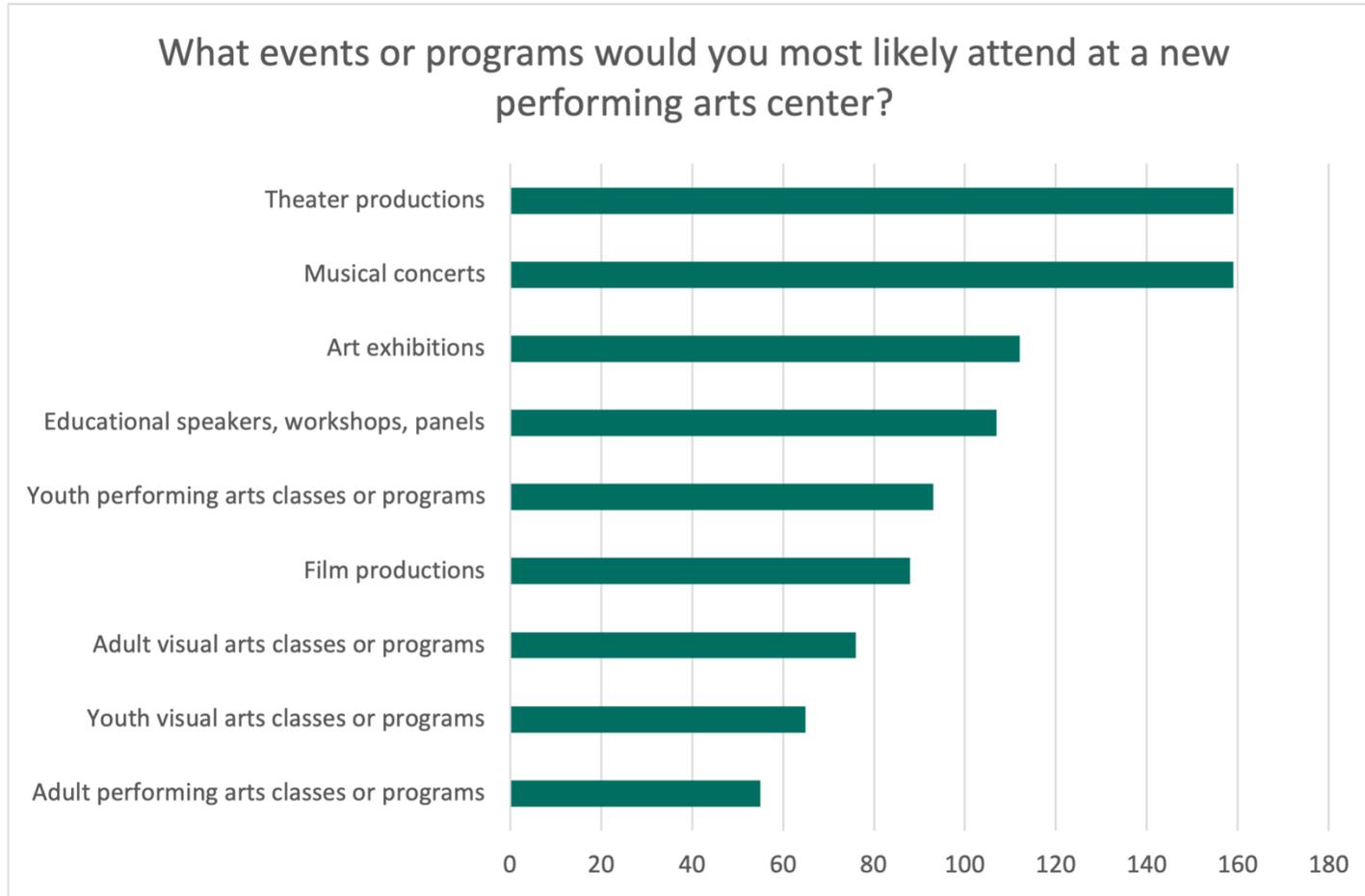
Design Priorities



Source: Webb Mgmt User Form

Survey Respondents' Priorities

Question: What events or programs would you most likely attend at a new performing arts center? Select all that apply.



Source: Engage Erie PROST Survey as of 5/30/25 n726

Needs Assessment: Conclusions

- There is a critical gap in the facilities landscape that an Erie PAC could fill.
- Nonprofit arts groups are waiting in the wings for a facility that meets their needs.
- Potential users seek a space that is hospitable to larger ensembles and unamplified sound.
- Professional performances could form the core of a busy calendar, with additional community offerings programmed by the town.

Feasibility: Key Questions

Is there sufficient audience potential in the market area?

Yes. The Town of Erie and the market in a 15-mile radius around Erie have strong potential to support an additional performing arts facility.

Is there an opportunity in the market to meet a facility need?

Yes. Nonprofit organizations, particularly those in musical genres not currently served, are in dire need of a performance space with 500 seats or more. Affordability will be key in partnering with excellent regional organizations.

Are there potential users of a new performing arts facility?

Yes. Many organizations indicated a strong willingness to move their programming to Erie, including organizations that would like to explore the potential to be in residence.

Would a new performing arts facility align with Erie's goals and priorities?

Maybe. New arts facilities have the potential to improve residents' quality of life and give them local access to events. However, there are many competing priorities in the community.

Recommendations

Recommendations

- Build a performing arts center on the currently identified site that includes 600-700 seat theater that fills the gap in the market.
- The main space should be designed for high-quality musical performances with flexibility to host theater, dance, and events.
- The PAC should also include spaces for rehearsals, smaller events, and visual and performing arts instruction. Multi-use studio spaces will relieve pressure on the ECC and activate the center during the day.
- Embrace the PAC as a civic space, envisioning other opportunities for use. A lobby/public area has the potential to be a bustling, community-serving space.

Multi-disciplinary main venue

- 650-700 seats
- Orchestra level with cross-aisle
- Single balcony
- Adjustable acoustics in audience chamber
- Live mix/control cockpit
- Catwalks above for lighting



Stage Area

- Playing area: 45 x 40
- Wings additional
- Storage space for orchestra shell
- Orchestra pit with lift provides a stage extension
- Digital projector and screen
- Resilient stage floor



Performance Support

- Dressing Rooms: 2 chorus (10 stations ea) plus 2 guest artist (2 stations ea)
- Green Room
- Wardrobe (with laundry)
- Control booth

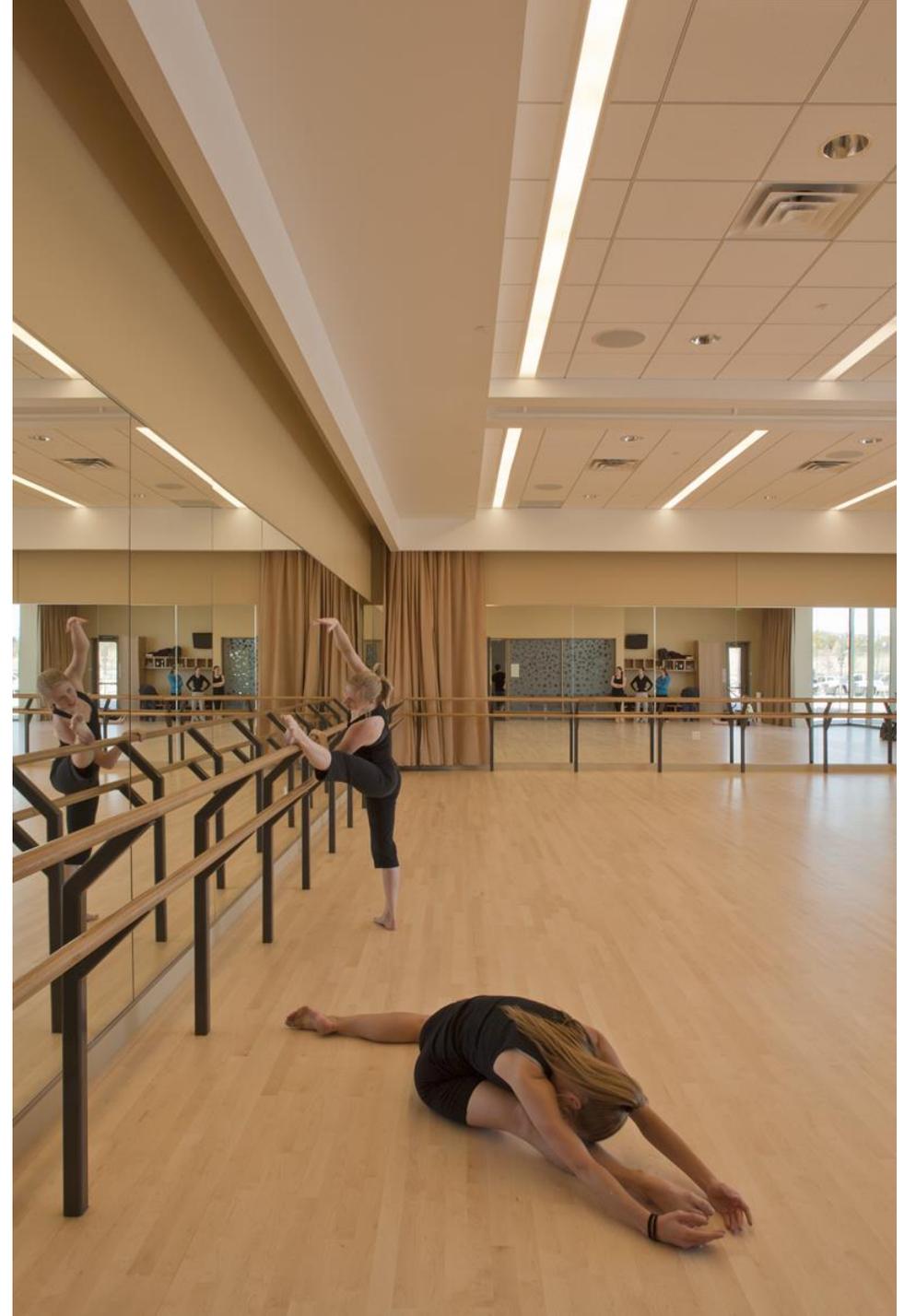
Anticipate use of at least one rehearsal studio as a backstage support space/warmup area for larger ensembles.



Multi-purpose Studios

- Primary rehearsal studio: 1900 sf to duplicate main stage area; includes telescoping seating to enable use for small performances
- Dance/Movement Studio: 1600 sf
- Visual Arts Studio: 1200 sf
- Multipurpose Studio: 1200 sf
- Locker/changing room suite







Public Spaces

- Multi-level lobby
- Concession area
- Loading/Live Storage
- Box office
- Display capability



Functional Space Program

REVISED FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM: Erie Cultural Center					
OPERATIONAL AREAS	New Space	1	2	Comments	Programming Notes
Theatre					
Seating Area: 650 seats	6,500	4,500	2,000	Adjustable acoustics	Assumes cross-aisle with one balcony and live mix position
Stage: 40 x 45	1,800	1,800			Orchestra, Chorus, Dance, Musical Theatre, Drama
Wings: 2 @ 20 x 42	1,680	1,680			
Shell storage	240	240		Storage for towers; ceiling units flown	
Orchestra Pit	800			Forestage when elevated	Musical theatre, opera, dance
Control Booth	350		350	Sound, Lighting and stage manager	
Green Room	350	350			
Dressing Rooms: 2 chorus @ 16	800	800			
Dressing Rooms: 2 guest artist @ 2	250	250			
Dimmer/Communications Rack Room	100		100		
Wardrobe	350	350		Includes laundry	
Theatre Total	13,220	9,970	2,450		
Multipurpose Studios					
Rehearsal Studio	1,900	1,900		Matches size of stage; 20 feet high; telescoping seating	Acts as a smaller performance space
Rehearsal Studio Storage	500	500			
Piano Storage (2)	240	240			
Dance/Movement Studio	1,600		1,600	Resilient floor, mirrored walls, 20 feet high	Yoga, etc. as well as dance performance
Dance/Movement Studio Storage	300		300		
Multipurpose Studio	1,200		1,200		Camps, classes, workshops
Multipurpose Studio Storage	300		300		
Visual Arts Studio	1,200		1,200	Sealed concrete floor, sinks, north light; partition wall to divide the space	
Visual Arts Studio Storage	300		300		
Locker/changing rooms: 2 @ 500 sf each	1,000		1,000		
Multipurpose Studios Total	8,540	2,640	5,900		
Common Spaces					
Lobby	3,500	2,500	1,000	Two levels	Hanging capability for art exhibition
Box Office: 3 windows	135	135			
Lobby Storage	70	70		Programs, easels, chairs	
Restrooms: 13 Women's	780	450	330		
9 Men's	360	240	120		
3 Family	300	200	100		
Bar/Cafe/Concessions	300	300			
Loading/Storage/Assembly	1,000	1,000		Live loading; shops offsite	
Offices: mgr, td, bo, mktg/dev, conf/work room	1,040		1,040	4 offices; Open plan with conference room	
Common Spaces Total	7,485	4,895	2,590		
Total Assignable Space	29,245	17,505	10,940		
Gross Building Space @ 1.4	40,943	24,507	15,316		

Theater Programming

- Resident organizations
- Partner programs
- Community rentals
- Programs presented by Parks and Recreation

-  Resident or rental performance
-  Adult & civic programming
-  Kids & family programming
-  Rehearsal, tech, load-in, load-out

January

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

February

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28						

March

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April

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August

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September

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October

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31						

November

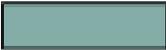
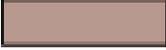
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December

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Studio Programming

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Rehearsal Studio							
9a - 12p			Community Rentals			Community Rentals	Theater support space
1p - 3p			Community Rentals		Theater support space	Theater support space	
4p - 7p	Partner programs	Partner programs		Community Rentals	Theater support space	Theater support space	Community Rentals
Dance/Movement Studio							
9a - 12p	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	
1p - 3p	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	
4p - 7p	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	
Multipurpose Studio							
9a - 12p	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	
1p - 3p	ECC-scheduled programming	Partner programs	ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	
4p - 7p	ECC-scheduled programming	Partner programs	ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming	Partner programs		
Visual Arts Studio							
9a - 12p	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	
1p - 3p	ECC-scheduled programming	Partner programs	ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming		ECC-scheduled programming	
4p - 7p	ECC-scheduled programming	Partner programs	ECC-scheduled programming	ECC-scheduled programming			

	ECC-scheduled programming
	Theater support space
	Partner programs
	Community Rentals

Note that the visual arts and multipurpose studios are divisible, offering the opportunity for one or two classes in the timeslots indicated.

Additional Recommendations

- Rental Rates
- Staffing and Leadership
- Marketing
- Food and Beverage Operations
- Building Maintenance
- Fundraising
- Civic Space Activation

Comparable Projects

Regional Examples:

Colorado Mesa University Asteria Theater

Grand Junction, CO

Status: Open



Capital Cost: \$54 Million

Date of Groundbreaking: March 2023

Date of Opening: September 2024

Owner: Colorado Mesa University

Main Space Capacity: 860

Building square footage: 49,000

Additional performance spaces: none

Regional Examples:

University of Northern Colorado Campus Commons

Greeley, CO

Status: Open



Capital Cost: \$60 Million

Date of Groundbreaking: Late 2016

Date of Opening: Early 2019

Owner: University of Northern Colorado

Main Space Capacity: 670

Building square footage: 108,000

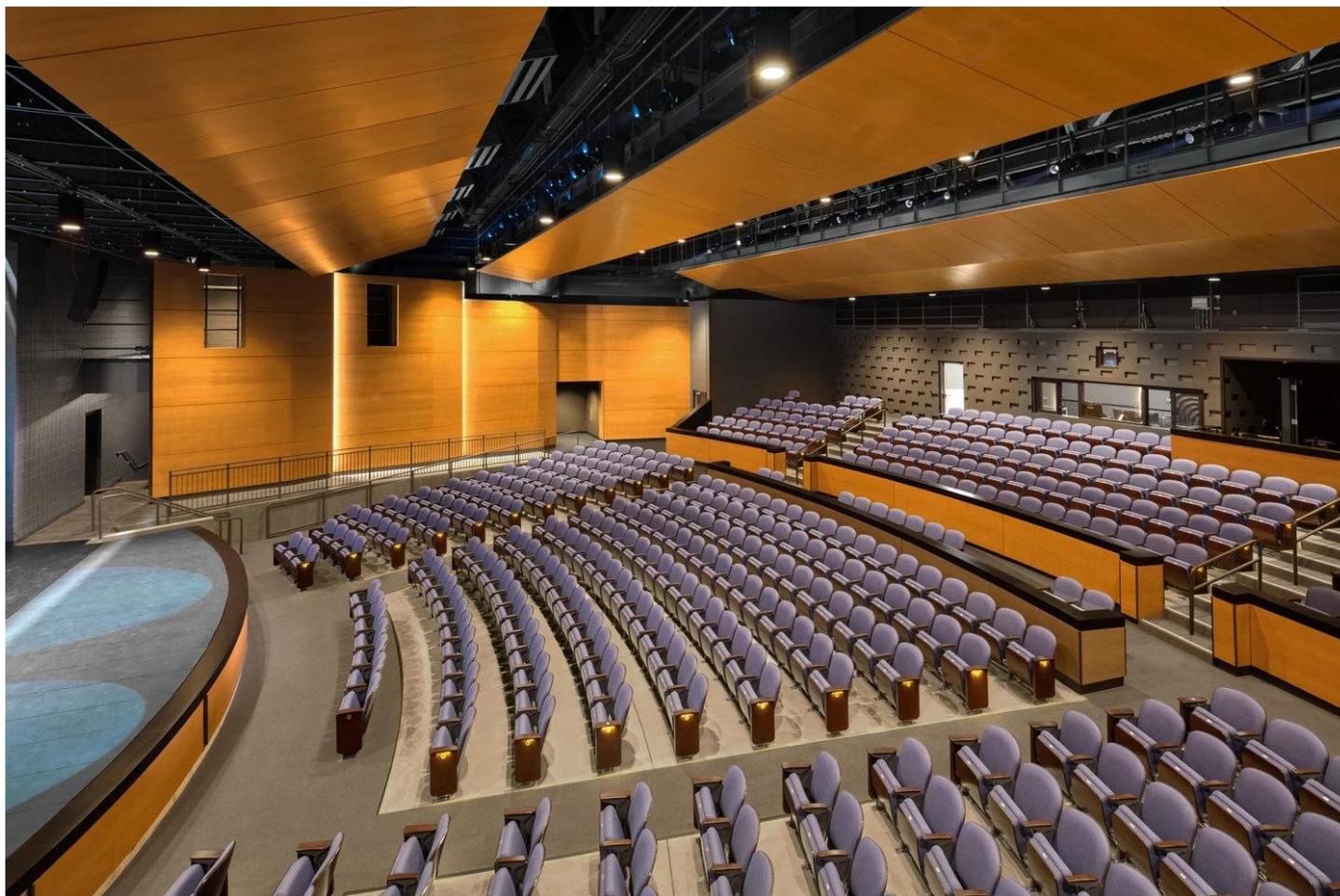
Additional performance spaces: 400 seat multipurpose room and 50 seat presentation room

Regional Examples:

Morse High Performing Arts Center

San Diego, CA

Status: Open



Capital Cost: \$63.5 Million

Date of Groundbreaking: March 2022

Date of Opening: November 2024

Owner: San Diego Unified School District

Main Space Capacity: 480

Building square footage: 24,416

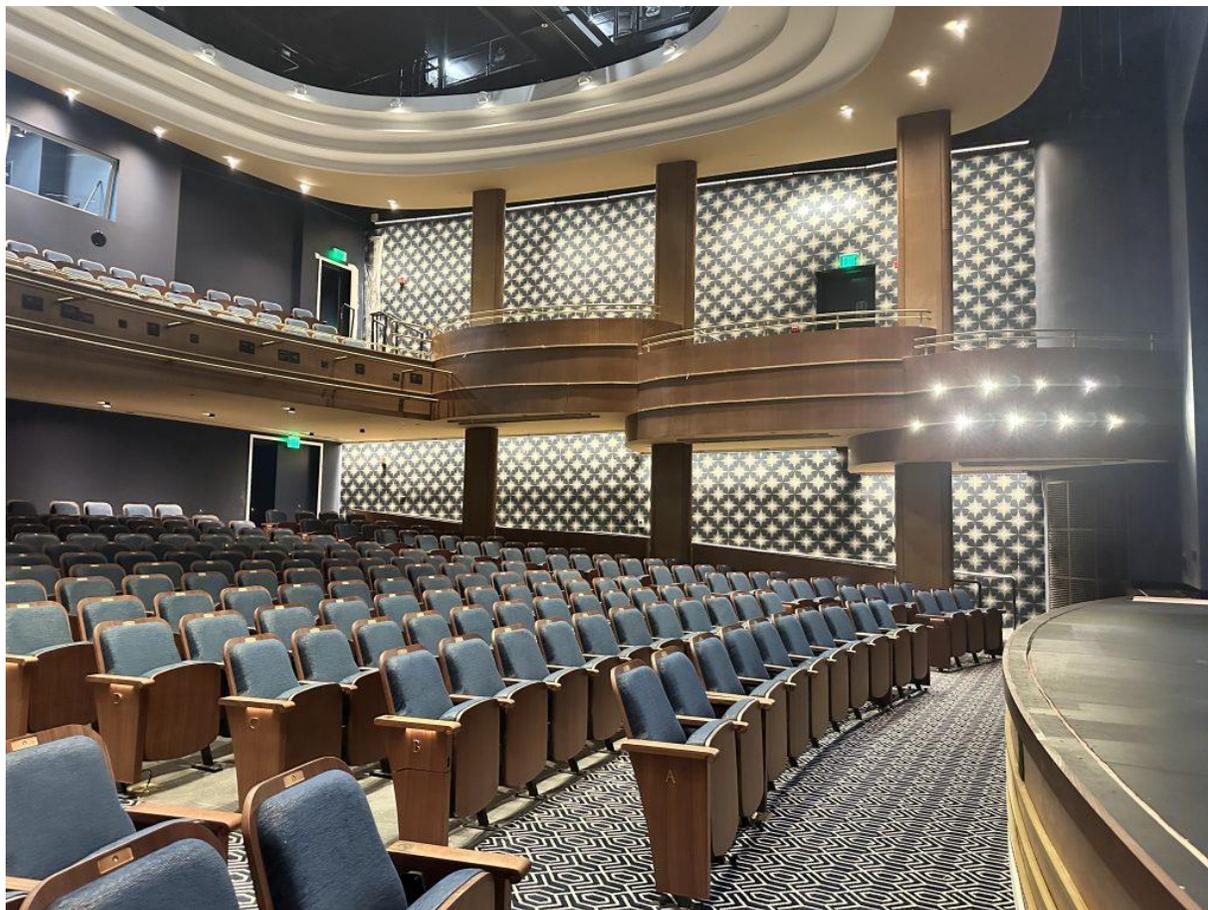
Additional performance spaces: 99 seat
Blackbox theatre

Regional Examples:

Gulfshore Playhouse Baker Theatre and Education Center

Naples, FL

Status: Open



Capital Cost: \$72 Million

Date of Groundbreaking: 2021

Date of Opening: October 27, 2024

Owner: Gulfshore Playhouse

Main Space Capacity: 368

Building square footage: 40,243

Additional performance spaces: 125 seat
Struthers Studio Theatre, plus Conference Rooms
and Educational Classrooms

Regional Examples:

Loretto Heights Cultural Hub

Denver, CO

***Status: In Planning/Proposed
Renovation***



Capital Cost: \$60 Million

Date of Groundbreaking: Fall 2025

Date of Opening: 2027

Owner: City of Denver

Main Space Capacity: 750 (reduced from its original capacity of 900)

Building square footage: 51,783

Cost Estimate

Cost Consultants

Cost+Plus is a professional firm dedicated to providing project and cost management services of the highest quality for all types of performing arts and museum projects worldwide.



Project Lead: Joe Perryman

Recent Cost Management Projects:

- Perelman Performing Arts Center at the World Trade Center, New York
- Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, North Dakota
- Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta
- Denver Center for the Performing Arts
- American Museum of Natural History, New York
- Dallas Museum of Art
- Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Orlando
- Cleveland Institute of Music
- Tennessee State Museum, Nashville

Cost Summary

Square footage 50,550 gsf

Project Costs **\$78,905,000**
(2nd Quarter 2025)

Includes:

Total direct trade costs

Design contingency

Fees, bonds, insurance, permits

Change order contingency

Soft costs allowance

Escalation Contingency **\$6,945,000**

8.8%, 23 months to start

Total escalated project cost **\$85,850,000**
(2nd quarter 2027)

Cost Detail

Erie Cultural Center Erie, Colorado

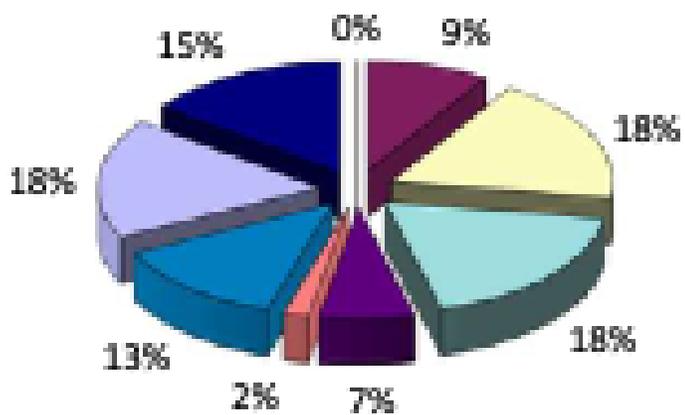
Programmatic Project Cost Summary

30 June 2025

	NEW CONSTRUCTION	SITework	TOTAL
Gross Floor Area (gsf) per SB's Revised Functional Program (5 May 2025)	50,550 gsf		
1.0 Demolition of Existing Structures			n/a
2.0 Direct Trade Costs	\$799/gsf \$40,395,000		\$40,395,000
3.0 Specialist Performance/Theatrical and A/V Equipment Budgets Allowances:			
3.1 Performance/Theatrical Equipment:			\$3,700,000
3.1.1 650-seat Theatre	\$3,000,000		
3.1.2 Rehearsal Studio, Dance/Movement Studio & Multipurpose Studio	\$650,000		
3.1.3 Ancillary Spaces	\$50,000		
3.2 Audio/Visual Equipment:			\$1,300,000
3.2.1 650-seat Theatre	\$1,000,000		
3.2.2 Rehearsal Studio, Dance/Movement Studio & Multipurpose Studio	\$200,000		
3.2.3 Ancillary Spaces	\$99/gsf \$100,000		
4.0 Enabling/Site Development/Landscaping/Building Utilities Allowances		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL DIRECT TRADE COSTS (2ND QUARTER 2025)	\$898/gsf \$45,395,000	\$1,000,000	\$46,395,000
5.0 Design Phase Contingency	10% \$4,540,000	\$100,000	\$4,640,000
6.0 General Conditions/Requirements, Fee, Bonds, Insurances, Permits, Etc.	18% \$8,990,000	\$200,000	\$9,190,000
TOTAL BID COSTS (2ND QUARTER 2025)	\$1,166/gsf \$58,925,000	\$1,300,000	\$60,225,000
7.0 Construction Phase Change Order Contingency (CMAR/GMP)	3% \$1,770,000	\$40,000	\$1,810,000
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST (2ND QUARTER 2025)	\$1,201/gsf \$60,695,000	\$1,340,000	\$62,035,000
8.0 Project Soft Costs Allowance	30% \$18,210,000	\$400,000	\$18,610,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST (2ND QUARTER 2025)	\$1,561/gsf \$78,905,000	\$1,740,000	\$80,645,000
9.0 Escalation Contingency (23 months to start of construction)	8.8% \$6,945,000	\$155,000	\$7,100,000
TOTAL ESCALATED PROJECT COST (2ND QUARTER 2027)	\$1,698/gsf \$85,850,000	\$1,895,000	\$87,745,000

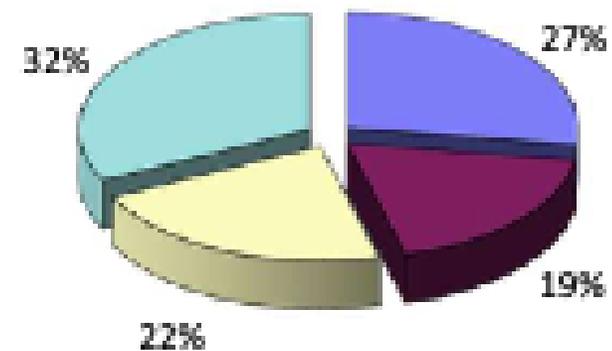
Cost Detail

ELEMENTAL COST ANALYSIS



- 1.0 Demolition (0%)
- 2.0 Substructure (9%)
- 3.0 Superstructure (18%)
- 4.0 Exterior Skin (18%)
- 5.0 Interior Partitions & Doors (7%)
- 6.0 Vertical Movement (2%)
- 7.0 Interiors (13%)
- 8.0 Mechanical (18%)
- 9.0 Electrical (15%)

ZONAL COST ANALYSIS



- A - Demo, Substr & Structure (27%)
- B - Exterior Skin (19%)
- C - Interior Fitout (22%)
- D - Mechanical & Electrical (32%)

Economic Impact

Economic Impact Process

Economic impact is the increases in economic activity caused by new facilities, incremental operating expenditures, and new audiences.

Impact is calculated for Boulder and Weld Counties using multipliers purchased from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Inputs related to construction, non-personnel expenditures by the operating organization, and audience expenditures lead to three sets of outputs:

- **Direct impact:** spending by the operating organization and audiences
- **Indirect impact:** increased business spending in the market area resulting from direct spending
- **Induced impacts:** household spending resulting from direct and indirect spending.

We have projected the one-time impacts related to the renovation of the center and then the ongoing economic impacts related to the spending related to the operations of the facility and event audiences.

Economic Impact Assumptions

Our analysis is based on the following assumptions:

- The PAC is owned and operated by the Town of Erie; any revenue generated returns to the Town's General Fund
- Expenditures in areas such as energy, insurance, and telecommunications are bundled with other Town of Erie contracts and services
- Utilities are calculated based on the ECC's PSF expense, with appropriate increases for theatrical lighting and sound
- A portion of annual box office revenue is returned to renting or resident organizations; this is included in the impact calculations as an expenditure

Economic Impact: New Facility Construction

Project Inputs		Construction Industry Multipliers		Project Outputs
Gross Square Feet	50,550	New Economic Output (Sales)	1.5986	\$137,239,810
Construction Costs/sf middle of range	\$1,698.32	New Earnings	0.3699	\$31,755,915
Capital Budget	\$85,850,000	New Employment (person years)	5.3772	462

Economic Impact: Facility Operations

Summary of Impact on Boulder and Weld Counties		
Operations		
Estimated Y3 Non-personnel spending	Input (Spending)	\$2,069,000
New Economic Output (Sales)	Output (Sales)	\$3,291,677
New Earnings	Earnings	\$869,696
New Employment (person years)	Jobs Created (annual)	22

Economic Impact: Audience Spending

Summary of Impact on Boulder and Weld Counties		
Audience Spending		
Estimated Impactful Audience Spending	Input (Spending)	\$557,759
New Economic Output (Sales)	Output (Sales)	\$900,664
New Earnings	Earnings	\$239,734
New Employment (person years)	Jobs Created (annual, in addition to facility jobs)	6

Economic Impact: Total Annual

Summary of Impact on Boulder and Weld Counties		
Total Annual Operating Impacts (Operations + Audience Spending)		
New Economic Output (Sales)	Output (Sales)	\$4,192,341
New Earnings	Earnings	\$1,109,430
New Employment (person years)	Jobs Created (annual)	28

Q&A



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-461, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Playbook

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation

PRESENTER(S): Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation
Michelle Regan, Senior Associate, DTJ Design
Keith Walzak, Director of Urban Design & Planning, DTJ Design

TIME ESTIMATE: 60 minutes

FISCAL SUMMARY:

N/A

POLICY ISSUES:

The 2025 Playbook provides an updated strategic framework to guide equitable, sustainable, and connected development of Erie's parks, recreation, open space, and trails system. It replaces the outdated 2016 Plan to better reflect the Town's rapid growth, shifting demographics, and evolving community priorities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails (PROST) Playbook

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- The 2025 *Connecting YOU to Fun Playbook* is presented for Council adoption as the Town's updated Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) strategic plan.
- This plan replaces the 2016 version and incorporates updated data, community input, and future growth projections to guide investments over the next 10 years.
- Since Council last reviewed this item, the plan has been finalized following extensive public engagement, a needs assessment, and alignment with other adopted Town plans.

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

Over the past nine years, the Town of Erie has experienced significant growth, both in population and in expectations for its parks and recreation services. While the 2016 PROST Plan laid a strong

foundation for system expansion, it no longer reflects the Town's current demographics, community values, or operational realities.

Recognizing this need, the department launched a comprehensive planning process in 2024 with DTJ Design to reimagine and recalibrate our direction. Branded as the *Connecting YOU to Fun Playbook*, this effort represents a complete overhaul of the Town's strategic approach to parks and recreation. The final plan provides clear, actionable guidance for capital planning, land acquisition, programming, staffing, operations, and funding strategies, grounded in robust community input and data analysis.

The scope of services spanned four phases over a nine-month period, which began in November of 2024. In phase one, DTJ Design established a Project Work Plan (PWP), conducted a kick-off meeting, toured the study area, and developed a Community Engagement Plan (CEP). In phase two, DTJ Design collected data, performed a needs assessment, and engaged the community through stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and open house events. They assessed current parks, facilities, and programs, identified gaps, and prioritized needs. In phase three, DTJ Design finalized the needs assessment report, drafted plan recommendations and maps, and developed an implementation strategy. Each phase included regular project management, reporting, and meetings to ensure steady progress and stakeholder involvement.

This effort aligns with, and builds upon, several key Town plans, including:

- 2016 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Strategic Master Plan
- 2019 Erie Trails and Open Space Wayfinding Master Plan
- 2024 Erie Economic Market Analysis
- 2024 Erie Public Art and Placemaking Plan
- 2024 Parks and Recreation Community Survey
- 2024 Town of Erie Comprehensive Plan
- 2025 Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study

Through a comprehensive series of engagement events and activities, including stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings, a community questionnaire, online mapping, a community open house event, and other public engagement events, residents and stakeholders voiced their priorities, concerns, and aspirations for the future of the community's recreation, parks, and natural resources. The plan included measurable strategies, aligning with Best Management Practices and the standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

The 2025 Playbook outlines five strategic focus areas to guide staff efforts and resource allocation:

- **Advance equity in access** to parks, programs, and facilities by removing physical, financial, and cultural barriers.
- **Preserve and steward open space** to protect natural resources, provide habitat, and maintain scenic character.

- **Expand trail and greenway connectivity**, ensuring safe, seamless, and enjoyable active transportation across the community.
- **Celebrate community identity** and wellness through high-quality programming, events, and cultural offerings that bring residents together.
- **Strengthen long-term financial sustainability** by aligning capital investments with staffing, operations, and funding capacity.

Each focus area is supported by specific strategies, priorities, and implementation actions, which are phased over short-, mid-, and long-term timelines.

Adopting the 2025 *Connecting YOU to Fun Playbook* ensures that future decisions align with community values, operational capacity, and long-term vision. The Playbook will serve as the Department's guide for budget planning, project prioritization, policy development, and performance measurement. Staff will regularly revisit the plan to monitor progress, report on outcomes, and adapt as needed.

We appreciate Council's continued support and look forward to implementing this bold, community-driven vision.

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community
- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution
2. 2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan
3. Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report
4. Appendix B: PROST Maps
5. Presentation

**Town of Erie
Resolution No. 25-143**

**A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Erie Approving
the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST)
Playbook**

Whereas, the Town Council finds it in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare to approve the 2025 PROST Playbook.

**Now Therefore be it Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Erie,
Colorado, that:**

Section 1. The 2025 PROST Playbook is hereby approved in the form attached hereto.

Adopted this 26th day of August, 2025.

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk



Erie Community Park
Credit: Town of Erie

Connecting YOU to FUN Playbook

2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan

X

X X X



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Acknowledgements

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Anil Pesaramelli, Council Member
Brian O'Connor, Council Member
Dan Hoback, Council Member
Emily Baer, Council Member
John Mortellaro, Council Member

Town Advisory Boards

Historic Preservation Advisory Board
Open Space & Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB)
Sustainability Advisory Board
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Disclaimer: Some images not permitted.



Erie Community Center
Credit: Town of Erie



1: Introduction

The Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) 'Connecting YOU to Fun' Playbook serves as a strategic guide to enhance, expand, and sustain Erie's parks, recreation, open space, and trails system. It provides a clear roadmap for decision-making and investment over the next decade to ensure a balanced approach to growth, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and quality of life.

1.1. Project Overview

1.1.1. Purpose of the Playbook

The purpose of the Playbook is to guide the next decade of PROST development. It is an update to the 2016 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Strategic Master Plan. With Erie's rapid growth, this plan ensures high-quality services, balanced distribution of amenities, and strategic planning for operations, maintenance, staffing, and funding.

This effort aligns with, and builds upon, other key Town plans, including:

- [2016 PROST Strategic Master Plan](#)
- [2019 Erie Trails and Open Space Wayfinding Master Plan](#)
- [2024 Erie Economic Market Analysis](#)
- [2024 Erie Public Art and Placemaking Plan](#)
- 2024 Parks and Recreation Community Survey
- [2024 Town of Erie Code of Ordinances](#)
- [2024 Town of Erie Comprehensive Plan](#)
- 2025 Performing Arts Feasibility Study

1.1.2. Key Objectives of the Playbook

"Objectives" are actionable items that are intended to help guide the outcome of the project. The Key Objectives of the Playbook are:

Guide Future Development

Establish priorities for parks, trails, and open space expansion.

Ensure Equity & Accessibility

Provide recreation opportunities for all residents.

Enhance Community Identity

Incorporate public art, historic preservation, and placemaking.

Support Sustainable Funding

Identify long-term funding strategies and partnerships.

Foster Community Engagement

Encourage public input and collaboration in decision-making.

1.1.3. How to Use This Document

This Playbook serves as a guiding framework for Erie's future. It is intended for a broad range of users, including local government officials, developers, and residents who have a stake in Erie's future.

Residents & Stakeholders

Erie's residents and stakeholders can reference the plan to understand how their Town will develop over time. It encourages public engagement by providing a transparent roadmap for future decisions on parks, trails, open spaces, and infrastructure.

Town Leadership & Staff

The **Town Council, Planning and Development and the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD)** use the plan to guide decision-making, set priorities, and allocate resources. The plan informs policy updates, zoning regulations, and capital improvement projects to align with the Town's long-term goals.

Developers & Investors

Businesses, real estate developers, and infrastructure planners refer to the plan to ensure their projects align with Erie's vision for sustainable growth, transportation connectivity, and community enhancement. It provides clear expectations regarding **land use, design standards, and open space preservation.**

This Playbook will serve as a living document, evolving to meet Erie's needs while maintaining a clear vision for the future.

1.2. Planning Process

1.2.1. Project Timeline

The Playbook is developed through a collaborative process involving community input, data analysis, and alignment with national standards like the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) CAPRA accreditation.

Project Initiation
(Nov. 2024 - Feb. 2025)

Needs Assessment, Exploration, & Ideas
(Nov. 2024 - April 2025)

Draft - Final Plan Formation
(April 2025 - June 2025)

Plan Adoption
(Aug. 2025 - Sept. 2025)

1.2.2. Community Input

Community outreach and engagement plays a critical role in shaping the PROST Playbook recommendations. Input gathered as part of the community engagement and outreach efforts ensures that the Playbook reflects community values and priorities. This input will inform the Playbook recommendations, ensuring a balanced and equitable approach to PROST development.

1.2.3. Needs Assessment Report

The Playbook is supported by a comprehensive Needs Assessment Report, or Appendix A of this document.

The Needs Assessment Report (Report) provides a comprehensive evaluation of existing PROST facilities and programs, identifies current and future needs, and highlights opportunities for growth. It serves as a data-driven foundation to guide decision-making and ensure that the final plan aligns with both community priorities and future trends.

The purpose of the Report is to establish an understanding of the current PROST system and its capacity to meet the evolving needs of the community. These components work together to inform the overall direction and initial recommendations of the PROST Playbook, as shown in Figure 1.

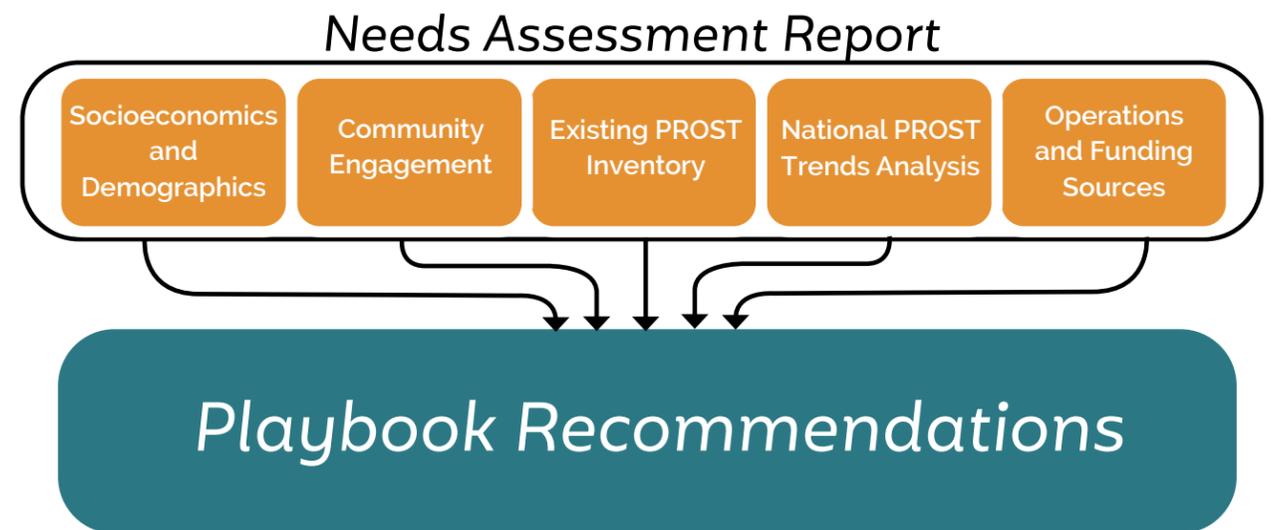


Figure 1. Needs Assessment Report Recommendations Process

1.3. Mission & Vision

1.3.1. Mission Statement

The Town of Erie Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement is:

'Building community through the delivery of exceptional parks, open spaces, trails, facilities, programs, and services.'

1.3.2. Vision Statement

The Town of Erie Parks and Recreation Department's Vision Statement is:

'Discover your ExpERIENCE'.

Erie envisions a dynamic, interconnected, and accessible network of parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, and trails that enhance the Town's natural beauty, support active lifestyles, and foster a strong sense of community. Our vision is to create an inclusive and innovative PROST system that reflects the Town's values, history, and future aspirations—one that preserves Erie's unique character while adapting to the evolving needs of our growing and diverse population.

We aspire to provide high-quality recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities, ensuring that every resident has access to safe, well-maintained, and engaging outdoor and indoor spaces. By integrating sustainability, smart growth principles, and community-driven planning, we will protect and enhance our natural resources while delivering exceptional recreational experiences.

Through collaboration with residents, local organizations, and regional partners, Erie will continue to build a PROST system that promotes health, well-being, and environmental stewardship, creating a legacy of excellence for generations to come.

1.4. Playbook Goals

This Playbook contains 6 major goals with supporting strategies. "Goals" are aspirational overarching drivers. "Strategies" are measurable actions that were developed as part of the plan process and will continue to be further refined. These align with the Town of Erie 2024 Comprehensive Plan's core values of Sustainability, Livable, and Connectivity, and inform the Plan's vision and direction.



Goal 1: Equitable Access



Goal 2: Stewardship of Open Lands



Goal 3: Connected System



Goal 4: Community Identity



Goal 5: Fiscal Sustainability



Goal 6: Future Growth Resiliency

1.4.1. Goal 1: Equitable Access

Strategies

- 1.1. Prioritize investment in underserved neighborhoods to ensure inclusivity.
- 1.2. Enhance ADA accessibility across parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation centers.
- 1.3. Continue to build a better understanding of the community's needs to create equitable access for all and more inclusiveness.
- 1.4. Ensure equitable distribution of facilities, programs, and resources throughout Erie.

1.4.2. Goal 2: Stewardship of Open Lands

Strategies

- 2.1. Develop tools to preserve and protect natural habitats, wetlands, wildlife corridors, and other natural resources.
- 2.2. Implement sustainable land management and maintenance practices to reduce environmental impact.
- 2.3. Prioritize open space improvements to enhance habitat and sustainability.
- 2.4. Integrate open space conservation into long-term growth planning.
- 2.5. Diversify open space portfolio with additional designation categories (i.e., agricultural, wildlife habitat, natural areas, passive recreational, buffers, etc.)
- 2.6. Enhance land acquisition strategies by establishing clear criteria for potential land acquisition sites.
- 2.7. Maintain a high level of stewardship by integrating climate adaptation strategies to ensure long-term viability of parks and open spaces.

1.4.3. Goal 3: Connected System

Strategies

- 3.1. Strive to ensure that every Erie resident has access to an open space, park, recreation amenity, or trail within a ½ mile or a 10-minute walk from their home.
- 3.2. Expand the trail network to link to open spaces, parks, recreation facilities or amenities, and other major destinations of Erie such as schools, libraries, Downtown Erie, and other commercial centers.
- 3.3. Partner or coordinate with adjacent agencies to promote regional trail connectivity.
- 3.4. Integrate the recreational trail system with multi-modal transportation facilities to create an amazingly connected community.
- 3.5. Provide adequate signage to improve wayfinding throughout Erie.

1.4.4. Goal 4: Community Identity

Strategies

- 4.1. Preserve and celebrate Erie's rich history and sense of place by integrating historical resources, public art, and cultural landmarks into parks, recreation, open space, and trails facilities.
- 4.2. Foster strong community identity by enhancing historic sites, supporting local artists, and creating public spaces that reflect Erie's heritage while embracing its future.
- 4.3. Promote inclusive events, storytelling initiatives, and placemaking efforts that connect people to Erie's past, present, and evolving identity.
- 4.4. Provide engaging and inclusive recreation programs and events reflective of the Town's needs for all stages of life.

1.4.5. Goal 5: Fiscal Sustainability

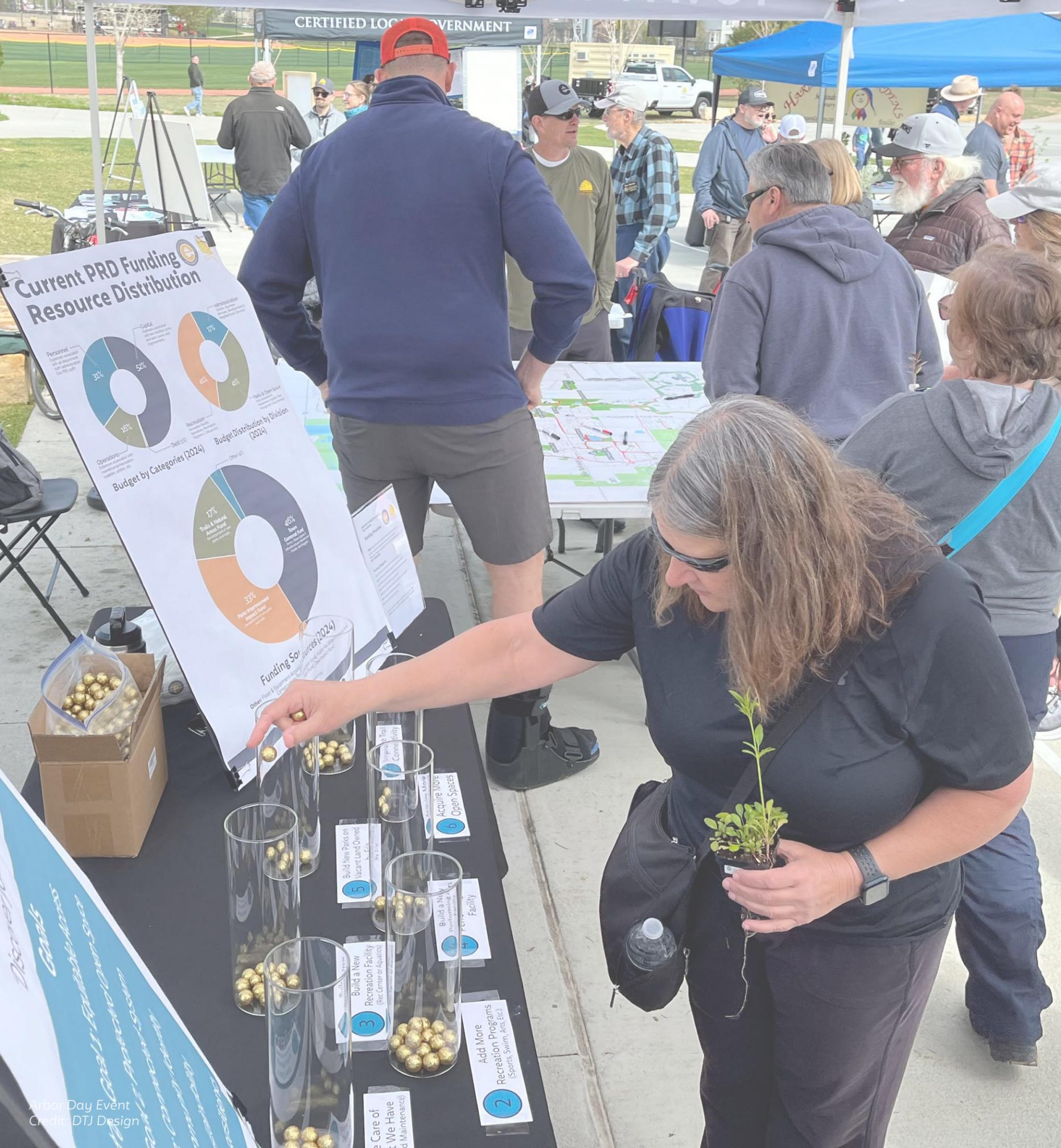
Strategies

- 5.1. Ensure programs, facilities, and amenities are resilient to changing conditions.
- 5.2. Diversify funding sources by exploring grants, sponsorships, public-private or public-public partnerships, and impact fees to maximize resources and investment in facilities.
- 5.3. Develop a long-term funding strategy and implement sustainable practices to ensure cost-effective ongoing maintenance, operations, and future park and trail expansions.
- 5.4. Regularly assess and adjust financial strategies to align with changing community needs, economic conditions, and growth trends.
- 5.5. Implement an annual review of staffing needs to support sustainable staff growth.
- 5.6. Continue to reinvest in and maintain existing facilities and amenities.

1.4.6. Goal 6: Future Growth Resiliency

Strategies

- 6.1. Integrate future growth trends into the PROST system planning to ensure facilities and services meet the future needs of Erie's expanding and evolving community.
- 6.2. Identify and prioritize land acquisitions and park expansions in growing areas to maintain access for all residents.
- 6.3. Continuously evaluate and adjust recreational offerings to reflect demographic shifts, emerging trends, and community interests.
- 6.4. Collaborate with Town planning, transportation, and economic development agencies to align park and open space investments with Erie's broader growth strategies.
- 6.5. Engage residents in the future planning and development process to ensure the PROST system evolves in a way that reflects the values and desires of Erie's diverse and changing population.
- 6.6. Ensure that future developments of Erie contribute to the level of service for the future population growth of Erie.



2: Community Values & Preferences

Community outreach and engagement is a driving force behind the Playbook, ensuring that it reflects the needs, aspirations, and priorities of Erie residents and stakeholders. Through an inclusive and transparent process, public input helps shape policies, funding priorities, and the long-term vision for parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

2.1. Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

At the start of the PROST process, a Community Engagement Plan (CEP) was developed to identify a strategy to engage community stakeholders and gather diverse perspectives on needs and preferences for parks, recreation, open space, and trails facilities in Erie. The Erie Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study facilitated a separate planning process. The CEP included a variety of events and initiatives to maximize participation and ensure a well-rounded understanding of community needs.

Community Engagement Events and Initiatives included:

- **Community Questionnaire**
Collected broad input on priorities and needs.
- **Stakeholder Interviews (4)**
Gathered insights from key community members and organization representatives.
- **Focus Group Meetings (3)**
Engaged specific community groups in detailed discussions.
- **Staff Focus Group (Parks and Recreation Culture Academy Event)**
Provided internal perspectives from parks and recreation staff.
- **Public Engagement Events (2)**
Offered direct opportunities for residents to share their input.
- **Community Open House**
Allowed residents to review and discuss Playbook updates.
- **Social Media Outreach**
Expanded engagement opportunities through digital platforms.
- **Other Meetings and Presentations**
Various meetings and presentations were held as a part of the CEP process.



Community Open House
Credit: DTJ Design



Community Open House
Credit: DTJ Design

2.2. Community Engagement Events and Initiatives

2.2.1. Community Questionnaire

The Community Questionnaire was open for approximately 14 weeks, from February 21 through May 30 of 2025. The questionnaire consisted of 31 questions and had 726 responses.

2.2.2. Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Group Meetings

Multiple stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings were conducted to capture the voices of key community groups of Erie. The purpose was to gather input from diverse groups, including youth and education advocates, government and advisory boards, business and partner organizations, community representatives, accessibility advocates, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, recreation users, volunteers, and history and culture advocates. Each group provided valuable perspectives on what is important to them, what they hope to achieve through the Plan, and the key challenges Erie faces in meeting its parks, recreation, open space, and trails needs.

Stakeholder Interviews

The following stakeholder 'groups' were included as part of the Playbook's planning process. Each interview session included 3-5 participants representing various interest for the subject area.

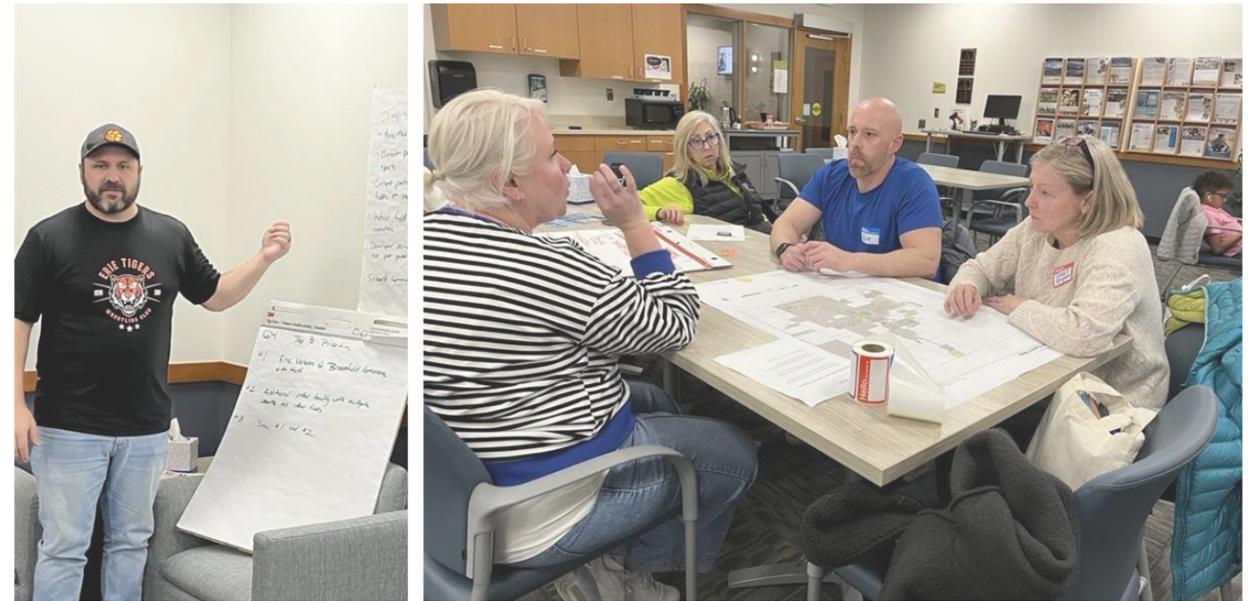
1. Youth, Adult, and Education Advocates
2. Government and Advisory Boards
3. Partner and Business Organizations
4. Community Representation (HOA and Accessibility Advocates)

Focus Group Meetings

The following focus group topics were addressed as part of the PROST process. Each focus group included 5-7 participants representing various interests for the subject area.

1. Recreation Center Users and Volunteers
2. History and Culture Advocates
3. Outdoor Enthusiasts and Advocates

More detailed information about the results and findings from the Questionnaire, Stakeholder Interviews, and Focus Groups can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.



Various Focus Group and Stakeholder Meetings
Credit: DTJ Design



Walkable Map Station
Credit: DTJ Design

2.2.3. Community Open House

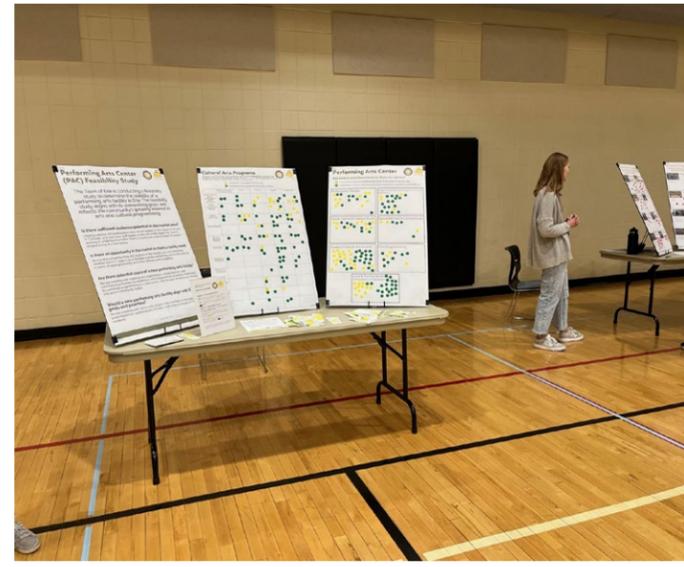
The Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) hosted a Community Open House at the Erie Community Center Gymnasium to gather public input for the Playbook and the Performing Arts Center (PAC) feasibility study. Approximately 80–100 residents of all ages attended.

Purpose and Goals:

- **Gather Broad Community Input:** Provide an open forum for community members to share their thoughts on project goals, objectives, and vision at key project milestones.
- **Engagement and Connection:** Encourage discussions about community values and future developments.
- **Interactive Participation:** Offer various hands-on activities to make participation accessible and engaging.

Event Highlights:

- Several interactive and informative stations covered topics such as parks and recreation programming, funding priorities, and arts and culture.
- There was community interest in expanded fitness programs, aquatics, and cultural offerings.
- Funding a new recreation center and acquiring more parks/open spaces was supported.
- Desire for enhanced trail systems, more sports courts, and affordable, inclusive facilities.
- Kids were engaged through a creative activity station.



Various Open House Stations
Credit: DTJ Design



2.2.4. Public Engagement Events

2.2.4.1. Arbor Day

The Arbor Day Event gave residents and visitors an opportunity to provide feedback on their preferences for future parks and recreation programming and facilities in Erie. Participants used a tabletop map to identify current uses they enjoyed, as well as potential programming gaps in the Town. Participants then selected their top priorities for future parks and recreation funding.

Feedback from this event indicated that Erie user groups favored funding for enhanced trail systems and connections, new parks on vacant land owned by the Town, and continuing to address deferred maintenance of Erie's existing programs and facilities.

2.2.4.2. Town Fair

The Town Fair Event provided a platform for the community to provide feedback on their preferences for future parks and recreation programming and facilities in Erie. Community members of all ages attended the event, diversifying the opinions and values that were received. Participants used the tabletop map to identify current uses they enjoyed, as well as potential programming gaps in the Town. Participants then selected their top priorities for future parks and recreation funding. The various engagement opportunities were well-received by the community and allowed for a wide range of input on the progression of the Playbook.

More detailed information about the results and findings from engagement events can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.

2.2.5. Online Outreach and Communication Tools

Several online platforms were utilized to advertise the project including a project website where participants can take the questionnaire and receive information, updates in the Town Quarterly Newsletter and existing social media channels.

2.2.6. Other Meetings and Presentations

Other meetings and presentations throughout the project included:

- Kick-Off Meeting with Staff
- Project communications Meetings with Staff (3)
- Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) Meetings (1)
- Town Council Meetings (2)
- Project Management Team Meetings with Staff (8)
- Work Session Meetings with Staff (4)



2.3. Community Values & Top Preferences

Based on the questionnaire results, community input, and additional feedback of the CEP events and initiatives, the following reflect the community's needs, aspirations, and top priorities:

Expanded Recreation Facilities

There is strong demand for indoor and outdoor spaces that support activities in all seasons, including community gathering areas, aquatics, sports, and fitness spaces.

- High demand for a second multi-use recreation center with aquatics, fitness areas, sports courts, and flexible program space.
- Additional sports fields and gymnasiums to meet growing sports demand.

Aquatic Amenities

Several groups mentioned aquatics as a primary interest.

- A new outdoor pool is a top priority, especially for youth employment and recreation.
- Interest in expanded aquatics programming (swimming teams, lifeguard training, older adult aquatic fitness).

Enhanced Trail Connectivity

Residents emphasized the importance of an expanded and interconnected trail network for walking, biking, and recreation. Safe routes to parks and schools were a recurring concern.

- Fill in gaps in trail systems, improve safety and accessibility, and increase signage and wayfinding.
- Connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, commercial centers, and regional trail systems.

Preservation and Use of Open Space

Preserved open land and usable open space with trails ranked high among community desires. Many expressed strong interest in retaining Erie's unique environmental character, as well as protecting scenic views, wildlife habitat, and undeveloped land.

- Prioritize open space acquisition and habitat restoration.
- Balance development with conservation through long-term planning and updated land use policies.

Cultural and Creative Spaces

Discussions and mentions about a new performing arts center or other cultural resources were recurring.

- Strong interest in a Performing Arts Center for concerts, theater, and community gatherings.
- Support for an arts and history hub to highlight Erie's culture, heritage, and local artists.

Inclusive, Family-Friendly Parks and Recreational Opportunities

Facilities and programs that cater to children, teens, families, and older adults - especially those that promote health, wellness, and social connection - are high priorities.

- Development of accessible playgrounds, restrooms, and picnic areas.
- Expanding existing programming for teens, older adults, and people with disabilities.
- Expanding or introducing new recreation programs and services that include youth and adult sports, special events, camps, fitness and wellness, cultural arts, aquatics, teens, older adults, and therapeutic recreation.

Sustainability and Smart Growth

- Integrate green infrastructure, water-wise landscaping, and sustainable facility design.
- Ensure new developments have adequate recreational spaces and sustainable landscaping practices.

Maintenance and Facility Upkeep

Trash accumulation, deteriorating amenities, and concerns about safety and lighting were frequently cited.

- Improve cleanliness, repair timelines, and restroom access in existing parks.
- Clarify responsibilities between the Town and HOAs for shared parkland care.

Park and Amenity Access

The community called for more neighborhood-scale parks within walking distance, especially in underserved or newer areas of Erie. Universal access, inclusive design, and diverse amenities for all age groups were frequently mentioned.

- Develop additional neighborhood parks in growth areas, particularly in areas directly west of I-25, along Highway 52, and in southwest Erie.
- Improve accessibility in design, outreach, and programming to ensure inclusivity across age, ability, and income levels.

Key Challenges Identified

- Overcapacity at the Erie Community Center and limited indoor recreation space.
- Deferred maintenance and aging facilities do not meet modern needs.
- Unequal access to parks, recreation, open space, and trail networks in newer or underserved neighborhoods.
- Funding constraints and a need for new strategies to support capital and operational costs.
- Lack of teen-focused spaces and limited inclusive programming for all age groups and abilities.
- Unclear land management roles between the Town and HOAs, affecting shared park quality.



Implementation Priorities

- Explore funding and feasibility for a new recreation center to serve the growing population and reduce crowding at the Erie Community Center.
- Explore cultural arts opportunities, like a performing arts center, to support local events, arts programming, and celebrate Erie's unique cultural heritage.
- Pursue development of second community park, including a potential fieldhouse, across from Erie High School and Soaring Heights Elementary School.
- Develop a comprehensive trail plan to improve connectivity and safety.
- Expand access to aquatics and aquatic programs. Specific elements that were mentioned include an outdoor community pool, a competitive swimming pool, and expanded aquatic programs like swim teams, diving, water polo, lifeguard training, and fitness classes for youth and older adults.
- Upgrade park infrastructure with permanent restrooms, seating, lighting for sports fields and athletic facilities, general park and trail lighting for safety, and overall universal design.
- Preserve and restore open space with updated acquisition strategies and habitat protections.
- Ensure accessibility in all future projects, including ADA-compliant trails and inclusive playgrounds.
- Implement long-term maintenance plans for existing assets.
- Clarify land management roles between the Town and HOAs.
- Enhance community partnerships to support volunteer efforts, program delivery, and funding diversity.



More detailed information about the CEP events, initiatives, results, and feedback can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.



3: Existing Conditions

By taking inventory of existing Erie parks and recreation conditions, it is possible to identify where the Town has adequate facilities and programs, as well as where there are potential gaps that must be addressed. This analysis will help determine where future resources should be allocated to best serve the growing Erie community.

3.1. Context, History, & Culture

3.1.1. Regional Context

Erie is strategically located along the Front Range of Colorado, positioned between Boulder and Denver. Its unique setting provides access to regional recreational opportunities, economic centers, and transportation networks while maintaining a small-town atmosphere. The Town's proximity to major metropolitan areas has contributed to rapid growth and an increasing demand for parks, trails, and open space preservation.

3.1.2. Community History and Heritage

Erie has a rich history rooted in coal mining, agriculture, and rail transport. Established in the late 19th century, the Town has evolved from a mining hub into a vibrant and thriving community. Many of its historical structures, such as the Schofield property and the Wise Homestead Museum, contribute to a strong sense of place. Preserving Erie's heritage through parks, open spaces, and cultural programs remains a priority in maintaining its identity.

3.1.3. Schofield Farm Open Space

The Schofield Farm Open Space is an important existing cultural and historical resource within Erie, reflecting the community's agricultural heritage and rural character. The site includes historic structures and landscapes that offer unique opportunities for interpretation, preservation, and public enjoyment. A master plan for Schofield Farm has been completed and will serve as a valuable tool to guide future preservation and thoughtful development efforts, ensuring the site's historic significance is maintained while enhancing its accessibility and use as a community asset. Additionally, a historical structure assessment has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on the preservation needs and priorities for the site's historic buildings and features.

3.1.4. Wise Homestead Open Space

The Wise Homestead Open Space is a significant cultural and historical asset in Erie that preserves the community's agricultural heritage and rural character. Encompassing over 170 acres, the site features expansive open fields, historic structures, and scenic views that offer opportunities for both conservation and public enjoyment. Managed by the Town of Erie, the open space provides important wildlife habitat and serves as a reminder of Erie's farming roots. Adjacent to the site, the Wise Homestead Museum, operated by the Erie Historical Society, adds interpretive and educational value, celebrating the area's pioneer history. Together, these resources create a unique open space that blends historical preservation with passive recreation opportunities.



Schofield Farm
Credit: Town of Erie



Schofield Property Barn
Credit: Town of Erie



Wise Homestead Museum
Credit: Erie Historical Society

3.2. Existing Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Facilities

3.2.1. Key Takeaways

This section provides an overview of the Town of Erie's current parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities. The findings highlight strengths in the existing system, as well as areas that will require targeted enhancements to maintain high levels of service (LOS) and equitable access.

Parks and Level of Service

- **Current Town-Owned Park Land: 162.5 acres total***
- Current LOS: **4.1 acres** per 1,000 residents
- Planned Park Expansion: There are currently 49.9 acres of Town-owned undeveloped parkland, with additional parkland dedications that are secured in development agreements in accordance with Town development code.
- Future LOS (at 64,000 residents): Taking into account future planned park expansions, the future LOS will be **3.3 acres** per 1,000 residents. This is below the lower quartile per the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

*Please note that there are an additional 257.7 acres of privately owned parks and open space areas in the Town of Erie. These areas offer amenities for specific communities or developments, but are not Town-owned.

Potential Future Facility Needs

To meet the recreation expectations of Erie's future population, the following facilities* may be considered based on LOS benchmarks and national trends:

- Diamond fields
- Rectangular fields
- Basketball and volleyball courts, standalone
- Community gardens
- Indoor and/or outdoor multi-use courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Indoor walking loops/running tracks
- Indoor competitive swimming pools
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Indoor and/or outdoor fitness zones and exercise stations

*Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and potential other facility options may be explored.

Trail Network and Missing Gaps

- Current Trail Mileage: **82.2 miles**, 48.8 of which are Town maintained
- There are numerous future planned trails within Erie, all of which will provide excellent connectivity for current and future populations.
- The future planned trail network has gaps, barriers, and missing connections that should be addressed.

Future Park Location Considerations

To support the goal of providing a park, open space, or recreational amenity within a ½ mile or 10-minute walk for all residents, future parks may need to be located in the following areas:

- Eastern Erie along I-25
- Northern Erie near Highway 52 and Weld County Road 5
- Western Erie near Wise Homestead Open Space
- Other strategic residential areas within the Planning Boundary

Open Space Areas and Level of Service

- **Current Town-Owned Open Space: 1,365 acres total**
- Erie has a similar amount of open space in terms of acres per population when compared to other agencies in Colorado.

Current Management Plans

Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operations (2021 Plan)

Enhancement opportunities include:

- Upgrading to smart irrigation systems for water efficiency
- Introducing xeriscaping and native plantings to reduce water use and maintenance
- Installing waste-sorting and composting infrastructure
- Adopting Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS)
- Transitioning to electric-powered maintenance equipment
- Standardizing training and onboarding for seasonal staff
- Implementing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for park service levels
- Expanding community partnerships for volunteer involvement

Open Space Management (2019 Plan)

Enhancement opportunities include:

- Expanding native habitat restoration
- Implementing sustainable trail and erosion management
- Defining access zones and seasonal closures
- Adding educational signage on ecology and stewardship
- Creating riparian buffer zones for waterway protection
- Using digital monitoring and reporting tools
- Forming community stewardship programs
- Addressing climate resilience with adaptive landscaping and fire-wise planning



Coal Miner Park
Credit: Town of Erie



Star Meadows Park
Credit: Town of Erie

3.2.2. Existing PROST Facilities

Figure 2 shows the existing PROST facilities of Erie, including the various green spaces and the Erie Community Center within the Planning Boundary per the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Residential and Non-Residential Land Use types are also shown for reference.

More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

-  Streams & Ditches
-  Railroads
-  Water Bodies

Boundaries

-  Town Boundary
-  Planning Boundary

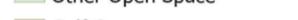
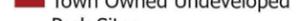
Land Use

-  Residential Land Uses
-  Non-Residential Land Uses

-  Erie Community Center

-  School Sites

Green Space

-  Town Owned Parks
-  Town Owned Open Space
-  Private Green Space
-  Other Open Space
-  Golf Course
-  Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
-  Housing + Preserved Open Space

-  Existing Trails
-  Other Existing Trails
-  Underpass

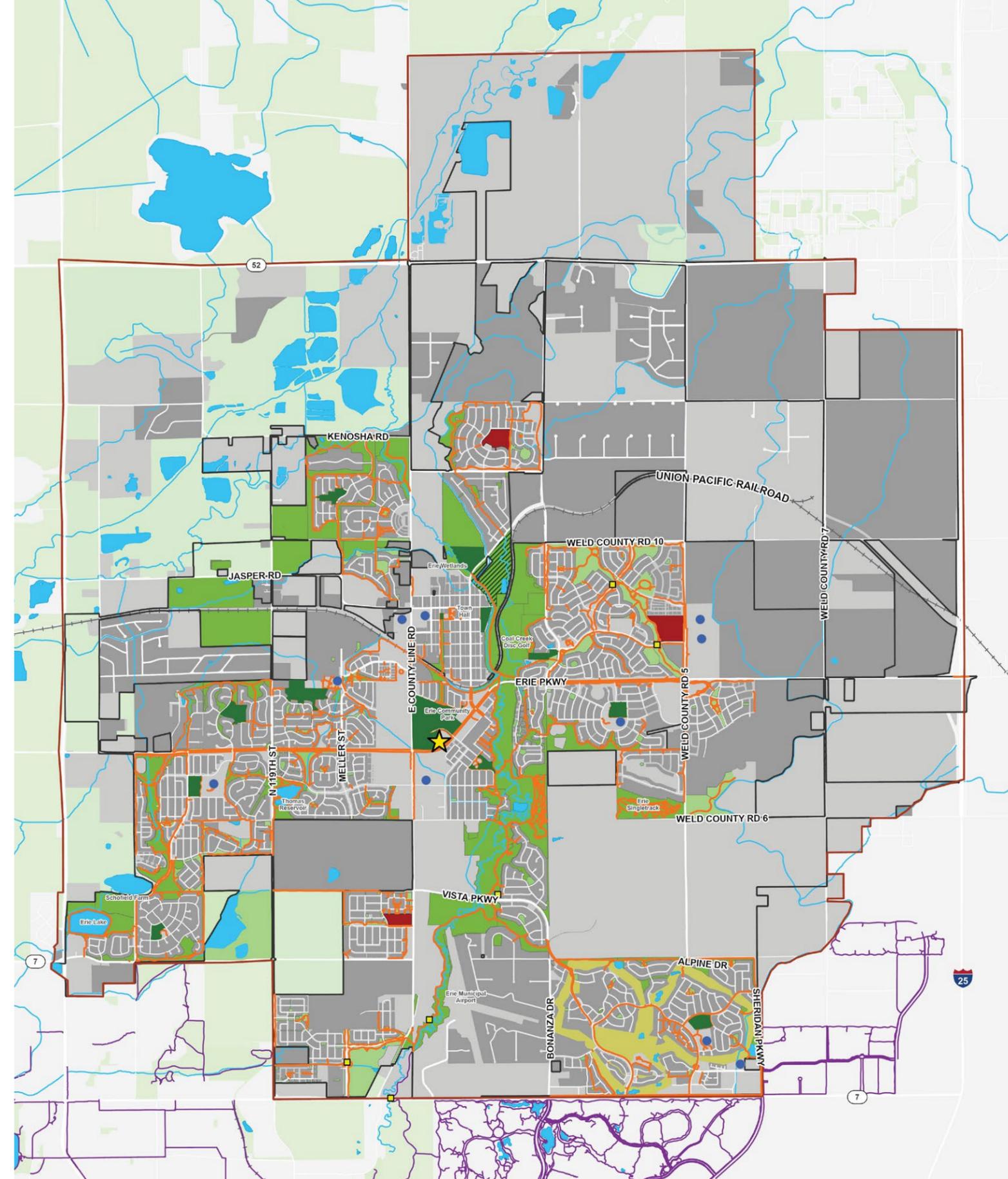
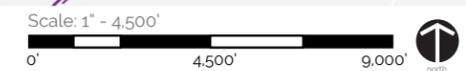


Figure 2. Existing Facilities Map



3.2.3. Parks & Levels of Service (LOS)

The Town of Erie currently owns **162.5 acres** of developed parks. There are currently **49.9 acres** of Town-owned undeveloped parkland, with additional parkland dedications that are secured in development agreements in accordance with Town development code. Erie owned parks are categorized as either Community Parks or Neighborhood Parks.

The Town of Erie also has a Joint Use Agreement with the St. Vrain Valley School District and access to seven school sites.

The current provided Parks LOS based on 40,000 residents is 4.1 acres per 1,000 residents. With the additional future planned parks acreage, the future Parks LOS based on 64,000 residents would be 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents. This is a slightly low LOS, as it is below the lower quartile of 4.7 acres per 1,000 residents per the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review, and when compared to other agencies in Colorado.

It is important to note that there are also **257.7 acres** of privately owned parks and green spaces. While the Playbook acknowledges these parks and green spaces as adding value to the communities in which they serve, their acreage is excluded from the LOS analysis of the Playbook.

Figure 3 shows the current park locations for the Town of Erie.

More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

-  Streams & Ditches
-  Railroads
-  Water Bodies

Boundaries

-  Town Boundary
-  Planning Boundary

Land Use

-  Residential Land Uses
-  Non-Residential Land Uses

 Erie Community Center

 School Sites

Green Space

-  Town Owned Parks
-  Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites

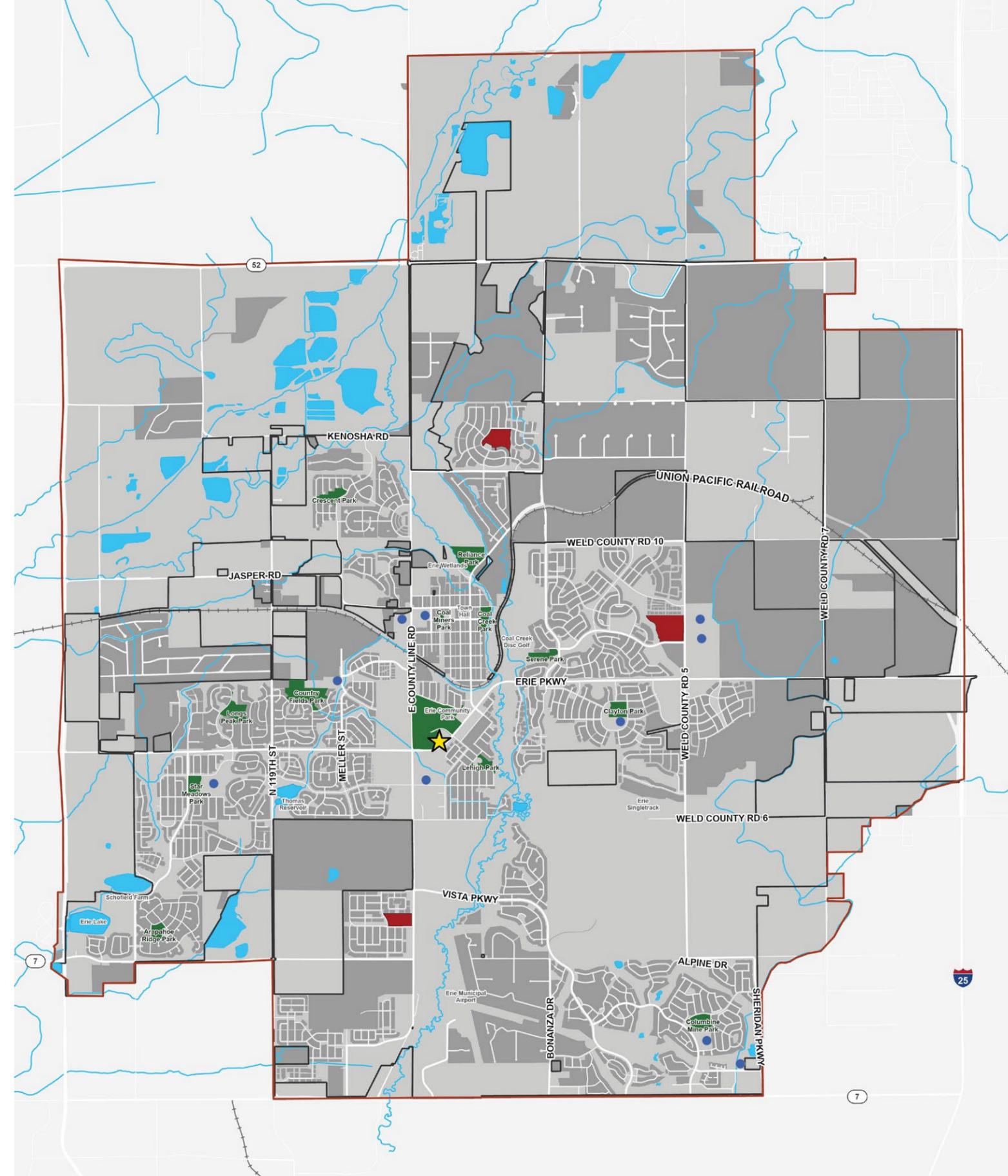
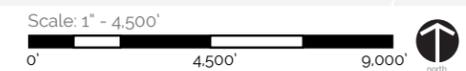


Figure 3. Existing Parks Map



3.2.4. Open Space and Levels of Service (LOS)

Erie owns a total of **1,365 acres** of open space. This equates to a LOS of 34 acres per 1,000 residents. While there is not an NRPA Agency Performance review to compare to, this LOS is relatively similar or high when compared to other nearby agencies in Colorado.

The main open space system is located primarily along the Coal Creek corridor. Additional large open space tracts are located on the west side of Erie, adjacent to open spaces owned or maintained by other agencies, including Boulder County, the Town of Frederick, and others.

Figure 4 shows the current open space locations for the Town of Erie.

More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

-  Streams & Ditches
-  Railroads
-  Water Bodies

Boundaries

-  Town Boundary
-  Planning Boundary

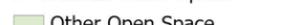
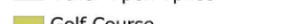
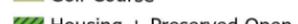
Land Use

-  Residential Land Uses
-  Non-Residential Land Uses

 Erie Community Center

 School Sites

Green Space

-  Town Owned Open Space
-  Private Green Space
-  Other Open Space
-  Golf Course
-  Housing + Preserved Open Space

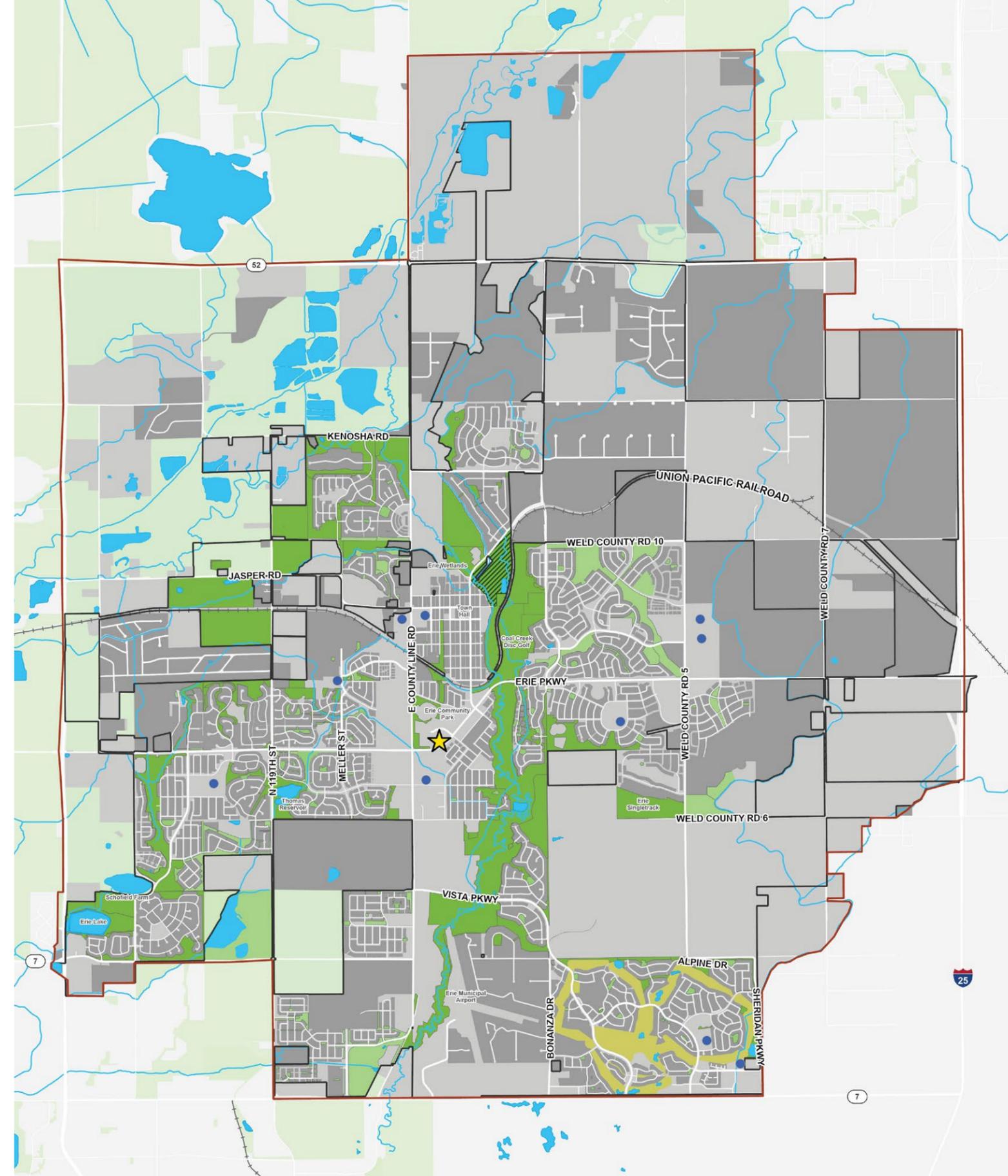
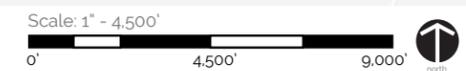


Figure 4. Existing Open Space Map



3.2.5. Trails

Erie currently has 82.2 miles of trails. 48.8 miles of these trails are maintained by the Town. There are also numerous future planned trails within Erie, all of which will provide excellent connectivity for current and future populations. There are however, some missing gaps in the trail system that need to be addressed.

Figure 5 shows the existing and future planned trails of Erie. Several gaps and barriers exist, including the following:

- Weld County Road 10
- Gaps located near School Sites
- Future trails located on lands that are not owned by the Town of Erie

More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

★ Erie Community Center

● School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass

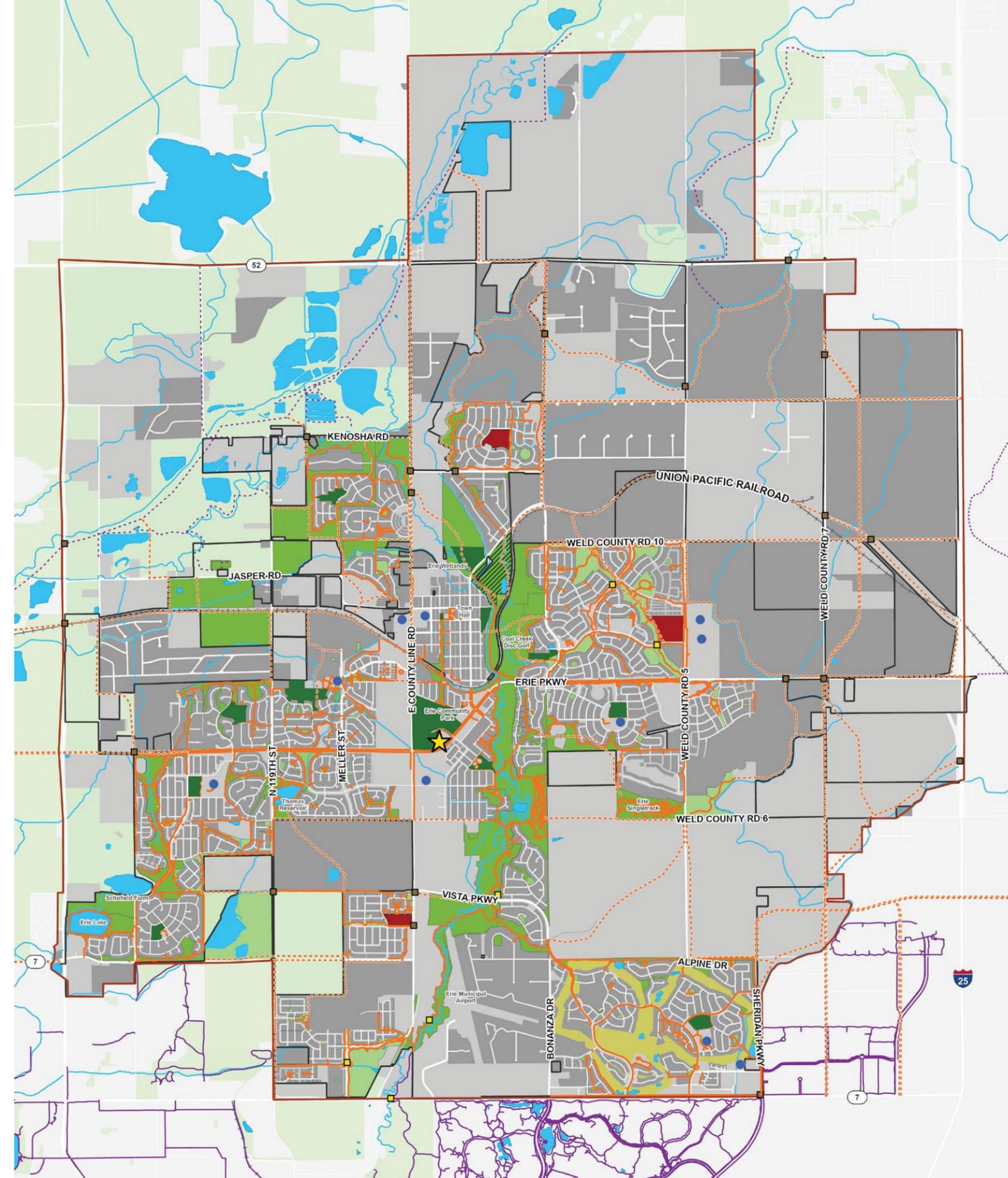


Figure 5. Existing and Future Trails Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'
0' 4,500' 9,000'

3.2.6. Future Land Use

A significant amount of Erie's population growth will occur in the eastern portions of Town, along the I-25 corridor. In addition, infill development will likely occur within the Town limits over the next 10 years. It will be important to strategically plan for future parks and recreation needs in these general locations to meet the needs of current and future residents of Erie.

3.2.7. Walkability

A goal of the Playbook is to ensure that every Erie resident may experience barrier free access to an Erie-owned park, amenitized open space, or recreational facility within a 1/2 mile or a 10-minute walk of their home. Based on the 1/2 mile walkability analysis, future parks and recreation resources may be needed on the east side of Erie, along the I-25 corridor north and south of the intersection of Weld County Road 10, as well as in northern Erie, near State Highway 52 and Weld County Road 5. They may also be needed near various residential areas within the Planning Boundary.

Figure 6 shows a 1/2 mile radius from the existing Erie-owned parks.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center

- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- 1/2 mile distance to an Erie Owned Park

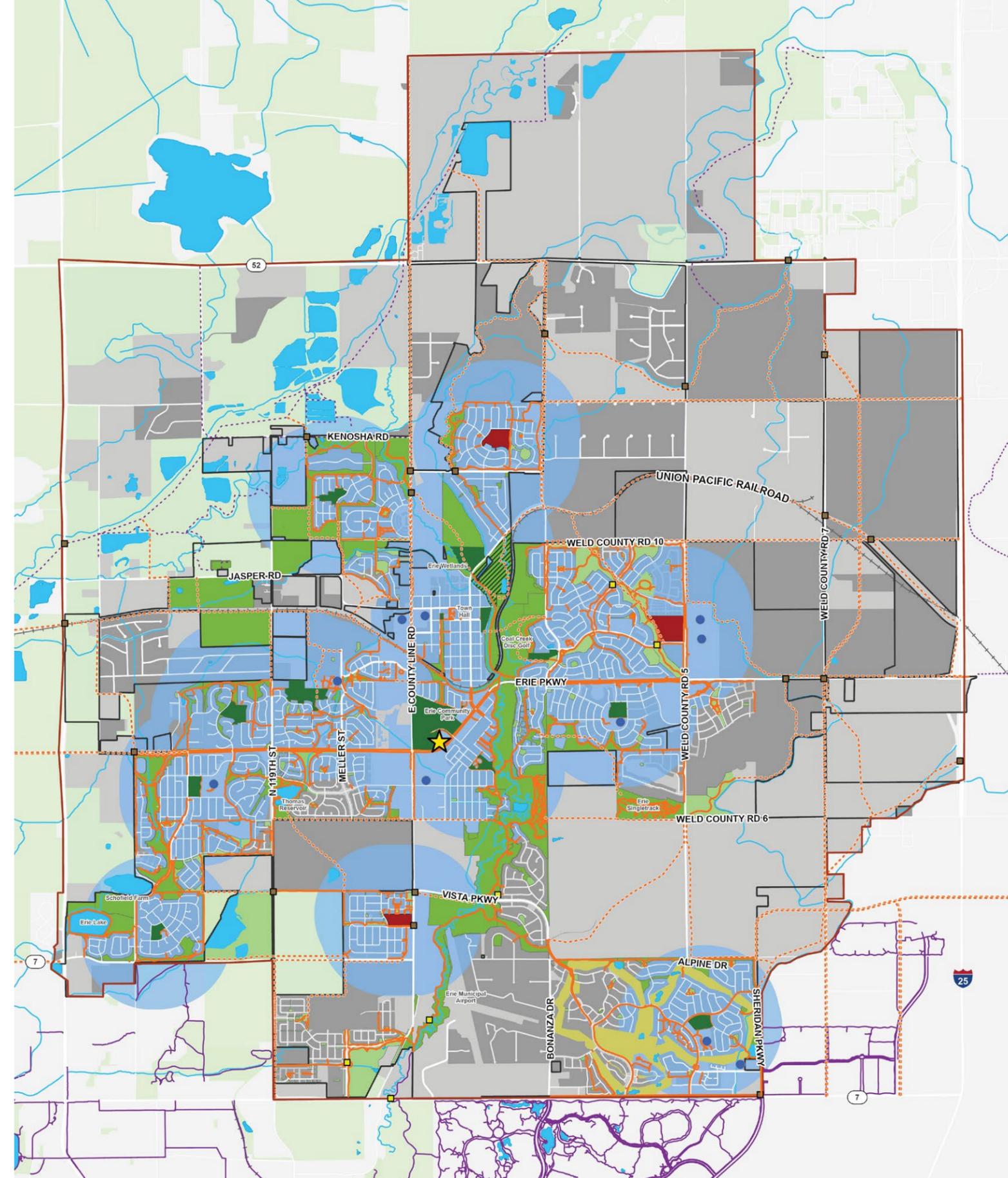
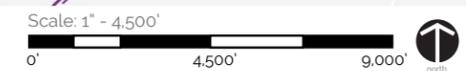


Figure 6. Walkability Map



3.2.8. Trail Access

Figure 7 shows a 1/2 mile radius from the existing trails of Erie. Most residents of Erie live within a walkable distance to an existing trail, but some current and future residents in the north eastern area of the Planning Boundary do not meet this requirement. The future planned trails of Erie may help to alleviate this need.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center

- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- 1/2 mile distance from Existing Erie Trails

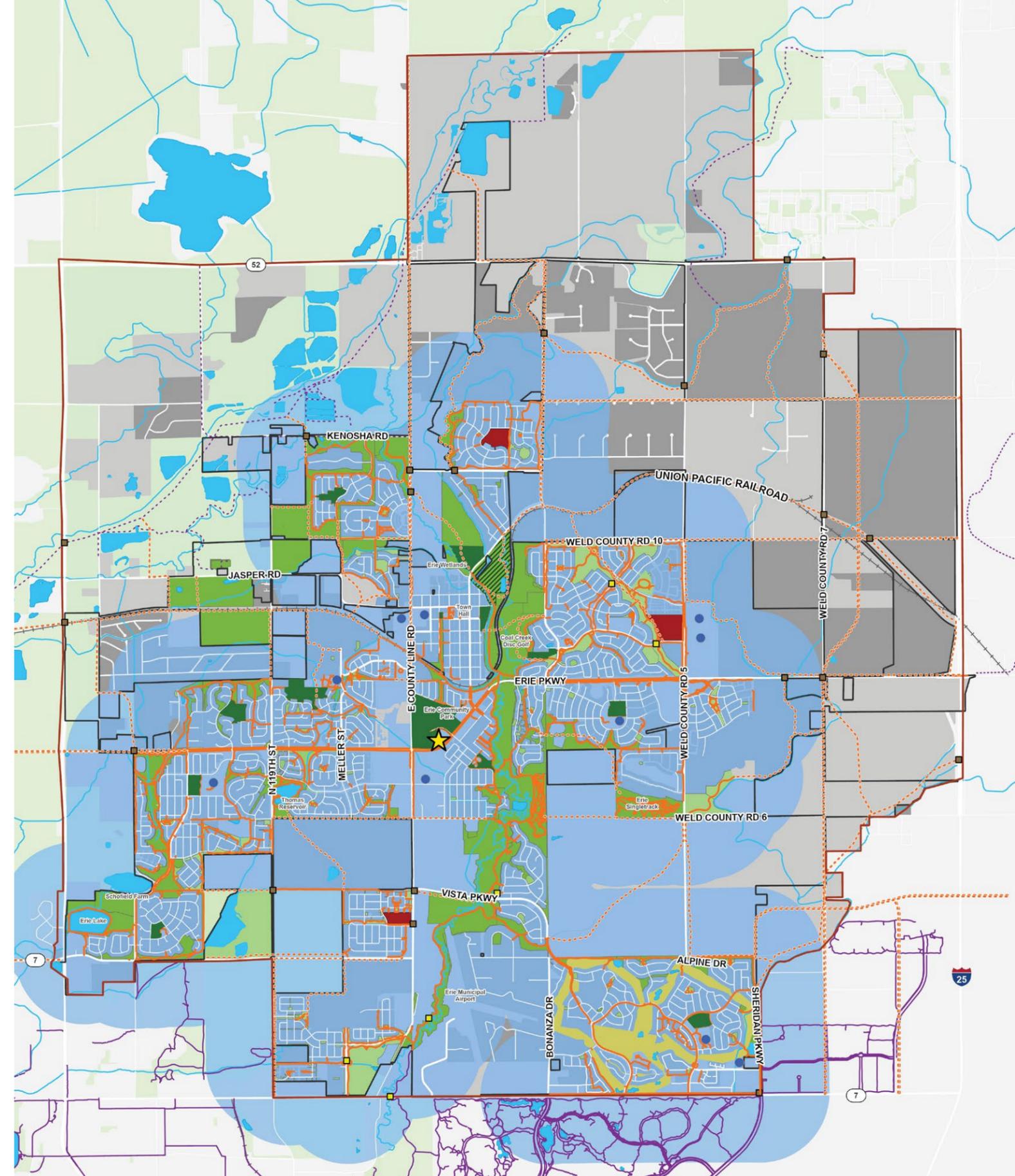


Figure 7. Trail Access Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



3.2.9. Potential Gap Areas

Based on the locations of the existing PROST areas, future planned parks, future planned trails, future land use, walkability, and trail access, several potential gap areas have been identified where future parks or recreation facilities may be located.

These areas include:

- Eastern Erie along I-25
- Northern Erie near Highway 52 and Weld County Road 5
- Western Erie near Wise Homestead Open Space
- Other strategic residential areas within the Planning Boundary

Western Erie remains more rural and less densely populated, with much of its landscape permanently protected as Boulder County Open Space. These conditions present challenges for large park development due to limited available land and conservation restrictions. In contrast, as we move east into more urbanized areas of Erie, residential density increases, creating a greater demand for additional parks and open space to meet the needs of a growing population. While the eastern part of Town will continue to be a focus for new development, it is equally important to ensure western Erie remains well-served. Opportunities like Schofield Farm (currently under construction), the Wise Homestead property, and the Parkdale Wetland Experience offer meaningful ways to enhance access to recreation and open space in the west without compromising the integrity of protected lands.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

★ Erie Community Center

● School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Parks
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

— Existing Trails

- - - Future Trails

— Other Existing Trails

- - - Other Planned Future Trails

■ Underpass

■ Proposed Underpass

○ Access Gaps

○ 1/2 mile radius to an Erie Owned Park

○ 1/2 mile radius to Existing Trails

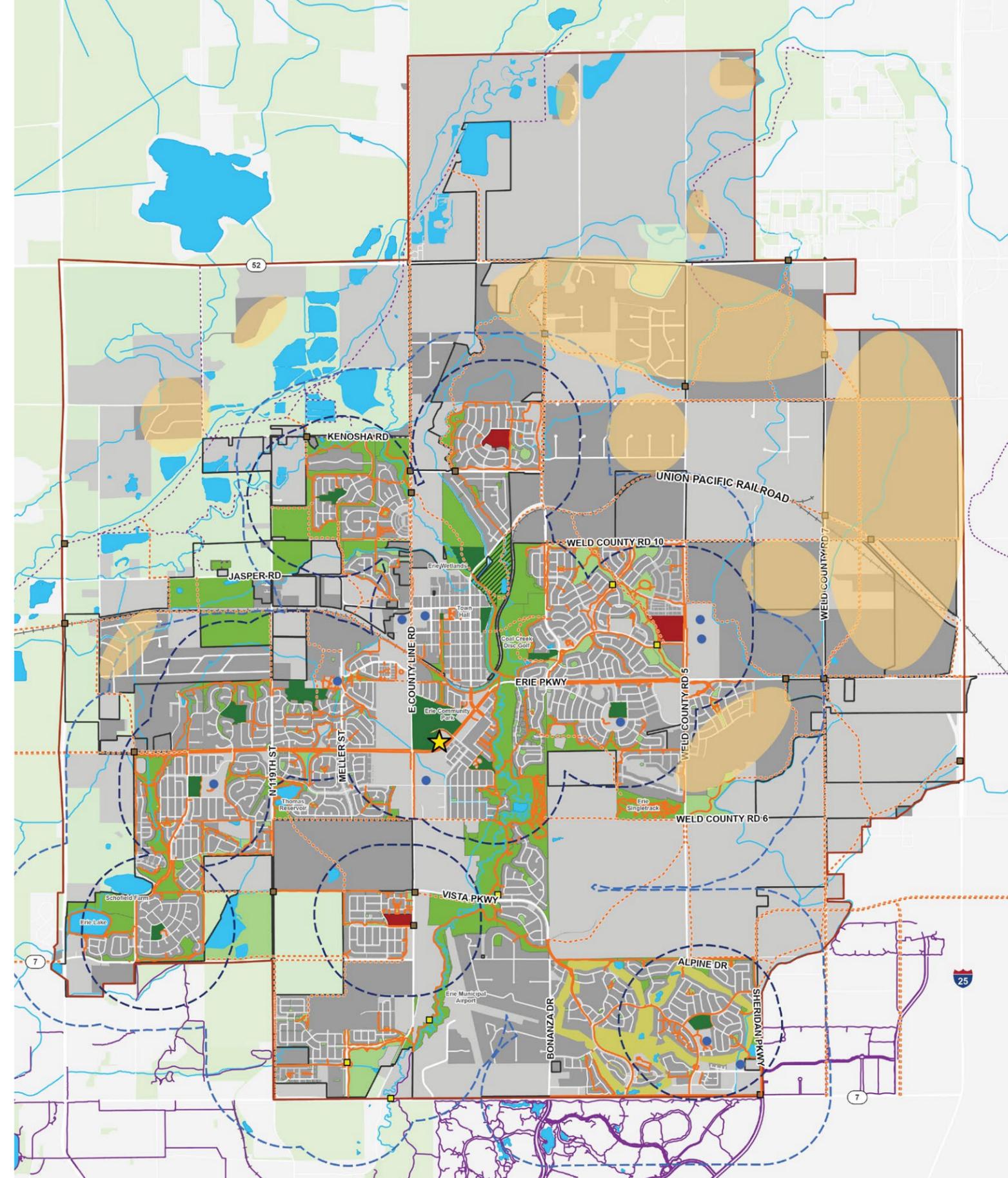
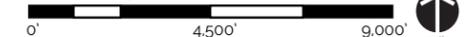


Figure 8. Potential Gap Areas Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



3.2.10. Recreation Facilities & Level of Service

Erie will provide a high LOS for the 2035 population for most facility types when compared to the benchmark comparisons of the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. More detailed information about these metrics can be found in 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

[2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review](#)

For a future population of 64,000, the following facilities may be considered as additions to meet the benchmarks set forth in the NRPA Agency Performance Review. Other factors such as population demographics, future trends, and information gathered during the community engagement process should also be taken into consideration.

Potential Future Facilities to be Considered* based on NRPA benchmarks:

- Recreation Center
- Diamond fields
- Rectangular fields
- Basketball and volleyball courts, standalone
- Community gardens
- Indoor multi-use courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Outdoor multi-use courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Indoor walking loops/running tracks
- Indoor competitive swimming pools
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Outdoor fitness zones/exercise stations

*Please note that these considerations are for general reference and information only. It is not expected that Erie would institute all of these or limit future facility expansion to these only, but rather keep these in mind when considering NRPA benchmarks.

More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.



Clayton Park
Credit: Town of Erie

3.3. Existing Recreation Facilities and Programs

3.3.1. Key Takeaways

Erie's Parks & Recreation Department offers a range of programs and services that currently serve all age groups and interests in the community. The Town is recognized for high-quality programs in aquatics, fitness, youth and adult sports, camps, and special events. Participation has grown significantly since 2021, demonstrating a strong and increasing demand for recreational services and facilities.

Most Popular Program Areas

- Aquatics, Fitness, Camp Erie, Youth Sports, and Adult Trips consistently experience extensive waitlists, signaling strong community interest and the need for expansion.
- Teen Programs, Therapeutic Recreation, and Cultural Arts are growing in popularity and have been prioritized for future development.
- Special Events remain a signature offering, with 18 annual events and expanded permitting of private/community-led events.

Areas for Facility Expansion

- The Erie Community Center (ECC) is the primary indoor recreation hub but operates near capacity. Lack of indoor and outdoor aquatic space, gyms, fitness areas, and multipurpose program rooms is a key constraint limiting program growth.
- Planning for a second community center, outdoor aquatic center, additional athletic fields, and a performing arts facility is a key future need.
- There is a strong need for additional indoor space, including group fitness areas, drop-in fitness areas, gyms, aquatic spaces, cultural arts facilities, and administrative spaces.
- Athletic field demand exceeds current supply, particularly during peak seasons.
- There is no performing arts center, outdoor aquatic center, or indoor ice rink, which limits offerings in cultural arts and other recreation activities.
- Limited school district facility access due to shared use restricts scheduling flexibility. Additional facility partnerships should be explored.
- Lack of available time at existing Town recreation facilities to support drop-in (self-directed) use or rentals.
- There is an opportunity to establish more formal partnerships with nonprofits, private providers, and neighboring municipalities.
- There is a need for more office space and storage for the Department.

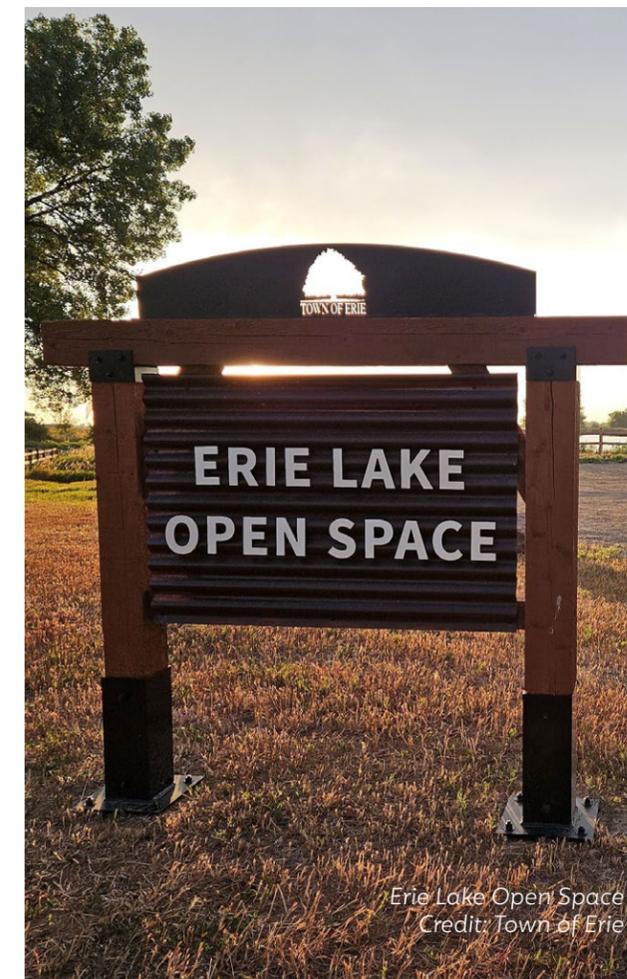
Program Planning for Future Growth

To meet future recreational needs tied to population increase, the following considerations are essential:

- The Recreation Programming Plan (2021-2023) is in place and regularly guides program design and evaluation. This Plan should be updated as needed to meet future demands and needs.
- Expand indoor recreation facilities, potentially through a second community center, to accommodate growing interest in aquatics, fitness, youth programs, therapeutic, and cultural programs.
- Provide increased opportunities for rentals of recreation spaces.
- Continue to offer programs that are delivered by Town staff and supported by contracted providers under structured rental or revenue-sharing agreements.
- Boost program staffing levels as programs and facilities grow.
- Enhance partnerships with schools, private providers, and non-profits to expand capacity and avoid duplication of services.
- Sustain and increase operations budgets to match the expected breadth and volume of programming.

Priorities for programming based on community input include:

- Youth and Adult Sports
- Special events
- Camps
- Fitness/Wellness
- Cultural Arts
- Aquatics
- Teens
- Older Adults
- Therapeutic



3.4. Operations & Funding

3.4.1. Key Takeaways

Currently, the Erie Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) organizational structure for operations and maintenance is well suited for future growth and development. For instance, budgets and success metrics accurately reflect the performance of the department, allowing the department to consistently deliver a high level of service.

As Erie continues to grow, the PRD should evolve to meet increasing community demands while maintaining high levels of service, fiscal responsibility, and operational efficiency. The following summary highlights the current status and future considerations related to operations, funding, staffing, and service delivery.

Organizational Strength and Growth Readiness

- Erie PRD is structured across four core divisions: Business Services, Development & Neighborhood Services, Parks and Open Space, and Recreation.
- The PRD's organizational structure and performance tracking systems are well-positioned for future growth, supported by accurate budgeting and clear operational responsibilities.
- Staff growth is needed to meet rising service demands in planning, project administration, recreation programming, parks and facilities maintenance, facility operations, and volunteer coordination.
- Succession planning and continuity strategies for major disruptions (e.g., natural disasters or pandemics) are future needs.

Operations and Maintenance

- Erie's parks, trails, and open spaces are well managed by knowledgeable staff using a detailed Maintenance Management Plan with tiered service levels.
- Staff also maintain other Town assets such as medians, public lands, and vacant properties. These maintenance items often overlap with Public Works responsibilities, which indicates a need for more role clarity.
- The Parks and Open Space Division currently shares a maintenance facility with Public Works, which has outgrown its capacity. Plans may require a standalone Parks and Open Space Division facility.
- Continued investment in equipment, tracking systems, lifecycle cost analysis, and deferred maintenance planning is critical.

Current Funding Sources and Financial Planning

- The primary source of operational funding is the Town's General Fund (46%), supplemented by the Parks Improvement Impact Fund which is reserved for capital projects that enhance the system, and the Trails & Natural Areas Fund which can be used for capital, operations, or land acquisition.
- Other sources include user fees, sponsorships, grants, and the Conservation Trust Fund, and the Tree Impact Fund.
- The 2022 cost recovery rate was 28.57%, with higher-than-average operational expenditures and revenue per capita.
- The department has a cost recovery philosophy with a tiered fee and a scholarship program to ensure access and affordability.
- Budget growth across capital, personnel, and operations categories reflects Erie's investment in expanding services—but identifying new funding sources for capital replacement and operational expansion will be vital.

Future Considerations

- **Facility Expansion:** Meeting the community's growing indoor recreation needs will require significant capital investment and potentially new public-private partnerships.
- **Staffing and Planning:** Continued staff growth, long-term planning capacity, and interdepartmental coordination will help sustain high service levels.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Long-term cost recovery strategies, updated funding policies, and diversified revenue streams will be critical to sustain operations.
- **Operational Excellence:** Clearer delineation of responsibilities, robust data tracking, updated policies, and enhanced volunteer management will support efficient operations.
- **Recreation Programming Growth:** Rising demand for recreational programming will necessitate additional facilities and staff.



4: Future Needs

Understanding the evolving socioeconomics and diverse demographics of Erie helps pinpoint current and future demand for recreational facilities, parks, and programs.

4.1. Population Growth & Demographic Trends

This analysis draws on socioeconomic and demographic information provided by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), who utilizes 2020 Census data and demographers for 2024-2029 projections. ESRI also provides data on housing, recreation, entertainment spending, and participation in activities.

For the 2029 and 2035 population estimates and characteristics, demographic information obtained from the Town of Erie was utilized to model off ESRI's data to develop the final figures.

The analysis of population growth and demographics reveals critical trends that will signify demand for Erie's parks, recreation, open space, and trails through 2035. Understanding these trends is essential to ensuring the Town's parks, recreational facilities, and programs remain responsive, equitable, and forward-thinking.

4.1.1. Population Growth

- Erie is expected to experience substantial population growth, increasing from approximately 40,000 residents in 2024 to around 64,000 by 2035—a 60% increase. This increase will put pressure on existing facilities and will require strategic expansion to meet growing demand.

4.1.2. Age Distribution

- Adults aged 25-44 represent the largest age cohort in Erie, followed by youth aged 5-17. There will be strong growth in the 55+ age groups in the coming years.
- The median age is projected to increase slightly from 38.8 in 2024 to 39.5 in 2029, suggesting a sustained presence of young families, working professionals, and school-age children.
- The youthful demographic of Erie will drive demand for family-oriented programs, teen-focused spaces, and flexible facilities that cater to both children and older adults.

4.1.3. Household Growth

- Nearly 45% of households have children, significantly higher than state and national averages, underscoring the importance of youth programming, inclusive family amenities, and safe, accessible outdoor spaces.

4.1.4. Household Income & Expenditures

- Median household income will increase from \$163,377 in 2024 to a projected \$184,911 by 2029—indicating that most of the community has financial means to support and engage with recreational services.
- 91.6% of Erie households earn over \$50,000 annually, a strong predictor of participation in recreation programs and willingness to invest in leisure and fitness activities.

- Erie residents allocate approximately 4% of their household income—or around \$7,168 annually—toward entertainment and recreation, reinforcing the opportunity for expanded offerings that align with their interests and expectations.

4.1.5. Implications for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails

Capacity Planning

Capacity planning helps communities allocate available and future resources to satisfy the needs of residents over time. Rapid population growth in Erie will necessitate the expansion of existing facilities and the development of new recreation facilities, parks, and trail systems to maintain quality of life and access.

Age-Specific Services

The prevalence of youth and middle-aged adults indicates a need for programming that serves children, teens, and adults, including multi-purpose recreation centers, sports facilities, and family-friendly open space. Older adults will also require additional programming and services.

Affluence-Driven Demand

Higher income levels and above-average recreation spending suggest residents will expect high-quality, diverse, and innovative recreation options.

Equity Considerations

While most residents are financially well-off, continued attention should be given to promoting inclusive access and affordability to ensure equity across all socioeconomic groups, including underserved and under-represented populations.

Sustainable Investment

The growing and demographically youthful population provides a strong foundation for long-term investments in trails, parks, and recreation that foster health, community connection, and environmental stewardship.

Resiliency

Incorporating resiliency and long-term flexibility into parks and recreation development is essential for creating spaces that can continue to be financially attainable and adapt to changing community needs.

More detailed information can be found in Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report.

4.2. Future Budget and Funding Source Implications

This section outlines the future budget considerations and funding implications associated with these needs. By understanding these future costs, the Town can align its finance methods and funding mechanisms to support a balanced and sustainable parks, recreation, open space, and trails (PROST) system.

4.2.1. Park and Recreation Facilities Costs

The development of new recreation facilities and the expansion of existing amenities will require major capital investments.

Key Cost Drivers

- Planning, design, and construction of a second community recreation center.
- Development of athletic field complexes and neighborhood parks in growth areas.
- Development of future community park sites
- Renovation and enhancement of existing parks to add restrooms, lighting, seating, and inclusive play areas.
- Development of cultural facilities such as amphitheaters or performing arts spaces will require a combination of public and private funding.
- Planning, design, and construction of an outdoor aquatics center.

Implications for Funding

- Large-scale facilities will likely require a mix of funding sources, including general obligation bonds, grants, impact fees, dedicated sales tax revenues, and partnerships with other organizations.

4.2.2. Park and Open Space Land Acquisition Costs

Securing land for future parks and open spaces is critical as developable land becomes scarcer and more expensive.

Key Cost Drivers

- Land and construction costs are increasing regionally, making it critical for Erie to act quickly on priority acquisitions and projects.
- Acquisition of 30+ acre parcels for future community parks.
- Preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and riparian corridors through land purchase or conservation easements.
- Purchase of smaller parcels in underserved areas for neighborhood parks.

Implications for Funding

- Current Public Land Dedication (PLD) and Open Space Dedication (OSD) fees may not fully cover rising land costs.
- Partnerships with land trusts and conservation organizations may provide additional leverage.



4.2.3. Trail Development Costs

Expanding Erie's trail system and improving connectivity will enhance access to parks, schools, and regional trail networks. Most new trails in Erie are built in private developments.

Key Cost Drivers

- Construction of new multi-use trail segments to close network gaps.
- Upgrades to existing trails wayfinding and ADA improvements, and lighting for specific trail segments, primarily those that are commuter routes.
- Land acquisition or easements for trail corridors.

Implications for Funding

- The Town may utilize state and federal transportation grants (e.g., TAP) for trail projects.
- Impact fees along with revenues from the Conservation Trust Fund and the Trails and Natural Areas Fund can help fund local trail development.
- Coordination with regional partners can provide additional resources for cross-jurisdictional connections.

4.2.4. Maintenance and Operations Needs

As Erie's park, recreation, and open space system expands, so will the need for additional maintenance capacity and staffing.

Key Cost Drivers

- Increased acreage of parks and open space requiring care and maintenance.
- Additional facilities, playgrounds, athletic fields, and trails needing regular upkeep.
- Expanded recreation programming requiring more staff and operational resources.

Implications for Funding

- The Town will need to plan for long-term operational funding to avoid deferred maintenance.
- Diversifying revenue streams (e.g., program fees, partnerships, dedicated taxes) can help sustain service levels.
- Consideration of operational cost recovery policies for recreation programs and facilities to balance affordability and sustainability.



Erie Singletrack Trails
Credit: Girls, Gears and Beers LLC



5: Recommendations

This chapter presents the overarching recommendations of the Playbook, organized into five plan categories. Each category has been defined through the plan process to set the vision and focus areas for the future. The plan categories listed below are of equal weight and do not represent an order of prioritization. The recommendations provide a high-level roadmap that guides the plan's implementation strategies are informed through a combination of a detailed technical plan assessment, current trends, and community preferences and desires.

5.1. Parks & Recreation Facilities

A well-planned system of parks and recreation facilities is essential for supporting active, healthy lifestyles and fostering a sense of community in Erie. Strategic investments in both new facilities and existing infrastructure will ensure residents continue to enjoy access to high-quality recreation opportunities.

As part of the planning efforts for new recreational facilities, a comprehensive feasibility study should be completed for each initiative to determine the specific programmatic needs and amenities to be included, site location, capital funding requirements, and operational requirements and priorities for development.

5.1.1. Recommendations

A. Plan for future community recreation spaces

- A second new community recreation center in Erie is envisioned to meet indoor recreation needs such as fitness, aquatics, cultural arts, sports, and flexible program spaces.
- A potential outdoor aquatics center will respond to demand and provide seasonal amenities and complement existing indoor facilities.
- Advance plans for a performing arts center as a unique cultural destination based on the performing art center feasibility study.
- Increase capacity for athletic fields, indoor pickleball courts, and outdoor pickleball courts to accommodate growing youth and adult sports participation.



Erie Community Center Indoor Pool
Credit: Town of Erie

B. Revitalize and expand the existing Erie Community Center

- Utilize the spaces and resources available in the existing Erie Community Center to help meet the future demand of Erie. This should be based on updates to the Recreation Program Plan.
- Expand the center where possible to add space for program areas that are in high demand.

C. Focus on maintaining existing facilities

- Develop a capital lifecycle replacement plan (this is often referred to as an asset management plan for sustainable facility management).
- Replace or repair parks and recreation facilities and amenities as needed.
- Continue improvements to existing facilities, including restrooms, lighting, and accessibility upgrades.
- Ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Universal Access compliance.
- Update existing operations and maintenance plans for each facility.

D. Plan for additional future parks

- Establish a prioritization program to confirm high, medium, and low-priority future park investments in Erie.
- Develop new neighborhood-scale parks equitably in Erie, including in underserved areas per the Overall PROST Map.

E. Strengthen asset management, safety, and accessibility

- Maintain updated Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for all facilities to ensure safety and preparedness.
- Increase opportunities for more equitable and inclusive recreational opportunities.

As part of the planning efforts for these facilities, comprehensive feasibility studies for each should be completed that determines the specific amenities to be included, the site, capital funding requirements, operational requirements and priorities for development.

5.2. Open Space & Trails

Erie's open spaces and trails are among its most treasured assets, providing opportunities for recreation, conservation, and community connection. Protecting these resources while improving access and the user experience will require deliberate planning and stewardship.

5.2.1. Recommendations

A. Restore habitat and ecologically sensitive areas

- Identify and map high-value open spaces and conservation areas and update data bases as required to ensure the high priority areas continue to meet standards as defined.
- Support environmental stewardship and restoration efforts to protect Erie's unique character and wildlife habitats.

B. Enhance trail connectivity and accessibility

- Close gaps in the existing trail network to create a fully connected system, such as exploring opportunities to expand trails using underutilized rights-of-ways or conservation easements.
- Improve signage and wayfinding to support safe, user-friendly trails.
- Integrate ADA-compliant and universally accessible features throughout the trail system.



5.3. Recreation Programs and Resources

Recreation programming fosters community engagement and supports physical, social, and emotional well-being. Erie's growing and diversifying population requires expanded and inclusive offerings designed to meet a wide range of needs.

5.3.1. Recommendations

A. Expand and diversify recreation programs

- Update the existing Recreation Programming Plan to reflect the direction of Recreation Division for the next 3-5 years. The plan should recognize that the Town does not need to be the primary provider of all recreation programs and services in the community.
- Maintain a focus on providing recreation programs for special demographic groups including:
 - Youth – Programs that serve a variety of interest areas beyond just sports including after-school and summer camps.
 - Teens – Activities designed specifically for teens that are both organized and drop-in in nature.
 - Older Adults – Programs and services that serve a wide range of the senior age category, including an appeal to the younger more active based senior.
 - Intergenerational/Multi-generational – Offering programs and services that have an appeal to multiple generations or across generations. This includes family based activities.
 - Ethnic/Culturally Based – There should be an effort to offer programs and services that are appropriate for the cultural orientation of the area.
- Continue to focus on basic performance measures to track recreation programming effectiveness on a summary basis.
- Maintaining strong programming emphasis requires an annual comprehensive marketing plan. This includes the following for both Town programs as well as those that are contracted:
 - Rates of fill for programs and activities (capacity vs. actual numbers)
 - Resident and non-resident participation rates
 - Participation numbers and comparisons to past years/seasons
 - Rate of program cancellations (should be between 15% and 20%)
 - Financial performance including cost per participant
 - Evaluations from participants

B. Strengthen partnerships and collaboration

- Build on partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and private providers to expand capacity and coordinate services. The expected role of other providers in delivering programs include:
 - Youth Sports – Most team sports on the competitive and travel level will be offered by community-based organizations. Parks and Recreation will focus on recreational focused youth sports programs.
 - Adult Sports – Parks and Recreation will continue to provide a base level of adult sports programs and will also partner with other providers for a full compliment of programming.
 - Fitness/Wellness – This will remain a major area of program focus for Parks and Recreation in the future with a limited role for other providers in offering specialized services.
 - Aquatics – Aquatic programming will continue to be an important program area for Parks and Recreation that will be augmented by other providers.
 - Older Adults - Parks and Recreation will continue to be a primary provider of activities for this age group, while specialized services and programs will likely be provided by other organizations on a contract basis.
 - Cultural Arts – Parks and Recreation will continue to increase its role in providing cultural arts programming along with contract providers. This will grow substantially with the development of a performing arts center.
 - Special Events – This will remain a primary program area for the Town but there should be a maximum level of community wide special events that will be offered per year with any additional events and activities being offered by other providers on a permit basis.
 - Youth – Recreation programming for youth will continue to depend on a baseline of Parks and Recreation activities (including camps) augmented by contract providers.
 - Therapeutic – This will be a growth area for Parks and Recreation programming that can be enhanced through partnerships with other agencies and providers.
 - Teens – Parks and Recreation will focus on expanding program opportunities for this age group. Utilizing other providers will be important to providing a broad spectrum of opportunities.
- Formalize agreements with external providers to clarify roles, responsibilities, and facility use. Partnerships could include:
 - Other public sector organizations
 - Non-profits such as a YMCA
 - School districts
 - Private providers



Erie youth soccer program
Credit: Town of Erie

- Clearly identify specific roles and expectations with other contract providers that also limits to facility scheduling, fees, and operations. Any financial agreements with other contract providers should require that at least 30% of gross revenues be kept by the Town and an effort should be made to move the percentage to 40%. For those program areas where there are no contracts, utilize other providers on a referral and clearinghouse basis. This should involve promotion of their activities, coordinating of some programs, and permitting of facilities. If there are not contract providers present, then referring the community to other possible service providers should be considered. This could be neighboring park and recreation agencies that provide the service or non-profit's that have the service. However, this process needs to be closely managed to be successful. Other contract requirements should include:
 - Program plan
 - Safety and security plans
 - Participant code of conduct
 - Annual background checks for all staff and volunteers
 - Quarterly and annual reports on program numbers and participants
 - Coaches training program and concussion protocol for youth sports

C. Monitor and improve program effectiveness

- Gather community input at least every two years to ensure programs reflect evolving needs.
- Consider updating the athletic field use requirements to include the following from the user groups:
 - Town Parks and Recreation programs
 - Town sponsored organizations
 - Other organizations
- Consider establishing clear priorities for user groups that contain the following:
 - Organization is a recognized 501(c)3.
 - There is an established board of directors, and the organization is managed by a set of bylaws.
 - The organization has adequate liability insurance.
 - Program participation by sport and season for the past 3 years.
 - A minimum of 80% of program participants should be from the Town of Erie.
 - Annual background checks for all coaches, staff, and volunteers
 - Coaches' training/certification program
 - Concussion/injury protocols
 - Participant/coaches/spectator code of conduct
 - There is an emergency action plan

5.4. Operations and Funding

To deliver high-quality services during rapid growth, Erie should strengthen its operational foundation and diversify its funding strategies. Proactive planning for staffing, maintenance, and financial sustainability is essential to meet the challenges ahead.

5.4.1. Recommendations

A. Consider establishing a Land Acquisition process and evaluation criteria

Goals of the Land Acquisition Process for Parks, Open Space, and Trails

- Align with the overarching goals and objectives of the adopted PROST Playbook.
- Identify and prioritize high-quality sites for future acquisition.
- Create a measurable, transparent, and consistent process to support decision-making.
- Provide regular reporting to track progress on open space objectives.
- Engage the appropriate advisory bodies and staff in evaluating potential acquisitions.

Land Acquisition Team

The Land Acquisition Team should consist of the following representatives:

- Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB)
- Planning Department Staff
- Parks and Recreation Department Staff
- Town Attorney

This team should be responsible for conducting evaluations, coordinating due diligence, and supporting negotiations related to potential acquisitions.

Land Acquisition Criteria

The Town should adhere to a set of land acquisition criteria to evaluate potential sites for acquisition. These criteria will:

- Help rank and prioritize parcels based on alignment with Parks and Recreation objectives.
- Provide a foundation for staff recommendations to the Town Council and OSTAB.

Note: These criteria are not intended to address feasibility considerations such as seller willingness, property price, or financial strategy. Those elements will be addressed during the due diligence phase. Community outreach may be integrated into the evaluation process as determined appropriate by the Acquisition Team.

Process Overview

1. Annual Review and Identification
 - Town staff should conduct an annual assessment of areas, regions, or specific parcels that may serve as beneficial parkland or open space.
 - A report should be prepared and presented to Town Council identifying top-priority areas.
2. Priority Setting
 - The Acquisition Team should use the adopted criteria to rank potential parcels and make recommendations.
 - Staff should seek direction from Town Council regarding specific parcels of interest.
3. Due Diligence and Negotiation
 - Staff should lead negotiations and perform due diligence on Town Council-directed parcels.
 - Feasibility, funding strategy, and acquisition options should be evaluated in consultation with the Town Attorney and relevant departments.
4. Reporting and Approval
 - Staff should report the outcome of due diligence and negotiation back to Town Council.
 - Final acquisition decisions will require formal approval from Town Council.

Ongoing Evaluation and Updates

- OSTAB should conduct periodic reviews of the acquisition plan and process to ensure alignment with community needs and evolving PROST Plan goals.
- Town staff may re-evaluate and adjust the priority sites as necessary.

Reporting and Accountability

An annual reporting system should be developed to track and measure progress. This report should include:

- Status of ongoing acquisitions
- Assessment of open space targets and needs
- Summary of decisions made and parcels acquired

Conclusion

This land acquisition method and process provides a consistent and goal-aligned pathway for expanding the Town's parks and open space system. With collaboration across Town departments, advisory boards, and Town Council, the Town will ensure the preservation and enhancement of valuable land for the benefit of current and future generations.

Land Acquisition Criteria					
No.	Criteria	Purpose	Potential Points (1 Point for Each Item)	Multiplier	Maximum Potential No. of Points
1	Overall PROST Map	To achieve the need for the future parks and open spaces that are identified on the Overall PROST Map.	* Land is located in the general vicinity of a future park or open space area per the Overall PROST Map.	5	5
2	Adjacency & Contiguity	To create a connected system of parks, recreation, open space, and trails throughout Erie.	* Land is adjacent to an existing or future planned park or open space area per the Overall PROST Map.	4	4
3	Trail System Connectivity	To create and enhance a connected trail system throughout Erie.	* Land is located in the general vicinity of a future planned trail per the Overall PROST Map. * Land could accommodate a trail facility and contribute to the overall future planned trail system of Erie per the Overall PROST Map.	3	6
4	Accessibility & Equity	To ensure that every Erie resident has access to an open space, park, or trail within a ½ mile or a 10-minute walk from their home.	* Land is located in an area that meets the ½ mile or 10-minute walk objective.	3	3
5	Community Identity	To preserve and celebrate Erie's rich history and sense of place by integrating historical resources, public art, and cultural landmarks into facilities.	* Land contains historical resources or cultural landmarks. * Land contains public art or other facilities or resources that can support local artists and community identity. * Land is suitable for potential future activities and programming for a variety of demographic groups.	2	6
6	Recreational Opportunity	To provide access to active or passive recreational or educational activities.	* Land is suitable for potential future development of sports/multi-use fields or other active recreational areas. * Land contains unique passive recreational or educational opportunities.	2	4
7	Natural Areas Inventory	To preserve and protect natural habitats, wetlands, wildlife corridors, and other significant biodiversity per the Natural Areas Inventory.	* Land contains valuable biodiversity elements such as natural habitats, wetlands, or wildlife corridors as per the Natural Areas Inventory. * Land provides opportunities to restore or create valuable biodiversity elements such as natural habitats, wetlands, or wildlife corridors as per per the Natural Areas Inventory.	2	4
8	Unique Environmental Features	To preserve iconic land features that represent local and regional value	* Land has distinctive land features that could be valuable to the community for a variety of purposes, including viewsheds, water frontage, landforms, etc. * Land contains high quality soils usable for agricultural purposes and/or is irrigated land.	1	2
9	Developability	To expedite park land development and open space conservation, lower development costs, and implement easier construction and entitlement processes.	* Land is already zoned or entitled for park land development or open space conservation, or would qualify for an expedited entitlement process. * Land is suitable for construction with appropriate terrain for a park and would not require extensive earthwork. * Land has easy or direct access to existing utilities such as water, sewer, and electricity.	1	3
10	Park Suitability	To acquire parcels of land that meet the minimum size requirements of neighborhood or community parks, or are sizable areas.	* Land meets the minimum park size for the desired future park type per the Overall PROST Map. * Land is suitable for the desired future program and facilities as determined by the Parks and Recreation Department. * Land is 30 acres in size or more.	1	3
TOTAL AVAILABLE POINTS				40	
HIGH PRIORITY ACQUISITION				26 - 40	
MEDIUM PRIORITY ACQUISITION				14 - 26	
LOW PRIORITY ACQUISITION				0 - 13	

Table 1. Recommended Land Acquisition Criteria

B. Plan for financial sustainability

- Forecast five-year operational and capital budget needs.
- Explore additional funding sources, including grants, partnerships, and sponsorship programs.
- Review and update the cost recovery policy and scholarship program every five years.

C. Commit to national best practices

- Maintain CAPRA accreditation through NRPA as a benchmark for excellence.
- Continue using tools like Placer.ai and Amilia analytics to guide operational decisions.

D. Strengthen organizational capacity

- Develop and regularly update a staffing plan, onboarding process, and certification training programs.
- Complete a cost of service analysis every five years.
- Evaluate compensation rates for part-time staff to meet the state's minimum wage mandates and attract and retain staff.
- Determine what operational functions could be contracted in the Department and the budget implications of implementing the plan.
- Consider establishing volunteer and park ambassador programs to enhance capacity.
- In the next 3-5 years plan for an increase in staffing in the following areas:
 - **Business Services**
 - Review and modify the existing organizational structure of the Department.
 - Possible new positions: Volunteer Coordinator
 - **Development and Neighborhood Services**
 - Determine the role of the Division in areas that are not directly related to parks and recreation.
 - Possible new positions: New Project Manager and Neighborhood Services Coordinator
 - **Parks and Open Space**
 - Determine the role of the Division in areas that are not directly related to the maintenance of parks and recreation.
 - Possible new positions: Park ambassador/park rangers, Additional Park maintenance staff, and Additional Open space/trails maintenance staff
 - **Recreation Facilities and Programs**
 - New positions associated with new facilities including an outdoor aquatic center, second community center, and Schofield event space.
 - New positions associated with a possible Performing Arts Center
 - Possible new positions: Therapeutic Coordinator, Teen Coordinator, and Cultural Arts Coordinator



Erie PRD Staff
Credit: Town of Erie

E. Improve maintenance and management systems

- Conduct athletic field capacity analysis to manage demand and preserve field quality. Establish an annual hourly level of use ceiling for fields to minimize turf damage and keep fields usable. Usage recommendations and preserving field quality methods, such as rotating field usage, will be determined by Staff.
- Update to a comprehensive Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) to improve efficiency.
- Continue an emphasis on capital replacement requirements for all parks, facilities and open space/trails.
- Update the existing Maintenance and Operations Plan and Open Space Management Plan every 2-3 years. This should include consideration for any new parks, trails, open space and facilities. This update should also have a specific focus on preventative maintenance. Ideally each major park, open space, trail, or recreation facility should have its own maintenance plan that is specific to that location.
- Define the Parks & Open Space Division's long-term role for maintenance responsibilities for medians, streetscapes and right of ways in conjunction with other Town departments' responsibilities.
- Clarify the maintenance responsibilities between the Town and HOAs for any shared park or open space areas.
- Develop a formal standard of maintenance staff ratio per developed park acres (one staff for each 10 acres is a common standard) and a staff ratio per square footage of indoor facilities (one staff for 40,000 square feet is a basic standard).
- Establish different maintenance tiers for all parks, trails, open space and facilities. This process should sort amenities based on level of use, prominence in the community, and the type of use. From this a level of service is determined for each tier.
- Continue to utilize the extensive maintenance performance measures that are in place and increase the use of technology (handheld devices for field input of information, etc.) to support these efforts.
- The Department should continue the focus on tracking actual time and resource requirements for individual larger parks, open space areas and key facilities to determine actual maintenance costs.
- Continue to have comprehensive contracts in place for all contract maintenance functions. Explore the viability of contracting for additional maintenance functions that reduce the reliance on Department staffing levels and provide an acceptable level of service in a cost-effective manner.
- Grow and improve the Agricultural Lease program to ensure that it serves the needs of the Town.

- Expand the lifecycle cost analysis for parks and recreation amenities and equipment.
- Continue to transition to all electric equipment and vehicles as the technology becomes available to support the needs of the Department. This should include the purchase of new electric equipment and the establishment of charging stations in the Parks and Open Space maintenance facility and in key parks and facilities throughout the community.
- Complete a feasibility study for the development of a Parks and Open Space maintenance facility that is independent from the Public Works facility.
- Establish an annual athletic field capacity schedule for natural turf fields that ensures there is adequate time allocated for turf rejuvenation.
- Develop a policy on the utilization of artificial turf for athletic fields that includes a determination of when and where this is appropriate, establishes an implementation plan, and a capital replacement program.
- Continue to determine ways to reduce water usage as well as fertilization levels in developed park areas.
- Upgrade irrigation systems to improve efficiency and lower water usage.
- Continue to promote and manage the existing agricultural lease programs for open space properties.



Camp Erie
Credit: Town of Erie

F. Evaluate New Local Government Funding Sources and Finance Methods

To support the acquisition, development, and long-term maintenance of Erie's parks, open spaces, and trails, the Town should pursue a diverse and sustainable mix of funding sources. This section outlines key finance options that combine local revenues, external grants, partnerships, and creative funding mechanisms. Together, these tools will help Erie meet its park and open space goals as the community grows.

- Public Land Dedication requirements
 - Review the park typology requirements to allocate more acreage to neighborhood parks and less to pocket parks.
 - Review and update PLD and OSD fee schedules to ensure they reflect current land values and park development costs.
- Development and Neighborhood Services
 - Prioritize acquisition of land to protect and preserve open space areas or develop future parks per the Overall PROST Map. Strategic land acquisition and habitat restoration efforts will balance growth pressures with conservation goals.
 - Evaluate Parks and Recreation Impact Fees to reflect current costs.

Potential Funding Sources

- **Public Land Dedication (PLD) and Open Space Dedication (OSD) Fees**
These include the fees collected from developers in lieu of land dedication for parks and open space. The Town collects these fees from developers during development approvals and places them in separate funds for future acquisition or improvements.
- **Sales and Use Tax Revenues**
This includes a portion of the local sales tax allocated to parks and open space. It is a voter-approved dedicated sales taxes to provide a reliable revenue stream for acquisition, operations, maintenance, and improvements.
- **Local, State, and Federal Grants**
Pursue available state, regional and federal funding sources to leverage local resources to address high priority project initiatives. Reference the table to the right for a list of available grants in 2025.
- **Conservation Trust Fund**
- **Bond Funding**

- **Partnerships and Donations**

Conservation Easements and Land Trusts

- Utilize legal agreements as a tool to preserve private land as dedicated open space and conservation areas without Town ownership. The Town may partner with land trusts to secure conservation easements at lower cost, where private land owners and conservation organizations provide funds.
- Establish formal partnerships with land trusts and conservation organizations to pursue joint preservation projects.

Philanthropy and Community Foundations

- This includes donations or grants from individuals, foundations, or nonprofits. Funds may support targeted acquisitions, cultural amenities, or community-driven projects. Philanthropic organizations and private donors provide funds.
- Engage local foundations and major donors to explore philanthropic partnerships for signature projects.

Available Grants (2025)*

Parks & Recreation
Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Outdoor Equity Grant Program
Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative and Grant Program
Great Outdoors Colorado: Community Impact, Land Acquisition, or Pathways Grants
Economic & Community Development
Boulder County: Community Partnership Grant
Boulder County: Economic Vitality Program
Sustainable Infrastructure & Resiliency
US Department of Transportation: Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: Environmental Justice Grant Program
US Department of Transportation: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program
Arts & Culture
National Endowment for the Arts: Our Town Creative Placemaking Grants Program
Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade: Colorado Creates Grant
Arts in Society: Colorado Art Grant
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Grants

Table 2. Available Grants (2025)

* Note: This list is not exhaustive. PRD Staff should coordinate with the Town's grants team on additional opportunities.

5.5. Cultural Elements

Cultural resources strengthen Erie's identity, celebrate its heritage, and create opportunities for community connection through arts and history. Integrating cultural elements into parks and public spaces enriches the community's sense of place.

5.5.1. Recommendations

A. Support outdoor cultural venues and events

- Develop amphitheatres and flexible event spaces to host festivals, performances, and community gatherings.

B. Preserve and celebrate historic resources

- Advocate for the protection and enhancement of historically and culturally significant sites, such as Schofield Farm Open Space, by working with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, property owners, and other partners.

C. Expand cultural arts programming

- Increase public art installations, history-focused events, and partnerships with local artists and cultural organizations.

D. Foster collaboration

- Build strong relationships with historical societies, artists, and nonprofits to enhance cultural offerings.



Erie annual hot air balloon festival
Credit: Uncover Colorado

5.5.2. Overall PROST Map

This map shows the existing and future parks, recreation, open space, and trails for Erie. It serves as a roadmap to guide the locations and development of future facilities and maintain existing facilities and lands.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center

- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails

- Future Trails

- Other Existing Trails

- Other Planned Future Trails

- Underpass

- Proposed Underpass

- Future Town Owned Community Park/Recreational Facility Opportunity

- Future Town Owned Neighborhood Park Opportunity

- Future Town Open Space Opportunity

- Potential Urban Recreation Facility

Note that the location and development of all future planned facilities, including parks, recreation, open spaces, and trails should be coordinated with neighboring jurisdictions. Future parks will be considered if new residential areas are annexed into Town and redeveloped.

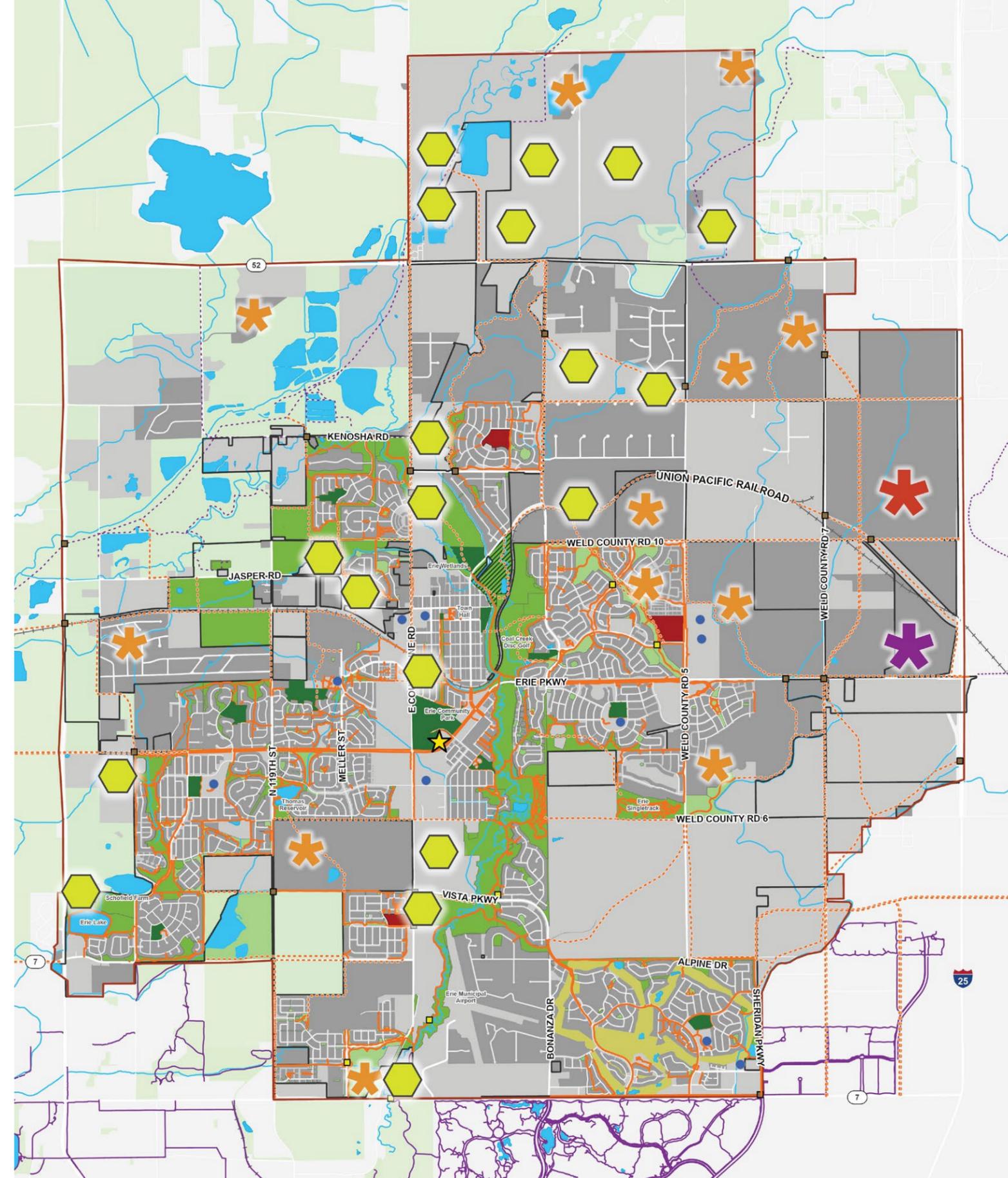


Figure 9. Overall PROST Map





6: Implementation Plan

This chapter provides a strategic framework for advancing the plan elements outlined in Chapter 5: Recommendations and identifies high-level implementation methods for each of the five categories. The implementation plan guides decision-making, resource allocation, and required partnerships to achieve Erie's vision for parks, recreation, open space, trails, and cultural resources.

The Action Plan provides a detailed roadmap for implementing the Plan recommendations and establishes priorities for each element. It translates high-level strategies into specific, actionable steps with clear responsibilities and timelines. This Action Plan serves as a practical management tool to track progress, assign responsibilities, and ensure accountability throughout the Plan's lifecycle.

6.1. Parks & Recreation Facilities

Methods

Feasibility Studies for Major Facilities

- Conduct studies for the second community recreation center, outdoor aquatics center, and continue efforts of the Erie Community Center expansion to identify locations, design options, capital costs, and operational models.
- Establish partnerships with other organizations to expand parks and facilities opportunities.

Capital Lifecycle Replacement Planning

- Develop and maintain a plan for asset management and reinvestment across all recreation facilities.

Maintenance Tiers and Efficiencies

- Establish levels of service for facility maintenance based on use intensity and community prominence.

Park Development and Renewal

- Plan and develop for future parks per the Overall PROST Map and other Department planning efforts underway.

Future Partnership Development

- Establish partnerships with other organizations to expand parks and facilities opportunities.

6.2. Open Space & Trails

Methods

Strategic Land Acquisition

- Use Park Land Dedication (PLD) and Open Space Dedication (OSD) tools, along with fee-in-lieu options, to prioritize acquisitions that support ecological value, scenic quality, and public access.

Habitat Restoration and Stewardship

- Expand programs to restore riparian areas, native plant communities, and wildlife corridors in collaboration with conservation organizations.

Trail Connectivity and ADA Access

- Close network gaps by leveraging underutilized rights-of-way and easements. Integrate ADA-compliant features and universal design principles throughout the trail system.

Wayfinding and Safety Enhancements

- Implement Erie's Trails and Open Space Wayfinding Master Plan and add signage, lighting, and safety features to enhance user experience.

Partnerships with Regional Agencies

- Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to expand regional trail connections and open space systems.

6.3. Recreation Programs & Resources

Methods

Program Planning and Evaluation

- Regularly update the Recreation Programming Plan to reflect community needs and trends, including targeted services for youth, teens, older adults, and culturally diverse populations.

Performance Metrics and Feedback Loops

- Track participation rates, financial performance, and community feedback to guide programming decisions.

Partnership Development

- Build formal agreements with schools, nonprofits, and private providers to share programming responsibilities and facilities.

Equity and Inclusion

- Expand outreach and adapt programming to meet the needs of different demographic groups, underserved communities, and diverse populations.

6.4. Operations & Funding

Methods

Park Land Dedication (PLD) Requirements

Review and Adjust Park Typologies

- Evaluate the existing park typology standards within the PLD framework to better align with Erie's evolving development patterns and community preferences. Consider allocating a higher percentage of acreage to neighborhood parks, which provide equitable access within walking distance, while adjusting the emphasis on community parks and pocket parks to balance operational demands and long-term maintenance costs.

Update PLD and OSD Fee Schedules

- Conduct a comprehensive financial analysis to ensure PLD and Open Space Dedication (OSD) fee schedules reflect current and projected land values, construction costs, and infrastructure needs. This will position the Town to effectively acquire and develop new parkland without falling behind as land costs escalate.

Strengthen Policy Consistency

- Align PLD and OSD requirements with the Overall PROST Map to ensure future dedications support system-wide connectivity, ecological preservation, and equitable distribution of parks and open space.



Lifeguard staff training at the Erie Community Center. Credit: Town of Erie

Future Land Acquisition Process and Criteria

Establish Clear Acquisition Criteria

- Develop and adopt criteria for evaluating potential acquisitions based on ecological value, recreational potential, proximity to underserved areas, and alignment with trail connectivity goals. Prioritize parcels that support contiguous open space systems and avoid fragmented "leftover" lands that provide limited value.

Create a Strategic Acquisition Plan

- Prepare a long-range acquisition strategy that identifies priority parcels and anticipated phasing needs based on projected population growth, development pressure, and funding availability.

Balance Conservation and Recreation Goals

- Emphasize acquisitions that serve dual purposes of habitat preservation and recreational use, supporting the Town's conservation objectives while meeting resident demand for accessible open space.

Future Operations and Funding Efforts

Staffing Plans and Organizational Development

- Create and update staffing plans tied to service levels for parks, facilities, and programs. Develop onboarding, training, and succession planning systems

Volunteer and Ambassador Programs

- Establish a volunteer program and park ambassador initiative to support programming and community engagement.

Financial Sustainability

- Diversify revenue streams with grants, partnerships, sponsorships, and potential voter-approved dedicated taxes.

Dedicated Acquisition and Maintenance Fund

- Establish restricted funds to enable opportunistic land purchases and to support ongoing operations.

Data-Driven Decision Making

- Use tools like Placer.ai and Amilia analytics to inform staffing, programming, and facility operations.

National Accreditation

- Maintain CAPRA accreditation through regular self-assessments and continuous improvement.

Partnership Development

- Explore joint ventures with private providers and nonprofits for shared development and operational responsibilities.

6.5. Cultural Elements

Methods

Cultural Facility Development

- Advance plans for amphitheaters, performing arts spaces, and other cultural venues as unique community destinations.

Historic Preservation Strategies

- Advocate for the protection and enhancement of historically and culturally significant sites, such as Schofield Farm Open Space, by working with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, property owners, and other partners.

Cultural Partnerships

- Develop collaborative agreements with local artists, cultural organizations, and historical societies to expand programming and preserve heritage.

Public Art and Programming

- Increase public art installations and history-focused events to foster community identity and engagement.

Funding and Philanthropy

- Pursue grants and philanthropic support for cultural initiatives, leveraging partnerships for shared investment.

6.6. Action Plan

The Action Plan illustrated on the following pages translates the high-level priorities and implementation methods into specific, actionable and measurable steps. This Action Plan is designed as a practical management tool to support accountability, track progress, and guide annual work planning. It ensures that Erie's parks, recreation, open space, and cultural initiatives are advanced systematically and aligned with community needs.

Each action item is organized by the five thematic categories established in the plan: Parks and Recreation Facilities, Open Space and Trails, Recreation Programs and Resources, Operations and Funding, and Cultural Elements.



Coal Creek Splashpad
Credit: DTJ Design

Parks and Recreation Facilities						
No.	Action Item	Intent	Details	Responsible Departments	Priority	Timeline
PRF-1	Second Community Recreation Center Feasibility Study	Establish priorities for the development of a new major recreation facility with identified capital funding sources.	Specific indoor recreation spaces desired include fitness space for drop-in use, group exercise rooms, gymnasium for multi-use courts, an aquatics area, flexible indoor program spaces for diverse programs such as teen, youth, or older adult programs and services, cultural arts areas for performance or classes, and storage, administrative and other support spaces.	Parks & Recreation, Finance	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
PRF-2	Outdoor Aquatics Center Feasibility Study	Establish priorities for the development of a new Outdoor Aquatics Center with identified capital funding sources.	Evaluate the potential for a seasonal outdoor aquatic facility to complement existing amenities. Specific aquatic programming desired includes competitive swimming, recreational pools, and various aquatic program offerings.	Parks & Recreation, Planning	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
PRF-3	Performing Arts Center	Expand and act on the current feasibility study.	Build upon the existing feasibility study to explore opportunities for development as a cultural hub.	Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
PRF-4	Existing Community Center Expansion Feasibility Study	Explore options to expand the facilities and programming of the existing Erie Community Center.	Assess the Erie Community Center's ability to meet future demand and potential options for expansion.	Parks & Recreation, Facilities	Medium	Short Term (1-2 Years)
PRF-5	Additional Athletic Fields and Courts	Assess opportunities to provide additional rectangular fields, diamond fields, and dedicated pickleball courts in Erie.	Opportunities may include constructing additional fields and courts, partnering with other agencies with existing facilities, or a combination of both.	Parks & Recreation	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
PRF-6	Plan for New Parks	Plan and develop additional parks in locations identified on the Overall PROST Map.	Prioritize the development of parks in underserved neighborhoods to promote equitable access and meet the future needs of the growing population of Erie. Seek park land in areas of growth per the Overall PROST Map.	Parks & Recreation, Planning	Medium	Ongoing
PRF-7	Plumbed Restrooms Demand Analysis	Explore the demands for plumbed restroom facilities in existing parks based on park use and community interest.	Opportunities may include the installation of permanent restroom facilities and in neighborhood parks based on need generated from future park use. Restroom facilities should also be considered when planning and designing new additional parks.	Parks & Recreation	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
PRF-8	Capital Lifecycle Planning	Maintain and improve existing parks and facilities per a Capital Lifecycle Plan.	Establish a comprehensive asset management and replacement planning for all facilities.	Parks & Recreation, Finance	High	Annual
PRF-9	Emergency Action Plans (EAP)	Prepare a comprehensive EAP for each facility.	Continue to have a strong emphasis on safety and security and review the plan on an annual basis.	Parks & Recreation, Public Safety	Medium	Annual
PRF-10	ADA-compliance and Universally Accessibility	Integrate ADA-compliant and universally accessible facilities and features where feasible.	Asses areas in need for access and prioritize facility upgrades to be ADA-compliant and universally accessible.	Parks & Recreation, Planning	Medium	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
PRF-11	Adaptive and Inclusive Recreational Program Study	Conduct a comprehensive audit and study of recreation facilities for inclusivity.	Explore options to expand ADA accessibility, multilingual outreach, and inclusion in parks and recreation facilities.	Parks & Recreation	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)

Table 3. Action Plan: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Open Space						
No.	Action Item	Intent	Details	Responsible Departments	Priority	Timeline
OST-1	Habitat Restoration	Protect, restore, and buffer ecologically sensitive areas and wildlife corridors.	Support environmental stewardship and restoration efforts to protect Erie's unique character and wildlife habitats.	Parks & Recreation	Medium	Ongoing
OST-2	Plan for New Open Space Areas	Plan to acquire open space areas in locations identified on the Overall PROST Map.	Prioritize the acquisition and preservation of open lands to meet the future needs of the growing population of Erie. Seek open land areas per the Overall PROST Map.	Parks & Recreation, Planning	Medium	Ongoing
Trails						
No.	Action Item	Intent	Details	Responsible Departments	High	Timeline
TRL-1	Trail Network Gaps	Identify and prioritize missing gaps in the existing trail network to create a fully connected system between neighborhoods, parks, schools, and regional trails.	Prepare a list of trail gaps and conduct a prioritization analysis to determine which gaps to fill at what point in time. Work with new developments to ensure that the trail network is complete and provide trails that tie into existing or future planned trails.	Parks & Recreation, Engineering	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
TRL-2	Signage, Wayfinding and Safety	Continue to implement the 2019 Erie Trails and Open Space Wayfinding Master Plan.	Continue to provide trailheads, maps, signage, digital wayfinding tools, and other techniques to enhance the user experience of the Erie trail system. Supporting safety related infrastructure may include safe crossings along major roads, expanding access to natural surface trails, enhancing ADA accessibility, benches, shade areas, water stations and restrooms. Include additional supporting signage and educational information for the use of e-bikes, scooters, and other micro-mobility devices.	Parks & Recreation, Public Safety	Medium	Ongoing
TRL-3	ADA-compliance and Universally Accessibility	Integrate ADA-compliant and universally accessible trail features throughout the system where feasible.	Assess areas in need for access and prioritize trail feature upgrades to be ADA-compliant and universally accessible.	Parks & Recreation, Planning	Medium	Short Term (1-2 Years)
TRL-4	Trail Expansion	Explore use of underutilized rights-of-ways, conservation easements, or other spaces for trail expansion and connectivity.	Coordinate planning efforts with future roadway expansions and planning.	Parks & Recreation, Planning	Medium	Ongoing

Table 4. Action Plan: Open Space and Trails

Recreation Programs and Resources						
No.	Action Item	Intent	Details	Responsible Departments	Priority	Timeline
RPR-1	Existing Recreation Programming Plan Update	Update the existing Recreation Programming Plan to reflect the direction of Parks and Recreation for the next 3 to 5 years.	Recognize that the Town will not have to be the primary provider of all recreation programs and services that are needed in the community but will coordinate with other providers to ensure that adequate levels of recreation services are obtainable.	Parks & Recreation	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
RPR-2	Existing Program Expansion Evaluation	Continue to evaluate program offerings and participation on an annual basis to determine potential recreational offering additions or adjustments in the future.	Priorities for general programming expansion should include Youth and Adult Sports, Special Events, Camps, Fitness/Wellness, Cultural Arts, Aquatics, Teens and Youth, Older Adult, and Therapeutic. Continue to collaborate with alternative providers to address those interests that the Recreation Division is not prepared to or able to host.	Parks & Recreation	Medium	Annual
RPR-3	Provide for Specific Demographic Groups	Analyze how recreation programs are available for specific demographic groups.	Specific groups include youth, teens, older adults, multigenerational, and ethnic or culturally based communities.	Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts, Human Resources	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
RPR-4	Competitive Youth Sports Needs	Determine how Erie can best accommodate competitive youth sports/travel teams.	Develop a policy that addresses how facility needs of Erie based competitive youth sports/travel teams will be met and the specific requirements for eligibility.	Parks & Recreation	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
RPR-5	Joint Use Agreement (JUA) Opportunities	Increase utilization of school facilities and programs per the St. Vrain Valley School District.	The school district has a significant inventory of indoor and outdoor amenities that can be utilized for public recreation. It is currently difficult for Erie Parks and Recreation to access many of these facilities due to school use demands and safety concerns, but a concerted effort is needed to try and increase utilization of school amenities for recreation programs in the community in the future.	Parks & Recreation	Medium	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
RPR-6	Expand Partnership Programs Contracts with other Providers	Determine the role of other providers in delivering both existing and new recreation programs.	Work to establish additional partnerships with other public agencies, non-profits, and private sector providers to expand the recreation programming options that are available to the Erie community.	Parks & Recreation	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
RPR-7	Expand Partnership Facilities Contracts with other Providers	Explore new partnerships for additional facilities and agreements.	Partnerships will require formal written agreements that outline the roles and responsibilities for the Town and the other provider. These agreements could include capital funding requirements, operational obligations as well as determination of recreation program development. Contracts with other contract providers should clearly identify specific roles and expectations as well as limits to facility scheduling, fees, and operations	Parks & Recreation	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
RPR-8	Community Outreach and Feedback	Gather input from the community on recreation programming needs and expectations.	Methods can include surveys, focus groups, open houses, community forums, and other methods of public input.	Parks & Recreation	High	Ongoing, every 2 years
RPR-9	Adaptive and Inclusive Recreational Program Study	Conduct a comprehensive audit and study of recreation programs for inclusivity.	Explore options to expand ADA accessibility, multilingual outreach, and inclusion in programs.	Parks & Recreation	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)

Table 5. Action Plan: Recreation Programs and Resources

Operations and Funding						
No.	Action Item	Intent	Details	Responsible Departments	Priority	Timeline
OF-1	Park and Open Space Land Dedication Requirement Adjustments	Explore the feasibility of the additional park land and open space that is currently anticipated for the future population growth of Erie, and adjust the dedication requirements accordingly.	The current park land and open space requirements should be analyzed to better suit the needs for the future population growth of Erie. Requirements should be adjusted for park type allocation, fee-in-lieu rates and policies, and overall land dedication patterns per the Overall PROST Map.	Parks & Recreation, Planning, Finance	Medium	Short Term (1-2 Years)
OF-2	Land Acquisition Procedures and Criteria Analysis	Conduct an open space land acquisition analysis per the land acquisition criteria and procedures outlined in the PROST Playbook.	This land acquisition method and process provides a consistent and goal-aligned pathway for expanding the Town's parks and open space system.	Parks & Recreation, Planning	Medium	Annual
OF-3	Future Staffing Plan	Continue to update the overall staffing philosophy for all divisions in the Department at least every two years.	The Plan should be tied to levels of service for parks, facilities as well as for recreation programs. It should also specify the role of part-time staff. All job descriptions for full-time and part-time staff should be updated or developed to adequately reflect the actual duties of each position.	Parks & Recreation, Human Resources	Medium	Ongoing, every 2 years
OF-4	Onboarding, Training, and Certification Program	Develop and maintain a formal policy and program that is committed to staff onboarding, training and certification.	Include a comprehensive full-time staff manual for each division.	Parks & Recreation, Human Resources	Medium	Ongoing, every 2 years
OF-5	Organizational Structure Review	Review and modify the existing organizational structure as needed to ensure effective and efficient Department operation.	Plan for an increase in staffing over the next 3-5 years.	Parks & Recreation, Human Resources	High	Ongoing, every 2 years
OF-6	Existing Facilities Operations and Maintenance Plan	Update the existing facilities operations and maintenance plan and provide specific plans for each major facility.	Refer to additional details in the PROST Playbook.	Parks & Recreation, Facilities	Low	Short Term (1-2 Years)
OF-7	Existing Plans Updates	Continue to update safety and security plans on an annual basis and update and add cameras and other equipment where appropriate. Update the 2021 Marketing and Community Relations Plan.	Establish annual marketing priorities and a formal sponsorship program for recreation programs, special events and facilities with different tiers of involvement.	Parks & Recreation, Public Safety	Low	Annual
OF-8	Maintain CAPRA Accreditation	Ensure Erie Parks & Recreation maintains national standards of excellence.	Conduct periodic self-assessments, update policies and procedures, and prepare documentation for reaccreditation through NRPA every five years. Engage staff in continuous improvement efforts aligned with CAPRA standards.	Parks & Recreation, Administration	High	Ongoing, every 5 years

Table 6. Action Plan: Operations and Funding 1

Operations and Funding (continued)						
No.	Action Item	Intent	Details	Responsible Departments	Priority	Timeline
OF-9	Technological Tools	Continue using data and tools like demographic analysis, Placer.ai and Amilia analytics to inform decisions.	Continue to utilize Placer.ai. to understand the demographic characteristics of park, facility and program users. Continue to expand the use of Amilia analytics information to guide programming, operations and management decisions. Complete a demographic analysis of the Town and greater market area every three years to determine the impact on parks and recreation needs.	Parks & Recreation, Facilities	Medium	Ongoing
OF-10	Future Financial Planning	Plan for operational and capital requirements and create a detailed 5-year forecasts for all divisions. This includes capital replacement requirements, cost of service analysis cost recovery policy, and facilities and program areas.	Forecast operational and budget needs for the next five years to meet the requirements of the master plan's implementation/action plan. Continue with cost center accounting practices to identify operating cost and revenues for key parks, facilities and program areas in the Department. This likely means the establishment of sub budgets beyond the general accounts that are in place to include more specific budget accounts for individual facilities, recreation program areas and parks. Establish clear staffing and operational budget requirements for Parks & Recreation to support the program plan.	Parks & Recreation, Finance	High	Short Term (1-2 Years)
OF-11	Funding Source Expansion	Identify possible additional funding sources for operations and maintenance that are outside of the Town's general fund.	Explore various funding source options outlined in the PROST Playbook. Commit to maximizing the current funding mechanisms for capital and operations. Explore other possible funding sources for operations and maintenance including grants and non-tax options. Promote equity partnerships to assist with the development and operation of needed new facilities and amenities.	Parks & Recreation, Finance	High	Ongoing
OF-12	Policies and Procedures Update	Update standard operating procedures and policies.	Develop a continuity of service plan for the Department. Update the naming rights policy to include trails and open space.	Parks & Recreation	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
OF-13	Parks, Open Space, and Trails Maintenance	Update exiting Plans as outlined in PROST Playbook.	Plans and policies include the Maintenance and Operations Plan, Open Space Management Plan, divisions long-term role definitions, HOA responsibilities, maintenance tiers, performance measures, a CMMS, contracts, Agricultural Lease Program, lifecycle cost analysis, equipment and vehicles, artificial turf options, water usage, and irrigation controls.	Parks & Recreation, Facilities	Low	Short Term (1-2 Years)
OF-14	Additional Volunteer Programs and Opportunities	Explore additional volunteer programs and opportunities for residents and users to participate in Parks and Recreation efforts.	Develop a volunteer program to support small park project development, light parks and open space maintenance, and support for recreation programming.	Parks & Recreation, Public Safety	Low	0
OF-15	Park Ambassador or Ranger Program	Strongly consider the establishment of a park ambassador or park ranger program.	Develop a program to support park operations, engage with visitors, and promote park stewardship in order to connect people with parks, and enhance the overall visitor experience.	Parks & Recreation, Public Safety	Low	Medium Term (3-6 Years)

Table 7. Action Plan: Operations and Funding 2

Cultural Elements						
No.	Action Item	Intent	Details	Responsible Departments	Priority	Timeline
CE-1	Support Outdoor Event Space	Plan for amphitheaters and event spaces in key locations.	Support the creation of outdoor amphitheaters and flexible cultural event spaces.	Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts	High	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
CE-2	Enhance Historic Preservation	Prioritize the preservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of the historic structures and resources of Erie.	Preserve and enhance historic sites, such as Schofield Farm and Wise Homestead, with interpretive signage, educational programming, and other methods.	Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts, Historical Societies	Medium	Medium Term (3-6 Years)
CE-3	Expand Cultural Arts Programing	Increase cultural and arts programming, including festivals, public art installations, and history-focused events.	Integrate cultural features into parks and public spaces to celebrate Erie's heritage and engage the community.	Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts	Medium	Short Term (1-2 Years)
CE-4	Public Art Incorporation and Inclusion	Follow the policies and procedures as outlined in the Erie Public Art and Placemaking Plan	Public Art & Placemaking strategies will capitalize on the beautiful parks and scenic surroundings of the city, which	Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts	Medium	Ongoing
CE-5	Develop Cultural Arts Partnerships	Formalize partnerships with artists and organizations.	are cherished by community members.	Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts	Low	Ongoing

Table 8. Action Plan: Cultural Elements

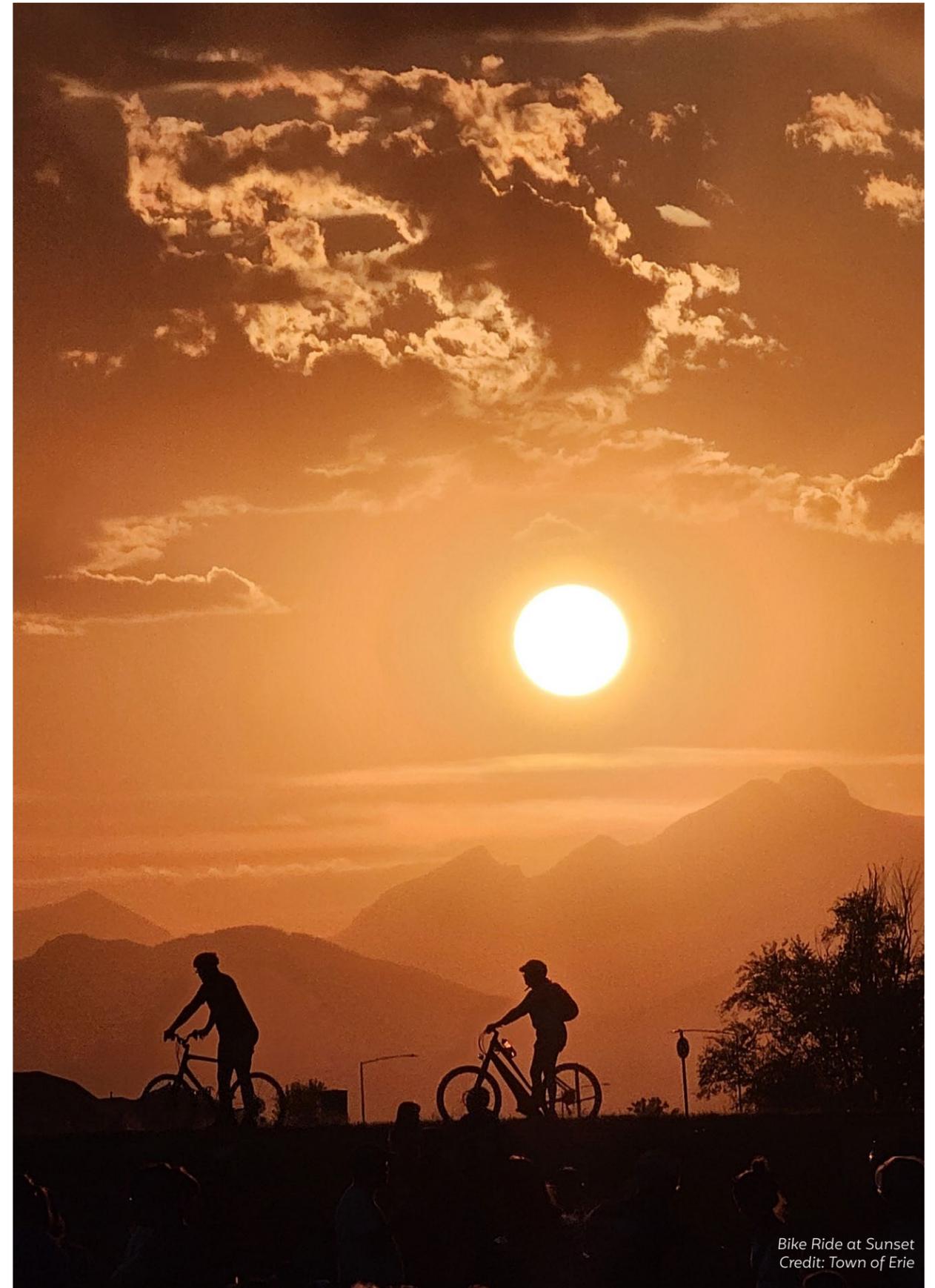
6.7. Conclusion

The Erie PROST Playbook charts an inspiring path toward a connected, vibrant, and resilient parks,

recreation, open space, and trails system. By embracing the priorities and strategies outlined in this plan, Erie will continue to strengthen its identity as a community that values health, nature, and shared experiences.

Grounded in the six guiding goals of Equitable Access, Stewardship of Open Lands, Connected System, Community Identity, Fiscal Sustainability, and Future Growth Resiliency, this Playbook provides a clear framework for both immediate action and long-term success. Each action will bring the vision closer to reality, ensuring that future generations inherit a landscape rich in opportunity, beauty, and belonging.

The work ahead is both an investment in place and in people, and together, Erie can make it happen.



*Bike Ride at Sunset
Credit: Town of Erie*



7: Appendices

Appendix A: Needs Assessment Report

Appendix B: Full Size PROST Maps

Connecting YOU to FUN Playbook

2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan

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Erie Community Park
Credit: Town of Erie

Connecting YOU to FUN Playbook

2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan

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Executive Summary

The Town of Erie is experiencing a transformative period of growth and opportunity. With a projected 60% increase in population by 2035, from approximately 40,000 to 64,000 residents, proactive planning is essential to maintain and enhance the community's quality of life. This executive summary highlights the most significant insights across key chapters of the PROST Community Needs Assessment for Erie.

Future Growth and Trends

- Erie's population is expected to grow by over 60%, significantly increasing demand for parks, open space, and recreation.
- The community is characterized by a high percentage of young families and a high median household income, indicating strong demand for quality youth programs, multi-generational facilities, and fitness offerings.
- Spending on recreation and wellness is robust, supporting investment in diverse recreational amenities.

Community Values and Top Priorities

- There is significant interest in more recreation centers, pools, and sports facilities.
- Many residents expressed the need to improve connectivity, especially with bike paths, trail links between neighborhoods, and access points across town.
- Residents strongly support a mix of maintaining existing amenities and building new ones.
- New program offerings, along with increasing the capacity of currently offered programs, is a top priority for many Erie residents.

Current and Future Levels of Service

- Erie currently provides 162.5 acres of park land, translating to a Level of Service (LOS) of 4.1 acres per 1,000 residents. With planned expansions, the future LOS will be 3.3 acres, which is acceptable but on the lower end of national benchmarks and relatively low when compared to similar agencies of Colorado.
- Erie currently owns 1,365 acres of open space, which equates to an LOS of 34 acres per 1,000 residents. Future LOS will be 21 acres, which is considered a similar or higher LOS when compared to other agencies in Colorado.
- There are currently 82.2 miles of trails located in Erie, of which 48.8 miles are maintained by the Town. There are also numerous future planned trails within Erie, all of which will provide excellent connectivity for current and future populations. There are however, some missing gaps in the trail system that need to be addressed.

- To achieve the goal of all residents living within a 1/2-mile walk of parks or open spaces, new parks and recreation amenities may be needed in:
 - Eastern Erie along I-25
 - Northern Erie near Highway 52 and Weld County Road 5
 - Western Erie near Union Pacific Railroad
 - Southwest Erie near Arapahoe Road
 - Other strategic residential areas within the Planning Boundary

Existing Erie Recreation Facilities, Programs, and Services

- Erie's Parks and Recreation Department offers a comprehensive range of programs and services and participation has grown significantly since 2021, demonstrating a strong and increasing demand for recreational services and facilities.
- The most popular programs and high-demand areas in the Parks & Recreation Department include aquatics, fitness, Camp Erie, youth sports, and older adult trips.
- Teen Programs, Therapeutic Recreation, and Cultural Arts are growing in popularity and have been prioritized for future development.
- Areas for expansion in the Parks & Recreation Department include aquatic space, gyms, fitness areas, multipurpose program rooms, athletic fields, office space, and storage space.

Operations and Funding

- Erie's Parks and Recreation Department is well-structured but will require staff growth to sustain service levels amid population increases.
- Maintenance operations follow best practices, but space constraints necessitate a standalone parks maintenance facility.
- The Erie Community Center is nearing capacity, highlighting the need for:
 - A second community center
 - An outdoor aquatic center
 - A performing arts facility
- Current funding sources include the General Fund, grants, user fees, and the Conservation Trust Fund.
- The 2022 cost recovery rate was 28.57%.
- Long-term financial sustainability will rely on updated cost recovery strategies, diversified revenue, and capital replacement funding.

Trends in Parks and Recreation

- Nationally, agencies are shifting toward regional recreation hubs and hybrid programming (in-person and virtual).
- Demand is rising for non-traditional recreation (e.g., pickleball, e-sports, cultural events) and flexible spaces.
- Trends support Erie's focus on:
 - Broad recreation programs and facilities that serve the entire community
 - Partnerships with schools and non-profits for expanded services
 - Sustainable park management practices and energy efficiency
- Agencies increasingly rely on alternative funding sources, cost recovery frameworks, and tiered fee structures to balance access and financial responsibility.

Erie is well-positioned to meet the challenges of growth through strategic investment in parks, facilities, and services. With thoughtful implementation, Erie can continue to be a vibrant, connected, and inclusive place to live, work, and play.



Erie Lake Open Space Signage
Credit: Town of Erie



1: Introduction

The Town of Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) 'Connecting YOU to Fun' Playbook serves as a strategic guide to enhance, expand, and sustain Erie's parks, recreation, open space, and trails system.

This Needs Assessment Report provides a comprehensive evaluation of existing PROST facilities and programs, identifies current and future needs, and highlights opportunities for growth. It serves as a data-driven foundation to guide decision-making and ensure that the final plan aligns with both community priorities and future trends.

1.1. About this Report

The **Needs Assessment Report (Report)** includes two parts: a technical needs assessment and a community engagement summary. The purpose of the Report is to establish an understanding of the current PROST system and its capacity to meet the evolving needs of the community. The Report analyzes existing conditions, population growth projections, current recreation participation, and emerging recreation trends to help identify future needs, gaps, constraints, and opportunities for improvement.

Community outreach and engagement plays a critical role in shaping the PROST Playbook recommendations. Input gathered as part of the community engagement and outreach efforts ensures that the Playbook reflects community values and priorities. This input will inform the Playbook recommendations, ensuring a balanced and equitable approach to PROST development.

The Report is organized into several key sections, including:

- Socioeconomics and demographics of Erie
- Highlights from the PROST community engagement program
- Inventory of existing PROST facilities and programs
- Operations and funding sources
- National PROST trends

These components work together to inform the overall direction and initial recommendations of the PROST Playbook, as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Recommendations Process

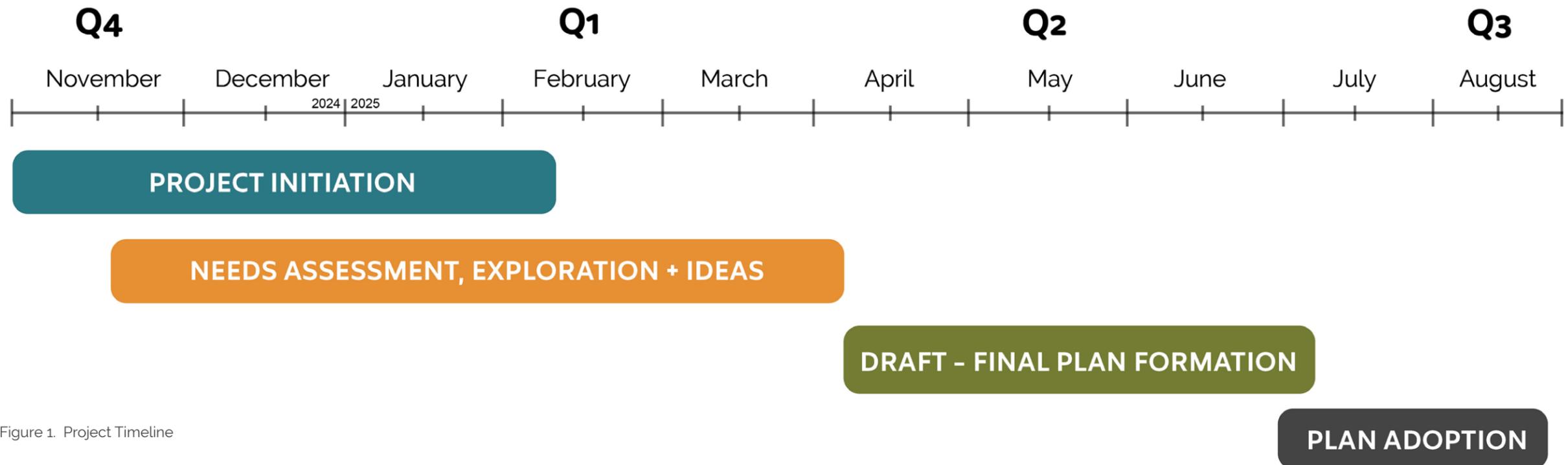


Figure 1. Project Timeline



2: Future Population Growth & Demographics

Understanding the evolving socioeconomics and diverse demographics of Erie helps pinpoint current and future demand for recreational facilities, parks, and programs.

This analysis draws on socioeconomic and demographic information provided by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), who utilizes 2020 Census data and demographers for 2024-2029 projections. ESRI also provides data on housing, recreation, entertainment spending, and participation in activities.

2.1. Key Takeaways

For the 2029 and 2035 population estimates and characteristics, demographic information obtained from the Town of Erie was utilized to model off ESRI's data to develop the final figures.

The analysis of population growth and demographics reveals critical trends that will signify demand for Erie's parks, recreation, open space, and trails through 2035. Understanding these trends is essential to ensuring the Town's parks, recreational facilities, and programs remain responsive, equitable, and forward-thinking.

● Population Growth

- Erie is expected to experience substantial population growth, increasing from approximately 40,000 residents in 2024 to around 64,000 by 2035—a 60% increase. This increase will put pressure on existing facilities and will require strategic expansion to meet growing demand.

● Age Distribution

- Adults aged 25–44 represent the largest age cohort in Erie, followed by youth aged 5–17. There will be strong growth in the 55+ age groups in the coming years.
- The median age is projected to increase slightly from 38.8 in 2024 to 39.5 in 2029, suggesting a sustained presence of young families, working professionals, and school-age children.
- The youthful demographic of Erie will drive demand for family-oriented programs, teen-focused spaces, and flexible facilities that cater to both children and older adults.

● Household Growth

- Nearly 45% of households have children, significantly higher than state and national averages, underscoring the importance of youth programming, inclusive family amenities, and safe, accessible outdoor spaces.

● Household Income & Expenditures

- Median household income will increase from \$163,377 in 2024 to a projected \$184,911 by 2029—indicating that most of the community has financial means to support and engage with recreational services.
- 91.6% of Erie households earn over \$50,000 annually, a strong predictor of participation in recreation programs and willingness to invest in leisure and fitness activities.
- Erie residents allocate approximately 4% of their household income—or around \$7,168 annually—toward entertainment and recreation, reinforcing the opportunity for expanded offerings that align with their interests and expectations.

2.1.1. Implications for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails

Capacity Planning

Capacity planning helps communities allocate available and future resources to satisfy the needs of residents over time. Rapid population growth in Erie will necessitate the expansion of existing facilities and the development of new recreation facilities, parks, and trail systems to maintain quality of life and access.

Age-Specific Services

The prevalence of youth and middle-aged adults indicates a need for programming that serves children, teens, and adults, including multi-purpose recreation centers, sports facilities, and family-friendly open space. Older adults will also require additional programming and services.

Affluence-Driven Demand

Higher income levels and above-average recreation spending suggest residents will expect high-quality, diverse, and innovative recreation options.

Equity Considerations

While most residents are financially well-off, continued attention should be given to promoting inclusive access and affordability to ensure equity across all socioeconomic groups, including underserved and under-represented populations.

Sustainable Investment

The growing and demographically youthful population provides a strong foundation for long-term investments in trails, parks, and recreation that foster health, community connection, and environmental stewardship.

Resiliency

Incorporating resiliency and long-term flexibility into parks and recreation development is essential for creating spaces that can continue to be financially attainable and adapt to changing community needs.

2.2. Population Growth & Demographic Analysis

2.2.1. Population

Population in Erie is expected to increase from 2024 to 2035. Erie currently has a population of approximately 40,000 residents. The future population estimated for 2035 is approximately 64,000 residents. This growth implies a rising demand for community services, infrastructure, and recreational spaces.

2.2.2. Age

There is also a projected increase for the median age in Erie, expected to shift from 38.8 in 2024 to 39.5 in 2029. This increase in the median age is partially due to strong growth in the 55+ age groups. Both current and future projections anticipate that the largest age group in Erie is and will continue to be 25-44, with the second largest age group being ages 5-17. These statistics indicate that there will be a pressing need for additional youth, teen, and middle-aged recreational activities in the future. It is important to note that the lower the median age, the more recreational participation is expected.

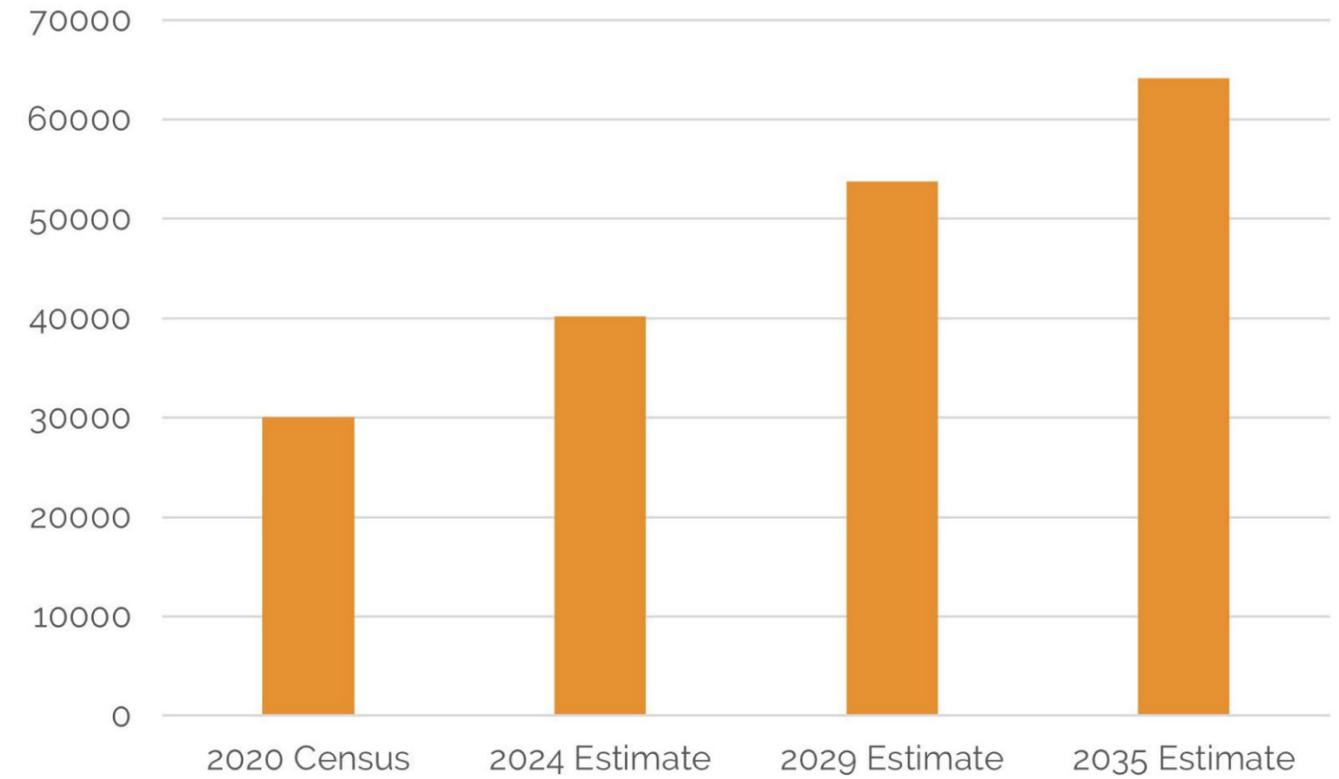


Figure 3. Estimated Population Increase in Erie

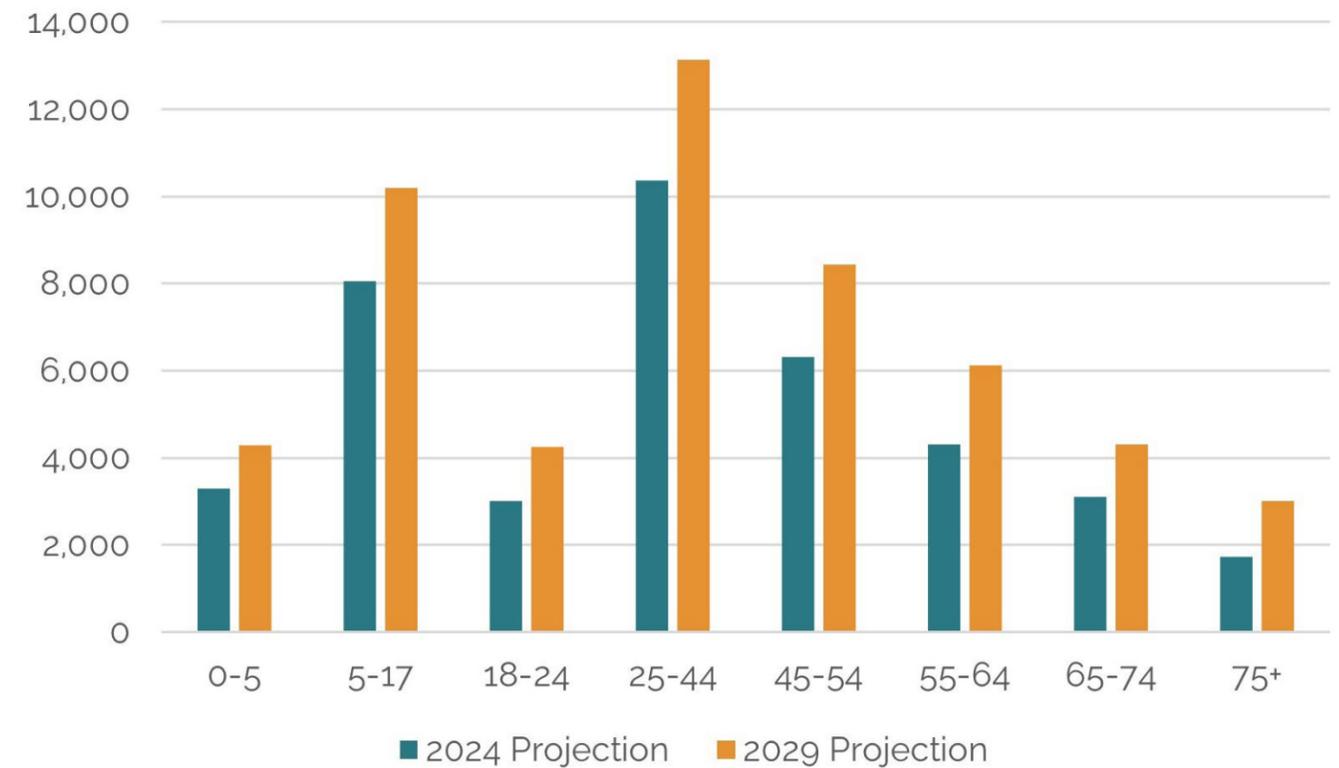


Figure 4. 2024 Primary Service Area Age Distribution (ESRI Estimates)

2.2.3. Household Growth

The average household size in Erie is expected to remain consistent, with the average being 2.93 people in 2024 compared to 2.98 in 2029.

Nearly 45% of Erie households have children, which is significantly more than both in the State of Colorado and nationally by nearly 15%. This further outlines the presence of families with children in Erie and the need to provide recreational programs for this demographic.

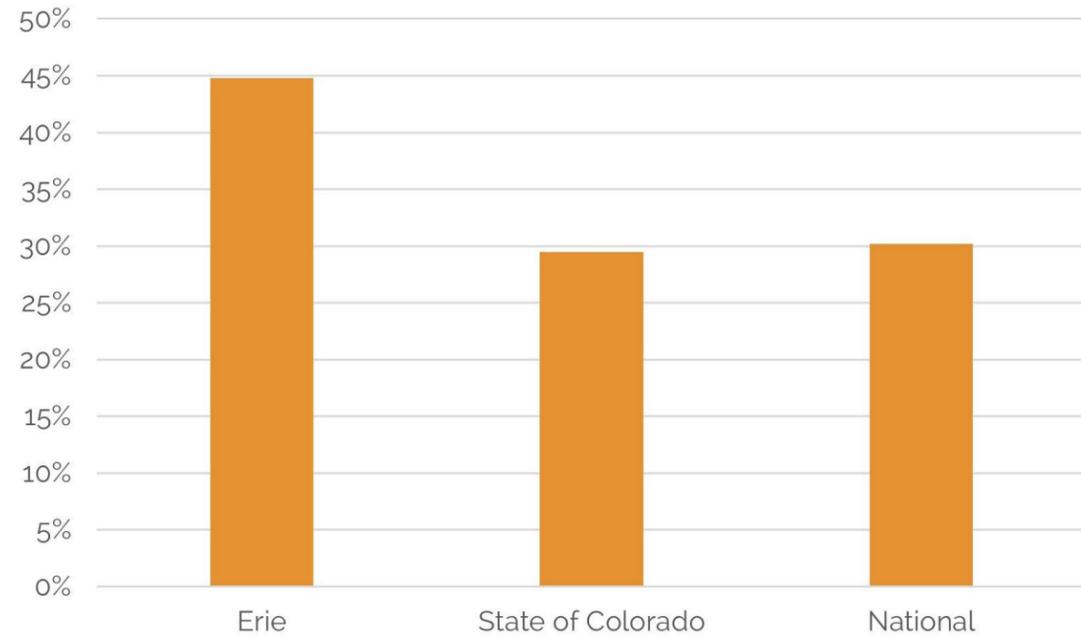


Figure 5. Households With Children



2.2.4. Household Income & Expenditures

In Erie, the median income in 2024 was \$163,377 and is projected to increase to \$184,911 by 2029.

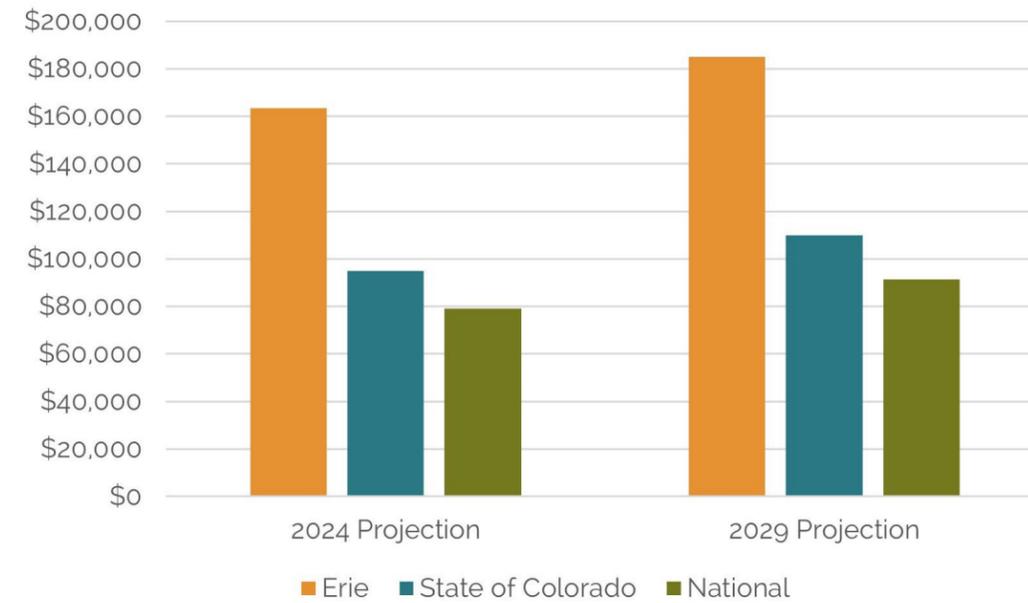


Figure 6. Median Household Income

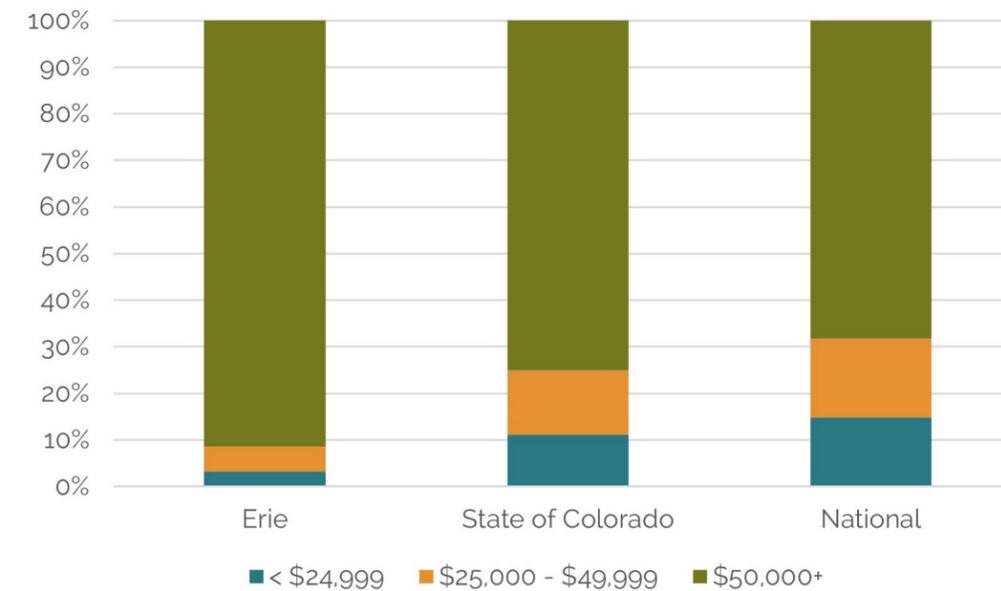


Figure 7. Median Household Income Distribution

The percentage of households with median income over \$50,000 per year is 91.6% in Erie, compared to 68.3% on a national level. Furthermore, the percentage of households in Erie with median income less than \$25,000 per year is 3.3% compared to a level of 14.9% nationally.

While there is no perfect indicator of use of recreation programs, facilities and services, the percentage of households with more than \$50,000 median income is a key indicator. Typically, the level of recreational participation increases as the median income level goes up.

In addition to looking at the Median Income in Erie, it is important to examine Household Budget Expenditures. On average, Erie residents spend \$7,167.91 annually on entertainment and recreation, which equates to about 4% of the average household income.

Additionally, it is important to consider the Spending Potential Index (SPI) for specific expenditures in Erie. SPI compares the average potential spending locally within an industry to the average potential spending nationally in that same industry. With a higher SPI in almost every category, Erie residents are much more likely to spend money on household expenditures and recreation than the state and national average.

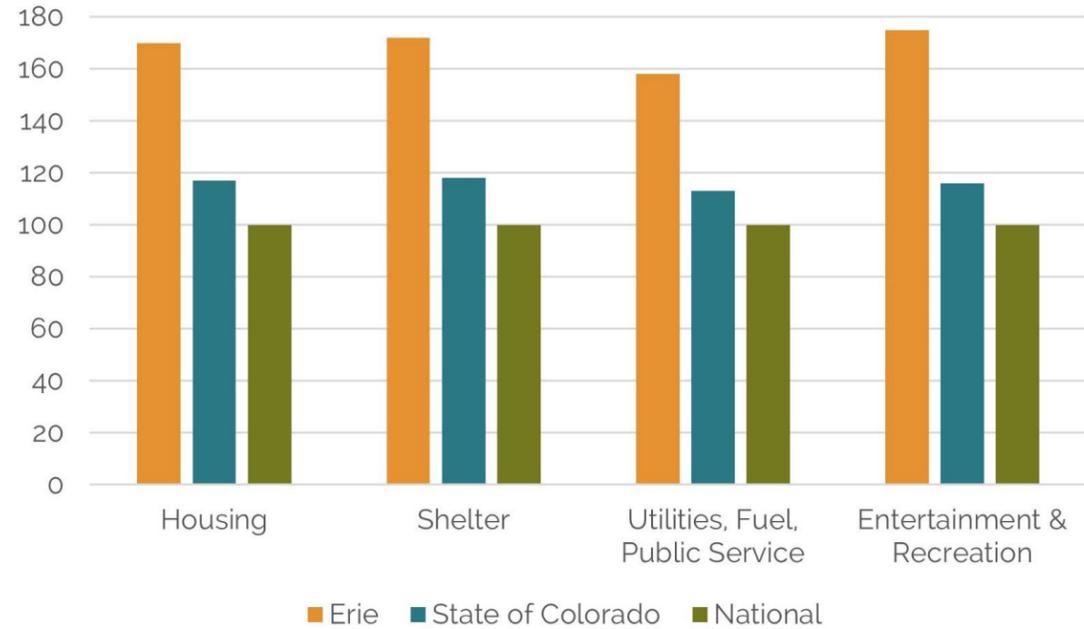


Figure 8. Household Budget Expenditures Spending Potential Index

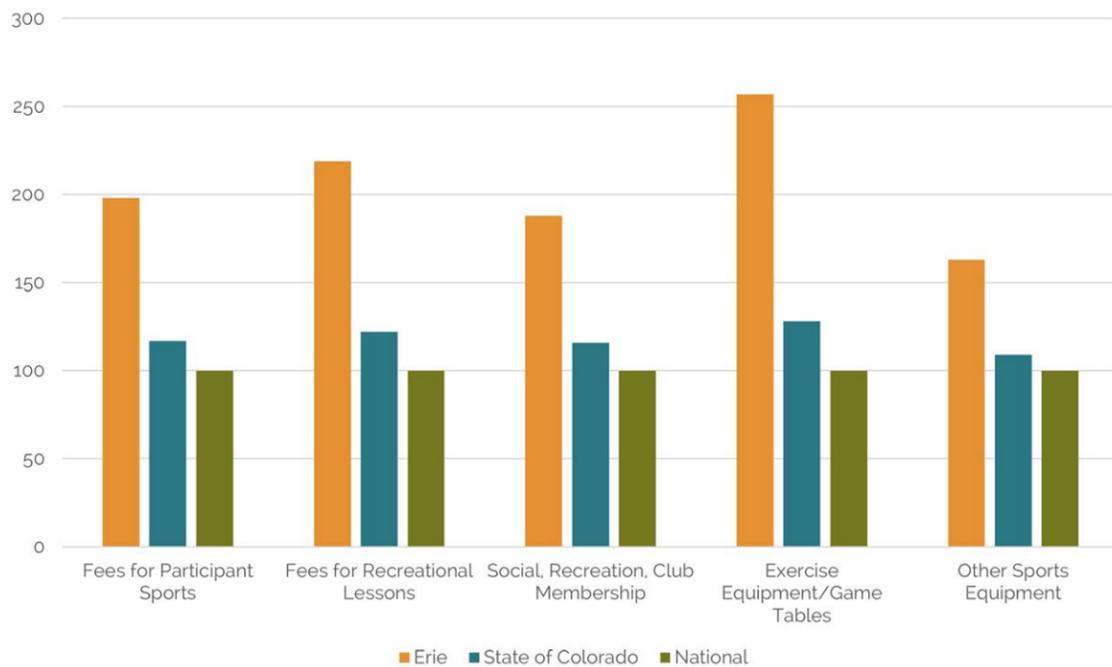


Figure 9. Recreation Spending Potential Index

Reviewing housing information; shelter, utilities, fuel and public services along with entertainment & recreation can provide a snapshot into the cost of living and spending patterns in Erie. The relationship between the median household income and the household budget expenditures is important. It illustrates that the spending patterns of Erie align with the resources available. Investing in parks, recreation, and sports programs in Erie is likely to increase spending by residents and visitors on local recreational activities. This revenue generation can, in turn, bolster the Town's ability to develop new facilities and support ongoing programs.



Ice rink at Coal Creek Park
Credit: Town of Erie



3: Community Engagement Findings

Community outreach and engagement is a driving force behind the Playbook, ensuring that it reflects the needs, aspirations, and priorities of Erie residents and stakeholders. Through an inclusive and transparent process, public input helps shape policies, funding priorities, and the long-term vision for parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

3.1. Key Takeaways

Through a comprehensive series of engagement events and activities, including stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings, a community questionnaire, community open house event, and other public engagement events, residents and stakeholders voiced their priorities, concerns, and aspirations for the future of the community's recreation, parks, and natural resources. The following is a summary of the most common and recurring themes that emerged across all engagement formats.

● Expanded Recreation Facilities

There is strong demand for indoor and outdoor spaces that support activities in all seasons, including community gathering areas, aquatics, sports, and fitness spaces.

- High demand for a second multi-use recreation center with aquatics, fitness areas, sports courts, and flexible program space.
- Additional sports fields and gymnasiums to meet growing sports demand.

● Aquatic Amenities

Several groups mentioned aquatics as a primary interest.

- A new outdoor pool is a top priority, especially for youth employment and recreation.
- Interest in expanded aquatics programming (swimming teams, lifeguard training, older adult aquatic fitness).

● Enhanced Trail Connectivity

Residents emphasized the importance of an expanded and interconnected trail network for walking, biking, and recreation. Safe routes to parks and schools were a recurring concern.

- Fill in gaps in trail systems, improve safety and accessibility, and increase signage and wayfinding.
- Connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, commercial centers, and regional trail systems.

● Preservation and Use of Open Space

Preserved open land and usable open space with trails ranked high among community desires. Many expressed strong interest in retaining Erie's unique environmental character, as well as protecting scenic views, wildlife habitat, and undeveloped land.

- Prioritize open space acquisition and habitat restoration.
- Balance development with conservation through long-term planning and updated land use policies.

● Cultural and Creative Spaces

Discussions and mentions about a new performing arts center or other cultural resources were recurring.

- Strong interest in a Performing Arts Center for concerts, theater, and community gatherings.
- Support for an arts and history hub to highlight Erie's culture, heritage, and local artists.

● Inclusive, Family-Friendly Parks and Recreational Opportunities

Facilities and programs that cater to children, teens, families, and older adults - especially those that promote health, wellness, and social connection - are high priorities.

- Development of accessible playgrounds, restrooms, and picnic areas.
- Expanding existing programming for teens, older adults, and people with disabilities.
- Expanding or introducing new recreation programs and services that include youth and adult sports, special events, camps, fitness and wellness, cultural arts, aquatics, teens, older adults, and therapeutic recreation.

● Sustainability and Smart Growth

- Integrate green infrastructure, water-wise landscaping, and sustainable facility design.
- Ensure new developments have adequate recreational spaces and sustainable landscaping practices.

● Maintenance and Facility Upkeep

Trash accumulation, deteriorating amenities, and concerns about safety and lighting were frequently cited.

- Improve cleanliness, repair timelines, and restroom access in existing parks.
- Clarify responsibilities between the Town and HOAs for shared parkland care.

● Park and Amenity Access

The community called for more neighborhood-scale parks within walking distance, especially in underserved or newer areas of Erie. Universal access, inclusive design, and diverse amenities for all age groups were frequently mentioned.

- Develop additional neighborhood parks in growth areas, particularly in areas directly west of I-25, along Highway 52, and in southwest Erie.
- Improve accessibility in design, outreach, and programming to ensure inclusivity across age, ability, and income levels.

● Key Challenges Identified

- Overcapacity at the Erie Community Center and limited indoor recreation space.
- Deferred maintenance and aging facilities do not meet modern needs.
- Unequal access to parks, recreation, open space, and trail networks in newer or underserved neighborhoods.
- Funding constraints and a need for new strategies to support capital and operational costs.
- Lack of teen-focused spaces and limited inclusive programming for all age groups and abilities.
- Unclear land management roles between the Town and HOAs, affecting shared park quality.

● Implementation Priorities

- Explore funding and feasibility for a new recreation center to serve the growing population and reduce crowding at the Erie Community Center.
- Explore cultural arts opportunities, like a performing arts center, to support local events, arts programming, and celebrate Erie's unique cultural heritage.
- Pursue development of second community park, including a potential fieldhouse, across from Erie High School and Soaring Heights Elementary School.
- Develop a comprehensive trail plan to improve connectivity and safety.
- Expand access to aquatics and aquatic programs. Specific elements that were mentioned include an outdoor community pool, a competitive swimming pool, and expanded aquatic programs like swim teams, diving, water polo, lifeguard training, and fitness classes for youth and older adults.
- Upgrade park infrastructure with permanent restrooms, seating, lighting for sports fields and athletic facilities, general park and trail lighting for safety, and overall universal design.
- Preserve and restore open space with updated acquisition strategies and habitat protections.
- Ensure accessibility in all future projects, including ADA-compliant trails and inclusive playgrounds.
- Implement long-term maintenance plans for existing assets.
- Clarify land management roles between the Town and HOAs.
- Enhance community partnerships to support volunteer efforts, program delivery, and funding diversity.

This community input will directly inform the goals, strategies, and priorities outlined in the updated PROST Playbook Strategic Plan update, ensuring that it reflects the shared values and vision of Erie residents today and for generations to come.

3.2. Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

As part of the Playbook update, a Community Engagement Plan (CEP) was developed to identify a strategy to engage community stakeholders and gather diverse perspectives on needs and preferences for parks, recreation, open space, and trails facilities in Erie. The Erie Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study facilitated a separate planning process. The CEP included a variety of events and initiatives to maximize participation and ensure a well-rounded understanding of community needs.

Community Engagement Events and Initiatives included:

- **Community Questionnaire**
Collected broad input on priorities and needs.
- **Stakeholder Interviews (4)**
Gathered insights from key community leaders and organizations.
- **Focus Group Meetings (3)**
Engaged specific community groups in detailed discussions.
- **Staff Focus Group (Parks and Recreation Culture Academy Event)**
Provided internal perspectives from parks and recreation staff.
- **Public Engagement Events (2)**
Offered direct opportunities for residents to share their input.
- **Community Open House**
Allowed residents to review and discuss Playbook updates.
- **Social Media Outreach**
Expanded engagement opportunities through digital platforms.
- **Other Meetings and Presentations**
Various meetings and presentations were held as a part of the CEP process.

3.3. Community Engagement Events & Initiatives

3.3.1. Building on the 2024 Magellan Survey

The 2024 Town of Erie Parks and Recreation Community Survey (Magellan Survey) served as the foundation for the questions that were prepared for the PROST Playbook Community Questionnaire. The questionnaire built upon the Magellan survey findings and key takeaways to further narrow down preferences, identify specific needs, and address funding challenges, ensuring community priorities align with actionable planning.

3.3.1.1. 2024 Magellan Survey Key Takeaways

These key takeaways reflect a community engaged with its parks and recreation facilities, enthusiastic about new projects like the performing arts center and park, but cautious about funding and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

High Usage and Satisfaction with Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Engagement: Most respondents frequently visit parks, playgrounds, and open spaces, with over 50% reporting visits at least a few times a week.

Approval Ratings: Over 79% approve of how the Town of Erie manages parks, playgrounds, open spaces, trails, and the Erie Community Center, showing strong satisfaction with existing services.

Support for a New Performing Arts Center

Community Interest: 65% of respondents support building a new performing arts center, and 70% would likely attend events there.

Key Features: An auditorium, flexible exhibit spaces, and multi-use community rooms are seen as top priorities.

Desired Programming: Orchestra concerts, youth theater productions, and art classes are highly valued.

Prioritization of the 25-Acre Park

High Demand for Amenities: Restrooms, playgrounds, and lighted multi-use turf fields rank highest for inclusion in the park.

Programming: Youth sports, community events, and adult leagues are viewed as important uses of the space.

Sustainability and Accessibility: Respondents strongly favor eco-friendly designs and inclusive features for all ages and abilities.

Trail Connectivity as a Top Priority

Community Focus: Trail connectivity is frequently selected as a priority project, reflecting a desire for improved access and enhanced safety on trails.

Financial Caution

Mixed Support for Tax Increases:

- 50% support a modest tax increase for the 25-acre park.
- 44% support a tax increase for a performing arts center.
- 43% support a tax increase for a second recreation center.

Fiscal Transparency: While 55% believe the Parks and Recreation Department spends taxpayer money wisely, 31% remain uncertain, signaling room to build trust.

Broad Support for Inclusive and Diverse Programming

Respondents value intergenerational and inclusive programming, particularly youth-focused initiatives and adapted programming for individuals with disabilities.

Preservation of Open Space

Respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining open spaces and minimizing overdevelopment to preserve Erie's small-town charm and natural beauty.

Balanced Community Demographics

Recent Growth: A significant portion of respondents (38%) have lived in Erie for less than 5 years, indicating a growing and evolving population.

Active Participation: High response rates suggest strong community interest in shaping future developments.

3.3.2. Community Questionnaire

The Community Questionnaire was open for approximately 14 weeks, from February 21st through May 31st of 2025. It consisted of 31 questions and had 726 responses.

3.3.2.1. Community Questionnaire Summary

With ~726 survey responses collected; the sample size goes well beyond typical industry standards for community engagement. While statistical validity is not required, this level of participation offers a strong and credible reflection of community input across a broad cross-section of residents.

Demographics at a Glance

- Most respondents are aged **35–54**
- Majority have children under 18 (60%)
- Most have lived in Erie for **under 10 years**
- 53% report household incomes over \$150K
- Respondents are majority white (84%)
- Neighborhoods with most responses: **Colliers Hill, Morgan Hill, Vista Ridge**

Key Takeaways

- Trail connectivity, safety, and access are top trail priorities.
- Universal access along with better lighting for parks and fields are important safety considerations for parks and outdoor facilities.
- Walking/biking trails, swimming/water play, active play, social gathering opportunities, fitness and wellness programs, and youth sports have the highest community interest.
- Residents strongly support a mix of maintaining existing amenities and building new ones.
- There is a willingness to fund improvements, particularly through a sales tax increase.
- The top ranked capital priority amongst participants is an outdoor community pool.

Barriers to Recreation Participation

- Top barrier: Programs fill up too quickly (45%)
- Time of day is an issue (27%)
- Desired program is not offered (16%)
- Very few reported feeling unsafe or unwelcome

Top Priorities

Most desired activities:

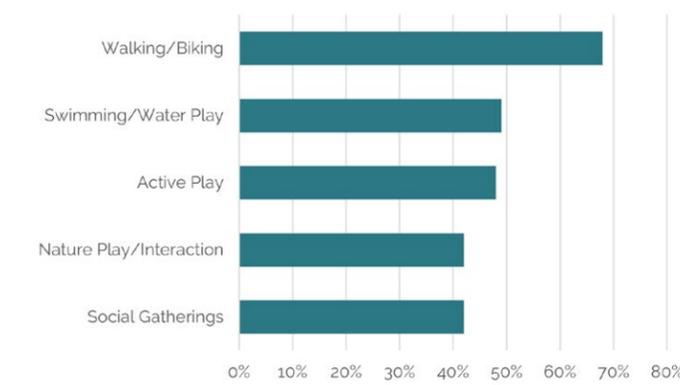


Figure 10. Community Questionnaire Most Desired Activities

Most desired recreation programs:

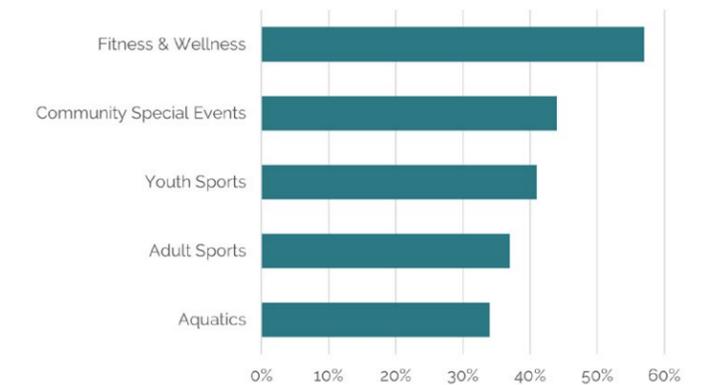


Figure 11. Community Questionnaire Most Desired Recreation Programs

Top trail improvements:

1. More trail connections to homes (Ranked #1 by 78%)
2. More unpaved trails
3. Safer trail crossings

Funding & Future Investments

• Top ranked capital priorities:

1. Outdoor Community Pool
2. Second Recreation Center
3. Second Community Park
4. Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Note: The response options for potential capital priorities included the following: Performing Arts Center, Outdoor community pool/aquatics facility, A second recreation center, A second community park, including a potential fieldhouse, across from Erie High School and Soaring Heights Elementary, or Other.

• Top priorities for use of diversified trail and open space funds:

1. Maintaining existing parks/trails/open space
2. Improving trail connectivity
3. Acquiring/preserving open space
4. Developing new parks

- 53% would vote YES for a sales tax increase to fund parks and facilities.
- Only 17% support a property tax increase.
- Only 14% would vote NO to either funding option.
- 60% want a balanced investment between maintaining existing and building new amenities.

Performing Arts Center (PAC) Results

Interest in a PAC:

- Performing Arts Center ranked 4th out of 4 future major investments.
- 29% ranked it as their top priority.

Participation in performing arts classes:

- 21% of households participate in performing arts classes.
 - Most popular: Dance (51%), Music (42%), Youth Theater (40%)
 - 72% participate weekly
 - 35% of users drive less than 10 minutes, many drive 10-30 minutes
 - Satisfaction is moderate (53% "somewhat satisfied", 24% "very satisfied")

Attendance at events:

- 53% attend cultural/performing arts events
- Most attend 2–5 events per year
- 89% of attendees drive over 20 minutes
- If built, residents would most likely attend:

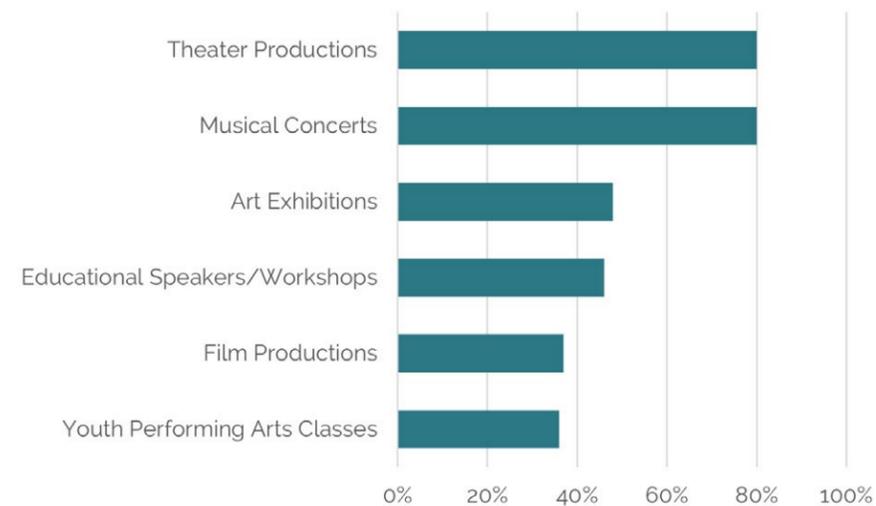


Figure 12. Community Questionnaire PAC Desired Events

Top Themes from Open-Ended Responses

Park Development

The most frequent topic, with many respondents emphasizing the need for new parks and completion of promised ones—especially Morgan Hill Park, which was mentioned explicitly in 58 responses.

Connectivity

Many residents expressed the need to improve connectivity, especially with bike paths, trail links between neighborhoods, and access points across town.

Trails and Open Space

Enthusiastic support for trails and open space continues, with mentions of both their current value and desired expansion.

Recreation Facilities

There's significant interest in more recreation centers, pools, and sports facilities (including gyms and indoor ice rinks).

Completion of Planned PROST Facilities

Participants underlined a desire for current planned facilities to be completed before prioritizing additional expansions.

Accessibility and Safety

A smaller but meaningful group mentioned the need for safe access, especially for older adults and cyclists.

Upgrades and Maintenance

Calls to update existing parks, revitalize existing amenities (such as the Lehigh Park Splash Pad), and increase amenities like shade, seating, and playgrounds.

3.3.3. Stakeholder Interviews & Focus Group Meetings

As part of the public engagement process, multiple stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings were conducted to capture the voices of key community groups of Erie. These discussions provided insights into the priorities, challenges, and opportunities that should shape the PROST Playbook over the next decade. This summary serves as an introduction to the detailed meeting memorandums that follow, outlining the specific concerns, priorities, and recommendations from each stakeholder interview and focus group. The feedback gathered from these meetings will be incorporated into the final PROST Playbook.

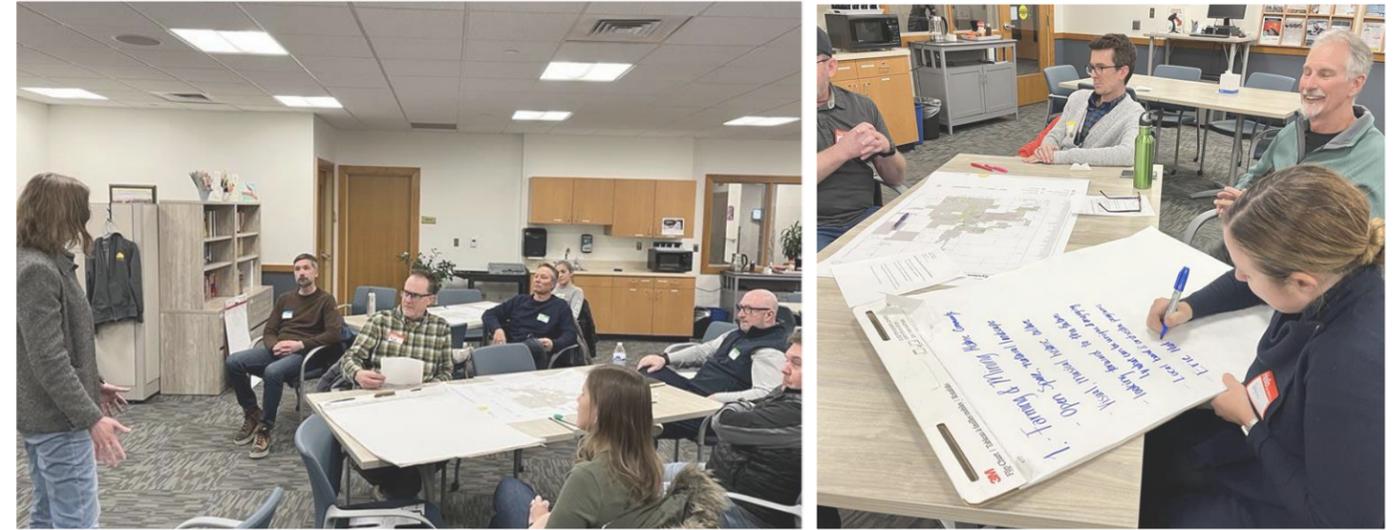
The purpose of these interviews was to gather input from diverse groups, including youth and education advocates, government and advisory boards, business and partner organizations, community representatives, accessibility advocates, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, recreation users, volunteers, and history and culture advocates. Each group provided valuable perspectives on what is important to them, what they hope to achieve through the Plan, and the key challenges Erie faces in meeting its PROST needs.

Stakeholder Meetings Conducted

1. Youth, Adult, and Education Advocates
2. Government and Advisory Boards
3. Partner and Business Organizations
4. Community Representation (HOA & Accessibility Advocates)

Focus Group Meetings Conducted

1. Recreation Center Users & Volunteers
2. History & Culture Advocates
3. Outdoor Enthusiasts & Advocates



Various Focus Group & Stakeholder Meetings
Credit: DTJ Design

3.3.3.1. Meeting Summaries

The following sections contain detailed summaries of each individual stakeholder meeting and focus group meeting, outlining specific concerns, priorities, and recommendations from each group.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW 1: Youth, Adult, & Education Advocates		
Date: February 2, 2025	Time: 6 - 7 p.m.	Location: Erie Community Center
Facilitators		Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keith Walzak (DTJ Design) Michelle Regan (DTJ Design) Taylor Atkins (DTJ Design) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy Kilgore (Adult Program User) Pranavi Mantha (High School Student) Erie Youth For Change Members (Impromptu) <p>Brody Baeh Maris DeMers</p> <p>Claire Nguyen Neha Pesaramelli</p> <p>Cristina Stroia Sabina Stroia</p> <p>Elise Koay Tyler Li</p>

Key Priorities

1. Intergenerational Activities & Community Spaces

- Strong interest in fostering intergenerational connections through programs like a reading buddies initiative and older adult tech nights.
- Need for more interactive community spaces, such as an outdoor amphitheater for concerts and performances.

2. Recreational & Cultural Facilities

- Support for a new outdoor community swimming pool that serves as both a recreational and employment opportunity for local teens.
- Interest in a Performing Arts Center and maker spaces for youth creativity and skill development.
- Advocacy for an outdoor amphitheater as part of a broader cultural and recreational strategy.

3. Trail System Improvements & Connectivity

- Demand for more soft-surface trails suitable for runners and cross-country training.
- Improved trail connectivity to eliminate gaps and unsafe detours, especially for students biking to school.
- Separate bike and pedestrian pathways to enhance safety and accessibility.
- Implementation of signage for trail difficulty levels, similar to ski trail grading.

4. Teen-Oriented Outdoor Spaces

- A need for designated spaces where teenagers can socialize, such as seating areas, hammock groves, and well-lit gathering spots.
- Expansion of single-track trails for mountain biking and more diverse recreational offerings for teens.
- Interest in park spaces specifically designed for teenage use, modeled after successful initiatives in other cities.

5. Sustainability & Accessibility Considerations

- Calls for more wheelchair-accessible trails and paths to ensure inclusivity
- Improved restroom facilities at trailheads and park locations.
- Expansion of green spaces within existing neighborhoods to preserve open land.
- Consideration of environmental sustainability in all future park and recreation developments.

6. Mobility & Transportation Enhancements

- Exploration of electric scooter-sharing programs for increased mobility.
- Improved pedestrian access and safety near the Erie airport.
- Expansion of green spaces within existing neighborhoods to preserve open land.
- Enhanced public transportation options for greater accessibility to parks and recreation centers.

7. Preservation & Expansion of Open Spaces

- Preservation of agricultural and historic sites, such as Schofield Open Space.
- Potential acquisition of land north of Erie Lake to maintain green spaces amid residential expansion.
- Balancing open space for wildlife conservation with recreational use.

8. Expanded Aquatic Facilities

- The absence of a public outdoor pool was a major concern.
- Strong support for a new facility that could serve both recreational users and provide employment opportunities for teens as lifeguards.

9. Cultural & Performing Arts Venues

- Interest in an outdoor amphitheater for community events and concerts.
- Interest in a outdoor space to be used for overnight community events, such as camping night
- Support for a performing arts center with creative and educational opportunities, or a community makerspace

Key Challenges & Issues

- Lack of Teen-Centered Recreational Opportunities:** Teens currently lack designated public spaces and often travel to neighboring cities for activities.
- Trail Connectivity Issues:** Incomplete trail systems force students and residents to take unsafe routes on roads.
- Limited Public Aquatic Facilities:** The absence of a community pool results in residents traveling to other towns for swimming opportunities.
- Balancing Open Space & Development:** Concerns about losing natural areas to high-density housing, with a desire for strategic land acquisition.
- Safety & Maintenance of Recreational Spaces:** Need for improved upkeep of existing parks, pickleball courts, and sports fields.
- Noise Considerations:** Concerns about noise pollution from pickleball courts and the potential for indoor facilities to mitigate disturbances.

Potential Action Items

- Explore funding and feasibility for an outdoor pool and amphitheater.
- Evaluate trail improvement opportunities, particularly for accessibility and connectivity.
- Assess land acquisition opportunities to preserve open space.
- Develop plans for teen-oriented recreational spaces.
- Investigate public transportation and mobility enhancement options.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW 2: Government + Advisory Boards

Date: February 5, 2025	Time: 6 - 7 p.m.	Location: Schofield Farm Open Space
Facilitators		Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Walzak (DTJ Design) • Luke Bolinger (Town of Erie) • Michelle Regan (DTJ Design) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justin Benore – Sustainability Advisory Board • Ken Martin – Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) • Leanne Vielehr– Tree Advisory Board (TAB) • Robert 'Bob' Braudes – Planning Commission

Key Priorities

1. Strategic Open Space Acquisition & Preservation

- Need clear criteria to prioritize land acquisitions based on ecological, recreational, and connectivity value.
- Concern about balancing open space acquisition with development pressures.
- Desire for a strategy that aligns with growth while maintaining preserved lands.
- Consideration of the Home Rule Charter and Boulder County's extensive open space holdings that may limit development.

2. Trail System Expansion & Connectivity

- Updating outdated trail maps to reflect current and future needs.
- Addressing gaps in the trail system to improve accessibility.
- Ensuring proper maintenance and usability of trails.
- Enhancing connectivity to Boulder and addressing Boulder-Erie Regional Trail (BERT) in the plan.

3. Recreation & Performing Arts Facilities

- Strong interest in developing a Performing Arts Center with community programming.
- Evaluation of a potential second recreation facility to accommodate future growth.
- Identifying areas where additional specific park facilities recreation fields, playgrounds, and pump tracks are needed in different parts or areas of Erie..

4. Alignment with Other Plans & Policies

- Integration of the PROST Plan with the Comprehensive Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Mobility Plan. Some of these Plans may not be complete.
- Ensuring consistency with land use and growth management strategies.
- Identifying a process for prioritizing open space acquisitions to balance conservation and development.

5. Sustainability & Environmental Considerations

- Need to balance sustainability with recreational development (e.g., irrigated fields, artificial turf impact on pollinators and heat radiation).
- Addressing water conservation strategies holistically rather than focusing only on reduction.
- Managing light pollution and adhering to dark sky policies for ball fields and public spaces.
- Exploring the use of recycled materials for trails while considering environmental impact.

6. Mobility & Transportation Enhancements

- Encouraging multimodal transportation options, including EV charging stations at open spaces to attract visitors.
- Working with the transportation team to assess e-bike classifications and golf cart regulations for safety.
- Evaluating signage effectiveness for trails and public spaces.

7. Implementation & Funding Strategies

- Need for a sustainable financial model to support long-term investments in parks and open space.
- Exploring innovative funding sources, including grants and partnerships.
- Addressing challenges of land acquisition timing and ensuring development follows acquisition promptly.
- Considering mechanisms for turf and sod disposal to avoid landfill accumulation.

Key Challenges & Issues

- **Balancing Development & Conservation:** The need to maintain open spaces while accommodating growth.
- **Uncertainty in Land Acquisition Timing:** Land availability fluctuates, requiring flexible planning approaches.
- **Recreation Facility Constraints:** The existing Erie Community Center is nearing capacity and expanding to accommodate significant additional space presents both physical and economic challenges, as the current site has limited flexibility and any expansion would come with significant cost implications
- **Lack of Teen-Oriented Spaces:** Community members emphasized the need for recreational areas catering to teenagers.
- **Trail System Gaps:** There are missing links in the current trail system that hinder accessibility and connectivity.
- **Environmental Impact Considerations:** Water use, artificial turf impact, and dark sky compliance need to be integrated into planning.

Potential Action Items

- Review and update land acquisition strategies for open space preservation.
- Improve trail mapping and identify key areas for expansion.
- Develop sustainable funding strategies for long-term projects.
- Consider new transportation and mobility options, including EV infrastructure and e-bike policies.
- Evaluate sustainability measures, including water use, artificial turf impact, and light pollution compliance.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW 3: Partner and Business Organizations

Date: February 24, 2025	Time: 6 - 7 p.m.	Location: Schofield Farm Open Space
Facilitators		Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle Regan (DTJ Design) Taylor Atkins (DTJ Design) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heidi Burgard – First National Bank Pat Vero – Erie Chamber of Commerce Ronda Grassi – Erie Economic Development Council

Key Priorities

1. Development of a Sports and Recreation Hub

- Strong support for Erie to position itself as a premier sports-centric town by leveraging existing facilities and expanding infrastructure.
- Interest in adding an Olympic-sized swimming pool, ice hockey rink, and additional tournament-quality sports fields.
- Strategic planning to attract regional and national sporting events to boost local economic development.

2. Enhancing Business and Recreation Integration

- Advocacy for stronger partnerships between businesses and the Parks and Recreation Department to enhance event programming.
- Improved coordination for events like the Erie Balloon Festival, ensuring dedicated space and infrastructure for long-term sustainability.
- Expansion of local business engagement through sponsorship and volunteer opportunities in community recreation programs.

3. Expanded Event and Cultural Programming

- Development of a dedicated outdoor event space to support concerts, festivals, and community gatherings.
- Construction of a permanent stage and event infrastructure at Coal Creek Park to reduce the burden of temporary rentals.
- Support for enhanced event logistics, such as improved parking and access for major community events.

4. Increased Trail Connectivity and Mobility Options

- Improved integration of trails into Erie's commercial and recreational spaces, making businesses more accessible by foot and bike.
- Support for expanded e-bike-friendly trails to enhance alternative transportation options.
- Consideration of trolley or shuttle systems to connect major recreational and commercial areas.

5. Balanced Growth and Sustainable Land Use

- Strategic planning for recreational spaces within new developments to ensure sufficient park access for all neighborhoods.
- Greater transparency in land use planning, particularly regarding public versus private recreation spaces.
- Implementation of sustainable landscaping practices to reduce excessive water consumption in park maintenance.

6. Improved Support for Large-Scale Events

- Identification of a permanent site for the Erie Balloon Festival and other large-scale community gatherings.
- Coordination with local hotels and businesses to better accommodate visitors attending Erie events and tournaments.
- Enhanced infrastructure to support large crowd management, including expanded parking and transit options.

7. Feasibility of a Performing Arts Center

- Growing interest in developing a multi-use performing arts center to host concerts, theater performances, and large community meetings.
- Evaluation of funding sources and potential private-public partnerships to support construction and operations.
- Integration of a conference space component to address the lack of large meeting venues within Erie.

8. Improved Park and Open Space Planning

- Prioritization of multi-use park spaces that can accommodate both passive and active recreation.
- Consideration of a more diverse mix of park amenities, including dog parks, playgrounds, and quiet green spaces.
- Ensuring adequate maintenance and funding for both new and existing park spaces.

Key Challenges & Issues

- Lack of Permanent Event Infrastructure:** Temporary event staging and logistics create high costs and inefficiencies for community events.
- Unequal Distribution of Recreational Facilities:** Certain areas of Erie remain underserved and require new or expanded parks and recreation options.
- High Costs for Park and Recreation Expansion:** Concerns over funding sources and long-term maintenance costs for large-scale recreational projects.
- Limited Accessibility to Community and Event Spaces:** Lack of a centralized performance venue and large meeting space hinders community engagement.
- Parking and Transportation Limitations for Events:** The need for better transit solutions to accommodate visitors attending local events and tournaments.

Potential Action Items

- Explore funding and partnership opportunities to expand Erie's sports and recreation facilities.
- Improve infrastructure for large community events, including permanent stage installation at Coal Creek Park.
- Expand trail connectivity and explore alternative mobility solutions like a shuttle system.
- Ensure new developments have adequate recreational spaces and sustainable landscaping practices.
- Identify a long-term site for the Erie Balloon Festival and ensure its continued success.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW 4: Community Representation

Date: March 3, 2025	Time: 6 - 7 p.m.	Location: Schofield Farm Open Space
Facilitators		Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keith Walzak (DTJ Design) Will Glaeser (DTJ Design) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber Widgery – Erie Commons Co-President Carole Bakhos – TR Community Advocate Jim Westgaard - Flatiron Meadows Metropolitan District President Michael Pearson – Vista Point HOA President

Key Priorities

1. Accessibility Improvements in Parks & Trails

- Strong support for the development of fully accessible playgrounds, allowing children of all abilities to interact and play.
- Better maintenance and expansion of ADA-compliant trails, ensuring wheelchair access and mobility-friendly surfaces.
- Consideration of universal design principles in new park developments, rather than relying solely on ADA minimum standards.

2. Maintenance & Upkeep of Existing Infrastructure

- Addressing long-term maintenance concerns for aging parks and recreational facilities.
- Consistent upkeep of existing playgrounds, with replacement of broken or outdated equipment.
- Improve communication between HOAs and the Town to prevent mismanagement of shared spaces.

3. Enhanced Public Restroom Facilities

- Upgrading Park restrooms, from porta-potties to permanent structures where feasible.
- Inclusion of adult changing stations to accommodate individuals with disabilities.
- Ensuring regular sanitation and upkeep of existing facilities.

4. Recreational Facility Expansion & Availability

- Strong demand for additional community centers and indoor recreation spaces to accommodate growing Town needs.
- More flexible programming at the Erie Recreation Center, balancing structured activities with open-use time.
- Expansion of sports field availability, including more inclusive sports options for individuals with disabilities.

5. HOA & Town-Owned Land Management Agreements

- Greater clarity on maintenance responsibilities between HOAs and the Town for shared spaces.
- Improved communication on land ownership, funding obligations, and cost-sharing agreements for park and recreation facilities.
- Proactive planning to prevent long-term neglect of existing parks as new developments are prioritized

6. Trail Connectivity & Safety Enhancements

- Filling in gaps within the current trail system to provide safer, more direct connections between neighborhoods.
- More dedicated off-road biking and pedestrian paths to separate different user types and improve safety.
- Consideration of trail surfaces that accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and other mobility devices.

Key Challenges & Issues

- Deferred Maintenance:** Existing parks and recreational spaces suffer from a lack of upkeep and investment, leading to safety concerns and accessibility barriers.
- Funding & Budget Constraints:** Limited financial resources impact the ability to maintain older infrastructure while supporting new developments.
- Lack of Accessible Recreational Spaces:** Few parks and playgrounds currently provide full accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- Confusion Over Park Management Responsibilities:** Unclear agreements between HOAs and the Town create challenges in maintaining shared spaces.
- Trail Connectivity Gaps:** Many trail segments do not connect seamlessly, reducing their effectiveness for safe transportation and recreation.

Potential Action Items

- Evaluate opportunities for developing a fully inclusive, accessible playground.
- Improve maintenance and replacement schedules for existing recreational facilities.
- Clarify land management and maintenance agreements between HOAs and the Town.
- Assess feasibility of new restroom facilities and upgrades to existing park restrooms.
- Enhance trail connectivity with accessibility-friendly design and improved safety measures.
- Explore funding options to balance infrastructure maintenance with new development priorities.

FOCUS GROUP 1: Recreation Center Users & Volunteers		
Date: February 10, 2025	Time: 6 - 7:45 p.m.	Location: Erie Community Center
Facilitators		Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenise Jensen (Ballard King) Keith Walzak (DTJ Design) Ken Ballard (Ballard King) Michelle Regan (DTJ Design) Taylor Atkins (DTJ Design) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colin Temme (Coal Creek Little League) Jim Martinez (Erie Youth Football League) Kelly Thomson (Colorado Ignite) Manoj Gangwar (Cricket) Nate Lofton (Youth Sports Partner/Coach) Raegan Hoeft (Dance Contractor) Tyler Schilling (Youth Sports Coach)

Key Priorities

1. Lack of Adequate Facilities

- Lack of adequate field and gym space for youth sports programs, resulting in programs having to turn away participants.
- Overcrowding at the current recreation center, leading to conflicts between different programs.
- Need for more athletic facilities, including artificial turf fields, lighted fields, and an indoor sports complex.
- Existing fields and parks are in poor condition and not suitable for organized sports.

2. High Costs and Limited Support

- Lack of support and integration from the Town for volunteer-run youth sports programs.
- High fees for using Town facilities, with no discounts for volunteer-run or resident programs.
- Desire for the Town to take a more active role in developing new athletic facilities and supporting community sports programs.

3. Rapid Population Growth

- Erie's population is growing rapidly, with projections to double in the next 5-10 years, further straining existing resources.
- Increased demand for diverse recreational programs, including youth theater, volleyball, lacrosse, and older adult enrichment activities.

4. Expansion of Indoor & Outdoor Recreational Facilities

- Need for additional gym space to accommodate indoor sports.
- Request for more indoor turf fields for year-round sports training, especially for youth football and soccer.
- Development of a second community center with distinct amenities such as fitness studios, expanded locker rooms, and spaces designed for older adults.

5. Enhancement of Field & Park Spaces

- More full-sized, multi-sport fields to accommodate football, soccer, and lacrosse.
- Improved maintenance of fields, addressing issues like worn-out grass, ruts, and uneven playing surfaces.
- Adding several fields in one location to allow families to attend multiple games in the same area.
- Increased access to restrooms and weather-protected shelters at parks for camps and outdoor activities.

6. Aquatic Facilities & Water Recreation

- Strong support for the development of a dedicated community swimming pool.
- Expansion of aquatic programs to include swim teams, diving, water polo, and lifeguard training.
- Integration of aquatic fitness programs for both youth and older adults.

7. Accessibility & Inclusivity Enhancements

- Development of designated space for toddler and preschool-age sports programs.
- Expansion of fitness class space separate from high-noise gym environments.
- Improved park and trail accessibility for all ages and abilities, including paved paths and wheelchair-friendly routes.

8. Better Support for Volunteer & Youth Programs

- Requests for discounted or free facility use for volunteer-led youth sports programs.
- Improved collaboration between the Town and private youth sports organizations to enhance program coordination.
- Recognition of volunteers who contribute significant time and effort to community programs.

9. Sustainability & Smart Growth Strategies

- Review of park requirements for housing developments to ensure the inclusion of athletic facilities, not just small pocket parks.
- Consideration of alternative funding sources, including grants and partnerships, to support facility expansion.
- Sustainable infrastructure development that aligns with long-term community needs.

Key Challenges & Issues

- Severe Shortage of Recreational Space:** Existing gymnasiums and fields are overcrowded, limiting opportunities for youth sports and fitness programs.
- High Cost of Field Rentals:** Lack of resident discounts forces Erie teams to pay the same rates as out-of-town organizations.
- Lack of Lighting for Evening Use:** Many fields remain unusable after dark due to the absence of lighting infrastructure.
- Limited Indoor Training Options:** No dedicated indoor turf space for winter training, impacting football, soccer, and lacrosse programs.
- Inadequate Volunteer Support:** Limited resources for coaching education, program integration, and facility access.

Potential Action Items

- Explore funding and feasibility for a second community center and dedicated aquatic facility.
- Identify opportunities for field expansion and improved maintenance.
- Assess policy changes regarding park requirements for new housing developments.
- Develop strategies for better collaboration between the Town and youth sports organizations.
- Address lighting deficiencies to maximize field usability year-round.
- Improve accessibility and inclusivity in recreational programming and infrastructure.

FOCUS GROUP 2: History & Culture		
Date: February 12, 2025	Time: 6 - 7 p.m.	Location: Erie Community Center
Facilitators		Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Walzak (DTJ Design) • Michelle Regan (DTJ Design) • Taylor Atkins (DTJ Design) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspen McArthur - Cultural Arts Programming & Events • Brenda Reeder - Cultural Arts Programming & Events • Cory Collard - Cultural Arts Programming & Events • Ed Guignon - Cultural Arts Programming & Events • Mimi Kruger - Cultural Arts Programming & Events • Rachel Folger - Erie Historical Society

Key Priorities

1. Preservation of Historic and Cultural Sites

- Strong support for celebrating and preserving Erie's small-town historical charm.
- Calls for incorporating the historic Blacksmith Shop at the Wise Homestead into preservation efforts.
- Additional support for maintaining and promoting Erie's historical museum and significant landmarks.

2. Enhancing Public Awareness of Local History

- Increased support and volunteers for historical events and activities.
- Expansion of rail bike programs to educate residents on Erie's mining history.
- Installation of historical markers and plaques at key sites to provide context and recognition.

3. Development of Cultural & Arts Spaces

- Interest in an Erie Arts Center to promote local artists and cultural exhibitions.
- Revitalization of former cultural spaces, such as the Pure Street House and Lorraine David Children's Library.
- Display of historical artifacts in public spaces with proper curation and presentation.

4. Improved Public Events & Programming

- Expansion of musical and art events in Old Town to highlight Erie's cultural heritage.
- Creation of an annual Town-wide art festival to engage the local artist community.
- More frequent outdoor concert series and potential for an indoor performance venue.

5. Infrastructure Improvements for Cultural Preservation

- Investment in proper maintenance and restoration of existing historic parks before new developments.
- Ensuring adequate shade and seating in public gathering areas to encourage longer visitor engagement.
- Town-funded cultural museum as a long-term goal to highlight Erie's history and evolution.

6. Community Education & Engagement

- Integration of Erie's history into Town welcome materials for both new and existing residents.
- Public outreach initiatives to educate residents on Erie's historical and cultural significance.
- Use of digital media and signage to increase awareness of Erie's unique historical identity.

Key Challenges & Issues

- **Lack of Awareness & Support for Historical Initiatives:** Limited public knowledge and engagement with existing historical programs and sites.
- **Inconsistent Maintenance of Historic Sites:** Some historic areas are not well- maintained, leading to concerns about long-term preservation.
- **Insufficient Cultural & Artistic Spaces:** The Town lacks dedicated venues for cultural exhibitions, historical displays, and performing arts.
- **Limited Funding & Town Support:** Need for increased Town funding, staffing, and volunteer coordination for history and cultural projects.
- **Balancing Growth with Preservation:** Concern that rapid development may overshadow Erie's historical identity and cultural heritage.

Potential Action Items

- Identify opportunities for expanded cultural event programming.
- Identify opportunities for preserving and enhancing historic sites.
- Develop strategies for better integrating historical education into public spaces.
- Explore funding options for cultural preservation and infrastructure improvements.
- Increase public outreach efforts to engage the community in Erie's history and cultural legacy.

FOCUS GROUP 3: Outdoor Enthusiasts & Advocates		
Date: February 19, 2025	Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Location: Erie Community Center
Facilitators		Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keith Walzak (DTJ Design) Michelle Regan (DTJ Design) Taylor Atkins (DTJ Design) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casey Lyons - Friends of Coal Creek Christy Schaefer - Slides & Sunshine Claudia Smelko - Tree Advisory Board (TAB) Dave Ignatew - Singletrack volunteer, invited by David Neff David Neff - Singletrack volunteer Kyle Sylvester - Erie Resident and Brighton Parks employee Rob Lindow - Agriculture Lease

Key Priorities

1. Enhancing Trail Connectivity and Wayfinding

- Increased wayfinding signage for ease of navigation and enhanced user experience.
- Development of a comprehensive master plan for trail connectivity within Erie and to neighboring communities such as Boulder, Lafayette, and Broomfield.
- Utilization of unused railroad rights-of-way for regional trail expansion.

2. Preservation and Enhancement of Open Spaces

- Acquire and protect additional open spaces, including the 30-acre Kenosha parcel.
- Increased habitat restoration efforts, particularly in wetland and riparian zones, to support pollinators and wildlife.
- Maintain and improve existing open spaces for long-term community benefit.

3. Improving Recreational Facilities

- Develop more outdoor sports fields to meet rising demand.
- Create inclusive playgrounds and recreational opportunities for all age groups and abilities.
- Development of additional single-track mountain biking trails to accommodate growing demand.
- Increased investment in outdoor swimming pools and aquatic facilities.

4. Schofield Property and Lake Area Improvements

- Relocate the parking lot to improve functionality and access, as well as promote pedestrian safety near the highway
- Expansion of passive recreation opportunities, such as designated picnic areas and non-motorized access to water bodies.
- Repurpose and preserve the historical barn and brick home.
- Enhance the area for recreational and community use.

5. Tree Canopy and Downtown Beautification

- Increase tree planting efforts to expand the mature tree canopy.
- Improve irrigation systems to support long-term tree health.
- Incorporate green infrastructure to enhance the downtown aesthetic.

6. Land Use Policy and Developer Requirements

- Strengthening land use codes to mandate dedicated park and open space development.
- Prevent developers from opting out of park contributions with fees.
- Ensure new developments align with recreational and environmental goals.

Key Challenges & Issues

- Balancing Growth with Preservation:** Managing rapid development while maintaining natural and recreational spaces.
- Funding for Land Acquisition & Maintenance:** Identifying sustainable financial sources for open space purchases and facility upkeep.
- Ensuring Developer Compliance:** Preventing developers from opting out of park and open space development requirements.
- High Demand for Recreational Facilities:** Increased participation in outdoor activities is placing strain on existing parks and trails.
- Lack of Trail Connectivity:** Current gaps in the trail system make it difficult for users to access key recreation areas safely.

Potential Action Items

- Implement Land Use Code Updates to strengthen policies requiring developers to provide and enhance public open spaces.
- Work with Boulder County and other stakeholders on interconnected trail systems.
- Develop a comprehensive trail connectivity and wayfinding strategy.
- Identify opportunities for land acquisition to expand protected open spaces.
- Improve coordination with developers to ensure the inclusion of high-quality parks and recreation areas.
- Explore funding sources for recreational infrastructure, including grant opportunities.
- Address environmental concerns related to landfill sites and sustainability practices.
- Expand recreational facilities to meet growing demand, including additional sports fields and indoor community spaces.

3.3.4. Culture Academy Event (Staff Focus Group)

Date: March 12, 2025	Time: 12:20 - 3 p.m.	Location: Erie Community Center
DTJ Facilitators		Town of Erie Facilitators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Palmer • Keith Walzak • Riley Fountain • Taylor Atkins • Will Glaeser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mauer • Jeff Rau • Kathy Kron • Levi Moser • Rachel Wysuph • Taylor Ingro

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the workshop was to engage Town of Erie staff in updating the PROST Playbook. This group offers unique insight into the daily functionality of PROST programming and maintenance in Erie. Their ideas, priorities, and feedback will be evaluated along with other inputs received from the community to define a plan strategy.

Goals:

- Create an Open Forum Discussion
- Offer a Learning Opportunity
- Engage as a Team
- Broaden Communications



Culture Academy Event
Credit: DTJ Design

3.3.4.1. Task 1: Site Plan Sketch

In Task 1, each group was presented with the challenge of designing a 25-acre site in East Erie. The site is located at the corner of CR-5 and Colliers Pkwy, directly west of Erie High School and Soaring Heights PK-8. Each group was provided with a site base and "widgets" depicting common programming elements, including ballfields, sports courts, and building footprints, to help spark inspiration for potential site design ideas. Group members offered a variety of perspectives and expertise during the process, with each group ultimately coming to a consensus on a preliminary site design.

Design Ideas: Common Themes Across Groups

Below is a summary of common themes from the six groups.

Large Recreational & Sports Facilities

Each group supported creating new facilities to supplement the existing Erie Community Center, with proposed facilities ranging from 60,000 to 100,000 square feet.

Strong Connection to the High School & Schools

Many groups emphasized designing the site with high school and K-8 students in mind, including fitness spaces, sports training areas, and potential school partnerships.

Diverse Sports & Fitness Options

Many groups included multi-use fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby), basketball courts, weight rooms, and indoor/outdoor pools.

Revenue Generation & Regional Draw

Some groups envisioned the facility as a regional attraction, bringing in revenue through rentals, events, and competitive sports programming.

Safe Accessibility & Connectivity

Concerns about traffic and safe access led to ideas like underpasses, bridges, and designated pathways.

Balance Between Passive & Active Spaces

Some groups included gardens, arboretums, art installations, and nature play areas alongside the sports infrastructure.

3.3.4.2. Task 2: Organizational Culture Discussion

In Task 2, group members discussed the organizational culture of the Erie Parks & Recreation Department (PRD). The discussion included describing the current culture of the PRD, listing the most important values of the PRD, and discussing opportunities for the PRD to contribute to growth and culture in the broader Erie community. Finally, each group identified 3-4 top priorities for both the PRD and the PROST Playbook to address within the next decade to best support an expanding Erie community.

Top Priorities: Common Themes Across Groups

Sustainable Growth & Financial Planning

Many groups emphasized the need to grow responsibly while ensuring financial sustainability.

Connectivity & Accessibility

Groups discussed maintaining strong connections between neighborhoods, recreational facilities, and surrounding communities.

Maintaining Excellence

There was a shared desire to keep Erie at the forefront of innovation and quality services.

Staffing & Infrastructure Needs

Several groups highlighted the importance of expanding staff and resources to support future growth.

Equity & Inclusion

Ensuring fair access to facilities and opportunities for all residents was a priority.

Task 2 Data Analysis

Responses to the Task 2 prompts were recorded and synthesized. Similar responses to each prompt were grouped to determine the prevalence of each answer.

Prompt 1: Describe the PRD organizational culture. (Results shown in order of prevalence)

Top Descriptions	Recurrences
Innovative	29
Supportive	17
Hardworking	16
Fun	15
Family	12
Inclusive	12
Dedicated	11
Caring	11
Collaborative	11
Passionate	8
Positive	6
Professional	6

Prompt 2: List the values that are important for PRD. (Results shown in order of prevalence)

Top Values	Recurrences
Teamwork	19
Inclusivity	15
Service	11
Integrity	11
Creativity	9
Accountability	8
Sustainability	8
Balance	7
Professionalism	7
Flexibility	5
Growth	5
Innovation	5
Accessibility	3

Prompt 3: List opportunities where PRD can grow and contribute to the Erie community. (Results shown in order of prevalence)

Top Opportunities	Recurrences
Expand facilities and amenity space	21
Implement environmentally sustainable initiatives	15
Enhance and expand recreational programs	14
Increase PRD community events and educational opportunities	14
Become regional PRD leaders and set industry standards	12
Maintain standard of service as Erie population grows	11
Create and maintain new partnerships	9
Enhance connectivity and walkability	7
Increase PRD staff and professional development opportunities	5
Maximize use of current operational spaces	3

Key Takeaways

Some of the key takeaways discerned from the PRD Staff Focus Group Session were:

High-Quality Recreational & Sports Facilities

- A new multi-purpose recreation center is widely supported.
 - Facilities could include indoor and outdoor pools, fitness centers, weight rooms, multi-use sports fields/courts, and specialized training spaces.
- Ensure space for school partnerships, competitive sports, and regional events.

Maintain Existing Resources

- Take care of current amenities and maximizing their use before expanding.

Connectivity & Accessibility

- Prioritize safe, walkable connections between schools, parks, and neighborhoods.
- Consider underpasses, bridges, and trail extensions to improve access.
- Strengthen Erie's regional connections with neighboring communities.

Accessibility, Inclusion, & Community Engagement

- Ensure recreational facilities and programming are accessible to all residents.
- Focus on diverse programming and community-oriented spaces.
 - Include programming that is not currently available in Erie to appeal to a variety of interests.
- Incorporate gathering spaces such as art installations, gardens, and nature play areas.

Sustainable Growth & Strategic Planning

- Maintain PRD cultural identity and service standards while accounting for community growth.
- Ensure financial sustainability through dedicated funding, diversified revenue sources, and long-term financial plans.
 - Attract regional competitions and events to generate revenue.
 - Prioritize facility development based on community needs and financial feasibility.
- Ensure environmental sustainability through the implementation of a variety of focused initiatives (i.e. limiting water usage, enhancing biodiversity, etc.).
- Invest in proper maintenance facilities and staffing to support new developments.

3.3.5. Community Open House

Date: April 16, 2025	Time: 4 - 8 p.m.	Location: Erie Community Center
DTJ Facilitators		Town of Erie Facilitators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Walzak • Michelle Regan • Taylor Atkins 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Mauer • Jeff Rau • Kathy Kron • Levi Moser • Luke Bolinger • Mike McGill • Matt Spinner • Rachel Wysuph • Shane Greenburg • Taylor Ingro

Attendance

An estimated 80-100 community members attended the event. Attendees consisted of a wide range of ages, including kids, teenagers, parents, and older adults. This diverse, multi-generational turnout ensured that various perspectives were heard regarding the future of PROST in Erie.

Purpose and Goals

- **Gather Broad Community Input**
Provide an open forum for community members to share their thoughts on project goals, objectives, and vision at key project milestones.
- **Engagement & Connection**
Encourage discussions about community values and future developments.
- **Interactive Participation**
Offer various hands-on activities to make participation accessible and engaging.

3.3.5.1. Outreach and Engagement Stations

Designed to gather broad community input and foster meaningful connections, the event featured a series of interactive stations, each focused on a specific area of the PROST Playbook. Participants were encouraged to share their ideas, preferences, and priorities through hands-on activities and discussions. The stations were as follows:

Station 1: PROST Playbook Project Introduction (Informational)

Introduced the PROST Playbook project description, purpose, timeline, and current mission, vision, and values.

Station 2: Performing Arts Center (PAC) Feasibility Study Introduction (Engagement)

Introduced the PAC feasibility study project description, purpose, timeline, and next steps. Asked participants to indicate their current use of typical PAC programs, and which programs they would most likely participate in in the future.

Station 3: Walkable Map and Visioning (Engagement)

Asked participants to engage with a large-scale map of the existing Erie PROST system to gather data and feedback of the existing PROST system.

Station 4: Community Programming, Events, and Facilities (Engagement)

Asked participants to indicate which programs, events, and spaces they currently used, and which of these areas they would like to see more of in the future.

Station 5: Funding Resource Prioritization (Engagement)

Provided information on the current funding resource distribution within the parks and recreation department. Asked participants to indicate what types of programs and facilities they would like to prioritize funding in the future.

Station 6: Kids' Activity (Engagement)

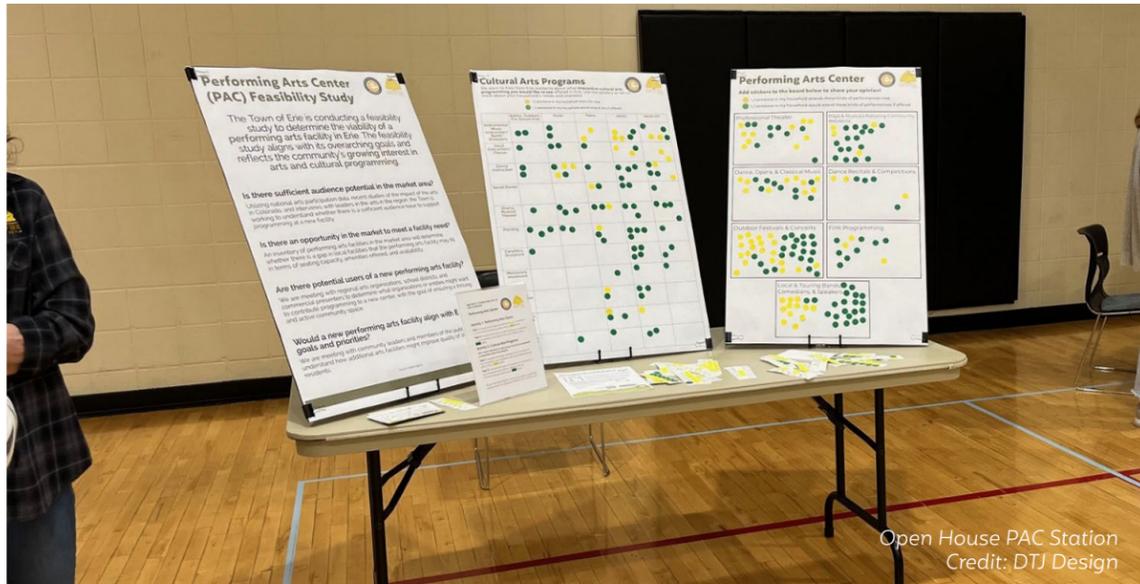
Provided coloring sheets and inspiration boards to allow kids to share their thoughts on what they would like to see in their parks in the future.

Station 7: Next Steps (Informational)

Thanked participants for attending and informed them how their feedback and input would be used for the project. Provided a space where people could take the questionnaire and provide additional feedback if needed.

3.3.5.2. Community Feedback

Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study Introduction



Open House PAC Station
Credit: DTJ Design

	Babies, Toddlers, Pre-School Kids		Youth		Teens		Adults		Adults 60+	
	Current	Future	Current	Future	Current	Future	Current	Future	Current	Future
Instrumental Music Instruction/Band/Orchestra	0	5	1	3	4	1	5	3	2	4
Vocal Instruction/Chorus	0	2	0	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Dance Instruction	0	2	4	2	1	1	0	4	2	5
Social Dance	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	7	1	2
Drama, Musical Theater	0	1	0	4	1	2	1	4	0	6
Painting	0	5	0	5	1	2	2	6	0	2
Ceramics/Sculpture	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	9	0	3
Metalwork/Woodwork	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	0	3
Jewelry, textiles, fiber arts	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	8	0	1
Photography, filmmaking	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	1	4
Digital media, game design	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	4	0	1

Table 1. Open House - Cultural Arts Programming Results

Category	Subcategory	Current Use	Future Use
Performing Arts Center	Professional Theater	18	18
	Plays & Musicals featuring Community Residents	7	24
	Dance, Opera, Classical Music	15	14
	Dance Recitals & Competitions	3	4
	Outdoor Festivals & Concerts	29	36
	Film Programming	7	11
	Local & Touring Bands, Comedians, & Speakers	17	30

Table 2. Open House - PAC Uses Results

From these results, we can discern the following:

Age Group	Most participated-in activity currently	Most desired future activity
Babies, Toddlers, Pre-School Kids	N/A	Instrumental Music Instruction/Band/Orchestra, Painting
Youth	Dance Instruction	Painting
Teens	Instrumental Music Instruction/Band/Orchestra	Digital media, game design
Adults	Instrumental Music Instruction/Band/Orchestra	Ceramics/Sculpture
Adults 60+	Instrumental Music Instruction/Band/Orchestra, Vocal Instruction/Chorus, Dance Instruction	Drama, Musical Theater

Table 3. Open House - Cultural Arts Programming Summary

(Results below are shown in order of prevalence)

Category	Most Used Currently (Top 3)	Most Desired for Future Use (Top 3)
Performing Arts Center	Outdoor Festivals & Concerts	Outdoor Festivals & Concerts
	Professional Theater	Local & Touring Bands, Comedians, & Speakers
	Local & Touring Bands, Comedians, & Speakers	Plays & Musicals featuring Community Residents

Table 4. Open House - PAC Uses Summary

These results indicate that there is a community interest in expanding creative programs for all ages, particularly those focused on art and performance. Additionally, concerts, live performances, and both professional and local theater productions are among the most utilized and desired Performing Arts offerings in Erie.

Walkable Map and Visioning

The walkable map activity helped showcase where current Erie residents felt the Town had adequate PROST facilities, as well as where they saw potential gaps. Engaging with these community members provided valuable, firsthand insight into the Town's existing facilities and programs. Some discussions included:

- Potential areas for additional sports courts and fields
- Desired places for enhanced trail connectivity to connect neighborhoods to community parks and amenities
- Potential locations for an additional recreation center for the Town
- Potential areas for open space conservation
- Concerns about the affordability of new facilities and making amenities accessible to all socioeconomic groups



Funding Resource Prioritization



Open House Funding Priorities Station
Credit: DTJ Design

Options	Votes in Favor
Take care of what we have (deferred maintenance)	47
Add more recreation programs (sports, swim, arts, etc.)	44
Build a new recreation facility (recreation center or aquatics)	87
Build a new performing arts facility	30
Build new parks on vacant land owned by Erie	61
Acquire more open spaces	58
Improve trail connectivity	40

Table 5. Open House - Funding Priorities Results

Based on the results of the activity, there is a resounding desire for building a new recreational facility. Other top priorities for increased funding included building new parks on vacant land, acquiring more open spaces, and taking care of what already exists in Erie (deferred maintenance).

Community Programming, Events, and Facilities

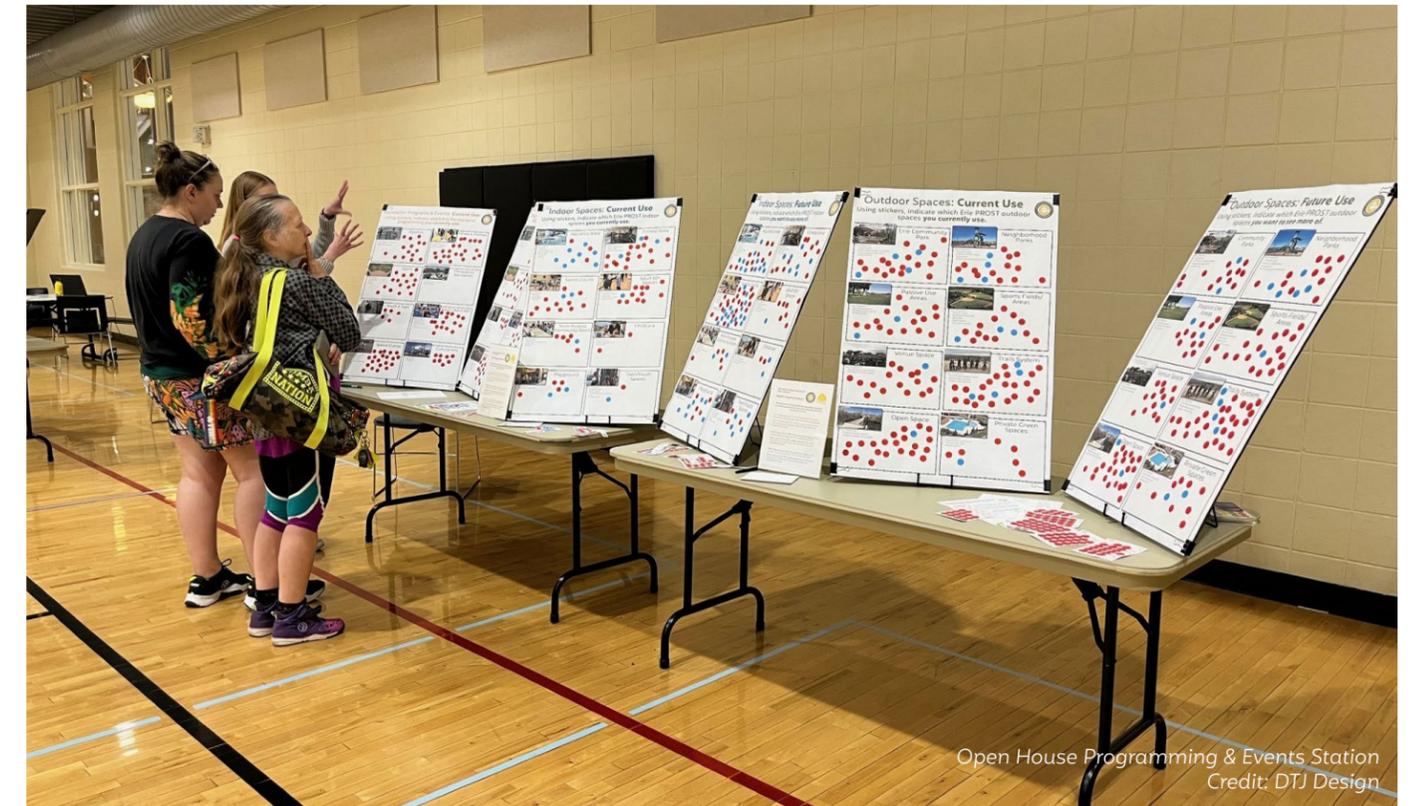


From these results, we can discern the following:
(Results are shown in order of prevalence for each category)

Category	Most Used Currently (Top 3)	Most Desired for Future Use (Top 3)
Recreation Programs & Events	Fitness & Wellness	Special Events
	Special Events	Fitness & Wellness
	Aquatics	Cultural Arts
Indoor Spaces	Fitness Area	Sports Courts
	Aquatics Area	Aquatics Area
	Sports Courts	Fitness Area
Outdoor Spaces	Trails System	Trails System
	Open Space	Open Space
	Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks

Table 7. Open House - Community Programs Summary

These results indicate a clear preference for fitness-related activities, special events, and improved trail systems. Erie residents currently make the most use of fitness areas and trail systems, and they want to see these amenities expanded in the future. There is also significant interest in adding more sports courts, aquatics facilities, special events, and parks and open spaces to Erie's available programming.



Category	Subcategory	Current Use	Future Use
Recreation Programs & Events	Aquatics	34	17
	Fitness & Wellness	43	25
	Sports	26	15
	Therapeutic Recreation	0	1
	Youth & Teen	11	11
	Adult / Adult 60+	19	17
	Special Events	37	29
	Cultural Arts	15	22
Indoor Spaces	Aquatics Area	26	40
	Fitness Area	42	39
	Sports Courts	21	45
	Adult 60+ Spaces	13	10
	Multi-Purpose	13	14
	Community Room		
	Childcare	8	8
	Playground	11	16
Outdoor Spaces	Teen/Youth Spaces	4	14
	Community Parks	36	28
	Neighborhood Parks	33	32
	Passive Use Areas	28	24
	Sports Fields/Areas	19	26
	Venue Space	25	25
	Trails System	42	47
	Open Space	40	39
Private Green Spaces	17	29	

Table 6. Open House - Community Programs Results

Open House Programming & Events Station
Credit: DTJ Design

3.3.5.3. Key Takeaways

The Open House event served as a dynamic and inclusive platform to engage the community in shaping the future of PROST in Erie. From evaluating current facilities and programming to envisioning future developments, the event successfully encouraged thoughtful participation and set the stage for the next phase of community-driven planning.

The Open House allowed for:

- **Community Insight:** The event created space for residents of all ages to contribute feedback on current and future park and recreation priorities.
- **Project Introductions:** Clear overviews of the PROST Playbook and PAC feasibility study helped participants understand the vision, goals, and timelines.
- **Transparent Next Steps:** Attendees were informed of how their input would be used, creating continued community involvement in the planning process.

Community input gathered through the Open House activities revealed strong interest and clear priorities for the future of Erie's PROST Programming. These key takeaways will help inform future recommendations and design approaches for PROST in the Erie community.

Key Takeaways (Takeaways are not listed in order of prevalence):

High support for funding an additional Recreation Center

There is widespread community support for funding a new recreation center and related facilities (i.e. aquatics facility)

High support for funding more parks and acquiring additional open space areas

Residents prioritized building neighborhood parks on existing vacant lands currently owned by Erie and acquiring more open space areas.

Interest in Creative and Cultural Programming

If the community were to develop a new performing arts venue, there is strong interest in expanding arts and performance offerings for all ages.

Strong desire for enhanced trail systems

There is a clear interest in expanding Erie's trail system and improving access between neighborhoods and parks.

Prioritization for fitness areas and events

Fitness areas, aquatics facilities, sports courts, and special events are highly used. Residents support the expansion of these areas in the future.

Commitment to Open Space and Sustainability

Many participants underscored the importance of conserving natural areas and maintaining existing infrastructure.

Local Perspective

The walkable map helped residents identify areas with both strong coverage and service gaps in PROST facilities. Areas for new facilities, trails, and open space were identified.

3.3.6. Public Engagement Events

3.3.6.1. Arbor Day

The Arbor Day Event gave residents and visitors an opportunity to provide feedback on their preferences for future parks and recreation programming and facilities in Erie. Participants used a tabletop map to identify current uses they enjoyed, as well as potential programming gaps in the Town. Participants then selected their top priorities for future parks and recreation funding.

Feedback from this event indicated that Erie user groups favored funding for enhanced trail systems and connections, new parks on vacant land owned by the Town, and continuing to address deferred maintenance of Erie's existing programs and facilities.

Funding Category	Votes in Favor
Improve trail connectivity	120
Build new parks on open vacant land owned by Erie	113
Take care of what we have (deferred maintenance)	104
Add more recreation programs (sports, swim, arts)	103
Build a new recreation facility (recreation center/aquatics)	96
Acquire more open space areas	93
Build a new performing arts facility	61

Table 8. Arbor Day - Funding Priorities Results

Tabletop map topics of interest:

- More playgrounds and dog parks
- Expansion of singletrack
- Expansion of Erie trails system
- Sculpture Park or Public Art opportunities (i.e. near Coal Creek Park)
- Outdoor aquatics facilities



3.3.6.2. Town Fair

The Town Fair Event provided a platform for the community to provide feedback on their preferences for future parks & recreation programming and facilities in Erie. Community members of all ages attended the event, diversifying the opinions and values that were received. Participants used the tabletop map to identify current uses they enjoyed, as well as potential programming gaps in the Town. Participants then selected their top priorities for future parks and recreation funding. The various engagement opportunities were well-received by the community and allowed for a wide range of input on the progression of the Playbook.

Funding Category	Votes in Favor
Acquire more open space areas	119
Improve trail connectivity	110
Build a new recreation facility (recreation center/aquatics)	107
Build new parks on open vacant land owned by Erie	91
Take care of what we have (deferred maintenance)	87
Build a new performing arts facility	55
Add more recreation programs (sports, swim, arts)	53

Table 9. Town Fair - Funding Priorities Results

Tabletop map topics of interest:

- Expansion of Erie trails system, primarily to Schools
- Expansion of disc golf
- Considerations for future residential development and growth
- More dog parks
- Opportunities for Community Gardens
- Building new Parks
- Outdoor aquatics facilities



3.3.7. Online Outreach & Communication Tools

Several online platforms were utilized to advertise the PROST Playbook project including a project website where participants can take the questionnaire and receive information, updates in the Town Quarterly Newsletter and existing social media channels.

3.3.8. Other Meetings & Presentations

Other meetings and presentations throughout the project included:

- Kick-Off Meeting with Staff
- Project communications Meetings with Staff (3)
- Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) Meetings (1)
- Town Council Meetings (2)
- Project Management Team Meetings with Staff (8)
- Work Session Meetings with Staff (4)



4: Existing Parks, Open Space, and Trails Facilities

This chapter provides a comprehensive inventory of existing parks, open space, and trails resources and facilities. It also includes an assessment that identifies gaps, constraints, and areas for improvement. By analyzing facility distribution, accessibility, and land use patterns, we gain valuable insights into how well the current system serves the community and where strategic investments may be needed.

4.1. Key Takeaways

This section provides an overview of the Town of Erie's current parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities, along with projections to accommodate a growing population—from the current 40,000 to an anticipated 64,000 residents. The findings highlight strengths in the existing system, as well as areas that will require targeted enhancements to maintain high levels of service (LOS) and equitable access.

● Parks and Level of Service

- **Current Town-Owned Park Land: 162.5 acres total***
- Current LOS: **4.1 acres** per 1,000 residents
- Planned Park Expansion: There are currently **49.9 acres** of Town-owned undeveloped parkland, with additional parkland dedications that are secured in development agreements in accordance with Town development code.
- Future LOS (at 64,000 residents): Taking into account future planned park expansions, the future LOS will be **3.3 acres** per 1,000 residents. This is below the lower quartile per the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

*Please note that there are an additional 257.7 acres of privately owned parks and open space areas in the Town of Erie. These areas offer amenities for specific communities or developments, but are not Town-owned.

● Potential Future Facility Needs

To meet the recreation expectations of Erie's future population, the following facilities* may be considered based on LOS benchmarks and national trends:

- Diamond fields
- Rectangular fields
- Basketball and volleyball courts, standalone
- Community gardens
- Indoor and/or outdoor multi-use courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Indoor walking loops/running tracks
- Indoor competitive swimming pools
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Indoor and/or outdoor fitness zones and exercise stations

*Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and potential other facility options may be explored.

● Trail Network and Missing Gaps

- Current Trail Mileage: **82.2 miles**, 48.8 of which are Town maintained
- There are numerous future planned trails within Erie, all of which will provide excellent connectivity for current and future populations.
- The future planned trail network has gaps, barriers, and missing connections that should be addressed.

● Future Park Location Considerations

To support the goal of providing a park, open space, or recreational amenity within a ½ mile or 10-minute walk for all residents, future parks may need to be located in the following areas:

- Eastern Erie along I-25
- Northern Erie near Highway 52 and Weld County Road 5
- Western Erie near Wise Homestead Open Space
- Other strategic residential areas within the Planning Boundary

● Open Space Areas and Level of Service

- **Current Town-Owned Open Space: 1,365 acres total**
- Erie has a similar amount of open space in terms of acres per population when compared to other agencies in Colorado.

● Opportunities for Management Plan Enhancements

Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operations (2021 Plan)

Improvements aligned with best practices in Colorado municipalities include:

- Upgrading to smart irrigation systems for water efficiency
- Introducing xeriscaping and native plantings to reduce water use and maintenance
- Installing waste-sorting and composting infrastructure
- Adopting Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS)
- Transitioning to electric-powered maintenance equipment
- Standardizing training and onboarding for seasonal staff
- Implementing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for park service levels
- Expanding community partnerships for volunteer involvement

Open Space Management (2019 Plan)

Enhancement opportunities include:

- Expanding native habitat restoration
- Implementing sustainable trail and erosion management
- Defining access zones and seasonal closures
- Adding educational signage on ecology and stewardship
- Creating riparian buffer zones for waterway protection
- Using digital monitoring and reporting tools
- Forming community stewardship programs
- Addressing climate resilience with adaptive landscaping and fire-wise planning

4.2. Existing PROST Facilities

Figure 13 shows the existing PROST facilities of Erie, including the various green spaces, trails, and the Erie Community Center within the Planning Boundary per the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Residential and Non-Residential Land Use types are also shown for reference.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

-  Streams & Ditches
-  Railroads
-  Water Bodies

Boundaries

-  Town Boundary
-  Planning Boundary

Land Use

-  Residential Land Uses
-  Non-Residential Land Uses

-  Erie Community Center

-  School Sites

Green Space

-  Town Owned Parks
-  Town Owned Open Space
-  Private Green Space
-  Other Open Space
-  Golf Course
-  Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
-  Housing + Preserved Open Space

-  Existing Trails
-  Other Existing Trails
- Underpass

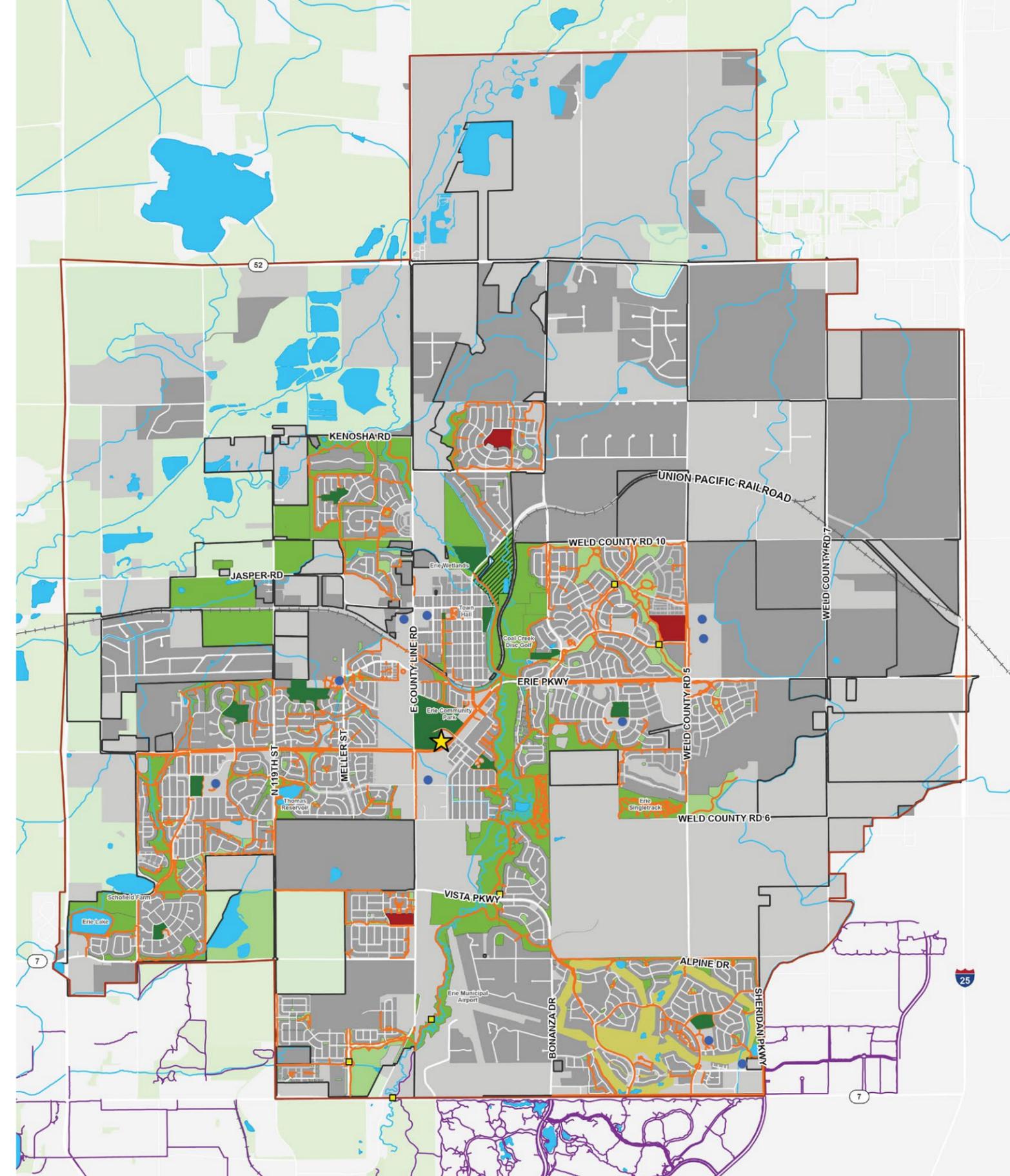
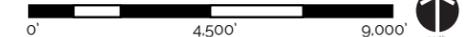


Figure 13. Existing Facilities Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



4.2.1. Parks & Levels of Service (LOS)

The Town of Erie currently owns **162.5 acres** of developed parks and is planning for the future development of an additional **49.9 acres** of future planned parks. Erie owned parks are categorized as either Community Parks or Neighborhood Parks.

The current provided Parks LOS based on 40,000 residents is 4.1 acres per 1,000 residents. With the additional future planned parks acreage, the future Parks LOS based on 64,000 residents would be 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents. This is a slightly low LOS, as it is below the lower quartile of 4.7 acres per 1,000 residents per the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. When compared to other agencies in Colorado, the Town of Erie has a relatively low current LOS as shown in Table 10 below.

Figure 14 shows the current and future planned park locations for the Town of Erie.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

Erie Community Center

School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites

Agency Owned Park Lands Comparison Chart

Agency Name	Estimated Agency Owned Parks Lands (Acres)	Population Estimate	Level of Service	Data Resource Reference
City and County of Broomfield	778	84,000	9.3 / 1,000 Residents	2024 Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails (OSPR) Plan
City of Thornton *	900	132,000	6.8 / 1,000 Residents	2017 Parks and Open Space Master Plan
City of Lafayette	236	31,000	7.6 / 1,000 Residents	City of Lafayette Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Map
City of Louisville	355	21,000	16.9 / 1,000 Residents	City of Louisville Parks Division
City of Commerce City **	840	68,000	12.4 / 1,000 Residents	Commerce City "Living In" Resource
City of Longmont	194	101,000	1.9 / 1,000 Residents	City of Longmont Parks and Natural Services Division

* Includes Joint Use Facilities and future planned parks

** Includes both Parks and Open Space Areas.

Table 10. Agency Owned Park Lands Comparison Chart

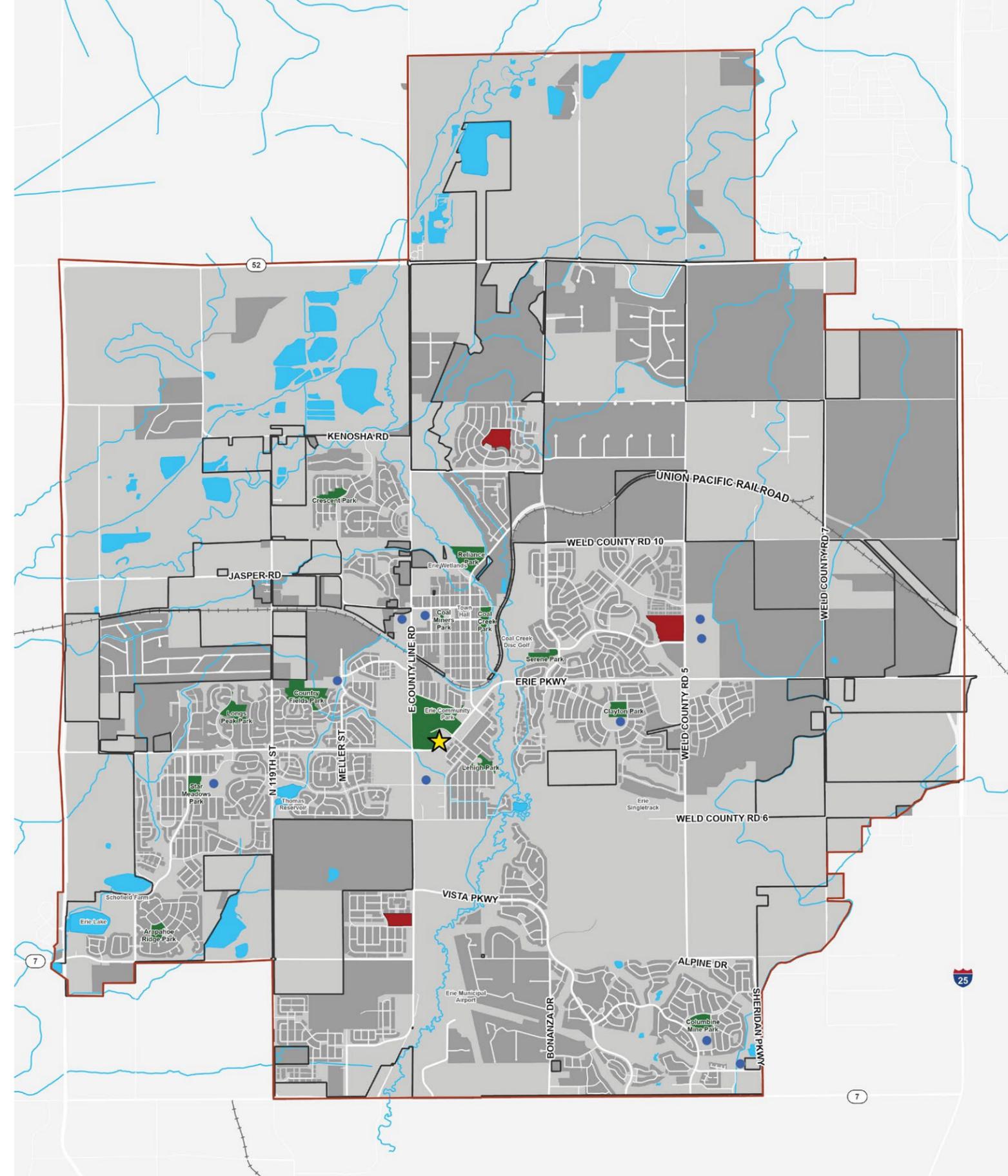


Figure 14. Existing Parks Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



4.2.1.1. Community Parks (Erie Owned)

Industry standards define parks that are 15+ acres as community parks. Erie currently owns one developed Community Park. The Erie Community Park is 49.3 acres in size which includes the Erie Community Center. This community park serves as a large-scale recreational hub, offering amenities such as sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and event spaces. Erie is planning for a second 24.6-acre community park.

Current Community Parks

- Erie Community Park
- Community Park Site (Planned)



4.2.1.2. Neighborhood Parks (Erie Owned)

Industry standards define parks that are less than 5 acres as small neighborhood parks, and 5-10 acres as large neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks provide local recreational opportunities with walking paths, playgrounds, and open green spaces for nearby residents.

Erie currently owns 12 neighborhood parks that provide a total of 113.4 acres of park land.

Park	Acreage
Arapahoe Ridge Park	5.5
Clayton Park	8.7
Coal Creek Park	6.4
Coal Miner Park	0.8
Columbine Mine Park	9.2
Country Fields Park	22.2
Crescent Park	8.0
Lehigh Park	6.1
Longs Peak Park	12.4
Reliance Park	19.3
Serene Park	6.6
Star Meadows Park	8.2

Table 11. Current Neighborhood Parks



4.2.1.3. School District Sites

School sites offer shared recreational resources, including sports fields and playgrounds, fostering collaboration between the Town and local school districts.

The Town of Erie has an existing joint use agreement (JUA) with the St. Vrain Valley School District and access to seven school sites.

Current School Sites

- Black Rock Elementary
- Erie Elementary
- Erie Middle
- Erie Highschool
- Highlands Elementary
- Red Hawk Elementary
- Soaring Heights PK-8
- Vista Ridge Academy (not part of JUA)

4.2.1.4. Private Open Lands, Parks, & Pocket Parks

Private open land, parks, and pocket parks comprise of land area that is on private land and is maintained by other entities, other than the Town of Erie. Open lands may be open areas within a subdivision. Pocket parks are small green spaces that enhance residential areas, while private parks offer amenities for specific communities or developments.

There are currently **257.7 acres** of privately owned park land and open space areas in Erie. While the Playbook acknowledges these parks and green spaces as adding value to the communities in which they serve, their acreage is excluded from the LOS analysis of the Playbook.



4.2.2. Open Space and Levels of Service (LOS)

Erie owns a total of **1,365 acres** of open space. This equates to a LOS of 34 acres per 1,000 residents. While there is not an NRPA Agency Performance review to compare to, this LOS is relatively similar or high when compared to other nearby agencies in Colorado, as shown in Table 12. Even with a future population of 64,000 the LOS would be 21 acres per 1,000 residents, which is still considered relatively high when compared to the median LOS in Table 12 below.

The main open space system is located primarily along the Coal Creek corridor. Additional large open space areas are located on the west side of Erie, adjacent to open spaces owned or maintained by other agencies such as Boulder County and the Town of Frederick.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

Erie Community Center

School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

Agency Owned Open Space or Open Lands Comparison Chart

Agency Name	Estimated Agency Owned Open Space or Open Lands (Acres)	Population Estimate	Level of Service	Data Resource Reference
City and County of Broomfield	3,733	84,000	44.4 / 1,000 Residents	2024 Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails (OSPRT) Plan
City of Thornton *	1,722	132,000	13.0 / 1,000 Residents	2017 Parks and Open Space Master Plan
City of Lafayette	506	31,000	16.3 / 1,000 Residents	City of Lafayette Parks, Recreation & Open Space Division
City of Louisville	2,000	21,000	95.2 / 1,000 Residents	City of Louisville Open Space Division
City of Commerce City **	840	68,000	12.4 / 1,000 Residents	Commerce City "Living In" Resource
City of Longmont	2,500	101,000	24.8 / 1,000 Residents	City of Longmont Open Space History

* Includes Thorncreek Golf Course.

** Includes both Parks and Open Space Areas.

Table 12. Agency Owned Open Space Comparison Chart

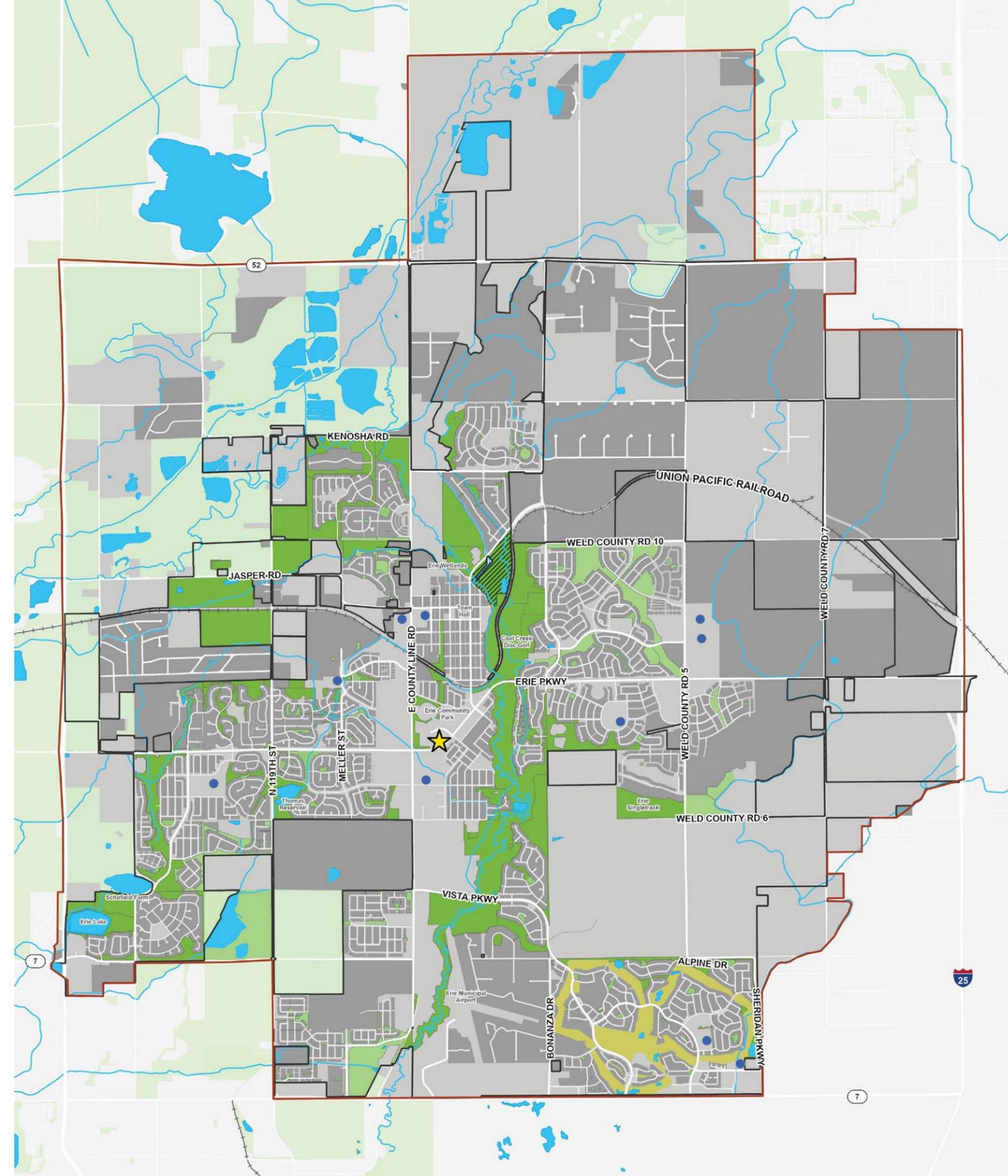
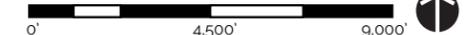


Figure 15. Existing Open Space Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



4.2.3. Trails

Erie currently has 82.2 miles of trails as shown in Table 13 below. 48.8 miles of these trails are maintained by the Town. There are also numerous future planned trails within Erie, all of which will provide excellent connectivity for current and future populations. There are however, some missing gaps in the trail system that need to be addressed.

Figure 16 shows the existing and future planned trails of Erie. Several gaps and barriers exist, including the following:

- Weld County Road 10
- Gaps located near School Sites
- Future trails located on lands that are not owned by the Town of Erie

Trail Type	Total Length (in Miles)	Percentage of Total Trails
Spine	26.9	33%
Local	48.1	59%
Primitive	3.7	4%
Singletrack	3.5	4%
TOTAL Trails	82.2	100%

Table 13. Erie Trail Types

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center

- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass

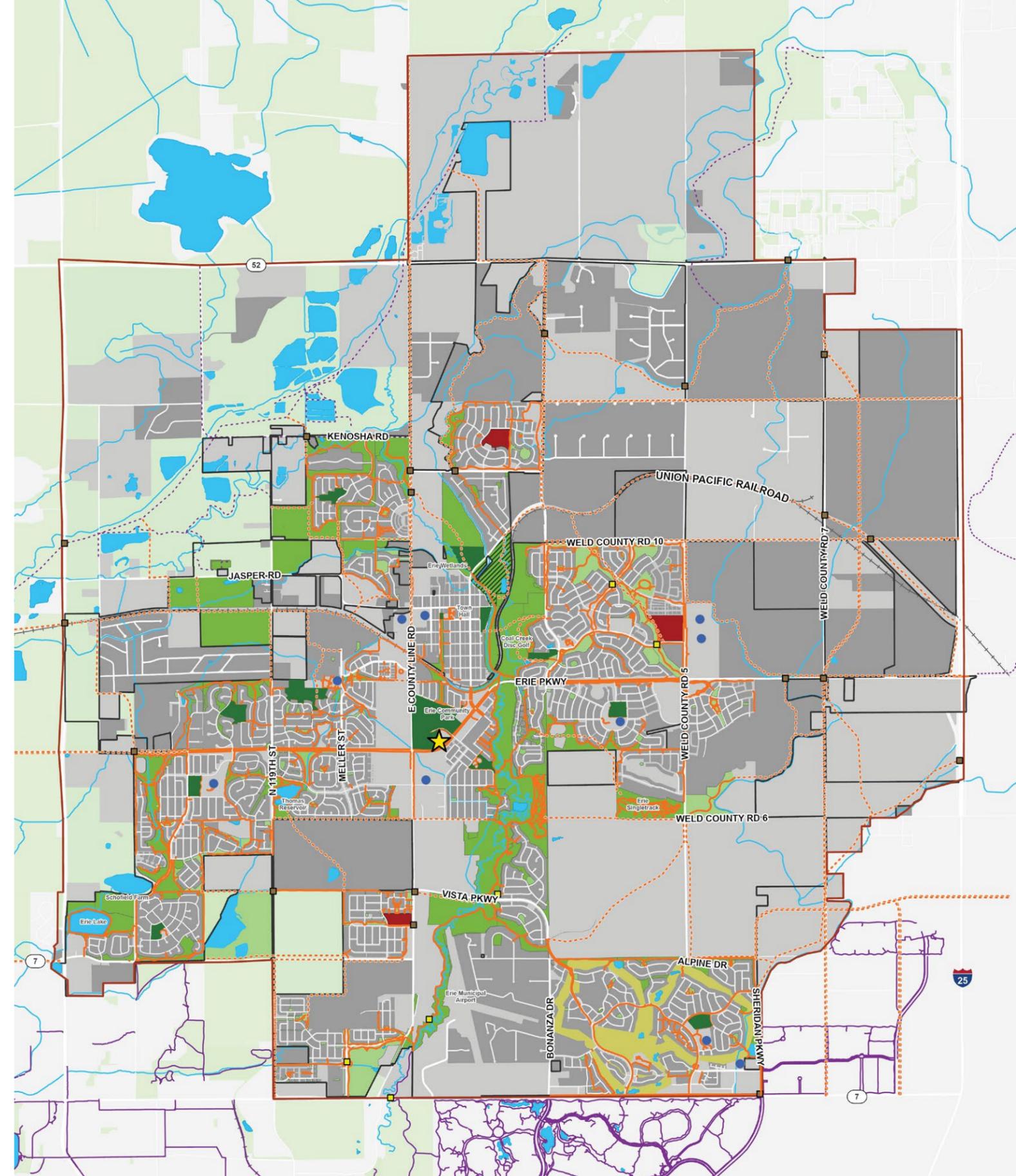


Figure 16. Existing and Future Trails Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



4.3. Future Land Use & Walkability

4.3.1. Future Land Use

A significant amount of Erie's population growth will occur in the eastern portions of Town, along the I-25 corridor. In addition, infill development will likely occur within the Town limits over the next 10 years. It will be important to strategically plan for future parks and recreation needs in these general locations to meet the needs of current and future residents of Erie.

4.3.2. Walkability

A goal of the Playbook is to ensure that every Erie resident may experience barrier free access to an Erie-owned park, amenitized open space, or recreational facility within a 1/2 mile or a 10-minute walk of their home. Based on the 1/2 mile walkability analysis, future parks and recreation resources may be needed on the east side of Erie, along the I-25 corridor north and south of the intersection of Weld County Road 10, as well as in northern Erie, near State Highway 52 and Weld County Road 5. They may also be needed near various residential areas within the Planning Boundary.

Figure 17 shows a 1/2 mile radius from the existing Erie-owned parks.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center

- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- 1/2 mile distance to an Erie Owned Park

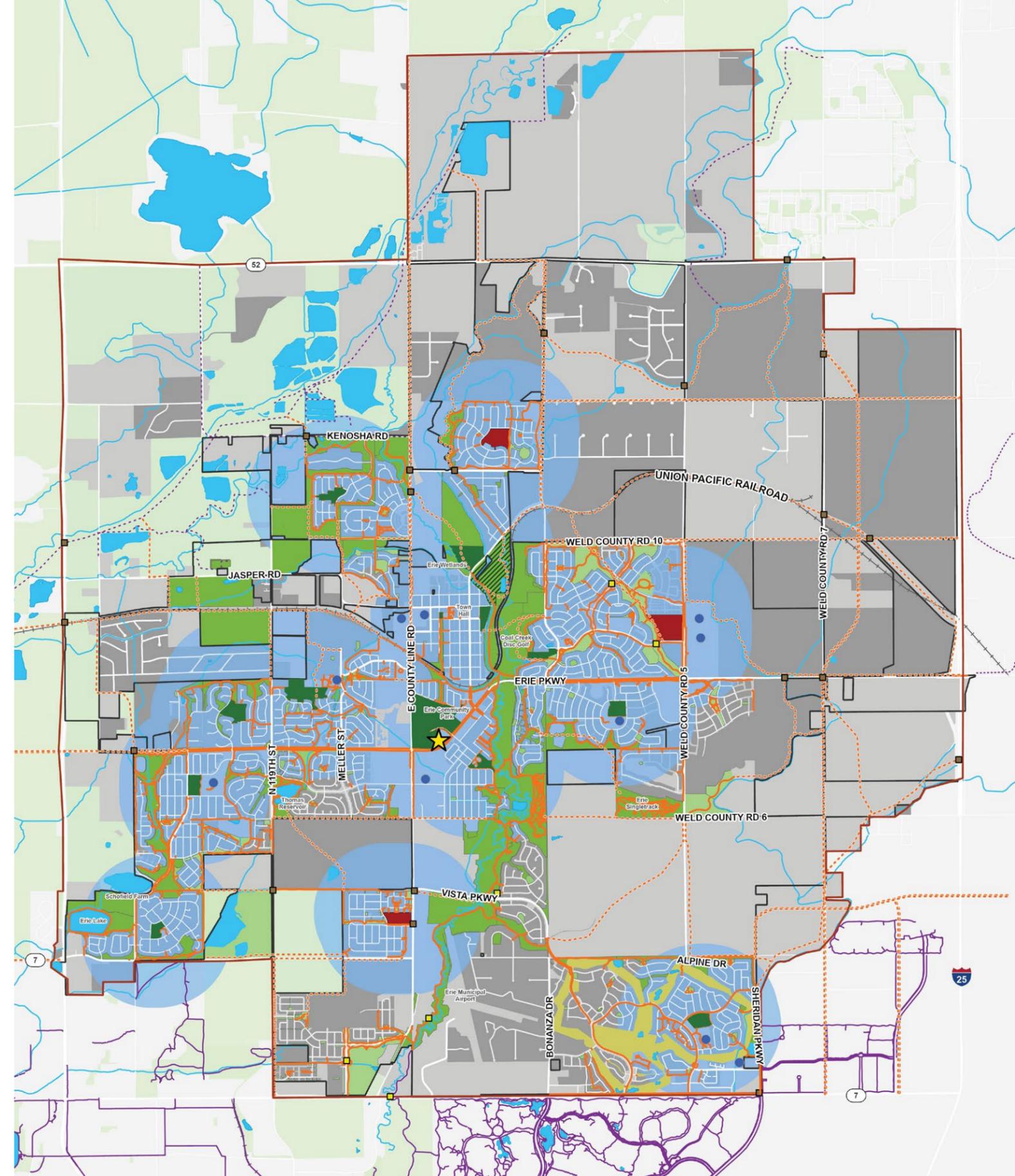


Figure 17. Walkability Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



4.4. Trail Access

Figure 18 shows a 1/2 mile radius from the existing trails of Erie. Most residents of Erie live within a walkable distance to an existing trail, but some current and future residents in the north eastern area of the Planning Boundary do not meet this requirement. The future planned trails of Erie may help to alleviate this need.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center

- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- 1/2 mile distance from Existing Erie Trails

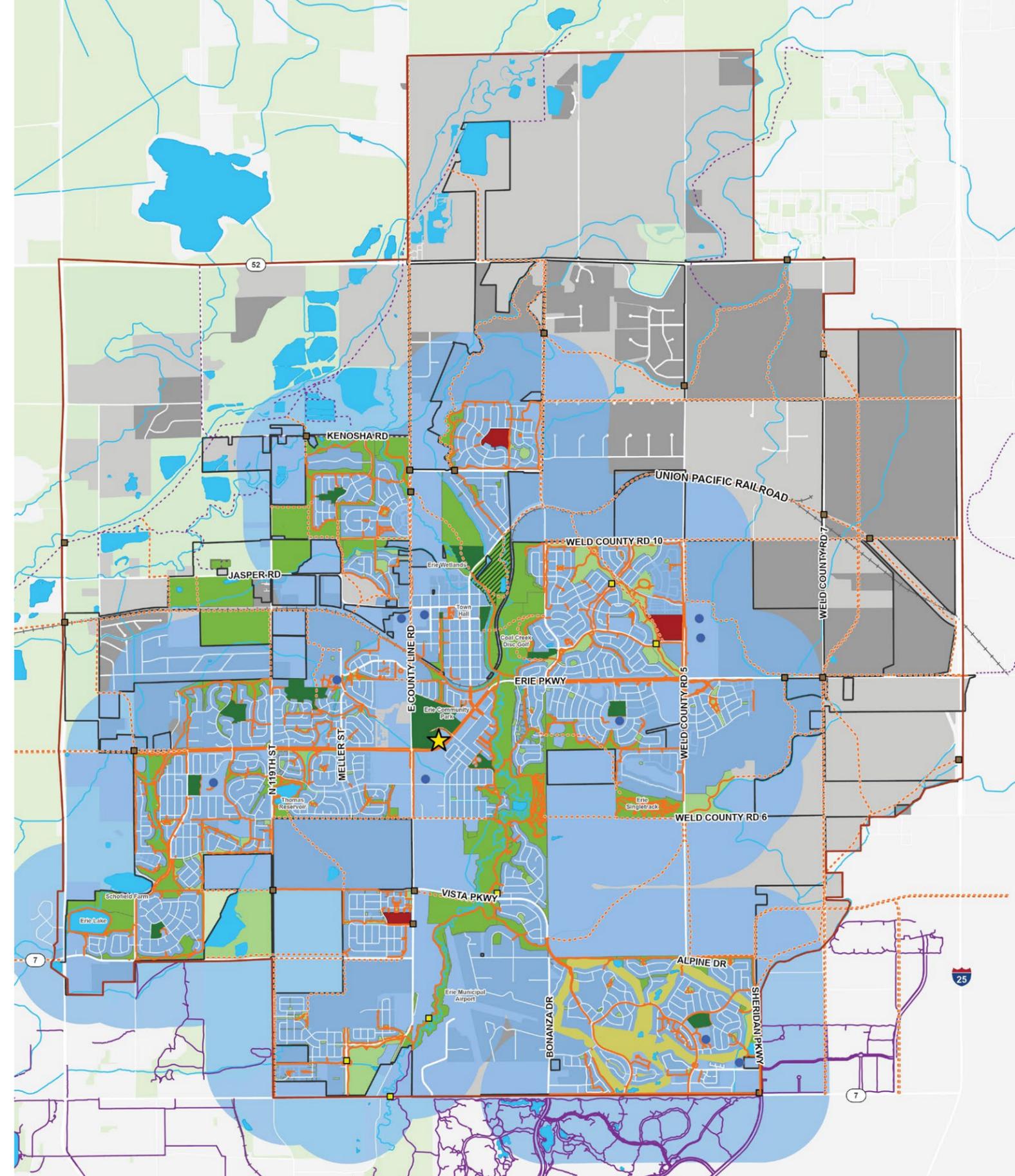
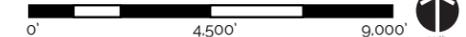


Figure 18. Trail Access Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'



4.5. Potential Gap Areas

Based on the locations of the existing PROST areas, future planned parks, future planned trails, future land use, walkability, and trail access, several potential gap areas have been identified where future parks or recreation facilities may be located.

These areas include:

- Eastern Erie along I-25
- Northern Erie near Highway 52 and Weld County Road 5
- Western Erie near Wise Homestead Open Space
- Other strategic residential areas within the Planning Boundary

Figure 19 identifies several gap areas in the Town.

Legend

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center
- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Parks
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- Access Gaps
- 1/2 mile radius to an Erie Owned Park
- 1/2 mile radius to Existing Trails

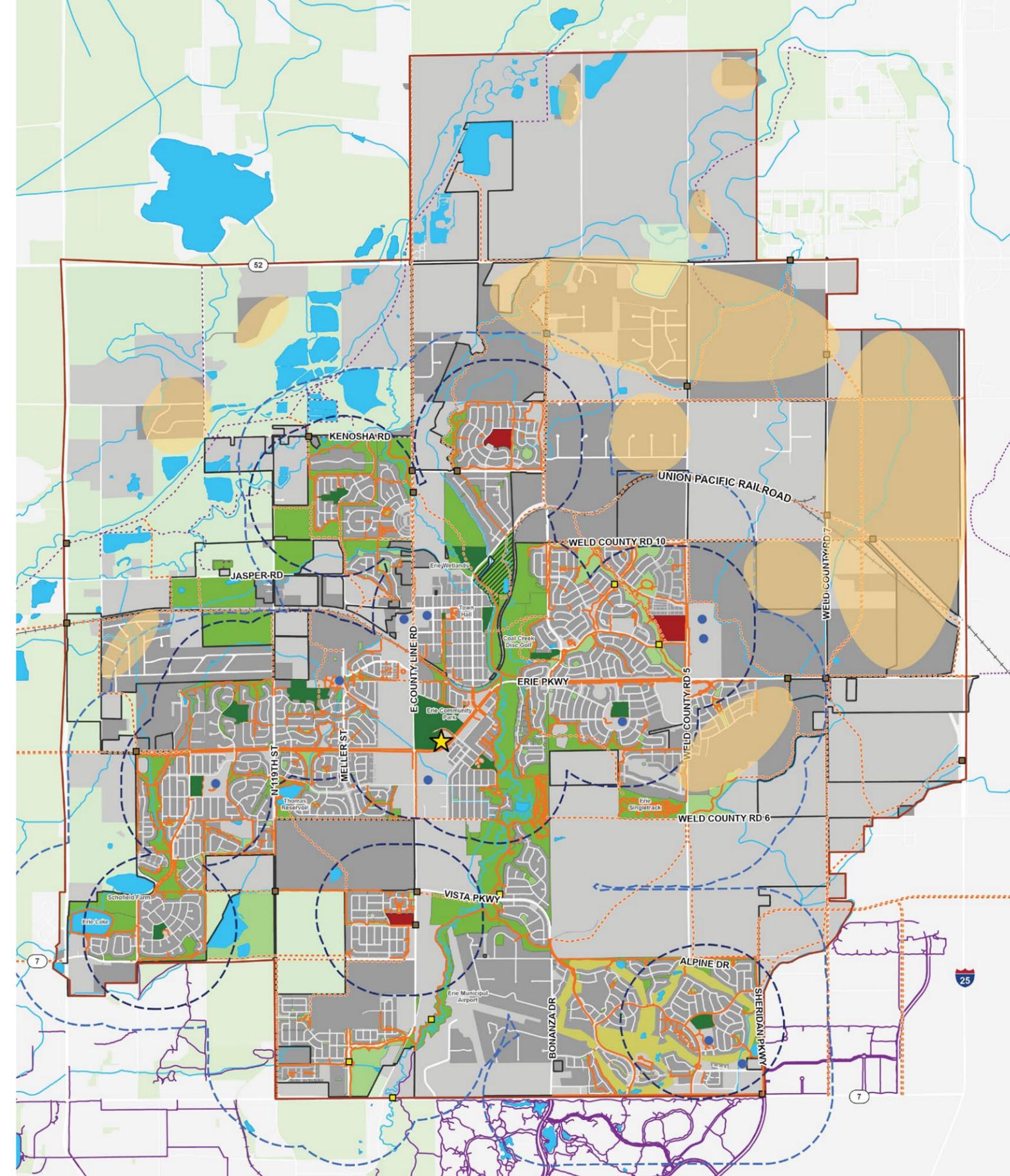


Figure 19. Potential Gap Areas Map

Scale: 1" = 4,500'
0' 4,500' 9,000'

4.5.1. Recreation Facilities & Level of Service

Erie will provide a high LOS for the 2035 population for most facility types when compared to the benchmark comparisons of the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. More detailed information about these metrics can be found in 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

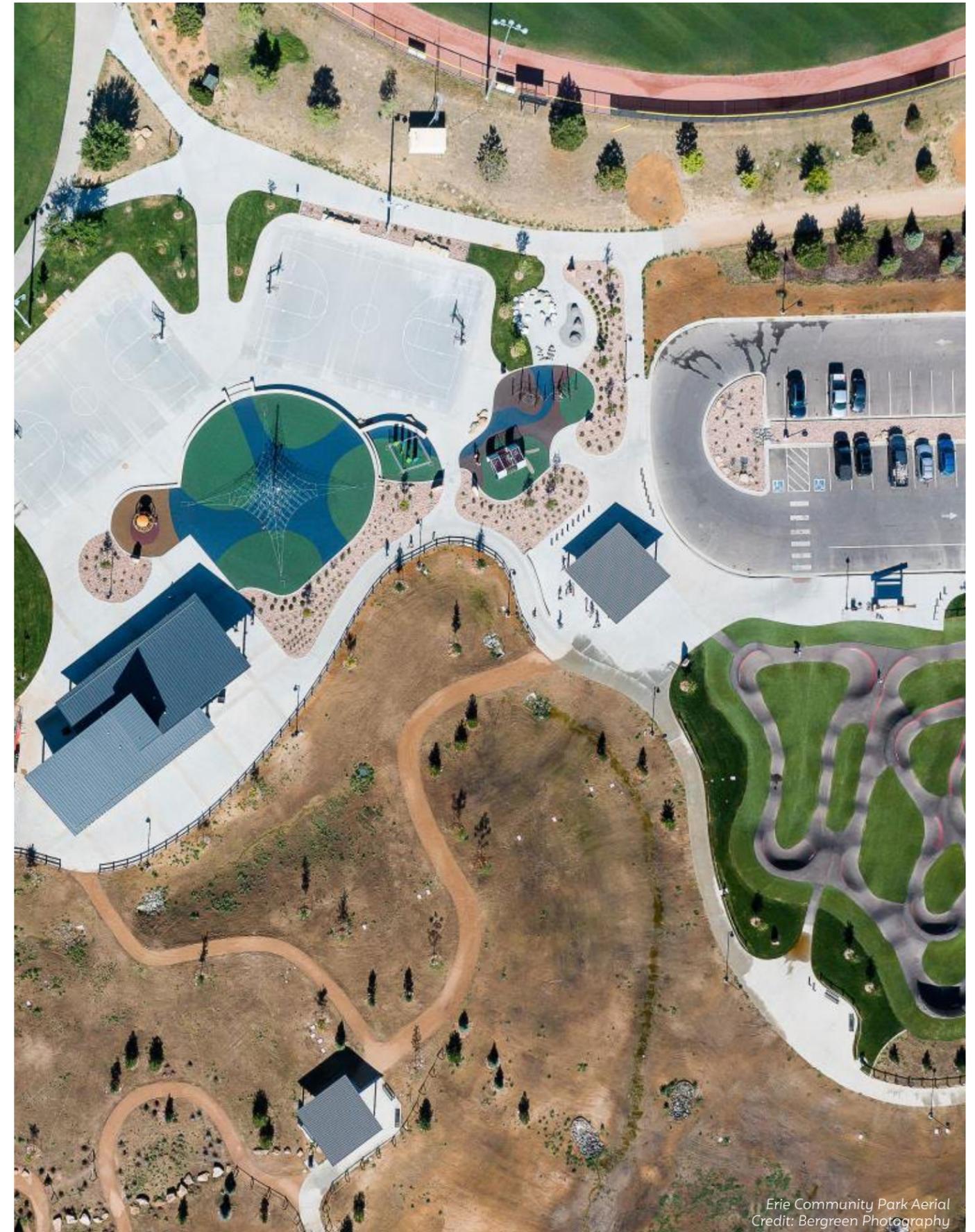
[2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review](#)

For a future population of 64,000, the following facilities may be considered as additions to meet the benchmarks set forth in the NRPA Agency Performance Review. Other factors such as population demographics, future trends, and information gathered during the community engagement process should also be taken into consideration.

Potential Future Facilities to be Considered* based on NRPA benchmarks:

- Recreation Center
- Diamond fields
- Rectangular fields
- Basketball and volleyball courts, standalone
- Community gardens
- Indoor multi-use courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Outdoor multi-use courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Indoor walking loops/running tracks
- Indoor competitive swimming pools
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Outdoor fitness zones/exercise stations

*Please note that these considerations are for general reference and information only. It is not expected that Erie would institute all of these or limit future facility expansion to these only, but rather keep these in mind when considering NRPA benchmarks.



Erie Community Park Aerial
Credit: Bergreen Photography

Park and Recreation Facilities Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

Facilities Type	Current LOS Standards (Residents per Facility)					Future LOS Standards (Residents per Facility)		
	Current No. of Erie Owned	Current Erie LOS based on 2023 Population of 40,000 Residents	NRPA Target LOS for 40,000 Residents	Current No. of Facilities Meet or Exceed NRPA Standards	No. of Facilities Required to Meet NRPA Target LOS	Future NRPA Target LOS for 2035 Population of 64,000 Residents	No. of Facilities Required to Meet NRPA LOS Standard for 2035 Population	Potential Additional Future Facilities Needed to Meet NRPA LOS
Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities								
Cricket Field	1	1 / 40,000	N / A	N/A	N/A	N / A	N/A	None
Pump Track	1	1 / 40,000	N / A	N/A	N/A	N / A	N/A	None
Singletrack Course	1	1 / 40,000	N / A	N/A	N/A	N / A	N/A	None
Boat Ramps	0	N / A	N / A	N/A	N/A	N / A	N/A	None
Outdoor tables with seating	153	1 / 261	N / A	N/A	N/A	N / A	N/A	None
Pet waste stations	53	1 / 755	N / A	N/A	N/A	N / A	N/A	None
Playgrounds or play structures	17	1 / 2,353	1 / 3,320	Yes	12.0	1 / 3,643	18	1
Diamond Fields	8	1 / 5,000	1 / 3,408	No	11.7	1 / 4,560	14	6
Basketball courts, standalone	5	1 / 8,000	1 / 8,000	Yes	5.0	1 / 8,447	8	3
Rectangular fields	14	1 / 2,857	1 / 4,002	Yes	10.0	1 / 4,659	14	0
Tennis courts	3	1 / 13,333	1 / 6,284	No	6.4	1 / 5,818	11	8
Dog parks	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 26,534	No	1.5	1 / 55,250	1	None
Community gardens	0	N / A	1 / 27,230	No	1.5	1 / 56,367	1	1
Outdoor Swimming pools	0	N / A	1 / 26,900	No	1.5	1 / 48,064	1	1
Skateboard parks	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 35,000	No	1.1	1 / 61,384	1	None
Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc.	0	N / A	1 / 17,209	No	2.3	1 / 25,512	3	3
Pickleball (Standalone)	4	1 / 10,000	1 / 7,333	No	5.5	1 / 8,592	7	3
Multiuse courts – tennis, pickleball	2	1 / 20,000	1 / 12,984	No	3.1	1 / 13,339	5	3
18-hole golf courses	0	N / A	1 / 34,058	No	1.2	1 / 62,756	1	1
Driving range stations	0	N / A	1 / 23,211	No	1.7	1 / 7,774	8	8
Synthetic rectangular fields	0	N / A	1 / 23,958	No	1.7	1 / 33,799	2	2
Volleyball courts, standalone	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 16,487	No	2.4	1 / 29,214	2	1

Table 14. Park and Recreation Facilities LOS Analysis

Splash pads, spray grounds or spray showers	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 29,804	No	1.3	1 / 51,000	1	None
Fitness zones/Exercise stations	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 21,468	No	1.9	1 / 32,500	2	1
Disc golf courses	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 32,519	No	1.2	1 / 56,150	1	None
Ice rinks*	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 21,428	No	1.9	1 / 28,500	2	1
Walking loops/Running tracks	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 21,217	No	1.9	1 / 19,700	3	2
Nine-hole golf courses	0	N / A	1 / 36,127	No	1	1 / 64,937	1	1
Overlay fields (inspection fields)	11	1 / 3,636	1 / 10,054	Yes	4	1 / 25,500	3	None
Racquetball/Handball/ Squash courts	0	N / A	1 / 23,974	No	2	1 / 40,796	2	2
Waterparks	0	N / A	1 / 34,275	No	1	1 / 64,304	1	1
Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities								
Bouldering/Climbing wall	1	1 / 40,000	N / A	N/A	N/A	N / A	N/A	None
Competitive swimming pools	0	N / A	1 / 36,979	No	1.1	1 / 64,000	1	1
Pools for leisure (noncompetitive)	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 32,258	No	1.2	1 / 63,418	1	None
Pickleball	3	1 / 13,333	1 / 12,237	No	3.3	1 / 14,818	4	1
Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc.	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 14,667	No	2.7	1 / 24,000	3	2
Basketball courts, standalone	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 17,569	No	2.3	1 / 25,598	3	2
Multiuse courts – tennis, pickleball	0	N / A	1 / 9,000	No	4.4	1 / 15,015	4	4
Therapeutic pools	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 30,037	No	1.3	1 / 63,610	1	None
Walking loops/Running tracks	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 33,431	No	1.2	1 / 63,671	1	None
Racquetball/Handball/ Squash courts	2	1 / 20,000	1 / 15,655	No	2.6	1 / 40,708	2	None
Tennis courts	0	N / A	1 / 8,761	No	4.6	1 / 10,428	6	6
Types of Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities and Amenities								
Recreation centers (including gyms)	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 27,517	No	1.5	1 / 31,805	2	1
Community centers	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 29,445	No	1.4	1 / 50,284	1	None
Senior centers	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 34,058	No	1.2	1 / 64,937	1	None
Performance amphitheaters	0	N / A	1 / 34,275	No	1.2	1 / 60,594	1	1
Nature centers	0	N / A	1 / 34,960	No	1.1	1 / 64,672	1	1
Aquatics centers	1	1 / 40,000	1 / 32,000	No	1.3	1 / 60,770	1	None
Permanent and semi- permanent restrooms	14	1 / 2,857	1 / 4,976	Yes	8.0	1 / 5,521	12	None
Stadiums	0	N / A	1 / 35,370	No	1.1	1 / 62,575	1	1
Teen centers	0	N / A	1 / 32,798	No	1.2	1 / 59,694	1	None

*Erie Ice Rink is seasonal

4.6. Current Management Plans

The content of this section is intended to be an analysis of existing plans. Some of these plans were established several years ago. As a result, some of the recommendations may already be in progress or completed at the time of this assessment.

4.6.1. Parks and Recreation Maintenance & Operations Management Plan (2021)

The purpose of this Plan is to guide the ongoing maintenance, management, and enhancement of parks, recreational facilities, and landscaped areas throughout the community. It is meant to be used by the Parks and Recreation Department staff, Town leadership, seasonal employees, and contractors.

The Plan contains maintenance standards, staffing structure, service levels, equipment and fleet, seasonal responsibilities, and long-term planning.

4.6.1.1. Opportunities for Enhancement

The following areas present key opportunities to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and policy within the current Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operations Management Plan, particularly when benchmarked against practices from other Colorado municipalities:

Irrigation Systems

Current State: Irrigation systems are partially centrally controlled, with many relying on timers and manual adjustments.

Opportunity: Upgrade to smart irrigation controllers that adjust watering schedules based on real-time weather and soil moisture data.

Impact: Significant water savings, reduced maintenance time, and improved landscape health—practiced successfully in Boulder and Fort Collins.

Sustainable Landscaping

Current State: Turf and traditional non-native plantings dominate parks and landscaped areas.

Opportunity: Transition to xeriscaping and native plantings to reduce water demand and promote regional biodiversity.

Impact: Reduced mowing and watering needs, enhanced aesthetics, and improved ecological resilience—mirroring efforts in Aurora and Denver.

Waste Reduction

Current State: Limited recycling; no composting or waste-diversion infrastructure in parks.

Opportunity: Install waste-sorting bins and pilot composting at larger parks or events.

Impact: Less landfill waste and greater public environmental awareness, consistent with Boulder and Golden's zero-waste goals.

Technology and Maintenance Management

Current State: Maintenance scheduling and tracking are handled manually with basic tools.

Opportunity: Adopt a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) for proactive and data-driven maintenance.

Impact: Increased efficiency, reduced downtime, and transparent tracking of maintenance tasks—used in Loveland and Greeley.

Modernization of Fleet and Equipment

Current State: Most maintenance tools and vehicles are gas-powered.

Opportunity: Phase in electric mowers, blowers, and utility carts where feasible.

Impact: Reduced noise and emissions, easier compliance with sustainability goals—successfully piloted in Fort Collins.

Staffing and Training

Current State: Seasonal staff receive general orientation; no formal training program detailed.

Opportunity: Implement a standardized onboarding and training program that includes safety, maintenance standards, and sustainability practices.

Impact: More consistent service quality and increased employee retention—similar to structured seasonal programs in Denver.

Performance Metrics

Current State: General service levels are described, but there are no published metrics or tracking systems.

Opportunity: Define and monitor Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for park cleanliness, response time, and public satisfaction.

Impact: Better accountability, resource justification, and alignment with community goals—as seen in Fort Collins.

4.6.2. Town of Erie Open Space Management Plan (2019)

The purpose of this Plan is to ensure that open spaces are preserved and managed for ecological value, public use, and visual quality while limiting disturbance. It is meant to be used by Homeowners' Associations (HOAs), environmental consultants, planning staff, and open space stewards.

The Plan contains land categories, restoration protocols, maintenance plans, prohibited activities, and long-term oversight responsibilities.

4.6.2.1. Opportunities for Enhancement

Analysis of the Open Space Management Plan also reveals several opportunities for enhancement, especially in alignment with open space strategies employed by other Colorado communities:

Habitat Restoration

Current State: Focus on invasive species removal; native restoration is not emphasized.

Opportunity: Enhance native habitat restoration efforts with seed mixes and ongoing planting of local species.

Impact: Improved biodiversity, erosion control, and ecological health—common in Boulder's open space restoration work.

Trail and Erosion Management

Current State: Trail maintenance is general; erosion management lacks detail.

Opportunity: Implement sustainable trail design and erosion control best practices.

Impact: Reduced maintenance needs, safer trails, and preserved habitat—practiced by Jefferson County Open Space.

Public Access Planning

Current State: Passive use is allowed, but there is no clear access strategy or zoning.

Opportunity: Define seasonal closures, access zones, and designated trails.

Impact: Better protection of sensitive habitats and user experience—used effectively in Boulder.

Waterway Protection

Current State: Creeks and wetlands are not clearly managed with buffer zones.

Opportunity: Establish riparian buffers with native vegetation and no-mow policies.

Impact: Improves water quality, wildlife habitat, and erosion control—demonstrated in Fort Collins.

Monitoring and Reporting

Current State: Annual inspections required, but the method is not specified.

Opportunity: Use digital tools and photo documentation for consistent year-to-year reporting.

Impact: Easier tracking, better oversight, and clearer communication—implemented in Longmont.

Community Stewardship

Current State: Oversight falls solely on HOAs; limited public involvement.

Opportunity: Launch "Adopt-an-Open-Space" or trail stewardship programs with community groups.

Impact: More hands-on support and community pride—seen in Lafayette and Golden.



4.6.3. Referenced Plans and Documents by Municipality

Aurora

- Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan (2019)
- Aurora Xeriscape Rebate and Guidelines
- Water Management Plan (Aurora Water)

Boulder

- Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2022)
- Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Master Plan (2019)
- Urban Forest Strategic Plan
- Climate Mobilization Action Plan (2021)

Colorado Springs

- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan (2020)
- Interpretive Signage and Education Program Guide
- TOPS (Trails, Open Space and Parks) Program Strategic Plan

Denver

- Game Plan for a Healthy City – Denver Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan (2019)
- Denver Sustainable Landscape Guidelines
- Denver Waste Diversion and Recycling Strategy (2020)
- Climate Action Plan (2020)

Durango

- Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan (2021)
- Durango Climate & Sustainability Action Plan (2021)
- Wildfire Adaptation Best Practices for the WUI

Fort Collins

- Parks and Recreation Policy Plan (2021)
- Natural Areas Master Plan (2023)
- Water Efficiency Plan (2015, Update in progress)
- Climate Action Plan (CAP) Framework (2015)

Golden

- Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan (2016)
- Golden Sustainability Strategic Plan
- Golden Clear Creek Management Plan

Greeley

- Parks, Trails and Open Lands Master Plan (2022)
- Fleet Electrification and Efficiency Strategy
- CMMS implementation documented via city budget reports

Jefferson County

- Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan (2019)
- Sustainable Trail Design Guidelines
- Habitat Conservation Framework

Lafayette

- Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Master Plan (2021)
- Adopt-a-Trail and Stewardship Volunteer Programs
- Wildlife and Prairie Management Guidelines

Longmont

- Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan (2020)
- Natural Resources Management Plan (2019) (Covers photo-monitoring, adaptive management, and GIS use)

Loveland

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2020)
- Open Lands & Trails Strategic Plan (2022) (Includes community partnerships and stewardship models.)





5: Existing Recreation Programs and Resources

This chapter offers a detailed overview of Erie's current recreation programs and facilities. It highlights key recreational trends, including the most popular activities and facilities amongst residents. These trends reveal areas of increasing community interest so this demand can be met in the future.

5.1. Key Takeaways

Erie's Parks & Recreation Department offers a range of programs and services that currently serve all age groups and interests in the community. The Town is recognized for high-quality programs in aquatics, fitness, youth and adult sports, camps, and special events. Participation has grown significantly since 2021, demonstrating a strong and increasing demand for recreational services and facilities.

● Most Popular Programs and High-Demand Areas

- Aquatics, Fitness, Camp Erie, Youth Sports, and Adult Trips consistently experience extensive waitlists, signaling strong community interest and the need for expansion.
- Teen Programs, Therapeutic Recreation, and Cultural Arts are growing in popularity and have been prioritized for future development.
- Special Events remain a signature offering, with 18 annual events and expanded permitting of private/community-led events.

● Areas for Expansion

- The Erie Community Center (ECC) is the primary indoor recreation hub but operates near capacity. Lack of indoor and outdoor aquatic space, gyms, fitness areas, and multipurpose program rooms is a key constraint limiting program growth.
- There is a strong need for additional indoor space, including group fitness areas, drop-in fitness areas, gyms, aquatic spaces, cultural arts facilities, and administrative spaces.
- Athletic field demand exceeds current supply, particularly during peak seasons.
- There is no performing arts center, outdoor aquatic center, or indoor ice rink, which limits offerings in cultural arts and other recreation activities.
- Limited school district facility access due to shared use restricts scheduling flexibility. Additional facility partnerships should be explored.
- Lack of available time at existing Town recreation facilities to support drop-in (self-directed) use or rentals.
- There is an opportunity to establish more formal partnerships with nonprofits, private providers, and neighboring municipalities.
- There is a need for more office space and storage for the Department.

● Program & Facility Planning for Future Growth

To meet future recreational needs tied to population increase, the following considerations are essential:

- Planning for a second community center, outdoor aquatic center, additional athletic fields, and a performing arts facility is a key future need.
 - Expand indoor recreation facilities, potentially through a second community center, to accommodate growing interest in aquatics, fitness, youth programs, therapeutic, and cultural programs.
 - Increase the number of athletic courts and fields (both diamond and rectangular) to support youth and adult sports leagues, with strategic partnerships for shared development and use.
 - Build specialized facilities, such as a performing arts center and outdoor aquatic center, to diversify programming and meet rising demand in cultural and family recreation.
- Provide increased opportunities for rentals of recreation spaces.
- Continue to offer programs that are delivered by Town staff and supported by contracted providers under structured rental or revenue-sharing agreements.
- Boost program staffing levels as programs and facilities grow.
- Enhance partnerships with schools, private providers, and non-profits to expand capacity and avoid duplication of services.
- Sustain and increase operations budgets to match the expected breadth and volume of programming.
- The Recreation Programming Plan (2021-2023) is in place and regularly guides program design and evaluation. This Plan should be updated as needed to meet future demands and needs.
- Determine the role of other providers and partnering with other organizations.
- Priorities for programming based on community input include:
 - Youth and Adult Sports
 - Special events
 - Camps
 - Fitness/Wellness/ Therapeutic
 - Cultural Arts
 - Aquatics
 - Teens/Adult 60+

5.2. Recreation Facilities Analysis

5.2.1. Current Erie Recreation Facilities

The Town manages a variety of recreation facilities and parks that help to support the assortment of programs and services that are available to the residents of Erie. The primary staff managed facilities include:

Erie Community Park (ECP)

At 49.3 acres, the ECP includes the Erie Community Center, the Ballpark at Erie, concessions, shelters, and multi-use fields for sports, programs, and events. The Ballpark includes four ballfields used for youth and adult sports programming. In 2021, the Department constructed the Final Phase of Erie Community Park which includes a pump track, two basketball courts, a sledding hill, walking paths, and more.

Erie Community Center (ECC)

At nearly 64,000 ft., the ECC includes a swimming pool, fitness floor and studio, gymnasium, climbing wall, two racquetball courts, indoor playground, childcare room, older adult lounge, and three large community rooms with a stage.

Coal Creek Park

The park includes a multi-use field that is utilized for concerts, a vendor plaza, concessions, seasonal ice rink, and splashpad.

The Town has a few areas designated as Special Use Open Space, including:

- Erie Singletrack Trails at Sunset Open Space
- Coal Creek Disc Golf Course
- The Boneyard Dog Park at Reliance Park

The Schofield Farm Open Space will be developed for events and recreation activities in the future.

The Town does not have an outdoor public aquatic center, nor a performing arts center.

Indoor recreation is almost solely dependent on the Erie Community Center for the delivery of services. However, the center is often at capacity making future growth in programming very difficult.

For information regarding national trends for Parks and Recreation facility offerings, refer to Pg. 141 - Table 25.

The Town has an existing joint use agreement (JUA) with the St. Vrain School District for use of facilities. There are limited opportunities for use with school demands. School facilities include:

- Black Rock Elementary
- Highlands Elementary
- Erie Elementary
- Red Hawk Elementary
- Erie Middle
- Soaring Heights PK-8
- Erie High School
- Vista Ridge Academy (not part of JUA)

The primary amenities being utilized at schools include:

- Gymnasiums
- Classrooms
- Cafeterias/Commons
- Fields

The Town currently has 9 diamond fields and 14 rectangular fields to serve the community.

There is a need for additional facilities to support programs. These include:

- Group exercise rooms
- Fitness areas including weight areas, cardio equipment and functional training
- Pools for lessons, aqua exercise, lap swimming, and recreational swimming.
- Performing arts/cultural arts space
- Community space and classrooms
- Gyms
- Athletic fields
- Outdoor aquatic center
- Pickleball courts (indoor and outdoor)
- Administrative spaces (i.e., offices, storage facilities)

Additional Findings

- The Town's recreation facilities are well maintained and there have been on-going improvements to most of them.
- Field use policies and fees are covered in Erie's 2023 Athletic Field Rental Manual. Facility and athletic field rentals are an important service, but there is a higher demand for these rentals than can be met.
- The Town does not build or maintain pocket parks but will build and maintain neighborhood parks and community parks.

5.2.1.1. Recreation Facilities and Community Center Visits over Time

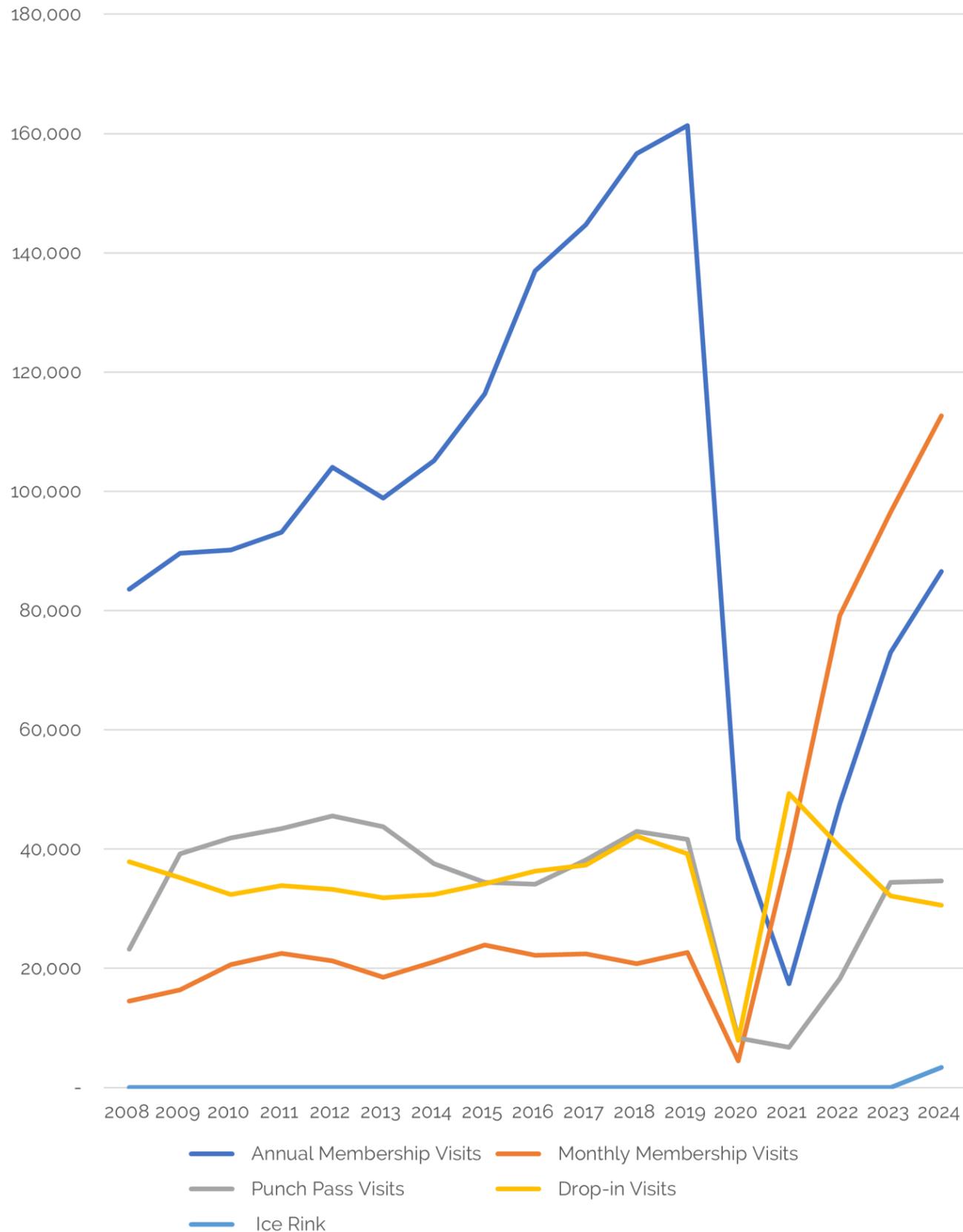


Figure 20. Erie Recreation Facilities and Community Center Visits (2008 - 2024)

5.2.2. Other Facilities & Service Providers

Recreation programs and services are provided by other organizations. Some of the key service providers include:

Public	
Neighboring Communities (Boulder, Broomfield, Longmont, Lafayette, etc.)	
Facilities	Recreation centers
	Aquatic centers
	Athletic fields
	Specialty facilities (ice rinks, etc.)
Programs & Services	Fitness
	Sports
	Older adults
	Youth/teens
	Aquatics
	Therapeutics
	Cultural arts
	Outdoor recreation/education
	Special events
	Specialty programs
	Private
Facilities	Health clubs and wellness facilities
	Dance studios
	Martial arts studios
	Swim schools
	Gymnastics centers
	HOA's (pools, clubhouses)
Programs & Services	Fitness/wellness
	Sports
	Dance
	Martial arts
	Aquatics
	Gymnastics
Non-Profits	
YMCA	Fitness
	Sports
	Older adults
	Youth/teens
	Aquatics
	Therapeutics
	Cultural arts
	Outdoor recreation/education
	Specialty programs

Table 15. External Facilities and Services

For specific information on other facilities and service providers, refer to the Recreation Programming Plan (2021).

5.3. Recreation Programs and Services Analysis

The Recreation Division offers a wide range of recreation programs and services* to the community. Most programming is the responsibility of division staff that is augmented by contract providers or other organizations in the community.

- The Department has a comprehensive **Recreation Programming Plan** in place that guides the programming process and direction. This document contains:
 - Resources required for the plan
 - Recreation programming goals and objectives
 - Plan goals, strategies and actions
 - Plan review

In addition to the programming plan, staff also utilize a program planning worksheet for any newly proposed recreation programs, rentals, events, and services. There is also a program evaluation form used to evaluate programs annually.

5.3.1. Recreation Program Inventory

Current recreation programs are available in the following areas:

Program Area	Key Programs
Adult	general interest, hikes/day trips, extended travel, events
Adult 60+	lunch, partnership programs
Aquatics	swim lessons, private swim lessons, water aerobics, specialty aquatic programs
Cultural Arts	live music performances, art lectures, cultural experiences
Fitness & Wellness	drop-in programs, specialty programs, personal training
Sports	youth leagues, adult leagues, camps, lessons
Self-Directed	basketball, pickleball, swim, kidstation
Special Events	Community events, registration-based events, external event permitting
Therapeutic Recreation	adaptive programs, outings, Special Olympics, inclusion services
Youth & Teen	climbing, preschool/enrichment, Camp Erie, youth and teen general interest, volunteer opportunities, Erie Youth for Change Teen Council
Other	parties, room rentals

Table 16. Erie Recreation Program Inventory

5.3.2. Programming of Degree of Emphasis

The following are general classifications of programs by degree of current emphasis.

High Program Area	Medium Program Area	Limited Program Area
Youth Sports	Cultural Arts	Outdoor Recreation
Fitness & Wellness	Teens	Extended Travel
Camp	Therapeutic	
Aquatics	Adult Sports	
Special Events	General Interest	
Adult 60+		
Self-Directed		

Table 17. Erie Programming Degree of Emphasis

*For information regarding national trends for Parks and Recreation programs and services offerings, refer to Pg. 145 - Table 27

Erie Parks and Recreation is known for the following recreation programs:

- Adult Trips
- Aquatics
- Camps
- Fitness
- Special Events
- Youth and Adult Sports

Demands for programming include:

- Youth and Adult Sports
- Aquatics
- Camps
- Cultural Arts
- Fitness
- Special Events
- Teen Programming
- Therapeutic

There are extensive waiting lists for many program areas including:

- Adult Trips
- Aquatics
- Camp Erie
- Fitness
- Youth Basketball

Unique programs include:

- Customized birthday parties
- Integration of therapeutics into all program areas
- Intergenerational programs and trips

Key recreation program partners include:

- Adults/Older Adults: Art, Resources, Travel groups
- Camps: Private schools
- Cultural Arts: Arts non-profits
- Special Events: Chamber, Private event companies
- Sports: Sports Camps, Tournaments, Trainings
- Youth: Cheer, Dance, Karate, Enrichment, STEM

Additional Findings

- The division sets up contracts with outside organizations to provide programs and services not offered internally. There are contracts with the partner and contract providers with either a rental of space or revenue sharing (70% contractor/30% Town or 80% contractor/20% Town).
- Aquatics and fitness programs are part of the Recreation Facility Operations Division based on their direct connection to specific spaces in the Community Center.
- Recreation focuses its youth sports on the recreational level and does not offer competitive programs. This is the responsibility of community sports organizations.
- Special events include not only 18 annual events organized by staff but also the permitting of numerous other events run by others.
- The Town needs to develop a policy regarding how the facility needs of competitive youth sports/travel teams will be met and what level of relationship it will have with these organizations.

The following information is collected from Erie participation tracking and compiled to show trends in recreational activities from 2008 - 2024. The impact of COVID-19 is readily apparent, but the strong rebound and overall growth is clearly evident.

5.3.2.1. Total Recreation Admissions, Program Participants, Event Participants, and Rentals

This graphic shows the total of facility admissions, program registrations, event participants and rentals since 2008.

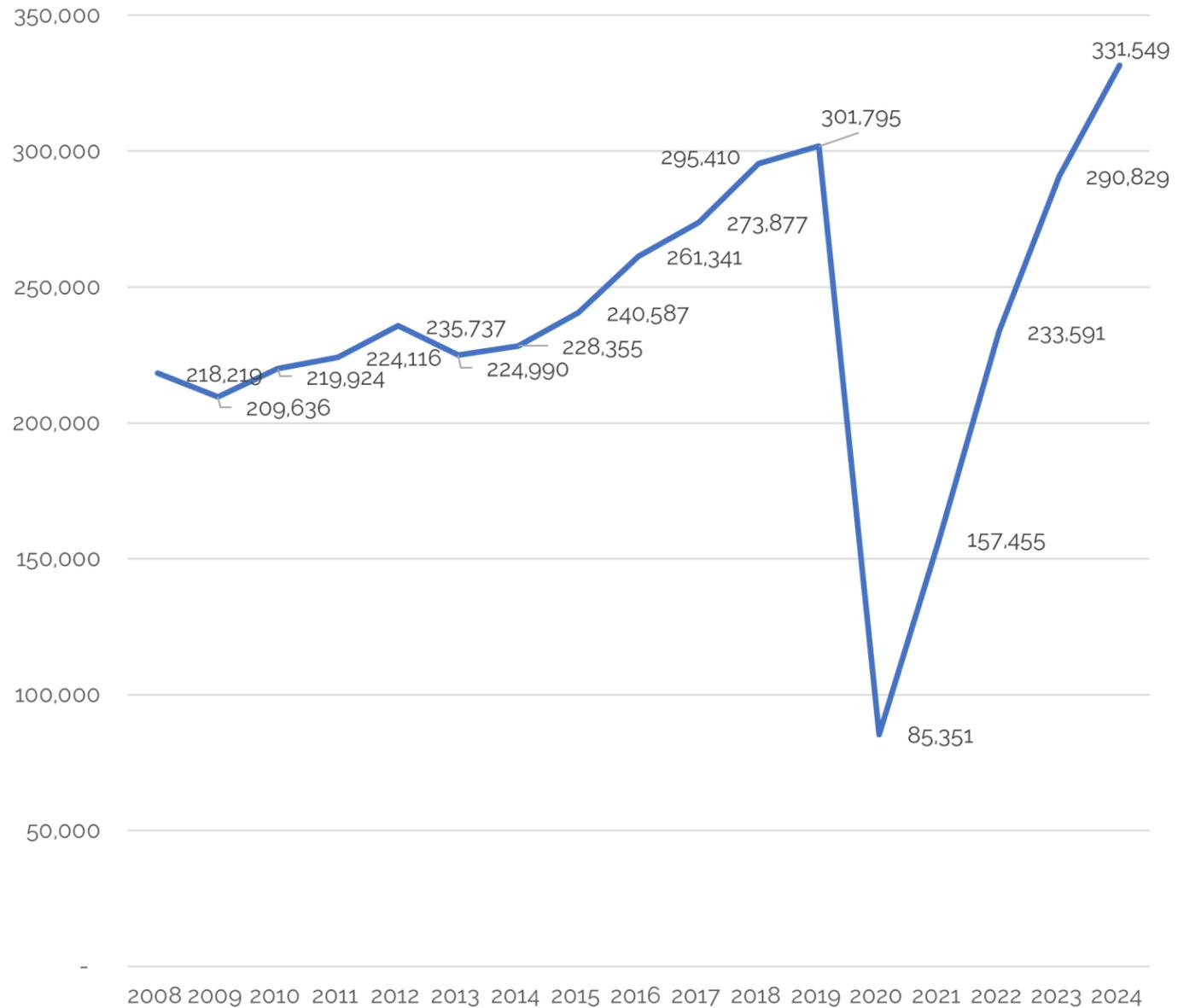


Figure 21. Total Recreation Admissions, Program Participants, Event Participants, and Rentals (2008 - 2024)

5.3.2.2. Recreation Admissions, Programs, and Events

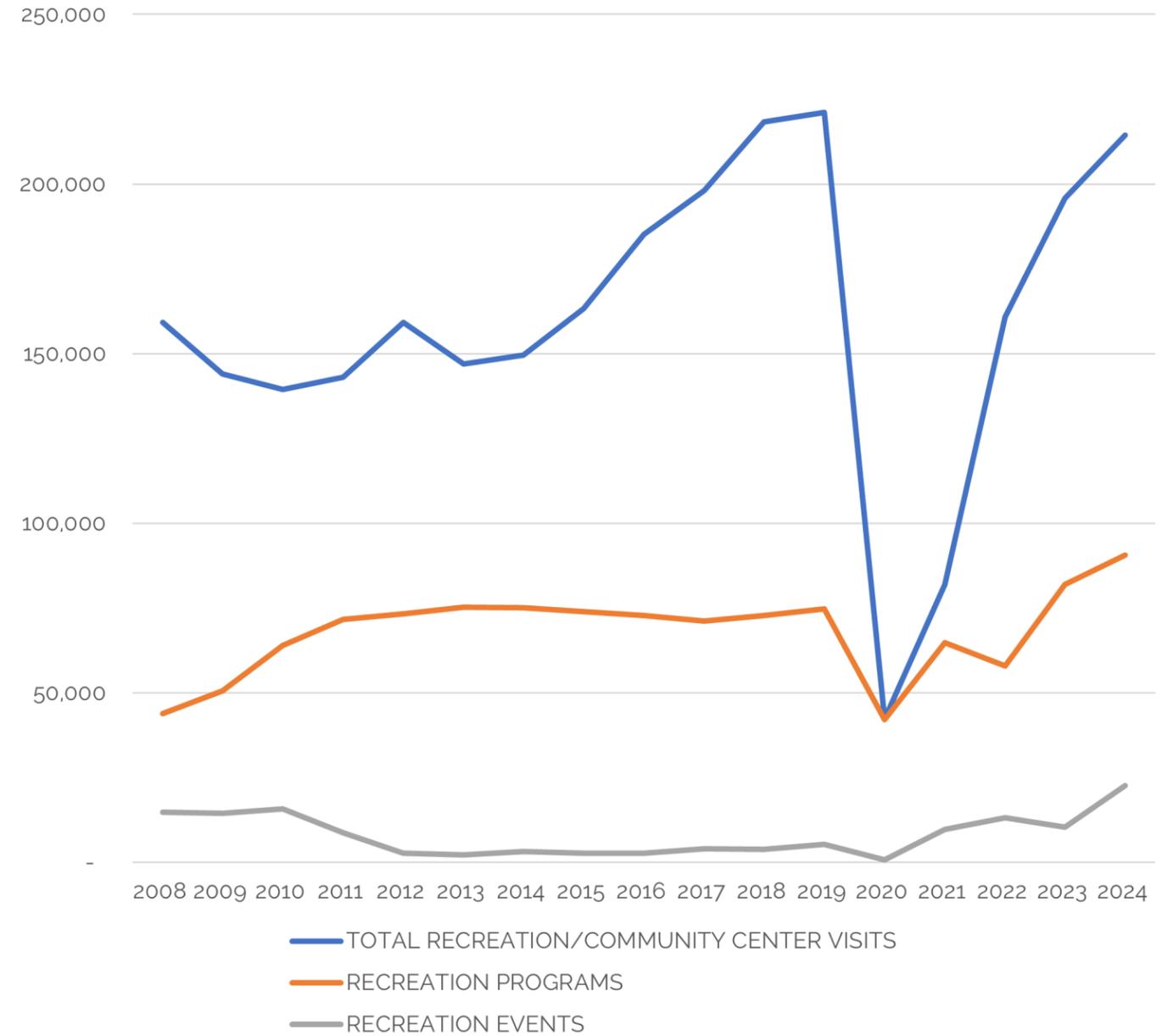


Figure 22. Recreation Admissions, Programs, and Events (2008 - 2024)

5.3.3. Recreation Division Participation

- Recreation participation numbers were impacted by COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 but rebounded and continued to grow in 2023 and 2024.
- There is strong program tracking system in place.
- There are contracts in place for programs that are provided by others that utilize Town facilities.
- Rentals are an important recreation service that is provided by Parks & Recreation. This includes indoor facilities, athletic fields, and park shelters.

5.3.3.1. Reference Points for Participation Data

- To avoid duplicate counts, Aquatics and Fitness visits for drop-in classes are subtracted from overall Recreation Center visits.
- Starting in 2024, Ice Rink participation shifted from being tracked under Special Events to Recreation Center visits.
- Special Events include registration-based programs like Rad Rover, while Community Events reflect open, non-registration events such as Boo! on Briggs.
- Therapeutic Recreation programming was introduced in Fall 2024.

Recreation Division Participation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Rec/Community Ctr. Visits							
Annual Membership Visits	161,346	41,739	17,426	47,617	72,995	86,532	1,646,757
Monthly Membership Visits	22,659	4,483	39,664	79,167	96,509	112,651	579,216
Punch Pass Visits	41,647	8,351	6,733	18,275	34,445	34,666	568,444
Drop-in Visits	39,183	7,949	49,303	40,417	32,170	30,606	586,345
Visit Adjustments	(43,686)	(20,215)	(31,214)	(24,697)	(40,401)	(53,379)	(661,489)
Ice Rink	-	-	-	-	-	3,374	3,374
Total Rec/Com Ctr. Visits	221,149	42,307	81,912	160,779	195,718	214,450	2,722,647
Recreation Activities							
Active Adults	12,964	12,463	16,909	13,878	16,191	16,845	175,193
Aquatics	8,538	4,276	8,849	12,188	11,007	11,680	150,734
Cultural Arts	-	-	-	-	-	2,755	2,755
Fitness & Wellness	44,230	20,563	24,794	17,699	35,951	46,156	655,454
Youth & Families	1,783	836	1,912	3,005	5,938	5,593	55,025
Special Events	906	488	5,179	2,972	4,347	1,278	28,064
Sports	6,279	3,458	7,082	8,221	8,483	8,907	91,574
Youth/Therapeutic Programs	-	-	-	-	-	72	72
Total Recreation Activities	74,700	42,084	64,725	57,963	81,917	93,286	1,158,871
Community Events							
Parks Events	382	-	5	250	700	750	5,424
Police Dept Events	500	750	365	547	50	1,000	3,412
Recreation Events	5,400	804	9,777	13,115	10,479	22,634	137,393
Total Community Events	6,282	1,554	10,147	13,912	11,229	24,384	146,229
Rentals (By Permit)							
Facility Rentals	321	80	620	1,062	1,188	1,719	9,597
Field Rentals	75	32	67	351	1,084	1,727	3,938
Park Shelter Rentals	150	44	354	321	443	488	3,071
Total Rentals	546	156	1,041	1,734	2,715	3,934	16,606
TOTAL RECREATION PARTICIPATION	302,677	86,101	157,825	234,388	291,579	336,054	4,044,353

For information regarding national trends for Parks and Recreation participation, refer to Pg. 146-147 - Tables 28, 29, and 30.

Table 18. Erie Recreation Participation (2021-2024)

5.3.3.2. Recreation Program Participants over Time

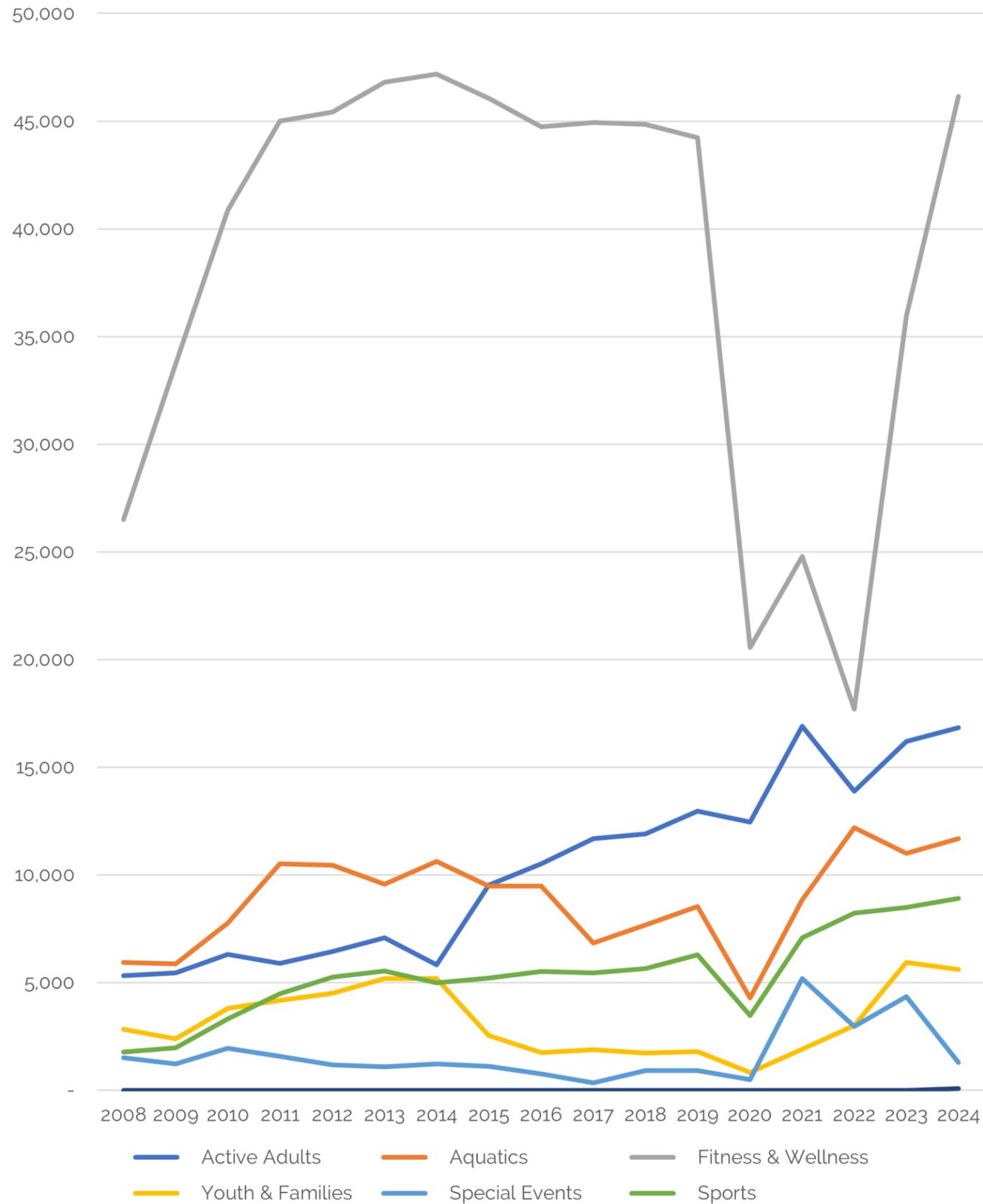


Figure 23. Recreation Program Participants (2008 - 2024)

5.3.3.3. Location of Erie Recreation Program Participants

The Amilia software program utilized by the Parks & Recreation Department provides great information about recreation facility utilization and recreation programming registrations. Amilia's analytics are still in beta access. The following map from the Amilia software analytics module indicates the location of the participants in Erie recreation programs for the last 12 months (May 2024 through April 2025). The vast majority of participants are within the immediate Erie area.

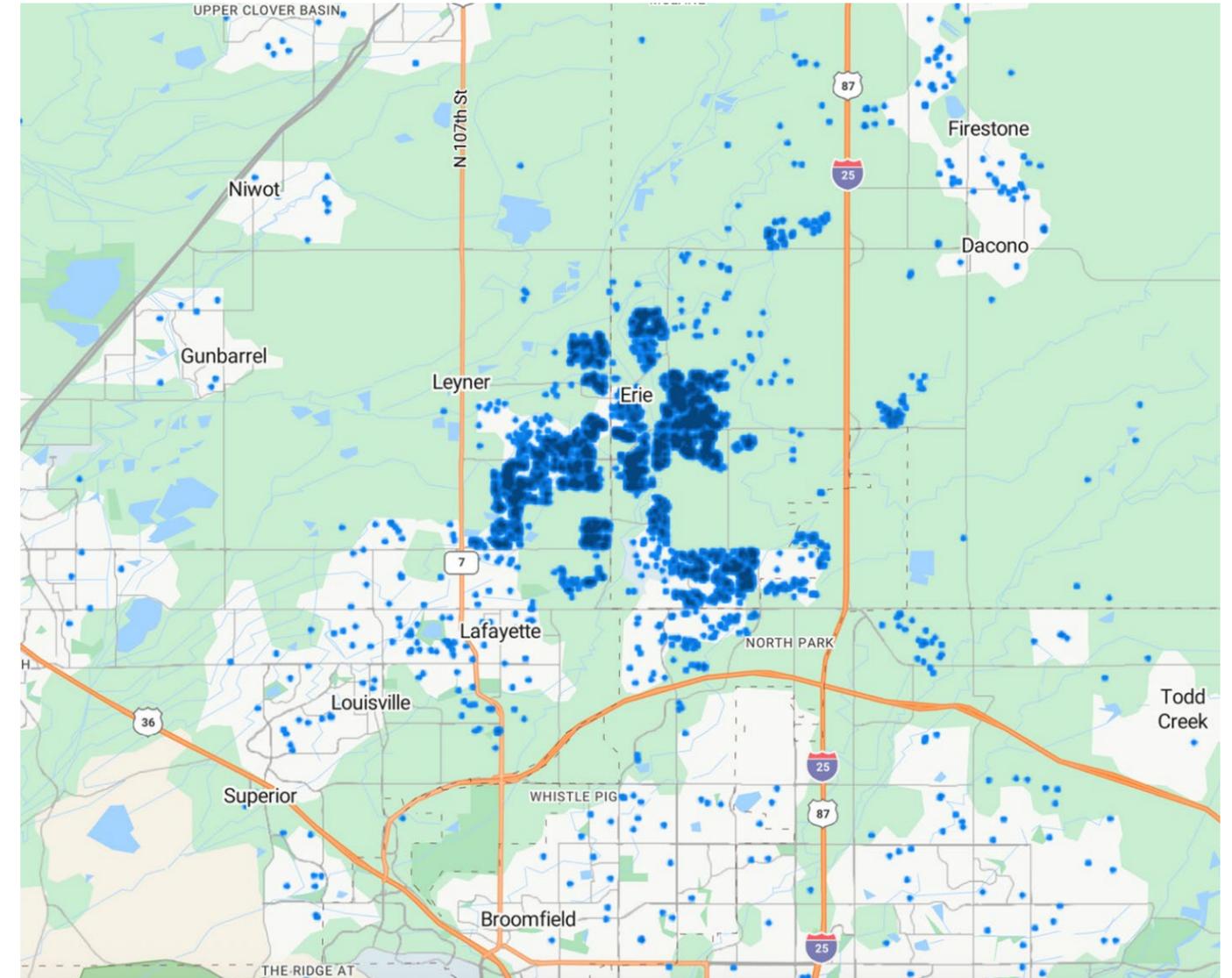


Figure 24. Location of Erie Recreation Program Participants (2024 - 2025)



6: Operations & Funding

Erie's parks, trails and open space are well managed and maintained by a knowledgeable staff. Maintenance staff are also responsible for various other Town properties, with some responsibilities allocated to the Public Works Department. As Erie grows, clearer definitions of roles and responsibilities will be needed to maintain operational efficiency.

6.1. Key Takeaways

Currently, the Erie Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) organizational structure for operations and maintenance is well suited for future growth and development. For instance, budgets and success metrics accurately reflect the performance of the department, allowing the department to consistently deliver a high level of service.

As Erie continues to grow, the PRD must evolve to meet increasing community demands while maintaining high levels of service, fiscal responsibility, and operational efficiency. The following summary highlights the current status and future considerations related to operations, funding, staffing, and service delivery.

● Organizational Strength and Growth Readiness

- Erie PRD is structured across four core divisions: Business Services, Development & Neighborhood Services, Parks and Open Space, and Recreation.
- The PRD's organizational structure and performance tracking systems are well-positioned for future growth, supported by accurate budgeting and clear operational responsibilities.
- Staff growth is needed to meet rising service demands in planning, project administration, recreation programming, parks and facilities maintenance, facility operations, and volunteer coordination.
- Succession planning and continuity strategies for major disruptions (e.g., natural disasters or pandemics) are future needs.

● Operations and Maintenance

- Erie's parks, trails, and open spaces are well managed by knowledgeable staff using a detailed Maintenance Management Plan with tiered service levels.
- Staff also maintain other Town assets such as medians, public lands, and vacant properties. These maintenance items often overlap with Public Works responsibilities, which indicates a need for more role clarity.
- The Parks and Open Space Division currently shares a maintenance facility with Public Works, which has outgrown its capacity. Plans may require a standalone Parks and Open Space Division facility.
- Continued investment in equipment, tracking systems, lifecycle cost analysis, and deferred maintenance planning is critical.

● Current Funding Sources and Financial Planning

- The primary source of operational funding is the Town's General Fund (46%), supplemented by the Parks Improvement Impact Fund which is reserved for capital projects that enhance the system, and the Trails & Natural Areas Fund which can be used for capital, operations, or land acquisition.
- Other sources include user fees, sponsorships, grants, and the Conservation Trust Fund, and the Tree Impact Fund.
- The 2022 cost recovery rate was 28.57%, with higher-than-average operational expenditures and revenue per capita.
- The department has a cost recovery philosophy with a tiered fee and a scholarship program to ensure access and affordability.
- Budget growth across capital, personnel, and operations categories reflects Erie's investment in expanding services—but identifying new funding sources for capital replacement and operational expansion will be vital.

● Future Considerations

- **Facility Expansion:** Meeting the community's growing indoor recreation needs will require significant capital investment and potentially new public-private partnerships.
- **Staffing and Planning:** Continued staff growth, long-term planning capacity, and interdepartmental coordination will help sustain high service levels.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Long-term cost recovery strategies, updated funding policies, and diversified revenue streams will be critical to sustain operations.
- **Operational Excellence:** Clearer delineation of responsibilities, robust data tracking, updated policies, and enhanced volunteer management will support efficient operations.
- **Recreation Programming Growth:** Rising demand for recreational programming will necessitate additional facilities and staff.

6.2. Operations Analysis

6.2.1. Organizational Structure

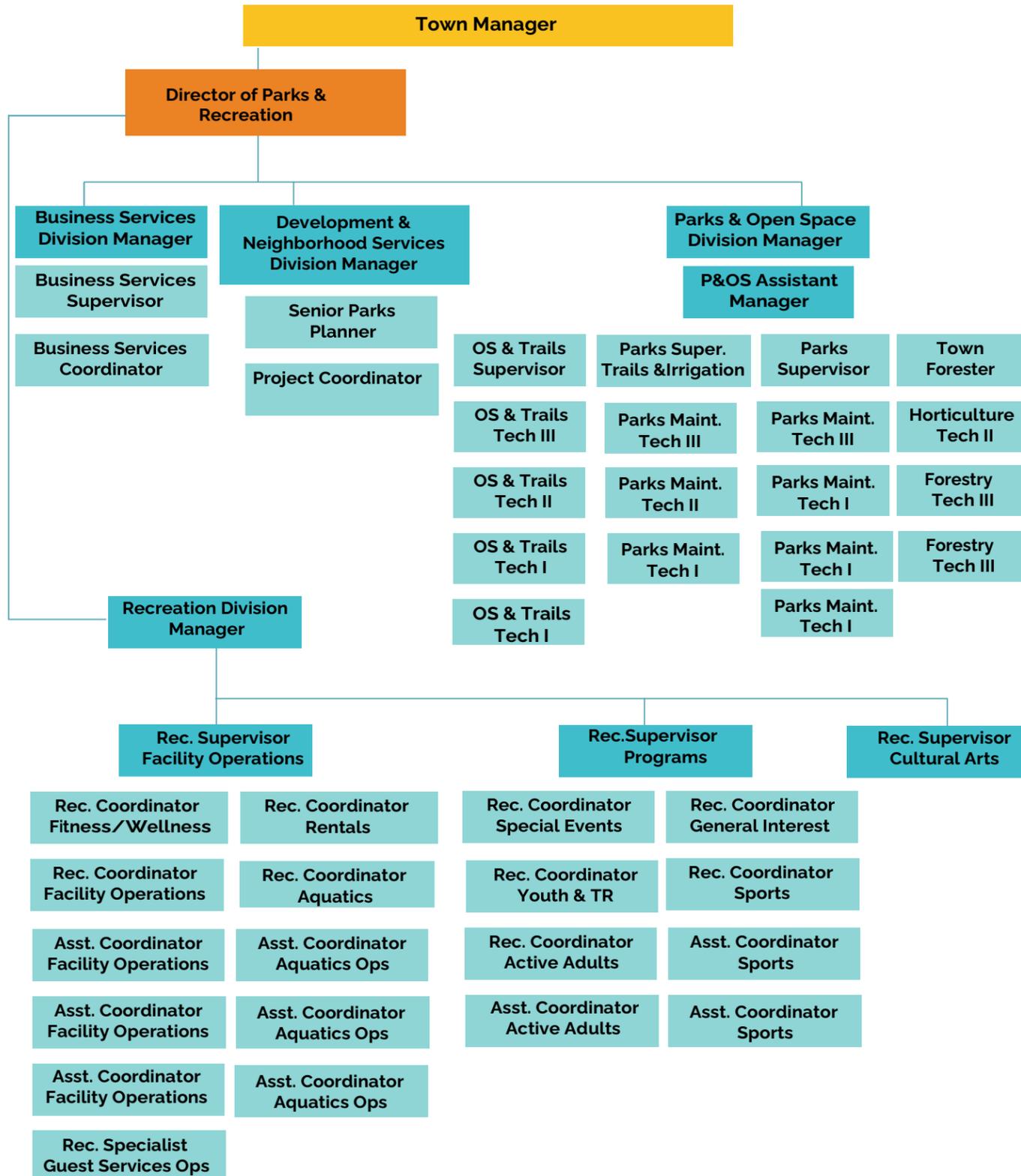


Figure 25. Erie Parks & Recreation Organizational Chart: Full Time (2025)

There is an organizational structure in place that is well suited for current department operations, which is illustrated in Figures 25 and 26. The Erie PRD has long range planning efforts in place for staff reorganization that is tied to the tiering and priorities of services to be delivered in the future. These planning efforts also identify the need for future new positions based on new parks, facilities, and services that are likely to be added as part of the overall strategic plan.



Figure 26. Erie Parks & Recreation Organizational Chart: Part Time (2025)

The organizational structure should be reviewed at least every two years to ensure that it is still serving the community and the department in the most efficient manner.

The Department's organizational structure includes four main divisions:

Division	Responsibilities
Business Services	Contract administration
	Budget oversight and compilation
	Purchasing guidelines
	Invoicing and billing
Development & Neighborhood Services	Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and trails development • Development applications • Long range planning • Project management
	Neighborhood Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with HOA's • Erie Neighborhood Improvement Program (ENIP) • Organizing Neighborhoods of Erie (ONE) liaison
Parks and Open Space	Parks maintenance
	Athletic field maintenance
	Open space and trails maintenance
	Other Town properties maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medians • Vacant properties
	Forestry and horticulture
	Amenity/asset maintenance and inventory
	Capital improvement projects
	Special event support
Recreation: Facility Operations	Community Center operations
	Coal Creek Park ice rink/splashpad
	Concessions at Erie Community Park and Coal Creek Park
	Aquatics operations and programs
	Fitness programs
	Birthday parties and room rentals
	Park shelter rentals
	Disc golf rentals, single track rentals
Recreation: Recreation Programs	Special events & Community event coordination
	Sponsorships and vending
	Active adults
	General Interest programming
	School age state licensed camps
	Preschool & youth
	Therapeutics
	Teens
	Youth and adult sports
	Athletic field rentals
Recreation: Cultural Arts	Cultural arts
	Public Art program

Table 19. Erie Parks & Recreation Division Responsibilities

The Department would benefit from having a staff succession plan in place.

6.2.1.1. Continuity of Service

Consideration should be given to developing a service plan to address a resilient operations program that may anticipate staff changes, natural disasters (wildfire, flooding), and other considerations (economic down turns, pandemics, and other major incidents).

6.2.1.2. Core Services Model

The Department has a Core Services model that is updated and reviewed periodically. It identifies three levels of service within the four divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department and the services that are in each category. This information is then connected to the current and future staffing levels that are required to support the core services model.

6.2.2. Operations

Operations cover management practices, budgets, policies and procedures and funding.

- Facility maintenance of the ECC is split between the Town's Facilities Division and the Recreation Facility Operations Team. The Facilities Division is responsible for the shell of the building including, but not limited to, the solar system, roof, HVAC, plumbing, and floor replacement. The Facilities Division also oversees the contractual agreement for custodial services.
- The Recreation Facility Operations Team is responsible for maintenance of items inside the building such as fitness equipment, furniture, appliances, and light custodial work.
- Aquatic mechanical system are a shared responsibility of the Recreation Facility Operations Team and the Facilities Division.
- The management of the recreation software program (Amilia) is the responsibility of the Recreation Division. This program provides valuable analytical information on recreation programs, facility use, and pass/membership management.
- The Department has an annual operating calendar that lists the major tasks that are to be completed monthly.
- Safety and security are important priorities and need to continue to be an area of focus.
- The Town does not currently utilize a park ranger program.
- The Department has a **Marketing and Community Relations Plan** (2021). This covers:
 - Marketing and communication roles and responsibilities
 - Community and public relations
 - Parks and recreation brand
 - Segmentation and market strategies
 - Assessing marketing methods and effectiveness
 - Plan evaluation

A variety of marketing strategies are utilized including:

- A program brochure is printed and available online three seasons a year
- Activity flyers are developed for certain programs
- The Town's website and the Parks & Recreation web pages
- Program/facility promotion is available on the Community Center's video monitors
- Social media platforms

6.2.2.1. NRPA Agency Performance Review

The Department completed an NRPA Agency Performance Review Report in 2025 that provided some key benchmarking information on a national basis.

NRPA Agency Performance Review (2025)

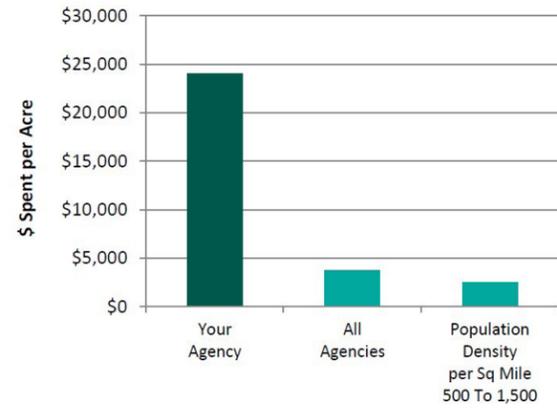


Figure 27. Operating Expenditures per Acre of Parkland

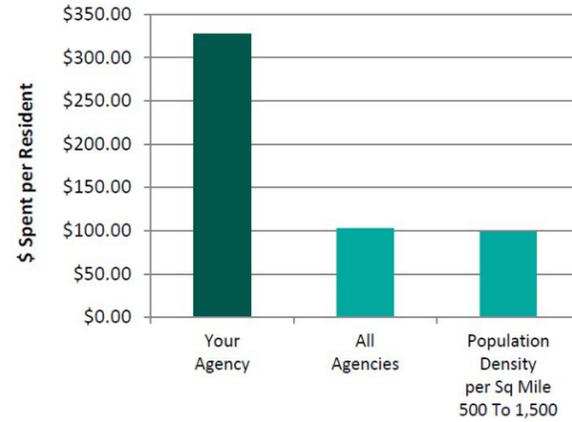


Figure 30. Operating Expenditures per Capita

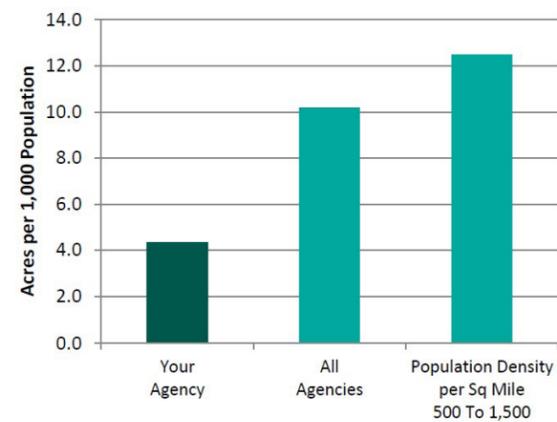


Figure 28. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Population

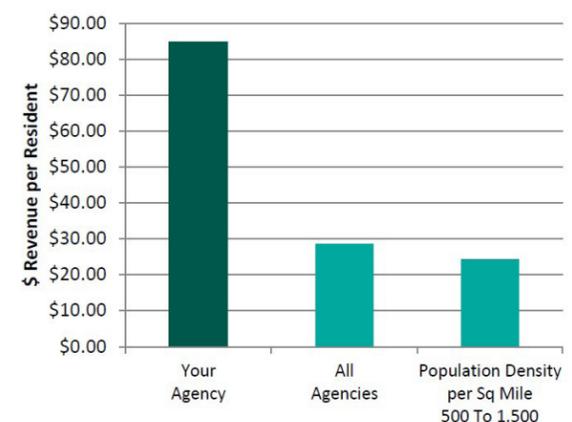


Figure 31. Revenue per Capita

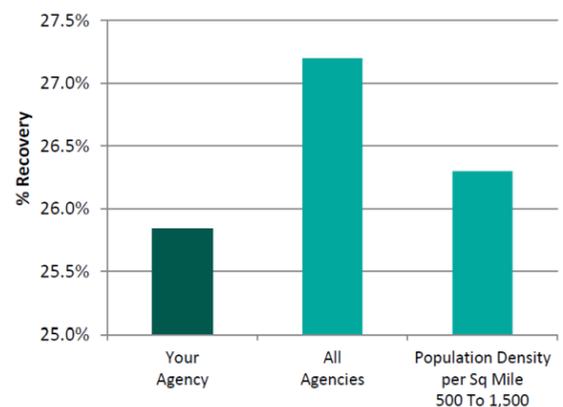


Figure 29. Revenue as a Percent of Operating Expenditures (Cost Recovery)

The results* for Erie Parks and Recreation when compared to other agencies per the NRPA 2024 Agency Performance Review indicate the following:

- Expend more for operations
- Has fewer acres per thousand of population
- Generates more revenue per capita
- Has a lower level of cost recovery

* It is important to note that an NRPA Agency Performance Review is a high-level comparison with other agencies and the methodology for reporting data can be different for each agency.

6.2.3. Policies & Procedures

There are extensive operations and management policies and procedures in place for the PRD.

Key policies include:

- Mission and Vision
- Recreation Program Plan
- Security Guidelines and Emergency Action Plan
- Athletic Field Rental Guidelines
- ADA Transition Plan
- Park Naming Policy
- Parks and Recreation Staff Expectations
- Risk Management Plan and Procedures
- Parks and Recreation Vehicle & Equipment Management Plan
- Maintenance and Operations Management Plan
- Marketing and Community Relations Plan
- Sponsorship Guidelines
- Parks and Recreation Land Disposal Policy
- Volunteer Management Guidelines
- DEI plan
- Code of Conduct for recreation participants
- Erie Public Art and Placemaking Plan

In addition, the Town itself has policies and procedures that cover human resources (employee manual), purchasing, and other management functions.

The Department should update the naming rights policy to cover trails and open space.

6.2.4. Parks, Trails, & Open Space Maintenance

Erie's parks, trails, and open space are well managed and maintained by a knowledgeable staff that has a wide range of responsibilities.

The Parks and Open Space Division maintains **13 parks, over 40 miles of trails, and over 1,300 acres of parks, open space, and agricultural land** in the community. The division is also responsible for maintaining other open Town properties, medians, and right of ways.

The Division is responsible for maintaining designated parks, open spaces, select facility grounds, trails, and related assets located on Town-owned, Town-maintained properties.

- Athletic field maintenance is a focus of the Division and there are dedicated staff for this purpose.
- The Forestry/Horticulture work group is responsible for managing trees on Town-owned and Town-maintained properties. The Town Forester's authorities are codified in Chapter 7 of the Erie Municipal Code.
- The Division places a strong emphasis on species diversity.
- The Division has a **Comprehensive Maintenance Management Plan** in place that covers the following:
 - Parks maintenance standards for all the different amenities that are being maintained. There are seven levels of maintenance for the parks themselves.
 - Quality of work
 - Maintenance modes and frequencies
 - Preventative maintenance and inspections
 - Snow removal
- The Division would benefit by having a more robust maintenance management software program in place to track lifecycle cost analysis on amenities, equipment, and facilities. Business Services is currently working on replacement costs for much of this.
- The Division manages an Agricultural Lease Program that provides a level of revenue to the Department. The goal of the Division is to continue to grow and improve this program and allocate funding for site improvements.
- The Division measures all aspects of its operation and has strong performance metrics in place as a result.
- The Division has a **Vehicle & Equipment Management Plan** that includes the following:
 - Fleet maintenance duties and measures
 - Parks and Recreation's role in fleet maintenance and replacement
 - Fleet justification and replacement criteria and plan

- The Division has several specific maintenance plans including:
 - Emerald Ash Bore Response Plan
 - Tree Inventory Management Plan
 - Open Space Management Plan
 - Weed Management Strategy

- The Division contracts for several services including:
 - Cemetery services
 - Prairie dog management
 - Graffiti removal
 - Mosquito control
 - Painting
 - Open space mowing
 - Open space mowing
 - Fertilizer application
 - Tree care services
 - Median maintenance
 - Weed management
 - Goat grazing

- The Division currently shares a maintenance facility and staff offices with Public Works. The demands for both departments exceed the space that is available. The Division may need to consider developing their own maintenance facility at a different location and allowing Public Works to take over the existing space.
- Parks design standards are in place and need to continue to be updated.
- Code enforcement and enforcement of park rules continue to be a challenge and may require dedicated staff. This could be a park ranger program.
- Developing a wildfire mitigation and management plan is a goal of the division along with a wildlife management plan.
- There is a need to develop different classifications for open space and trails based on the level of use.

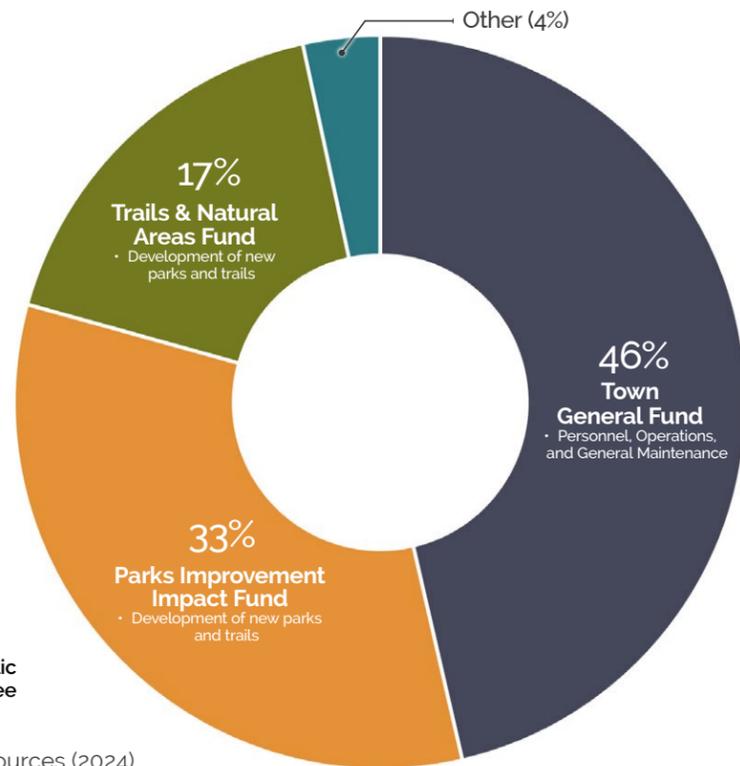
Future park maintenance priorities include:

- Increasing trail connectivity
- Reducing natural turf areas and utilizing some artificial turf for athletic fields
- Reduce water usage and use of fertilizer
- Utilizing more technology for tracking operations and maintenance
- Updating levels of service with the addition of new amenities
- Implementing autonomous machines (mowers and field painters) to the equipment inventory to increase staff efficiency

6.3. Funding & Budgets

6.3.1. Funding

The Town utilizes several funding sources for parks and recreation. Figure 32 represents the PRD funding distribution from the 2024 Adopted Budget.



Other: Fleet & Equipment Acquisition Fund, Public Facilities Impact Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Tree Impact Fund

Figure 32. Erie Parks and Recreation Funding Sources (2024)

Parks, open space and infrastructure maintenance are primarily funded by the Town's general fund as is most parks and recreation staffing and general operations. The Community Art Program, the HOA Pocket Park Program, and the Erie Neighborhood Improvement Plan are also general fund expenditures.

The percentage level of funding from the Town's general fund is as follows:

- 2022 - 73% of budget funding
- 2023 - 75% of budget funding
- 2024 - 46% of budget funding

The 2024 budget contained a much higher level of capital expenditure that was funded through the Parks Improvement Impact Fund and Trails & Natural Areas Fund.

Determining possible additional funding sources for capital replacement and operations will be important to pay for additional future financial requirements.

The other primary sources of funding come from the Parks Improvement Impact Fund and Trails & Natural Areas Fund. This allows for the continued development of new parks and trails but cannot fund all projects (new community center, community parks, etc.).

The Town has a Tree Impact Fund for forestry related expenses, and the Conservation Trust Fund helps to fund appropriate capital projects. User fees from programs and services are utilized to fund a portion of programming and operations.

6.3.2. Budgets

Current operational budgets are satisfactory for existing operations and maintenance.

6.3.2.1. Expenditures

Expenditures by Budget Category	2022 Actuals	2023 Actuals	2024 Actuals
Capital	\$6,944,012	\$4,982,676	\$634,286
Debt	\$25,237	\$54,112	\$54,631
Operations	\$3,449,160	\$3,188,372	\$3,594,033
Personnel	\$5,979,851	\$7,204,762	\$8,219,584
TOTAL Parks & Recreation Expenditure	\$16,398,261	\$15,429,922	\$12,502,534

Note: For the purposes of this study, budget data from 2025 is not included
Table 20. PRD Expenditures by Budget Category Actuals (2022 - 2024)

The Parks & Recreation Budget has seen increases in the personnel and operations portions of the budget but declines in capital from 2022 through 2024.

6.3.2.2. Revenues

Revenues by Budget Category	2022 Actuals	2023 Actuals	2024 Actuals
Admissions (Facility Access)	\$1,058,462	\$1,123,850	\$1,327,851
Activity Fees & Charges	\$1,109,502	\$1,469,441	\$1,651,432
Rentals	\$230,397	\$217,439	\$301,045
Resales	\$42,845	\$60,854	\$68,305
Sponsorships & Advertising	\$41,567	\$66,165	\$43,806
TOTAL Parks & Recreation Revenue	\$2,482,773	\$2,937,749	\$3,392,439

Note: For the purposes of this study, budget data from 2025 is not included
Table 21. PRD Revenues by Budget Category Actuals (2022 - 2024)

Revenues from admissions and activity fees & charges have shown significant growth in the last three years while other areas have seen more modest growth or a small decline.

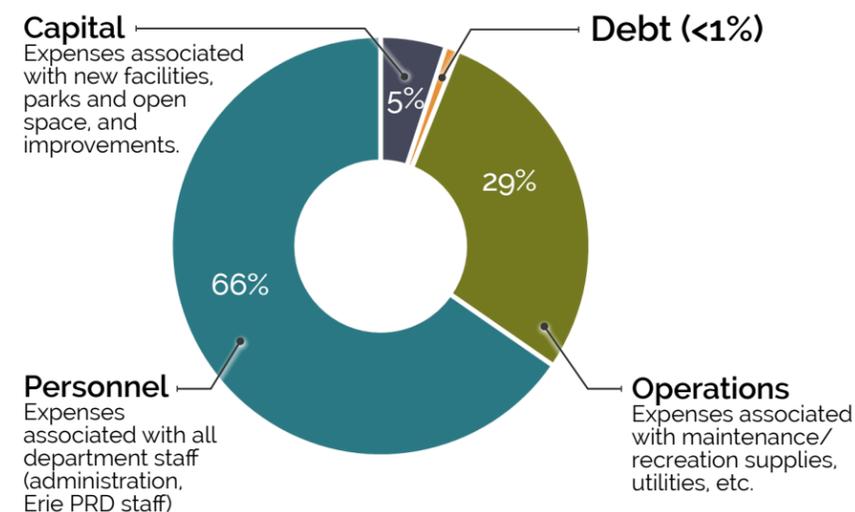


Figure 33. Expenditures by Budget Category (2024)

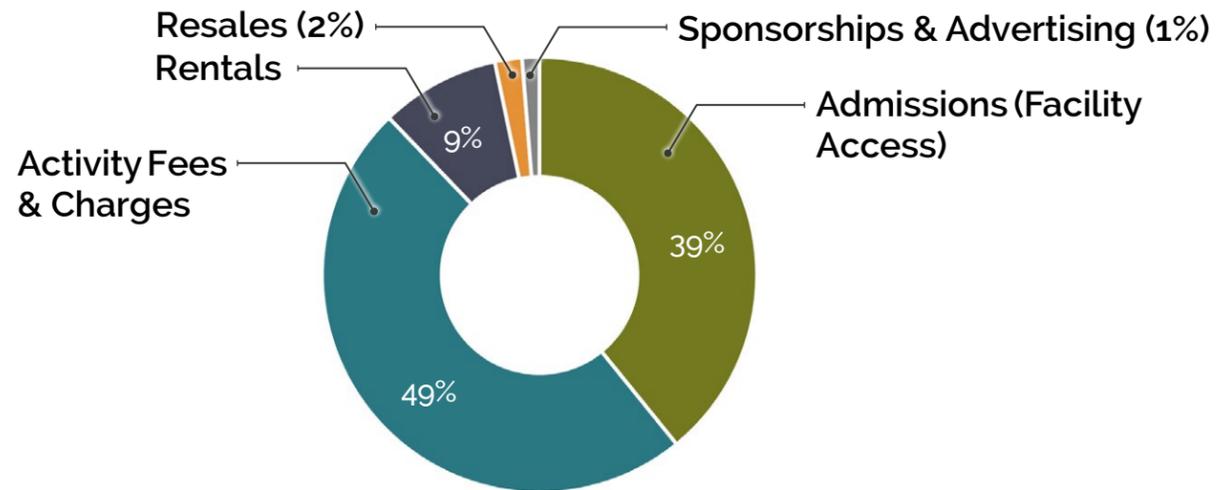


Figure 34. Revenues by Budget Category (2024)

The Department budgets in three accounts:

- Administration
- Parks & Open Space
- Recreation

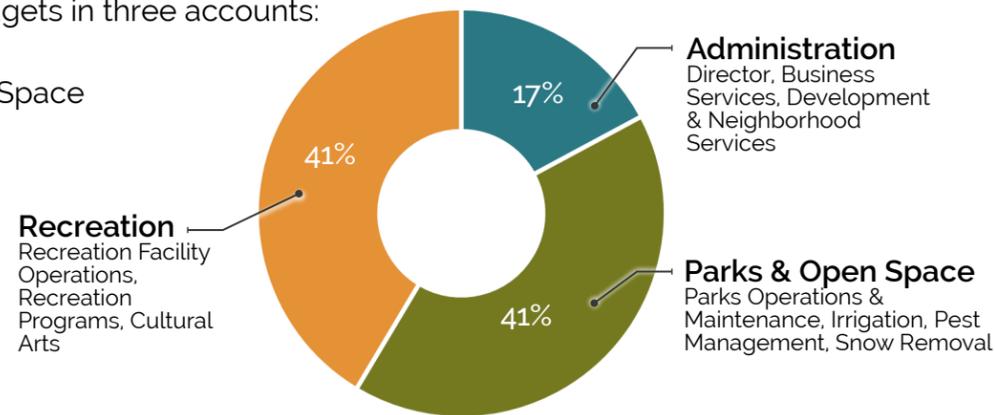


Figure 35. Budget Distribution by Division (2024)

6.3.2.3. Cost of Service Analysis

In 2022, a Cost-of-Service Analysis Report addressed specific aspects of the operating budget and calculated cost recovery percentages. This included Expenses by Division, Expenses by Category, and Department Revenue.

Division	Dollars	% of Budget
Administration	\$1,131,588	13.02%
Parks & Open Space	\$2,997,734	34.49%
Recreation	\$4,561,196	52.48%
TOTAL	\$8,690,518	100%

Table 22. Expenses by Division (2022)

Category	Dollars	% of Budget
Personnel	\$5,932,366	68.26%
Administration	\$645,653	7.43%
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,416,168	16.30%
Utilities	\$696,330	8.01%
TOTAL	\$8,690,518	100%

Table 23. Expenses by Category (2022)

Source	Dollars
Admissions (Facility Access)	\$1,058,462
Activity Fees & Charges	\$1,109,502
Rentals	\$230,397
Resales	\$42,845
Sponsorships & Advertising	\$41,567
TOTAL	\$2,482,773

Table 24. Department Revenue (2022)

The overall cost recovery for 2022 was 28.57%.

The report broke down expenses and revenues as well as the cost recovery rate. This is an excellent budget tool that should continue to be used.

- There are existing CIP budgets in place and a deferred maintenance plan.
- Having an adequate level of funding for capital replacement is important to keeping parks, trails and facilities in top condition.
- The Town does not currently assess administrative overhead costs to the Department's budgets.
- There are no maintenance chargeback costs levied by the Facilities Department.

6.3.2.4. Cost Recovery Continuum

There is a comprehensive fee policy in place for the Department. This is based in part on the following cost recovery philosophy that was developed by 110% Inc.

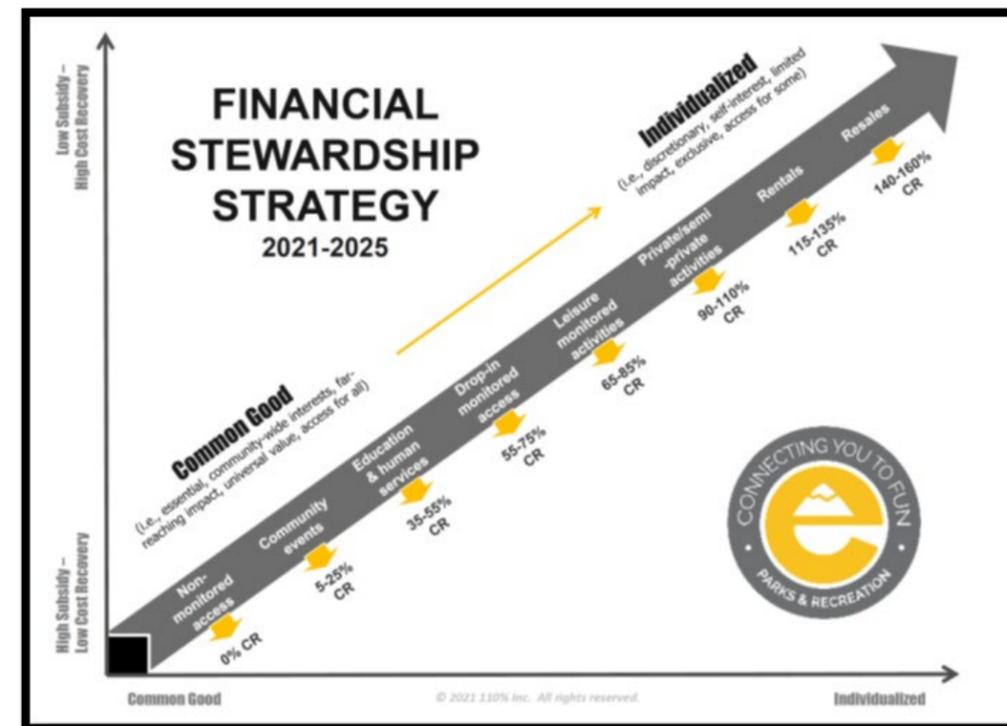


Figure 36. Cost Recovery Continuum

A scholarship program is in place to allow access to facilities and programs when there is a need for financial assistance.

6.4. Park Land Dedication (PLD) and Open Space Dedication (OSD) Requirements

Currently, the Town of Erie has codified Park Land Dedication (PLD) and Open Space Dedication (OSD) requirements. This obligates residential developers to dedicate a portion of their property, or pay an equivalent fee, to the Town for the dedication of the land.

6.4.1. Future Park Land Dedication

The current PLD standard requires providing 8.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents divided into:

- Pocket Parks: 0.5 acres / 1,000 residents (HOA-owned and maintained)
- Neighborhood Parks: 3 acres / 1,000 residents
- Community Parks: 5 acres / 1,000 residents

Developers either dedicate land or pay a Neighborhood Park Land fee in lieu of dedication.

This equates to providing approximately an additional 204 acres of park land (or fee-in-lieu equivalent) to be dedicated to the Town for an additional anticipated 24,000 residents.

With the future planned town owned park land and future PLD park land, the total is approximately 416.4 acres of park land. This equates to 6.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

Future Park Land LOS Analysis		
Park Land Type	Acres	LOS Provided for 64,000 Residents
Future Planned Town Owned Park Land*	212.4	3.3 / 1,000 Residents
Future PLD Park Land**	204.0	3.2 / 1,000 Residents
Pocket Parks	12	
Neighborhood Parks	72	
Community Parks	120	
Total Future Park Land	416.4	6.5 / 1000 Residents

*Acreage includes both current and future planned parks.

** Acreage is based on the required 8.5 acres / 1,000 residents for an additional 24,000 residents.

Impacts

- The future park land LOS is acceptable, as it is above the lower quartile of 4.7 acres per 1,000 residents per the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review. It is however below the national benchmark of 9.2 acres per 1,000 residents.
- The current PLD requirements provide a solid LOS baseline for total parks. Future development patterns and land availability will determine whether community park needs are fully met.
- The town will need to assess the financial impacts of an additional 204 acres of park land, including the cost of acquisition, maintenance, and operations.
- The 120 acres of future community parks may be difficult to achieve without sufficient large tracts of dedicated land or robust fees-in-lieu. The Town may struggle to secure the 30+ acre sites needed for larger community amenities.
- Pocket parks, while useful for non-programmed recreation, may lead to equity and maintenance concerns if HOA quality varies widely.



Serene Park
Credit: Town of Erie

6.4.2. Future Open Space Dedication

The current Open Space Dedication standard requires providing 17 acres of open space per 1,000 residents.

- Developers must dedicate land or pay a Fee-in-Lieu, directed into the Trails and Natural Areas Fund.
- Open space dedications must generally be at least 10 contiguous acres and connected to other parks/open spaces where possible. More criteria are outlined in the Unified Development Code.

This equates to providing approximately an additional 408 acres of open space (or fee-in-lieu equivalent) to be dedicated to the Town for an additional anticipated 24,000 residents.

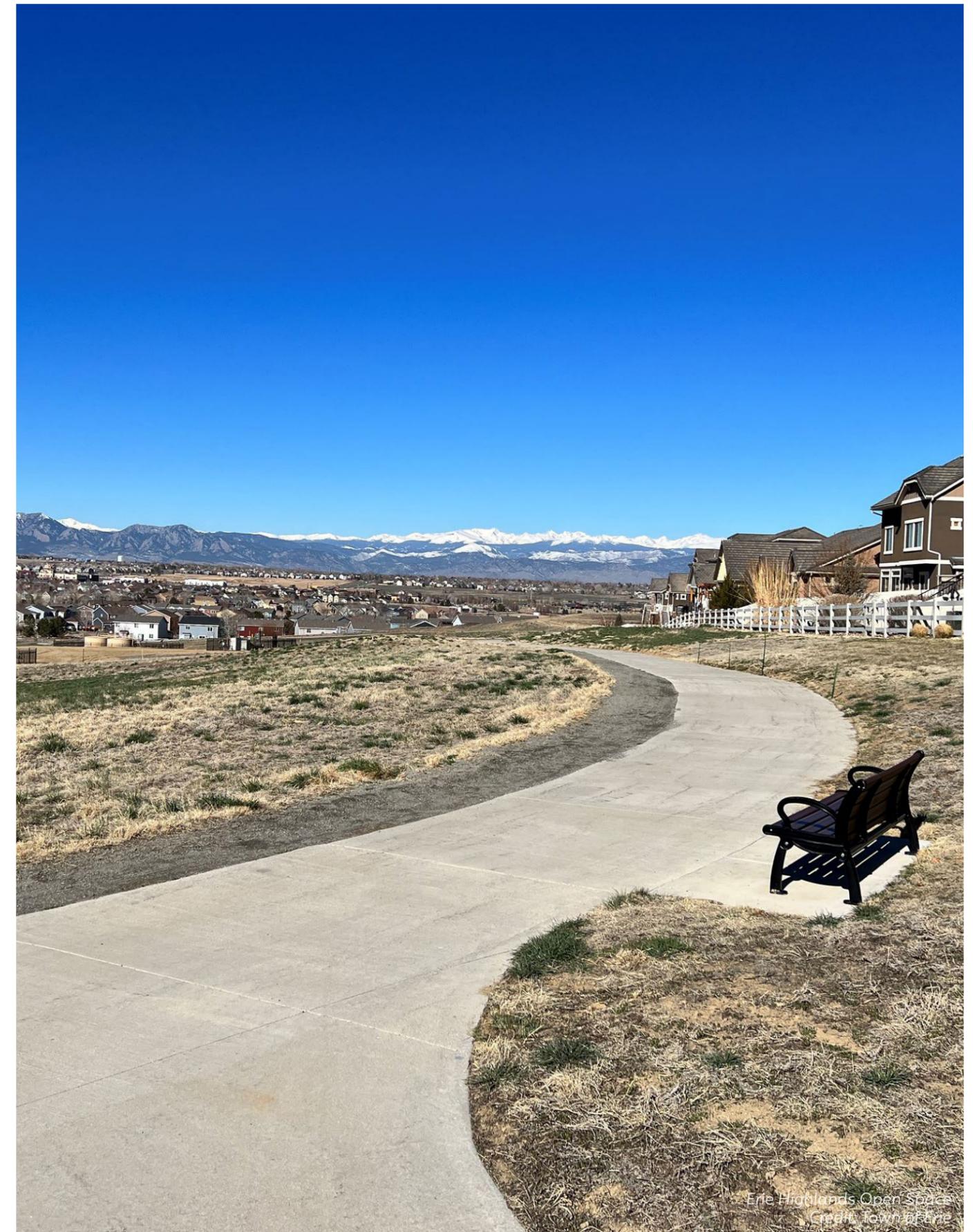
With the current Town owned open space and future OSTD open space, the total is approximately 1,773 acres of open space. This equates to 27.7 acres of open space per 1,000 residents.

Future Park Land LOS Analysis		
Open Space Type	Acres	LOS Provided for 64,000 Residents
Current Town Owned Open Space	1,365	21.3 / 1,000 Residents
Future OSTD Open Space*	408	6.4 / 1,000 Residents
Total Future Open Space	1,773	27.7 / 1000 Residents

*Acreage is based on the required 17 acres / 1,000 residents for an additional 24,000 residents.

Impacts

- Achieving 408 acres of dedicated open space is possible if the Town continues to emphasize strategic acquisitions and developer contributions.
- However, fee-in-lieu rates must keep pace with rising land values to secure priority parcels and trail corridors. Ensure fees-in-lieu are sufficient to purchase land and build trails at current market rates.
- Dedication patterns will need to be monitored to ensure connectivity.
- Focus on acquiring and preserving contiguous open space systems that align with Erie's trail and habitat goals.



Erie Highlands Open Space
Credit: Town of Erie



7: National Trends in Parks & Recreation

This chapter provides a synopsis of current national trends that are shaping the future of agencies responsible for parks, recreation, open space, and trails. Over the past several decades, parks and recreation agencies throughout the United States have been required to evaluate and modify their approach to providing parks and recreation services. As a result, parks and recreation agencies have evolved to meet the rising demand for accessible, inclusive, and high-quality parks, recreational facilities, and services. Many agencies have adopted measurable service standards, integrated universal design principles, and tracked real time usage, major updates to operations, and budget performance to improve community impact.

7.1. Overview

Understanding national trends helps local communities to make informed decisions while recognizing that the key drivers are uniquely representative of the local conditions. Four key trends that most parks and recreation agencies are addressing include:

Increasing Demand

Respond to ever increasing facility, program, and service demands from the public.

Inclusiveness & Equity

Provide access to parks, facilities, programs and services to increasingly diverse populations.

Cost Effectiveness

Achieve high standards for cost effectiveness in planning and development, and operations of services and facilities.

Measurable Outcomes

Quantify results and benefits of investments, programs, and facilities that are provided. Establishing well defined and objective Levels of Service (LOS) is key to demonstrating how funding is applied and what the return on investments may be.

7.1.1. Essential Services and Community Resilience

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Parks and Recreation services proved to be essential, as shown by the record number of people who relied on parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities across the country. Sources such as the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration (JRPA) and National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) reported that outdoor recreation spaces contributed largely to increased physical and mental health during the pandemic. This highlights the critical role Parks and Recreation plays in public health, well-being, and community resilience. Therefore, Parks and Recreation agencies should be recognized as a core, essential public department and future planning and funding decisions should reflect this.

For more information, please refer to the [Journal of Park and Recreation Administration \(JRPA\)](#) and [National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\)](#).

As a result of these factors the following general best practices have been adopted by many parks and recreation agencies.

- Establish a clear mission and vision statement regarding roles and responsibilities in providing services to their constituents. The vision statement is backed up by several pointed goals.
- Utilize the vision and goals to produce a professional and updated strategic plan to guide future development and operations of parks, recreation facilities, and programs.
- Define ongoing, long-range planning efforts to position the agency for success in the future.
- Recognize that an agency cannot effectively be all things to all people in the delivery of parks and recreation services and facilities. As a result, specific focus areas are determined and certain functions are left to others.
- Perform careful analysis to determine which services should be provided in-house and which should be contracted to other vendors or providers.
- Create a system for record keeping that allows for trends and directional analysis. This also results in the development of specific performance measures. For this to be effective there must be full computerization of all management records. This includes program registration, point of sale, rentals, facility scheduling, timecard management, maintenance, etc.
- Develop well-written and comprehensive policies and procedures that cover all aspects of an agency's management and operation. These are updated on a regular basis.
- Evaluate, track, and measure virtually every aspect of the agency's operation on a regular basis.



Ballfields at Erie Community Park
Credit: Town of Erie

7.2. Key Takeaways

The following trends are identified by Ballard King & Associates, supplemented by data pulled from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). These national trends may help inform the Erie Parks and Recreation PROST strategies.

Sources: [NRPA Best Practices](#), Ballard King & Associates

● Organization and Management

- Streamlined organizational structures with clearly defined roles are becoming standard, helping agencies operate more efficiently and responsively.
- Agencies are shifting to function-based or geographically aligned staffing models. Function-based models organize staff based on their job function or expertise, and geographically aligned models organize based on the physical location of staff. There is an increased reliance on a combination of full-time, part-time, contract, and volunteer labor.
- Strong leadership, performance evaluation systems, and staff training are essential to delivering high-quality services.

● Programs and Services

- Many agencies are taking on more of an oversight and coordination role, enabling community-wide recreation programming through partnerships rather than being the sole service provider. Agencies are required to define programming responsibilities to determine what services are best provided in-house in lieu of external partnerships and third-party contractors.
- Fitness and wellness remain the top drivers of participation across all ages, while traditional team sports show decline. Demand is growing for non-traditional offerings like pickleball, e-sports, cultural arts, and socially oriented programming.
- Virtual and hybrid programming remains relevant post-pandemic, along with short-duration and weekend offerings.
- Programs serving families, youth, older adults, and ethnically diverse populations are expanding. Programming is increasingly focused on fitness, wellness, outdoor activities, and community-based events.
- Frequent updates to programming plans with age-specific and culturally relevant offerings ensure strategic development and community alignment.

● Parks and Facilities Development

- Agencies are adopting indoor facility standards and placing greater emphasis on regional and community-wide facilities.
- Parks are classified into maintenance levels to prioritize resources based on visibility, use, and development.
- New developments routinely include feasibility studies of all the aspects mentioned in this chapter, which incorporate public input and identify operational and capital funding sources.
- There is an increasing focus on open space preservation, trail expansion, and acquiring natural areas that support health, wellness, and environmental sustainability.

● Operations and Maintenance

- Comprehensive management plans are becoming common and include maintenance standards, staffing needs, and performance tracking.
- Contracted maintenance services are common, supported by robust supervision and cost-benefit analysis.
- Lifecycle cost tracking, asset inventories, and energy management plans contribute to long-term sustainability.

● Funding Programs and Fees

- Agencies are increasingly pursuing cost recovery programs with higher recovery targets for programs and facilities.
- Financial sustainability plans and cost center accounting help track direct and indirect expenses and guide rate setting.
- Fee policies include tiered structures based on community benefit and market demand, ensuring both access and financial viability. There is a stronger emphasis on fee for service.
- Scholarship programs and differential pricing ensure inclusiveness while balancing revenue generation.

● Capital Funding

- Capital improvement planning, maintenance tracking, and lifecycle budgeting are becoming foundational practices.
- Funding for capital projects comes from a combination of sources, including general tax revenues, dedicated taxing sources, partnerships, grants, and occasionally, naming rights.
- Agencies are advised to use feasibility studies and community engagement to support large-scale capital investments.

● Marketing and Promotions

- Recreation is a discretionary activity, and strong marketing is essential to ensure visibility and engagement.
- Agencies are adopting branding strategies, leveraging social media, and investing in interactive websites, seasonal guides, and online registration systems.
- Annual marketing plans backed by dedicated funding and regular evaluation improve effectiveness.
- Agencies are expanding efforts to understand how users learn about programs and tailoring outreach to diverse demographic groups.

● Partnerships

- Effective partnerships are foundational to service expansion and facility development.
- Partnerships with other public agencies, private organizations, healthcare providers and nonprofits are increasingly leveraged.
- Formal agreements with defined roles and expectations ensure long-term sustainable collaboration.
- Agencies act as coordinators and advocates for community-wide recreation efforts, facilitating equitable service provision.

● Recreational Facility Development Trends

- Public agencies are moving away from small, neighborhood-scale buildings in favor of comprehensive regional, multi-purpose recreation facilities including recreation centers, aquatic centers, and performing arts centers.
- There is increasing demand for facilities that integrate diverse uses: fitness, aquatics, arts, sports, and community gathering spaces.
- Splash pads are rapidly replacing smaller neighborhood pools due to lower operating costs and broader appeal.

● Performance Measures

- Agencies are focusing on measurable outcomes, with strong tracking systems for registration, cost recovery, and program effectiveness.
- A clear fee-for-service model is common, with support for accessibility through scholarship and inclusion programs.
- Lifecycle analysis helps phase out underperforming offerings while scaling popular new ones.

● Cultural Engagement and Arts Participation*

- There is a steady decline in formal arts attendance, but open-air and informal venues remain popular.
- Arts participation is shifting toward digital consumption and casual creation (e.g., photography, crafts, digital art).
- Public parks play a significant role in facilitating access to cultural and performing arts experiences

*For more information, refer to the Erie Performing Arts Feasibility Study (Webb Mgmt., 2025)



7.3. Trends Analysis

7.3.1. Introduction

7.3.1.1. Approach to Providing Parks & Recreation Services

The delivery of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services faces unique challenges in many communities. Key topics include:

Proximity

Providing equitable access for all areas of a community can be challenging. Many communities have all facilities and programs available on a neighborhood level. While some services are provided at the neighborhood level (e.g., parks, playgrounds, etc.), other facilities are designed to serve a larger service area (ex: community centers, athletic fields tournament complexes, festival grounds, etc.).

Demographics

Understanding the demographic make-up of the overall community as well as the nuances of smaller sub-areas and neighborhoods is more important than ever. Recognizing that different user groups have different recreation interests and expectations has an impact on the types of facilities that are developed and the programs and services that are provided. There are also substantial differences by age with a greater focus on the growing active older adult market. Many communities serve a diverse population, including culture groups, visitors who are looking for something unique or special, and full-time residents who may have more conventional needs. Additionally, the need to serve the special-needs segments of the community (underserved populations, members who are experiencing disabilities or homelessness), in an effective manner is often addressed through partnerships with special interest groups and organizations.

Roles of Public Agencies

In the last decade, there has been the realization that parks and recreation agencies cannot be the sole provider of services and be all things to all people. Many public agencies have taken on the role of a coordinator of parks and recreation resources and a clearinghouse for community wide information. However, public agencies still work to ensure social equity in the provision of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. For this concept to work, the agency must make a clear determination of the areas of focus that will be priorities for the future. This is based on the role that other agencies and providers can realistically provide.

Resource Allocation

Increasingly, public agencies have been faced with the pressure to do more with less. This requires careful allocation of existing resources to continue to provide parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. In addition to reducing costs, there is also a much stronger emphasis on revenue production to increase the level of cost recovery. With the need for improved allocation of resources comes the requirement to be able to measure results.

7.3.2. Recreational Facilities

Developing and managing a variety of recreational facilities is the focus of many public agencies. The types of facilities that are now provided by parks and recreation departments have become more diverse, and expensive to acquire, develop and maintain. As a result, establishing a strategic plan is critical to determining facility development roles, timelines, and priorities.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2024 Agency Performance Review document has specific information on recreation facilities that are provided by park and recreation agencies nationally.

Amenities	Percentage of Agencies	Median Number of Residents per Facility (100,000-250,000 pop)
Recreation Centers	62%	57,750
Community Centers	59%	55,135
Outdoor Swimming Pools	49%	65,697
Indoor Aquatic Centers	30%	110,629
Senior Centers	40%	125,817
Amphitheaters	40%	116,135
Nature Centers	34%	139,248
Stadiums	19%	154,198
Indoor Ice Rinks	12%	108,508
Teen Centers	12%	124,264
Arenas	9%	118,500

Table 25. Facilities Provided by Parks & Recreation Agencies Nationally

Responsibilities	Percentage of Agencies
Provide Recreation Programs and Services	93%
Operate and Maintain Indoor Facilities	93%
Conduct Community Wide Special Events	83%
Operate, Maintain, Contract Outdoor Swim Facilities	67%
Operate, Maintain, Contract Racquet Sports Center	77%
Administer/Manage Outdoor Sports Complex	57%
Manage Outdoor Amphitheaters	36%
Operate, Maintain Contract Indoor Swim Facilities	31%
Maintain, Manage, Lease Indoor Performing Arts Ctr.	19%
Manage Indoor Sports Complexes	20%
Arenas	9%

Table 26. Responsibilities of Parks & Recreation Agencies Nationally

7.3.2.1. Recreation Facility Trends

There are several apparent trends that have emerged in the development and maintenance of recreational facilities nationally:

- There has been a much stronger emphasis on preserves and open space acquisition and trails development in the past 10 years than most other types of facilities.
- There is increased development of capital replacement budgets for key facility amenities with an established funding source.
- Outsourcing operations and management to other organizations is being explored in many communities. This is particularly true for specialty facilities.
- There is increased emphasis on generating revenues to offset the cost of operations.
- Communities are moving away from smaller community buildings and neighborhood pools to more comprehensive facilities that serve a larger population base.
- Many communities are now developing an indoor facility Level of Service (LOS) standard that is between 1 sq. ft. to 2 sq. ft. per person.
- Many communities are performing comprehensive tracking of operations, utilization, and budget metrics to justify facilities.
- For new facilities it is common for the following to occur:
 - The completion of a feasibility study to determine need, site, amenities, capital and operations costs.
 - Identification of specific funding sources, such as general obligation bonds, for capital and operations.
 - Integration of the public into the planning and development process.

7.3.3. Recreation Programs

Some of the keys to providing recreation programs and services include:

Programming

Essential to developing a comprehensive recreation program is strong administrative oversight of the process. It starts with the development of an overall philosophy that defines programming responsibilities of the organization. The approach should emphasize areas of focus by age group and program area and prioritize future program development options.

The programming philosophy determines what programs and services will be offered directly by the recreation staff, and which will be contracted to other individuals or organizations. Increasingly, recreation departments are turning to contracted services or the outright rental of facilities to other providers to broaden programming and limit the role of in-house employees.

Program Plan

Based on the program intent, recreation agencies must develop a well-conceived plan for the delivery of recreation services. This plan takes into consideration the future direction of recreation services in the agency along with the role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There are clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is no overlap in resource allocation. As a result, recreation agencies establish a five-year program plan that identifies the priorities for program development, the responsible staff member and the required resources.

The plan also establishes programs that have not only an appeal for different age groups (youth, teen, adult, and older adult) but also to the family unit and the different ethnic groups in the community. Establishing events and programs that will serve any seasonal population and might attract visitors to a community are often critical as well.

Facilities

Most of the outdoor related recreation programming takes place in public parks with school facilities providing the other main venue. For indoor programs, school buildings are still the primary location for most activities with public recreation centers and other provider's facilities being the additional sites. With the demand for recreation programs and services continuing to expand at phenomenal rates, a new innovative approach has been implemented to find appropriate sites to accommodate multiple activities. This has resulted in partnering with private facilities (fitness centers, dance studios, outdoor aquatic clubs, etc.), non-profits (YMCA's, Boys & Girls Clubs, cultural arts centers, etc.), and even private schools for certain activities. With the demand for youth sports fields continuing to grow, it is not unusual for youth sports organizations to build and operate their own fields on their own property or on leased undeveloped public land.

Fee Setting

To accomplish a high level of recreation services, recreation agencies have been much more aggressive in their fee setting with the goal of covering more operational expenses for most programs. However, with a more entrepreneurial approach to assessing fees for activities comes the need to develop a broad-based scholarship program that allows for those individuals that cannot afford to pay the opportunity to participate in recreation activities. Such programs usually have a limited budget and do require the user to pay at least something for service.

Use of Other Service Providers

There has been a movement away from the principle of public recreation departments having to be the actual provider of all recreation programs and services, to a model where public agencies serve as general coordinators and enablers of overall community recreation needs and resources. This has resulted in many programs now being conducted by volunteer youth sports organizations, adult sports associations, non-profit groups such as the YMCA and other social service organizations, as well as the private sector. The result is a reduction of the financial obligations of the public sector, placing programming in the hands of organizations with specific expertise (and often the facilities as well), and allowing the private sector to have a more active role in public recreation. There has also been an increase in the number of public agencies collaborating to bring a higher level of recreation service on more of a regional basis, especially for more specialized services (special needs, outdoor education, etc.).

Staffing

To continue to grow the number of recreation programs and services that are offered to a community, adequate staffing is necessary to not only conduct the program itself but also to supervise and administer the activities. With staffing costs being the single greatest expense item for parks and recreation departments, many agencies have attempted to minimize the number of full-time staff by contracting certain programs or partnering with other providers for services. The need to reduce full-time staff became even more acute with the poor financial condition of most agencies during the Great Recession and the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, even with this approach there still needs to be adequate full-time staff to oversee and coordinate such efforts. Part time staff is still the backbone of most recreation departments and make up most program leaders and instructors. Many departments have converted program instructors to contract employees with a split of gross revenues (usually 70% to the instructor and 30% to the city) or developed a truer contract for services that either rents facilities and/or takes a percentage of the gross from another organization. The use of volunteers can help to augment paid staff but should not be seen as a substitute for them.

Funding

The basic requirement for the provision of recreation programs and services is a funding commitment associated with the development of facilities to support programs and staff to manage and provide the programming. This usually requires a tax dollar commitment but also other sources of funding including program fees, grants, and partnering with other agencies can also help with additional funding. In many departments, limited funding has been the biggest challenge, making it difficult to maintain existing programs and introduce new services.

7.3.3.1. Recreation Program & Service Trends

Table 21 below illustrates current national recreation trends organized by major program areas. This list serves as general guidance. Each community is unique, and specific analysis is needed to understand the bearing on individual trends and other operational factors in Erie.

Area	Specific Programs
Sports	Youth Lacrosse
	Adult Soccer
	Adult Cricket
	Youth & Adult Rugby
	Pickleball
	Youth Camps and Clinics
	Individual Sports (Fencing)
	Adventure/Non-Traditional (BMX, Mountain Biking, Disc Golf, Ultimate)
	E-sports Competitions and Tournaments
	Youth Sports Specific Training
Fitness/Wellness	Functional Training Classes
	Personal/Small Group Training
	Yoga
	Nutrition/Cooking
	Healthy Lifestyle Education
Cultural Arts	Music Production for Youth
	Digital Media
Youth	Before and After School Programs at Recreation Centers, Specialty Summer Camps
Education	Camps, STEAM
Outdoor	Eco-Tourism
	Environmental Education
Seniors	Fitness/Wellness
	Sports (pickleball)
	Baby Boomer Focused Activities
Aquatics	Therapy
	Triathlon Training
General Interest	Personal Finance
	Cooking
Special Events	Community Wide Events
	Health and Wellness
Social Services	Feeding Programs, Job Training, Educational Support, Childcare
Other	Virtual Programming

Table 27. General Program and Services Trends by Area

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) annual survey (2023) indicates the ranking of the top 10 sports activities nationally as well as the level of participation. Note that the top ten activities are predominately fitness-related activities and outdoor recreation pursuits.

Sport	National Rank*	National Participation (in Millions)
Exercise Walking	1	110.2
Exercise w/ Equipment	2	52.9
Hiking	3	51.8
Swimming	4	44.9
Running/Jogging	5	43.1
Bicycle Riding	6	42.4
Camping (overnight)	7	40.4
Weightlifting	8	36.8
Yoga	9	30.7
Fishing (fresh)	10	29.9

Table 28. Sports Participation Ranking (2023)

The NSGA also lists several sports activities and the percentage of growth or decline that each has experienced nationally over the last ten years (2014-2023).

Sport	2014 Participation (in Millions)	2023 Participation (in Millions)	Percent Change
Pickleball	1.7	9.9	482%
Boxing	3.4	5.3	56%
Surfing	2.2	3.2	46%
Skateboarding	5.4	7.2	33%
Kayaking	9.0	11.8	31%
Table Tennis/Ping Pong	9.9	12.9	30%
Mountain Biking (off road)	5.4	7.0	30%
Hiking	41.1	51.8	26%
Wrestling	2.9	3.6	24%
Ice/Figure Skating	7.3	9.0	23%

Table 29. Top Ten Sports Activity Participation Increases (2014-2023)

Trends for key areas of program growth have occurred in fitness related activities over the last decade. Many of the declines in participation are related to traditional team sports such as baseball, football, basketball, and softball.

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) 2024 Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Top-Line Participation Report indicated the rate of participation by major sports activity categories over the last 5 years.

Activity Category	2018 Percentage	2023 Percentage
1. Fitness Sports	66.0%	67.8%
2. Outdoor Sports	50.5%	57.3%
3. Individual Sports	45.3%	42.1%
4. Team Sports	22.8%	25.7%
5. Water Sports	13.7%	15.7%
6. Racquet Sports	13.2%	18.0%
7. Winter Sports	8.2%	9.8%

Table 30. Percentage of Participation Comparisons

Fitness related sports continued to be the most popular activity category, but racquet sports have shown the greatest percentage increase over the last five years due in large part to pickleball. Team sports, water sports, and outdoor sports have all seen an increase as well. Individual sports and winter sports have seen a decrease in participation. Erie's high-demand areas are also generally in fitness, outdoor sports, team sports, and aquatics (water sports) as identified in Chapter 5.

Participation in outdoor recreation grew 4.1% in 2023 to 175.8 million, amounting to 57.3% of the U.S. population. 22.2 million more Americans aged six and older are participating in outdoor recreation in 2023 than were participating in 2019 (Outdoor Foundation).

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2024 Agency Performance Review document has specific information on programming that is offered by park and recreation agencies nationally.

Program	Percentage of Agencies
Themed Special Events	89%
Social Recreation Events	88%
Team Sports	86%
Fitness Enhancement Classes	82%
Health & Wellness Education	80%
Individual Sports	76%
Safety Training	73%
Racquet Sports	70%
Aquatics	68%
Performing Arts	62%
Visual Arts	63%
Natural and Cultural History Activities	66%
Cultural Crafts	63%
Trips and Tours	62%
Martial Arts	56%
Running/Cycling Races	53%
Golf	49%
eSports/eGaming	26%

Table 31. Programming Offered by Parks and Recreation Agencies Nationally

The Recreation Management Magazine State of the Industry Report examines trends in parks and recreation. Their report indicated the following as it relates to common recreation programs and services additions in 2024.

Program	Percentage of Agencies
1. Environmental Education Programs	26.4%
2. Educational Programs	24.1%
3. Holiday Events and Other Special Events	23.8%
4. Fitness Programs	22.5%
5. Mind-Body Balance Programs	22.2%
6. Adult Sports Teams	22.2%
7. Teen Programming	22.2%
8. Programs for Active Older Adults	22.2%
9. Group Exercise Programs	20.6%
10. Special Needs Programs	19.6%

Table 32. Most Planned Program Additions in 2024

7.3.3.2. Performing Arts Center *

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provides insight into how Americans are spending their time with art and art-like activities. The Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA) is the nation's largest, most representative survey of adult patterns of arts participation in the United States.

- Following a minimal increase in almost all arts attendance that occurred from 2012-2017, participation rates decreased from 2017-2022.
- Changes in the U.S. demographic composition appear to have contributed to attendance in performing arts attendance. Still, various subgroups of Americans have decreased attendance rates for individual art forms. COVID-19 played its role in the decrease in participation as well.
- The most popular site to attend in-person arts events was an open-air facility (parks, pavilions, amphitheaters) at 17.1%. The next venue is restaurants, bars, nightclubs and coffee shops (10.3%) with the remainder equal between schools, churches, community centers, and libraries.
- Those who attended learned about the event most frequently through social media (17.0%) then through friends (14.7%) with traditional media next (11.3%).
- Art Museums/Galleries and Parks/Historical Buildings attendance has increased from 2012 to 2017 but decreased in 2022.
- Craft/Visual Arts Festivals have seen a decline between 2012-2022.

*For more information, please refer to the Erie Performing Arts Feasibility Study (Webb Management 2025)

7.3.3.3. Other Programming Trends

- Recreation departments now often serve as a coordinating agency and a clearinghouse for multiple recreation organizations and providers to bring a comprehensive scope of recreation programs to a community. This has also increased the number of partnerships that are in place to deliver a broader base of programs in a more cost-effective manner.
- Programming continues to emphasize the needs of young people and older adults but has also focused more on adults and the family unit.
- There has been a concerted effort to integrate conventional recreation programming with community based social service programs and education. Most of the social service programs are offered by other community-based agencies and education is often coordinated with school districts.
- Program characteristics (performance measures) are tracked including:
 - Program registration comparisons by year for each season
 - Rates of fill (especially for fee-based programming)
 - Participation numbers and comparisons to past years/seasons
 - Rate of program cancellations (for fee-based programming)
 - Financial performance including cost per participant
 - Evaluations from participants



7.3.4. Maintenance & Operations

Over the last decade there have been significant changes in how maintenance and operations of parks and recreation facilities are addressed. Some of the more significant trends include:

- The responsibility for maintenance and custodial services now varies considerably by agency. Many municipalities have moved parks maintenance functions to a separate facilities maintenance department or a division within public works. Specialized facility maintenance (athletic fields, aquatic centers, etc.) still often remain the responsibility of parks and recreation departments or even the recreation division. On the other side, functions such as right of way maintenance are now being moved from public works to parks operations.
- The development of a comprehensive management plan for parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities is now considered essential. This document must not only deal with an overall plan for the parks and recreation agency but also specific plans for each park or facility. This plan should include:
 - Classification of outdoor parks, preserves, and open space into 6 levels of maintenance standards (see below).
 - A listing of specific maintenance tasks that need to be performed, their frequency and the quality level that is expected.
 - A determination of manpower, equipment and operating supplies that are required to complete the tasks.
 - Tracking of maintenance tasks and overall performance.
 - The establishment of a preventative maintenance plan.
- The maintenance division develops specific levels of service for each facility that is under their responsibility utilizing the NRPA's maintenance standards that divide outdoor park maintenance into 6 different levels. These include:

Level 1

High visibility areas that require the highest level of maintenance.

Level 2

The normal standard and what an individual expects to see on a regular basis.

Level 3 & 4

These two levels are just below the norm and include reductions in frequency of maintenance with a focus on safety. These levels are often utilized when there are budget and manpower reductions.

Level 5

This level is one step above allowing the land to return to its original state.

Level 6

This level allows the land to return to its original natural state or open space that is already in its natural condition.

- Levels of maintenance of a park can include varying levels within different areas of the same park. Highly developed areas often have a higher level assigned while less developed have a lower level.

For indoor facilities, there is usually a similar 3 level classification for building maintenance functions. Each existing indoor facility would then be classified in the same manner as parks.

- More parks maintenance functions are now being contracted out to 3rd party providers. As a result, agencies are developing specific guidelines to determine which maintenance functions or activities could possibly be considered for contract service.

When developing contracts that detail specific tasks, outlining the frequency and expected quality of service is essential. Contracts must have specific performance standards to ensure that recreation facilities are adequately cleaned. Contract maintenance also must be supervised, managed, and evaluated on a regular basis.

- A maintenance cost assignment system is developed that tracks costs by major parks or recreation facilities so that the true costs of maintaining these facilities are known. This system is also valuable in estimating future costs for any new or renovated parks or facilities. Cost assignments are also done by task (mowing, sweeping, fertilization, etc.) to develop costs per function or for determining a cost per acre or mile.
- Agencies are creating lifecycle cost estimates for major capital assets associated with parks and recreation facilities and equipment. An asset inventory is required to establish an objective assessment for all major equipment as well.
- Maintenance supervisors and administrative staff are becoming more actively involved in the design review process for all newly planned facilities. The review process often focuses on materials and surfaces/finishes being specified, maintenance equipment required to maintain the amenity, access for maintenance equipment, and brand of materials for continuity.
- Many parks and recreation agencies develop an energy management plan for buildings and structures that attempts to control energy costs, promote energy conservation, and utilize alternative forms of energy.

7.3.4.1. Organizational & Management Planning

To become more efficient and effective in the delivery of parks and recreation services, there is greater emphasis on organizational structure and management programming.

Some trends include:

- Organizational structures have become more streamlined with direct lines of responsibility established. There is greater emphasis on having strong leadership at the administrative level that is supported by an overall team concept. As a result, most organizations tend to have fewer mid-management positions.

There is a mix of full-time and part-time staff that reflects the levels of service that have been established, any seasonal operations, and the budget requirements of the department.

- Several cities have preserves, open space, and greenway divisions, some of which are separate departments within the organization.
- Facilities and recreation programming that can generate strong revenues are often placed outside the normal organizational structure as enterprise funds.

- To minimize the impact of reduced budgets, establishing a strong volunteer program is often in place. To effectively make use of volunteers there must be a staff person who is responsible for managing and recruiting volunteers. If the program becomes large enough, then a full-time volunteer coordinator position is often necessary.
- Most organizational structures tend to be functionally based, but in larger communities there can also be a geographic structure as well.

7.3.4.2. Staff Resources

Agencies continue to develop staffing plans to clearly define the roles and responsibilities for all staff. A staffing plan:

- Determines required positions and the need for full-time and part-time status employees. Within the last several years there has been difficulty attracting and keeping qualified part-time staff. This has been particularly true for specialty positions such as lifeguards. As a result, there has been a greater focus on full-time staff.
- Establishes a formal communications protocol. Staff meetings for all segments of the organization are held on a regular basis and the minutes and actions are documented.
- Provides job descriptions for all full-time and part-time staff that accurately describe the job requirements and skills that are necessary for the position.
- Responds to the growing role of contract positions, especially for program instructors and specialized services.
- Considers union requirements that often impact staffing plans, schedules, and management practices.
- Empowers staff to make important management and supervisory decisions and holds them accountable for the performance of their areas. Supervisory staff have budget responsibilities as well.
- Establishes levels of service based on the number of FTEs per thousand people, acreage maintained, and facilities operated.
- Cross trains staff to handle most operational or supervisory responsibilities for a variety of program areas and facilities.
- Is backed up by a comprehensive staff manual that is updated regularly to guide staffing standards and regulations. Background checks are completed on all new recruits, including volunteers, especially those that have direct contact with young people.

7.3.4.3. Performance Evaluation

- Full-time staff have an annual performance review completed that clearly indicates areas of excellence, areas of compliance and where improvements should be made. Detailed and specific annual work plans are developed for each full-time and major part-time staff members and these are monitored by their direct supervisor on a regular basis. The work plans cover issues such as budget development, financial transactions, programming, marketing, community outreach and staff interaction and communication. It is important to have measurable benchmarks and outputs for each plan. Staff are then held accountable to meet these goals.
- There is a strong staff training and education program in place to provide opportunities for staff growth and improvement. The staff training program focuses on financial transactions, customer service, program development, budgeting, revenue growth, and maintenance functions, and facility operations. A specific training program for new hires, including part-time and seasonal staff, is also in place.



Lifeguard staff training at the Erie Community Center
Credit: Town of Erie

7.3.5. Funding Sources & Fees

With greater emphasis on capital needs, operational costs, and revenue opportunities, parks and recreation agencies are focusing on new ways to fund operations to maximize revenues.

Trends in these areas include:

- Over the last 10-15 years there has been a greater emphasis on increasing the overall level of cost recovery for recreation programs and services from well below 50% to as much as 100% of direct and indirect costs for these services. Cost recovery calculations are focused on costs and revenues associated with providing recreation services and not all department costs are included.
- The development of a financial sustainability plan outlines how program and facility costs will be tracked and controlled as well as revenues enhanced and tracked to clearly delineate the overall rate of cost recovery. Ideally this is a five-year plan with individual cost recovery targets set for each year.
- Agencies continue to move toward a cost-center accounting system where major budget sections are set up with sub-categories based on specific facilities or program areas. This provides greater transparency for the entire budget process, allows for an accurate picture of both costs and revenues for individual areas, and requires supervisory employees to be directly responsible for their own budgets.
- Operational and management contracts with outside vendors are ideally reviewed at least every three years and rebid on a regular basis.



7.3.5.1. Operations Funding Sources

Agencies utilize a variety of funding sources to support parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. These include:

User Fees and Charges

Collecting fees for services continues to be one of the primary sources of revenue for parks and recreation agencies. In fact, there is a great deal of pressure in most agencies to increase the level of funding from this source.

General Fund

Most agencies continue to rely on a yearly budget allocation from the general fund of a city for most parks and facility maintenance functions as well as some programs and services. This can be 75% to 100% of a departments operating budget. However, for many agencies the level of funding from this source has been reduced in the past 5 years.

Dedicated Taxing Source

This type of funding is difficult to obtain but some communities have been successful in establishing a dedicated funding source for parks and recreation services. This has come in the form of a specified mill levy, a particular sales tax amount, the use of bed/restaurant taxes, and other specific tax sources.

Sponsorships

There has been a real strong effort nationally to establish comprehensive sponsorship programs for recreation facilities, programs and services. This has been particularly beneficial for special events and for older adult activities. This has required the development of a detailed sponsorship program to be effective.

Partnerships

Partnering with other organizations, foundations, and businesses to share costs or enhance revenues has been effective.

Foundations

Many agencies have established a 501(c)3 foundation for parks and recreation to provide a tax-free way to collect a variety of fundraising dollars as well as qualify for a broader range of grants.

Grants

There are a number of grants that are available for programs and services that serve the disadvantaged, youth, teens and older adults. There are also facility grants including ones for energy efficiency, emergency shelters and other functions. Grants can come from other governmental agencies (county, state or federal), lottery proceeds, and private sources.

Endowment Fund

This form of operational funding is relatively rare as it requires a large fund balance to establish an annual operational endowment level of any magnitude.

7.3.5.2. Fees

As parks and recreation agencies are becoming much more aggressive in revenue generation, the need to develop an overall fee policy is critical. The first step in developing a clear user fee policy is to adopt a general philosophy for setting fees. For this to occur, the following must take place:

- Establish a standardized approach to setting fees.
- Determine the overall goal of cost recovery for programs, services, and facilities.
- Ensure general access to recreation programs and services is not denied simply based on the ability to pay.
- Require that exclusive use of any public parks, facilities or services by individuals or organizations results in compensation for the costs associated with such use.
- Require that users pay for programs and services when there is an instructor, official or other personnel associated directly with the provision of the service.
- Require that at least a portion of other direct and indirect expenses associated with the delivery of a program or service to the user be recovered through fees.

From this, agencies are developing a comprehensive fees and charges policy that is updated annually. This usually includes:

Programs and Services

Programs and Services are categorized into four levels of offerings that are divided by the level of instruction, expertise, or importance to the community's well-being. Priority for funding and facility usage should be based on the category in which they fall, with fees being set accordingly. The four categories include:

Community Events: Special community wide events, activities or festivals that are one-time events. There are generally little to no fees for these activities. Some revenues may be collected from sponsorships and sales of goods and services.

Basic or Core Programs: Programs that are essential to recreation and community needs (such as teen activities, older adult programs, youth sports activities, special populations, etc.). These program's direct costs are usually subsidized.

Enhanced: Programs that are beyond basic and are focused on an audience that can pay. Programs in this area could include adult fitness and sports, or general programs. These programs are generally recovering 100% of direct costs and some in-direct costs.

Specialized: These are activities that are very specialized in nature. These often include activities such as private swim lessons, fitness assessments, trip programs, facility rentals and the like. Fees are set based on what the market will bear but at minimum would require 100% of direct costs and most indirect costs to be covered.

Outdoor Facilities

Outdoor facilities are usually sorted into three categories for fee assessment.

Drop-in Outdoor Facilities: Drop-in use of basic park amenities should remain free. Examples would be open park areas, playgrounds, trails, picnic areas, outdoor courts, skate parks, etc.

Specialized Outdoor Facilities: Facilities such as swimming pools, lighted/organized sports fields, and similar facilities should have market rates established for use. There should be a rate differential for youth, adult, and older adult users.

Rental of Facilities: Rentals of specialized facilities should require a fee for use that could be based on categories of non-commercial and commercial. Fees for non-commercial should be based at a minimum on recovering all direct costs of renting the facility, and commercial should be significantly higher. All field or facility maintenance fees required for rental plus any other amenities not normally associated with the facility will be charged to the renter.

Indoor Facilities

Indoor facilities also are sorted in three categories for fee assessment.

Drop-in Indoor Facilities: Drop-in use of basic indoor facilities such as youth game rooms, open lounge areas, community gathering spaces and similar areas usually do not require a fee for use.

Specialized Indoor Facilities: Facilities such as fitness areas, gyms, pools, racquetball courts, ice rinks, etc. should require a fee for use. Specific cost recovery goals need to be established for each specialized facility to determine the basic fee structure that needs to be developed. There should be a rate differential for youth, adult, older adult, and disabled users.

Rental of Facilities: Rentals of specialized facilities should require a fee for use that could be based on categories of non-commercial and commercial. Fees for non-commercial should be based at a minimum on recovering all direct costs of renting the facility, and commercial should be significantly higher. All field or facility maintenance fees required for rental plus any other amenities not normally associated with the facility will be charged to the renter.

7.3.5.3. Capital Funding

A major challenge for parks and recreation agencies is determining a method for funding the capital development costs for new or renovated facilities. For most agencies, a combination of several different funding sources is generally utilized for new capital projects.

Government Funding

In most cases, a governmental agency is the primary funding source for new parks and recreation facilities. Some options to acquire the necessary tax dollars for a project include:

General Tax Dollars

Utilization of any existing non-allocated tax dollars for a project. This usually results in slower development of new facilities by allocating existing tax funding when possible.

Capital Improvement Fund

Establishing a dedicated funding source for capital projects from either a percentage of existing tax revenues or through a tax increase established for that purpose.

Bond Measure

A voter passed tax initiative to fund specific capital projects.

Certificates of Participation

A form of lease-purchase, COPs are issued for debt periods like normal bonds, but the amenity itself serves as the collateral. This funding mechanism does not require voter approval.

Impact Fees

Paid by developers for new parks and facilities to reduce the cost to the public agency. This can be in lieu of land dedication or in addition to.

State or Federal Special Tax Revenue

At times there can be limited funding opportunities for special projects.

Partnerships

The ability to include equity partners in projects is critical to developing new parks and recreation facilities. Partnerships can be with other public agencies, the non-profit sector and even with for-profit providers.

Fundraising

One source of capital funding can come from a comprehensive fundraising campaign. Contributions from local businesses, private individuals, and social service organizations can be targeted. To maximize this form of funding, a private fundraising consultant may be necessary.

Grants

There are some grants available for parks and recreation projects. It is more difficult to fund active recreation facilities than parks and open space from these sources, but efforts are still made to acquire funding from these sources. Key areas that should be targeted for grants are serving youth, teens, older adults, and families as well as environmental projects.

Naming Rights and Sponsorships

Although not nearly as lucrative as for large stadiums and other similar facilities, the sale of naming rights and long-term sponsorships could be a source of some capital funding as well. It is often necessary to hire a specialist in selling naming rights and sponsorships if this revenue source is to be maximized to its fullest potential. No lifetime naming rights should be sold, and only 20 years maximum rights should be possible. Determining the level of financial contribution necessary to gain a naming right is crucial.

7.3.6. Marketing & Promotions

Recreation is a discretionary use of people's time and money. As a result, it is critical that there is a strong marketing effort to promote the facilities, programs and services that are offered by a park and recreation agency. This includes the following trends:

- A comprehensive marketing plan for recreation facilities, programs and services is developed for the agency. This document is usually a simple, easy to implement, document that serves as a guideline for specific marketing efforts. There is often a more visionary 5-year plan as well as a very specific yearly plan that outlines areas of focus, specific marketing tools and tasks, as well as the responsible staff member for implementation, financial resources that are required and a thorough evaluation process.
- There must be a strong recognition of the different demographic markets that must be served. The youth, older adult, and family populations in the area should be specifically addressed as should any different ethnic groups.
- There is usually an effort to "brand" an agency, its facilities, and its programs through all publications, promotional materials, flyers, signs, web site, and other items. All marketing materials often have the same format, look, logo, etc.
- Most agencies have an interactive web site that is updated seasonally. In addition, separate web sites for specific facilities and even large program areas (summer camps) are often utilized as well, with links to and from the agency's main site. Some agencies are now using a web-based survey instrument for program and facility evaluations by users as an option/ or in addition to paper-based forms.
- Agencies heavily promote the use of online program registration as well as facility rentals. This requires a fully computerized registration software package with point of sale and the ability to make payments over time.
- There is strong use of Facebook, X, and other social media sources to promote the agency's facilities, programs and services. This is backed up with a formal social media policy.
- The way users find out about parks and recreation facilities, programs and services, is tracked on a regular basis and guides future marketing resource allocation and areas of focus.
- A formal sponsorship plan is in place for facilities as well as events and programs.
- For marketing efforts to be effective, it is critical that the agency provide an annual funding level. The amount is usually tied to implementing the annual marketing plan.
- Agencies often survey the community and existing parks and recreation users every other year to determine overall levels of satisfaction as well as future needs and expectations for facilities and services.
- The annual marketing efforts have a formal evaluation mechanism to determine the overall effectiveness of the plan.
- Agencies establish a strong customer service training program for all its employees (full-time and part-time). Areas of focus often include, dealing with difficult people, diversity, how to handle discipline and behavioral issues, and effectively implementing emergency procedures.

7.3.7. Partnerships

Partnerships with a variety of entities are a major way to provide parks and recreation services and specialized programs, as well as new or renovated facilities. The roles and expectations of partnership organizations and providers should be clearly articulated by the agency to promote the effective use of overall community resources. These partnerships often include:

- Health care providers
- School districts
- Other governmental agencies
- YMCA's/Boys & Girls Clubs/Jewish Community Centers
- Community organizations
- Private health clubs
- Sports organizations
- Business and corporate community
- Equity partnerships for facilities and programs
- Coordination efforts with other government agencies

7.3.7.1. Programmatic Partnerships

There has been a movement away from the principle of public recreation departments having to be the actual provider of all recreation programs and services. This has resulted in a great deal of programming now being conducted by volunteer youth sports organizations, adult sports associations, non-profit groups such as the YMCA and other social service organizations, as well as the private sector. This has reduced the financial obligations of the public sector, placed programming in the hands of organizations with specific expertise (and often the facilities as well), and allowed the private sector to have a more active role in public recreation. However, parks and recreation agencies often still need to be providers of many of the facilities (especially outdoor parks) for other organizations to use.

Other organizations that could provide programs and services can include:

Youth Sports Organizations

Can be responsible for providing team sports for youth. However, the agency will still need to provide most if not all the facilities for these activities.

School Districts

Coordinating with school districts to provide youth after school programs and services, education classes for youth (and even adults), as well as youth sports (location for practices), can be beneficial. The school's facilities should be a location for at least some recreation programming in most communities.

Other Government Organizations

There needs to be strong efforts to partner with other governmental agencies in an area to develop programs and services. This is most likely to occur with a county and neighboring communities. Program areas that could be provided by other organizations through a partnership include special needs, special events, outdoor recreation, and cultural arts events.

Non-Profit Providers

Coordinating with a variety of non-profit providers to deliver recreation services is often pursued. Organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, cultural arts groups, etc. should be encouraged to continue to develop facilities and provide programs in a community. These types of organizations are often well positioned to provide a variety of programs in different areas.

Health Care Organizations

It is not unusual to have a health care organization offering fitness and wellness related services to parks and recreation agencies.

Private Providers

Since there often several private recreation, sports and fitness providers located in a community (health clubs, dance, martial studios, arts studios, etc.), these entities could be counted on to provide more specialized activities that are not easy for the public sector to conduct.

Residential Communities, Condos and HOA's

There are often several residential communities, condos, and HOA's in a community. Some of these have social and recreation facilities that serve their residents and provide a level of programs. Their role in providing recreation services needs to be recognized.

Faith Based Organizations

With a significant number of churches and other faith-based institutions in most communities, they often provide some recreation services for their congregation and community. These organizations should be seen as possible providers of some basic community-based recreation services and facilities as well.

7.3.7.2. Facility Partnerships

A significant number of new public recreation facilities now involve some form of partnership with other community organizations and recreation service providers. Partnerships are generally on three levels.

Primary or Equity Project Partners

These would be the main partners in a project who have the most interest, the ability to fund, and a willingness to be a part of the development and operation of a facility.

Secondary Project Partners

These organizations could have a direct interest in the facility but not to the same level as a primary partner. Capital funding for the project is unlikely but there could be some assistance with program and service delivery.

Support Partners

These organizations support the development of a new facility but would see limited to no direct involvement in the development or operation of the facility.

Specific facility partnerships could include:

Health Care Providers

A health care provider could offer capital funding for a portion of a facility or lease space in a building. In addition, they can also possibly provide programs and services for the center. Partnerships between public entities and medical providers can be very beneficial for both parties.

Non-Profits

YMCA's, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Jewish Community Centers could be a possible operator of a facility and can also be part of a fundraising campaign for a project.

Private Health Clubs

A partnership would most likely be in the form of a city or other agency leasing land at a very low rate and the club building a private fitness center. This is often not a realistic option for most communities.

School District

A school district's role in a project could be considerable and include, offer of a site, a capital contribution for construction, or funding for operations (beyond possible fees for use).

Retail Operations

It may be possible to integrate some retail services into a facility. This could come in a small drink/food service operation and/or a small area to sell sports, recreation, and fitness goods. The facility can either lease space in the amenity for these purposes and/or take a percentage of any goods that are sold. This could include food truck operations and other vendors.

Sports Organizations

Local sports organizations could be primary users of a new facility if the amenities that they need are available and support their activities. It should be expected that these groups would be strong supporters of a new facility and would possibly pay for their use.

Community Organizations

Developing working relationships with community organizations and service clubs could provide much needed support for a project as well as generate possible users of a facility.

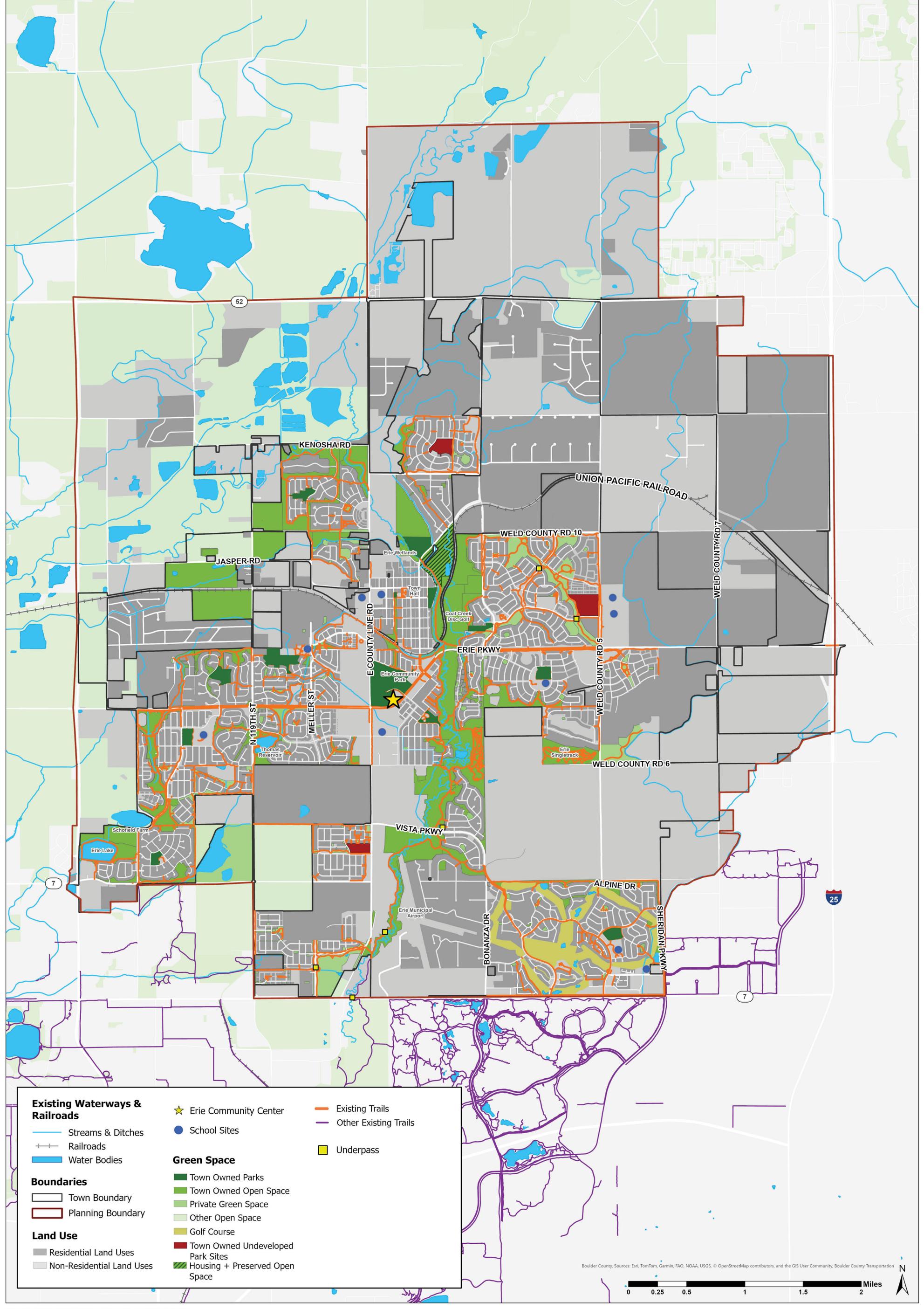
Business and Corporate Community

It is important to approach the corporate community with a variety of sponsorship opportunities to enhance the revenue prospects of a facility.

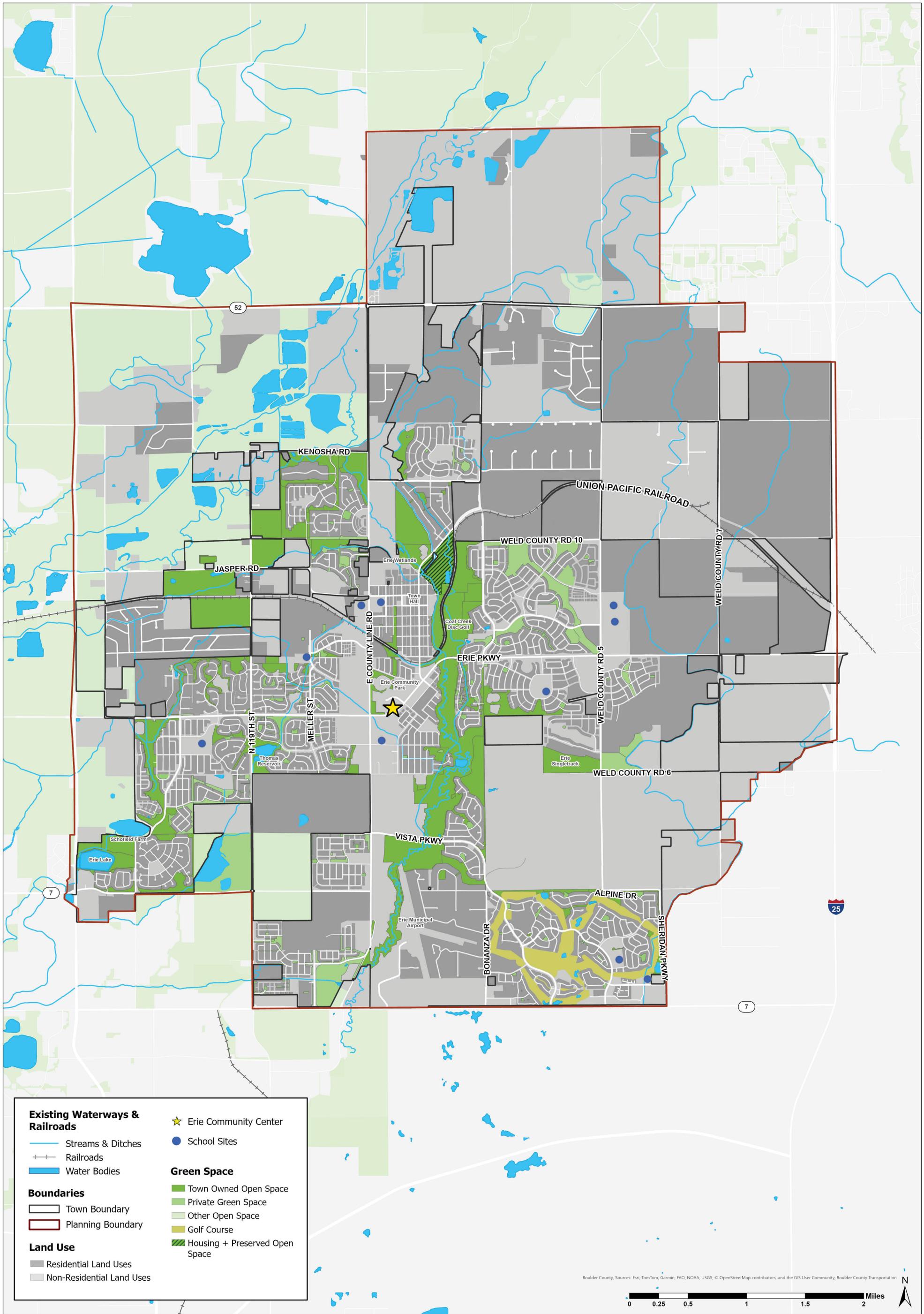


Climbing facilities at the Erie Community Center
Credit: Town of Erie

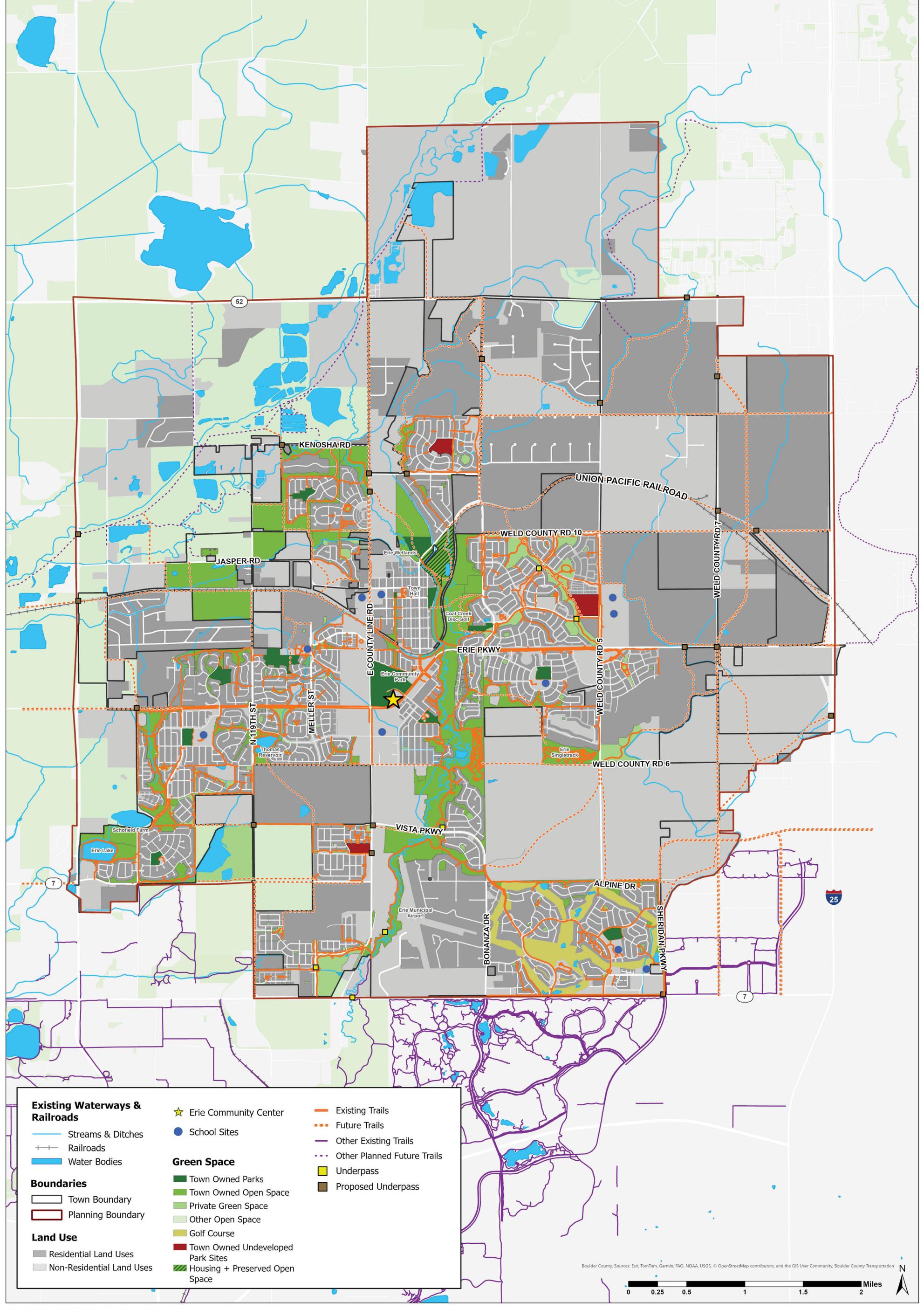




NOT FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL, PERMITTING, OR CONSTRUCTION



NOT FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL, PERMITTING, OR CONSTRUCTION



Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center
- School Sites

Green Space

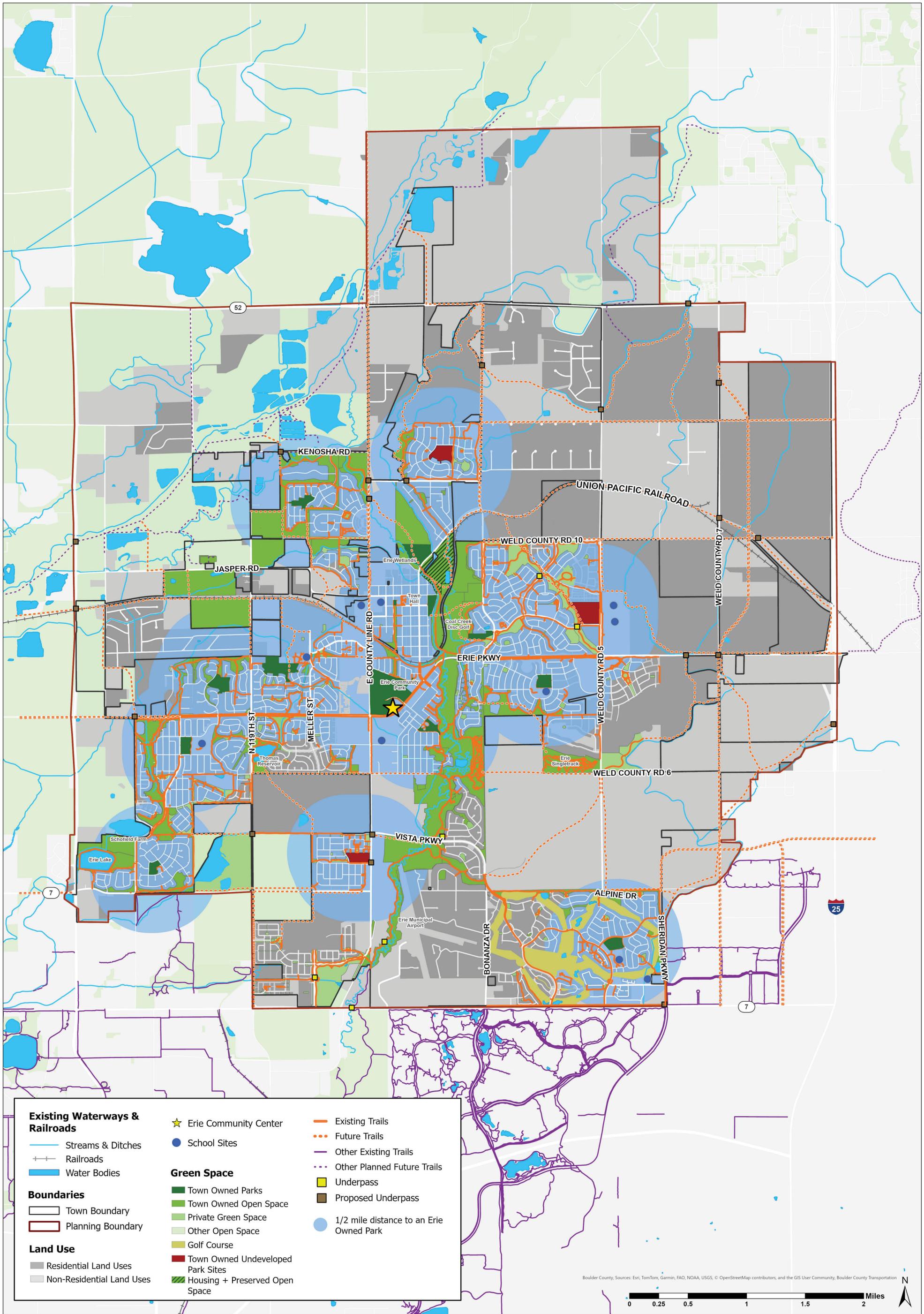
- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass

Boulder County, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Boulder County Transportation



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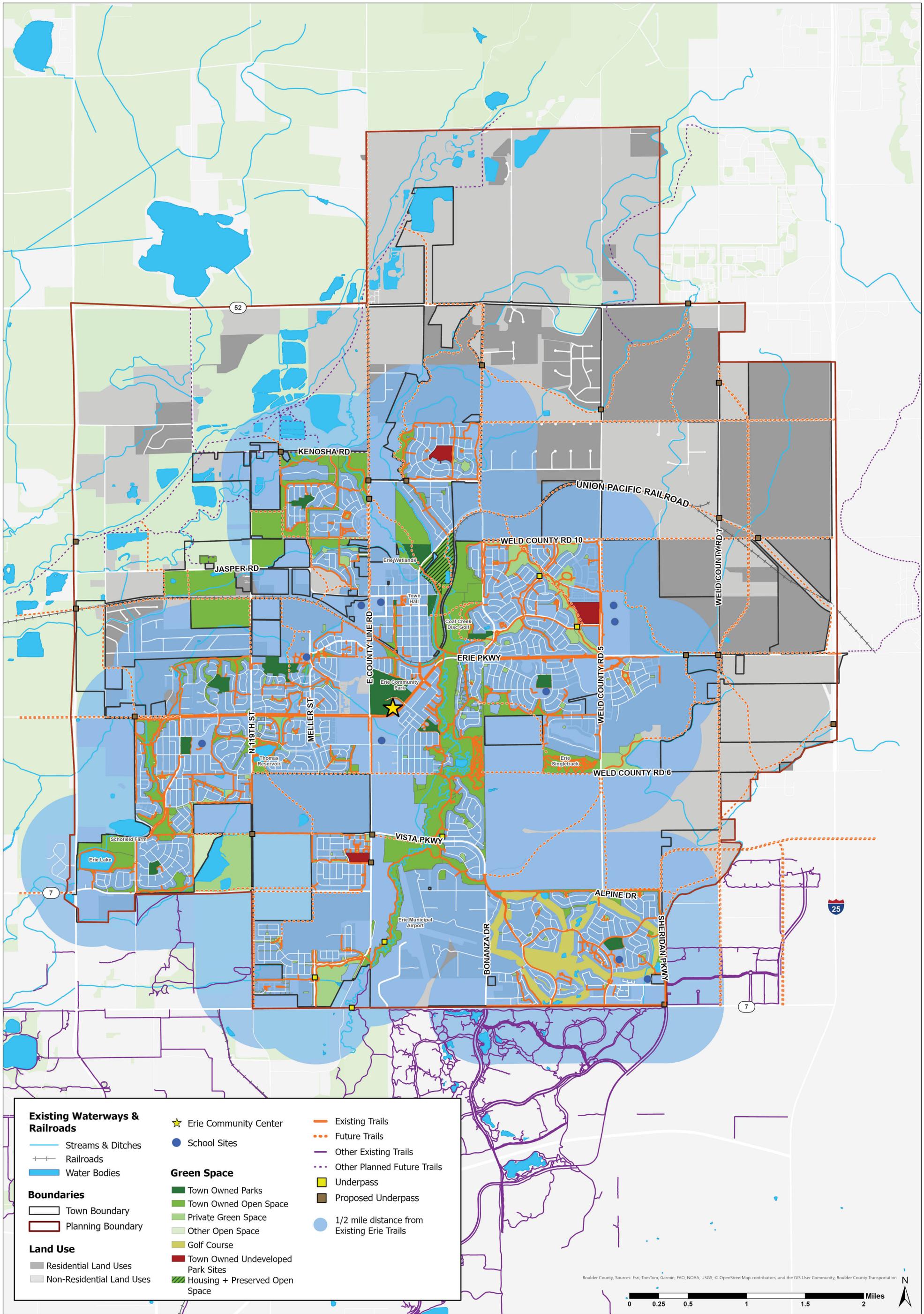
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2025 Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Playbook



Walkability Map



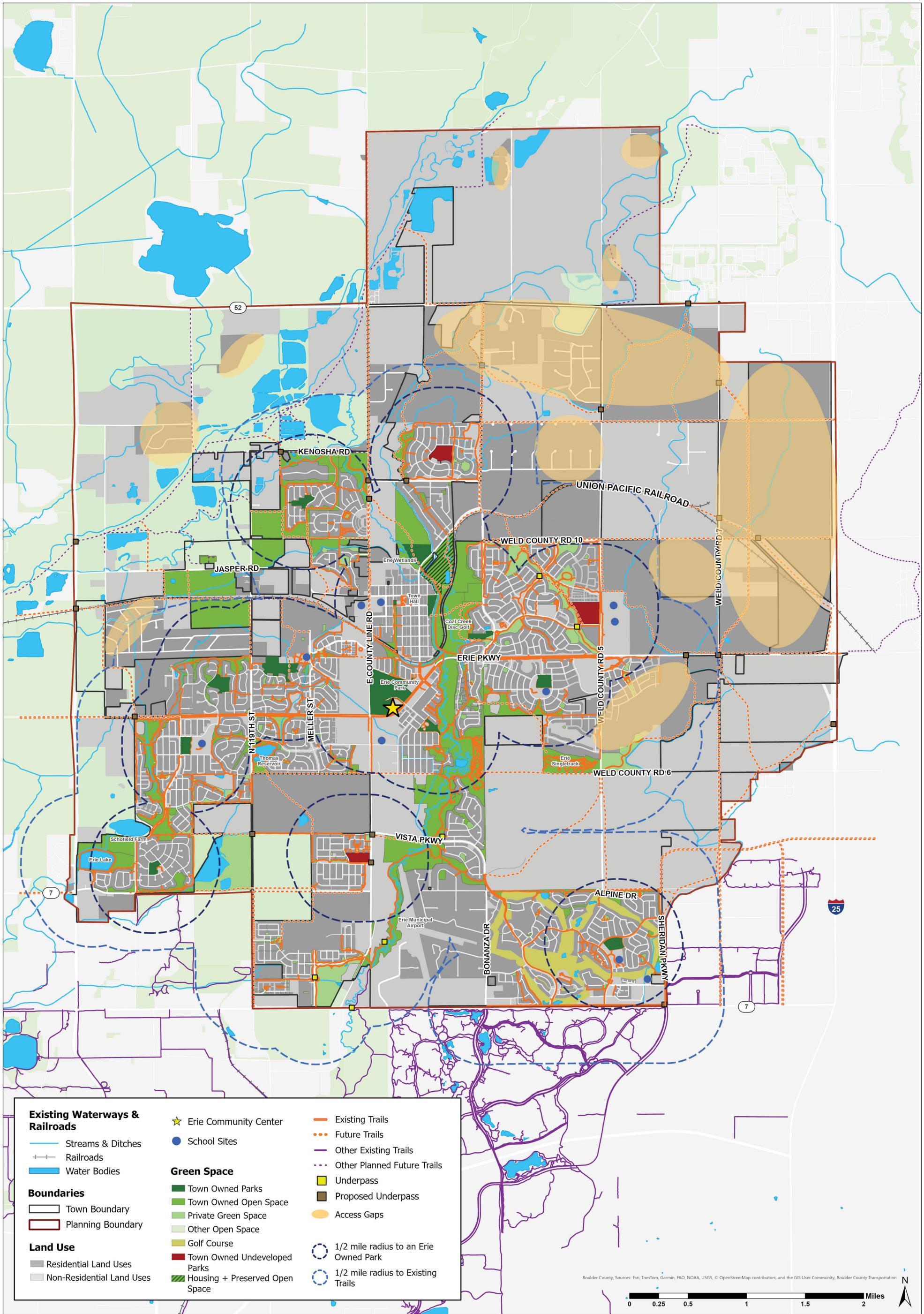
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2025 Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Playbook



Trail Access Map



Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center
- School Sites

Green Space

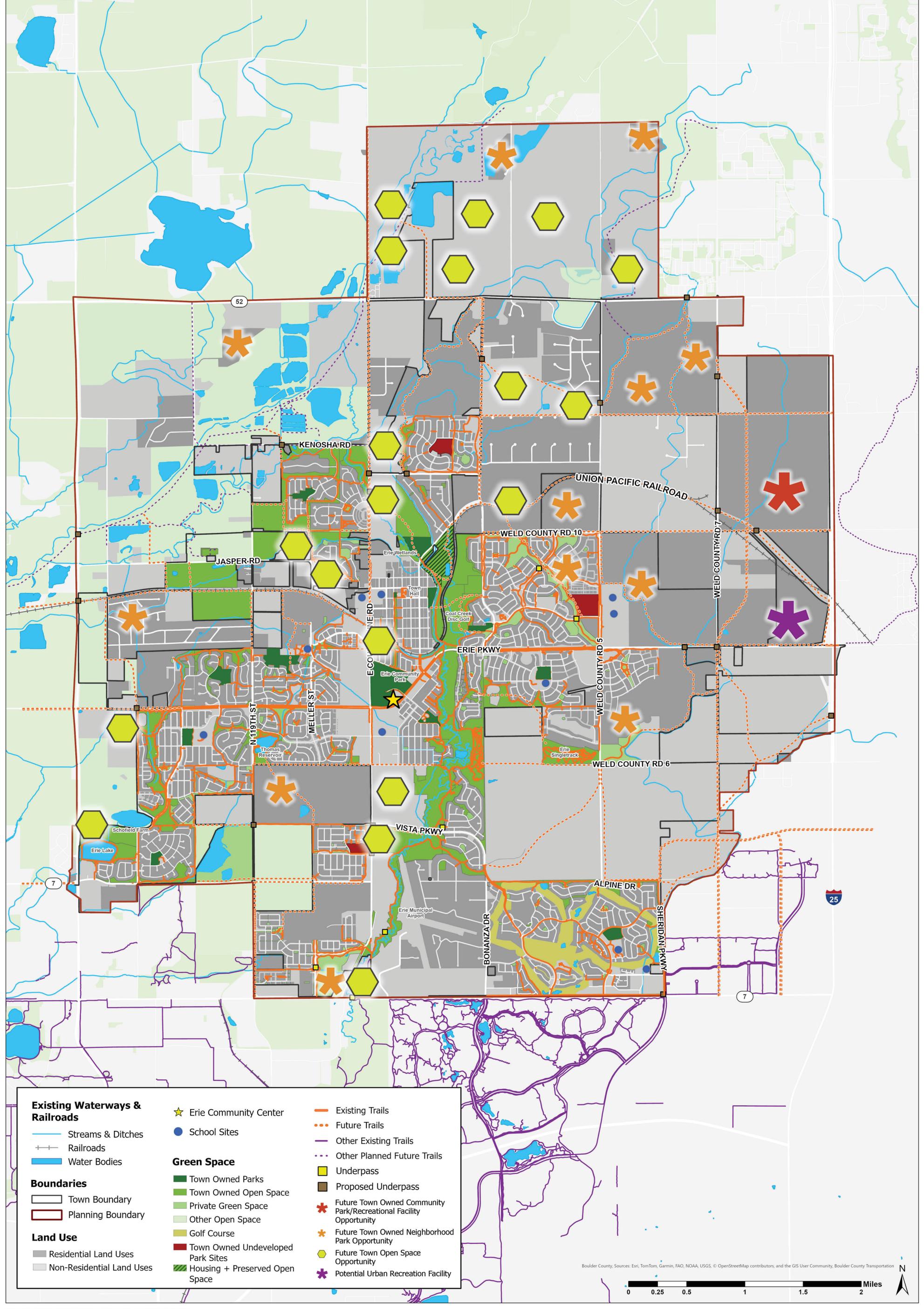
- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Parks
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- Access Gaps
- 1/2 mile radius to an Erie Owned Park
- 1/2 mile radius to Existing Trails

Boulder County, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Boulder County Transportation



NOT FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL, PERMITTING, OR CONSTRUCTION



Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

- Erie Community Center
- School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Other Planned Future Trails
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- Future Town Owned Community Park/Recreational Facility Opportunity
- Future Town Owned Neighborhood Park Opportunity
- Future Town Open Space Opportunity
- Potential Urban Recreation Facility

Boulder County, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Boulder County Transportation



NOT FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL, PERMITTING, OR CONSTRUCTION



2025 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails (PROST) Playbook

Town Council

August 26, 2025

Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks and Recreation

Michelle Regan, Senior Associate, DTJ Design

Keith Walzak, Director of Urban Design & Planning, DTJ Design



Introduction

The Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) ‘Connecting YOU to Fun’ Playbook serves as a strategic guide to enhance, expand, and sustain Erie’s parks, recreation, open space, and trails system. It provides a clear roadmap for decision making and investment over the next decade to ensure a balanced approach to growth, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and quality of life.

Connecting YOU to FUN Playbook X X X
2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan





Acknowledgements

This plan would not have been possible without the input and support of Town Council, Board and Commission members, community participants, and staff. Erie Parks & Recreation sincerely thanks everyone who contributed their time, insight, and energy to its development. We look forward to implementing the community's vision.

Connecting YOU to FUN Playbook

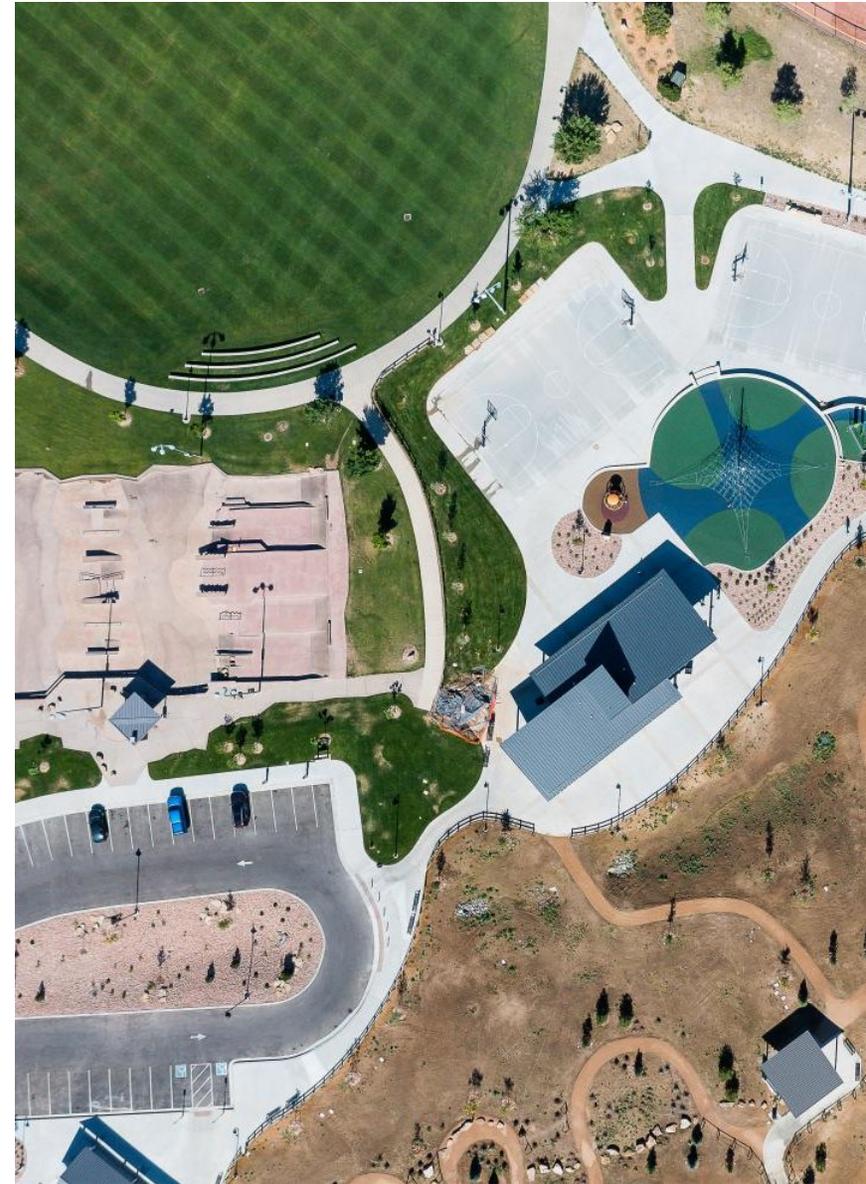
2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan





Playbook Purpose

- Guides the next decade of PROST development.
- Updates the 2016 PROST Strategic Master Plan.
- Ensures high-quality services, balanced distribution of amenities, and strategic planning for operations, maintenance, staffing, and funding.





Project Timeline

Project Initiation

(Nov. 2024 - Feb. 2025)

Needs Assessment, Exploration, & Ideas

(Nov. 2024 - April 2025)

Draft - Final Plan Formation

(April 2025 - June 2025)

Plan Adoption

(Aug. 2025 - Sept. 2025)

The Playbook was developed through a collaborative process involving community input, data analysis, and alignment with national standards, including CAPRA accreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).



Mission, Vision, & Goals

Mission Statement:

'Building community through the delivery of exceptional parks, open spaces, trails, facilities, programs, and services.'

Vision Statement:

'Discover your ExpERIENCE'.

Six Major Goals:



Goal 1: Equitable Access



Goal 2: Stewardship of Open Lands



Goal 3: Connected System



Goal 4: Community Identity



Goal 5: Fiscal Sustainability



Goal 6: Future Growth Resiliency



Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

- Community Questionnaire
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Focus Group Meetings
- Staff Focus Group
- Public Engagement Events
- Community Open House
- Online Engagement





Community Values & Top Priorities



- Expanded Recreation Facilities
- Aquatic Amenities
- Enhanced Trail Connectivity
- Preservation and Use of Open Space
- Cultural and Creative Spaces
- Inclusive, Family-Friendly Parks and Recreational Opportunities
- Sustainability and Smart Growth
- Maintenance and Facility Upkeep



2024 Magellan Survey - Overall

- November 2024 – Survey of 2,031 residents
 - 96% familiar with amenities managed by PRD
 - 82% approve of how PRD manages parks and playgrounds
 - 79% approve of how PRD manages open spaces and trails
 - 76% approve of how PRD manages the Erie Community Center
 - 55% agree (31% Unsure/No opinion) that PRD is fiscally responsible



PROST Questionnaire

- Online questionnaire open for 14 weeks from February 21 to May 31
- 726 responses
- Key takeaways
 - Connectivity of trail system
 - Top barrier to program participation: Programs fill up too quickly
 - Top desired programs: Fitness & Wellness and Community Special Events
 - Top capital priorities: Outdoor community pool and second recreation center
 - 53% would vote yes for sales tax increase to fund parks and facilities



Existing Conditions Analysis + Future Needs

- Park Locations and Level of Service
- Facilities Needs
- Trail Network
- Open Space Areas
- Management Plans
- Population Growth
- Capacity Planning
- Age-Specific Services
- Affluence Driven Demand
- Equity Considerations
- Sustainable Investment
- Resiliency



Plan Recommendations: The Path Forward

- Plan for new parks and recreation facilities while maintaining current ones
- Enhance trail connections and accessibility
- Expand and diversify recreation programs
- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration
- Plan for financial sustainability and evaluate new funding sources and finance methods
- Strengthen organizational capacity
- Celebrate and capitalize on cultural resources



Overall PROST Map

This map shows existing parks, open space, and trails for Erie. It also serves as a roadmap to guide the locations and development of potential future facilities, parks, and trails.

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

Erie Community Center

School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

Existing Trails

Future Trails

Other Existing Trails

Other Planned Future Trails

Underpass

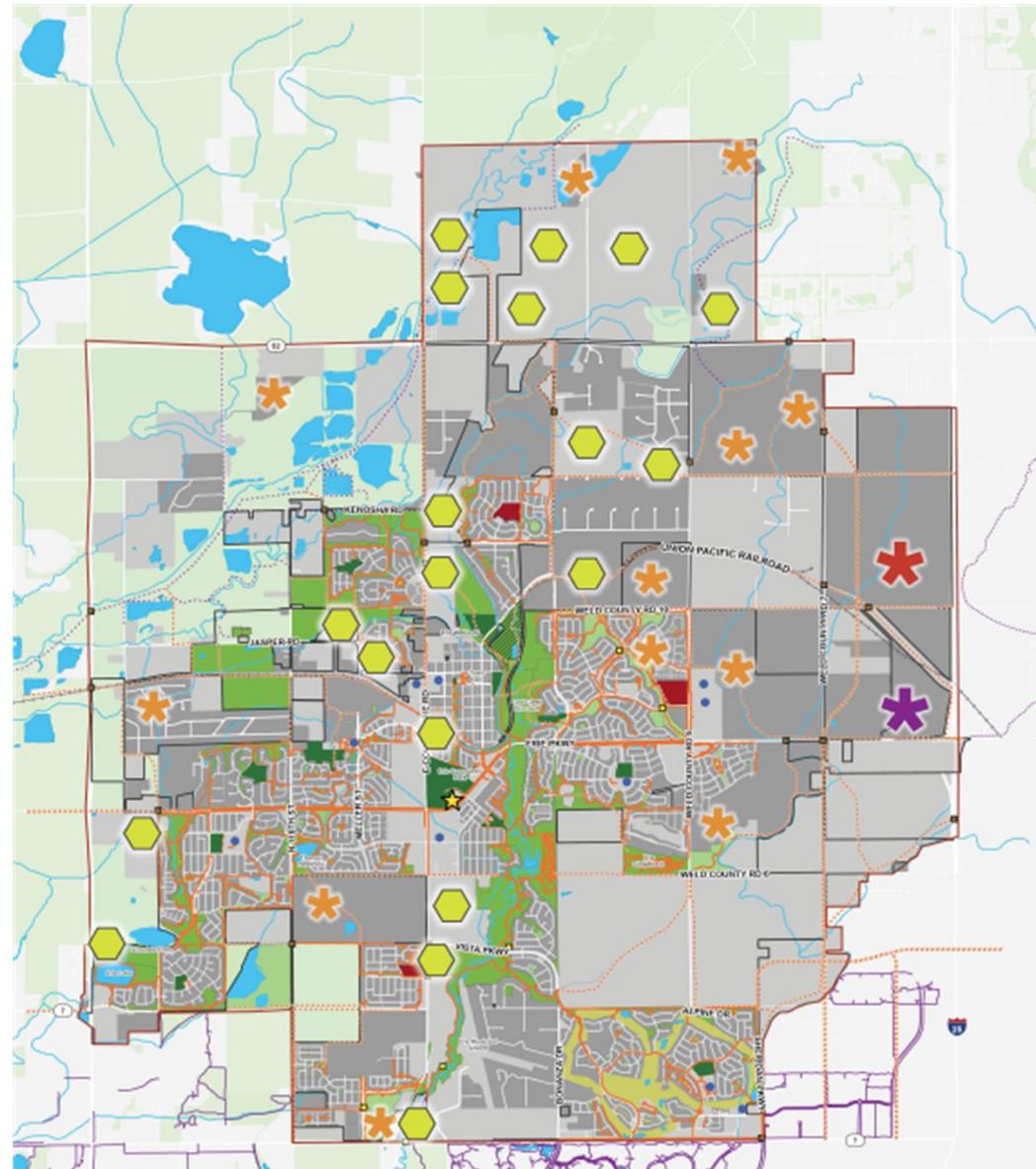
Proposed Underpass

Future Town Owned Community Park/Recreational Facility Opportunity

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Future Town Open Space Opportunity

Potential Urban Recreation Facility





Action Plan

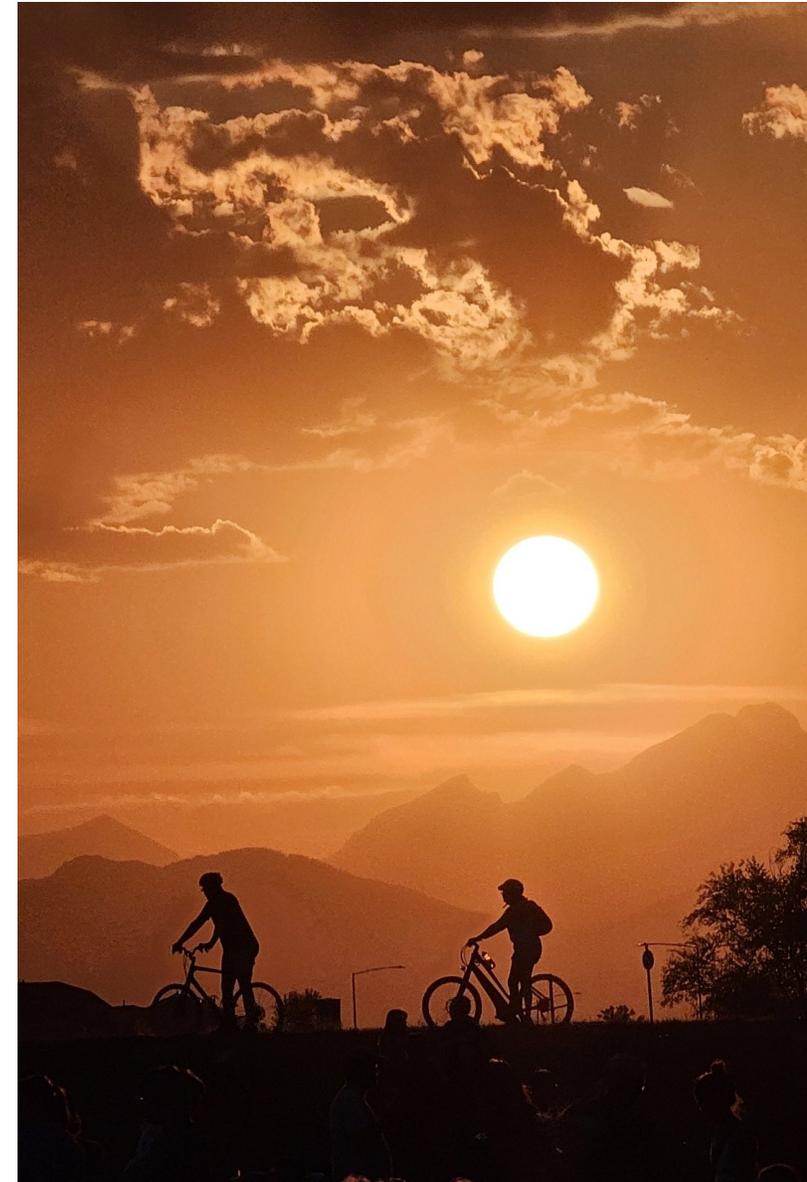
- Each action item is organized into five thematic categories:
 - Parks and Recreation Facilities
 - Open Space and Trails
 - Recreation Programs and Resources
 - Operations and Funding
 - Cultural Elements.





Plan Benefits & Impacts

- Charts an inspiring path toward a connected, vibrant, and resilient parks, recreation, open space, and trails system.
- Strengthens Erie's identity as a community that values health, nature, and shared experiences.
- Provides a clear framework for both immediate action and long-term success.





Implementation Plan

- Action Plan – detailed roadmap for implementing the Plan recommendations and establishes priorities for each element.
- Translates high-level strategies into specific, actionable steps with clear responsibilities and timelines.
- Action Plan serves as a practical management tool to track progress, assign responsibilities, and ensure accountability.





Call To Action





Questions & Discussion





TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

File #: 25-479, **Version:** 1

SUBJECT:

119th & Baseline Land Acquisition - Coordination with Lafayette and Boulder County

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation

PRESENTER(S): Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation

TIME ESTIMATE: 30 minutes

FISCAL SUMMARY:

N/A

POLICY ISSUES:

The policy issue is whether the Town should participate in a potential joint acquisition of property outside the Planning Area, balancing regional collaboration with existing open space priorities and funding commitments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This matter is for discussion and direction as Council deems necessary.

SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- Council requested to discuss the potential of the Town of Erie jointly purchasing property as open space along with Lafayette and Boulder County
- Erie's Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) are planning a joint meeting with Lafayette Open Space Advisory Board (LOSAB) in October
- Erie staff, OSTAB, and Council Liaison to OSTAB have discussed the potential for a joint purchase with Boulder County staff

BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

In early June, staff learned of Council Members' interest in purchasing property at the northwest corner of E. Baseline Road and Highway 7 as a community buffer. The parcel sits directly west of Parkdale, lies in unincorporated Boulder County, and falls outside the Town's Planning Area as defined by the Erie Comprehensive Plan. According to the Boulder County Assessor's site, the property covers 26.16 acres, carries an "Agricultural" classification, and includes four buildings.

Each year, staff, guided by OSTAB, update an internal map of properties that may hold value for open space purchases or conservation easements. Staff send letters to landowners expressing the Town's interest in their property should acquisition opportunities arise. The 2025 acquisition map does not list this parcel. While the Trails and Natural Areas Fund (TNAF) does not prohibit expenditures outside the Planning Area, doing so would reduce funds available for OSTAB's identified priorities and existing commitments that are within the Planning Area.

Town staff, OSTAB, and the Council Liaison to OSTAB discussed this potential acquisition with Boulder County staff in mid-June. Erie expressed openness to joint acquisitions, but both organizations agreed that Lafayette, Erie, and Boulder County should pursue this property together only if the price proves reasonable and the agricultural value significant. Both Lafayette and Boulder County staff noted that past purchase attempts failed due to the price per acre.

OSTAB has scheduled a joint meeting with LOSAB in October to discuss future open space and trail opportunities, and the groups will likely revisit this property as part of that conversation.

At this stage, staff share this information to ensure Council remains informed of conversations with regional partners. No action is requested, and staff will continue to monitor discussions with Boulder County and Lafayette while keeping Council updated.

TOWN COUNCIL PRIORITY(S) ADDRESSED:

- Attractive Community Amenities
- Engaged and Diverse Community
- Prosperous Economy
- Well-Maintained Transportation Infrastructure
- Small Town Feel
- Safe and Healthy Community
- Effective Governance
- Environmentally Sustainable
- Fiscally Responsible

ATTACHMENT(S):

None

First Amendment to Agreement for Services
(Town Hall Expansion and Renovation (P22-517))

This First Amendment to Agreement for Services (the "Amendment") is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2025 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the Town of Erie, a Colorado home rule municipality with an address of 645 Holbrook Street, P.O. Box 750, Erie, CO 80516 (the "Town"), and Bottom Line Design, LLC d/b/a BC Interiors, an independent contractor with a principal place of business at 3550 Frontier Ave. Ste C2 Boulder, CO, 80301 ("Contractor") (each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties").

Whereas, on September 10, 2024, the Parties entered into an Agreement for General Services (the "Agreement"); and

Whereas, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement as set forth herein.

Now Therefore, for the consideration hereinafter set forth, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Compensation. Section III of the Agreement is hereby amended to read as follows:

III. Compensation.

In consideration for the completion of the Scope of Services by Contractor, the Town shall pay Contractor \$234,343.21 for Phase 1 and \$330,067.19 for Phase II, as defined in **Exhibit A-1**. This amount shall include all fees, costs and expenses incurred by Contractor, and no additional amounts shall be paid by the Town for such fees, costs and expenses. Contractor may submit periodic invoices, which shall be paid by the Town within 30 days of receipt.

2. Scope of Services. **Exhibit A** to the Agreement is hereby replaced with **Exhibit A-1**, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference:

3. Remainder of Agreement. Except as expressly modified herein, the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

In Witness Whereof, the Parties have executed this First Amendment as of the Effective Date.

Town of Erie, Colorado

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk

Contractor

DocuSigned by:
David Chapman
0A6D4AB254D24BD...

State of Colorado)
) ss.
County of _____)

The foregoing instrument was subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me
this ____ day of _____, 2025, by _____ as
_____ of Bottom Line Design, LLC d/b/a BC Interiors.

My commission expires:

(Seal)

Notary Public

Exhibit A-1 Scope of Services

Phase I:

Contractor shall procure, deliver, and install all new furniture required for the Town Hall Renovation pursuant to Contractor's Phase I proposal, Order #75809, dated August 20, 2024, and Phase I Furniture Package document dated July 27, 2024. Contractor shall move all existing furniture to be re-used from the original Town Hall building and reconfigure as necessary in the new building addition or move to temporary on-site storage if furniture is not needed until Phase II.

Phase II:

Contractor shall procure, deliver, and install all new furniture required for the Phase II - Town Hall Building Renovation (P22-517) pursuant to Contractor's Phase II proposal, Order #76763, dated July 30, 2025, Phase II Furniture Package document dated June 23, 2025, and final Phase II furniture floor plan dated June 20, 2025. Contractor shall move all existing furniture stored on site or installed in Phase I as necessary and reconfigure/install.