



Rifle Parks & Recreation

Advisory Board

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

July 20, 2026

5:30 PM

202 Railroad Avenue, Rifle, CO 81650

5:30 PM - Workshop Meeting

Discussion and Review

- a. Strategic Planning Discussion

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The City of Rifle values full inclusion and access for all of our facilities, programs, activities and services. We are pleased to provide meaningful accommodations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and reasonably provide translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids, and services. To request special assistance, call Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew at 970-665-6578 or email our ADA Team at ADATeam@rifleco.org. Please allow 48 hours for your requests to be met.

La Ciudad de Rifle valora la plena inclusión y acceso para todas nuestras instalaciones, programas, actividades y servicios. Nos complace proporcionar alojamientos significativos para cumplir con la Ley de Estados Unidos con Discapacidades (ADA) y proporcionar razonablemente traducciones, interpretaciones, modificaciones, adaptaciones, formatos alternativos, ayudas auxiliares y servicios. Para solicitar asistencia especial, llame al Director de Parques y Recreación Austin Rickstrew al 970-665-6478 o envíe un correo electrónico a el equipo ADA a ADATeam@rifleco.org. Por favor, permita 48 horas para que se atiendan sus solicitudes.



Agenda Item #a.

Agenda Item Name:

Strategic Planning Discussion

Presenter:

Austin Rickstrew, Parks & Recreation Director

Item Description:

Recommended Action:

No action on workshop item

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Operational Impact:

N/A

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Background Information:

N/A

Executive Summary:

Review and discuss the strategic plan and updates for 2027-2028

Notification Requirements:

N/A

Prepared By:

Austin Rickstrew, Parks & Recreation Director

Attachments:

1. DRAFT Strategic Plan 2027-2028
2. 4.15.25 Parks Projects List

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan 2027-2028



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Adoption:

Facilitator: Austin Rickstrew

PRAB Adoption: February 10, 2025

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Mission	3
Vision	3
Values	3
Goals	4
Goal 1: Promote a healthy lifestyle through year-round recreational and leisure opportunities.	5
Goal 2: Work to maintain, complete, landscape, and beautify all parks.	5
Goal 3: Continue investment of park and recreation funds for recreation programs, parks, trails, open space, indoor and outdoor facilities, operations, maintenance, equipment, and reserves.	7
Goal 4: Provide optimal workspace for efficient operations.	7
Goal 5: Build/maintain relationships and collaborate with outside organizations.	7
Next Steps	8
Appendix A – Beliefs	9
Appendix B – Strategic Planning Participants	10

Executive Summary

Strategic planning is a process for clarifying the aspirations of a Board and Staff. It establishes goals to be met and identifies broad strategies to achieve them.

Everything that happens in an organization is driven by its values. These are the principles and beliefs that explain why the organization exists. Values define the goals and boundaries of behavior for the board, staff, and volunteers in their interactions with each other, with clients, and with the community.

Values are the things we believe are important. Values govern the way we behave, communicate, and interact with others. Values help us determine our priorities. Values are a small set of general guiding principles not to be compromised for short-term financial gain or expediency. Below are the values the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Staff set forth.

Mission

The mission is a summary of the means that the organization will employ to achieve its vision. The mission statement answers the question, “Why do we exist?”

“To put forth the highest level of parks, programs, facilities, and services necessary, to establish Rifle as the premier recreational community on the Western Slope.”

Vision

The vision is a picture of the future state of the community we serve as a result of our work. Our vision statement is our destination.

“We strive to enrich lives through quality parks, programs, facilities, and services.”

Values

When an organization’s values appear as guiding principles, a code of conduct, or a culture code that explains how the organization intends to operate in accordance with those values, a values statement makes a promise. Complimentary to the City’s values, Parks & Recreation has identified additional values that guide how they provide services.

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Values

- Integrity
- Community
- Collaboration
- Safety
- Leadership
- Positive Attitude

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan Values

The City of Rifle Parks & Recreation's vision is to be nimble, responsive, and innovative in serving our community.

Goals

	Promote healthy lifestyle through year-round recreational and leisure opportunities.
	Complete, landscape and beautify all parks.
	Continue investment of park and recreation programs, parks, trails, open space, indoor & outdoor facilities, maintenance, equipment, and reserves.
	Provide optimal work space, resources, and staff support for efficient operations.
	Build/maintain relationships and collaborate with outside organizations

Goal 1: Promote a healthy lifestyle through year-round recreational and leisure opportunities.

Strategy #1: Develop Recreational Programs (driven by community needs and availability of funding)

Action Steps

1. Identify opportunities to increase activities, either upon request or as opportunities are made available.
2. Implement year-round opportunities for public recreational activities.
3. Study opportunities for new recreational and leisure activities.

Strategy #2: Improve Rifle Mountain Park

Action Steps

1. Repair and maintain the Community House.
2. Use the Department of Corrections, Boy Scouts, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and volunteers to work at RMP.
3. Identify programs and activities that better utilize Rifle Mountain Park.
4. Improve parking in RMP (Follow Master Plan).

Strategy #3: Develop and Maintain Rifle Creek Golf Course

Action Steps

1. Identify funding opportunities for golf course improvements
2. Develop Master Plan to include potential options for year-round recreation activities and programs. (*Rifle Creek Recreation Area*)

Goal 2: Work to develop and maintain accessibility and safety, as well as landscape and beautify all parks.

Strategy #1: Increase funding for parks through grants and donations. Consider funding for ongoing maintenance costs.

Action Steps

1. Identify potential grant opportunities.

2. Secure other funding opportunities.
3. Review and expand business advertising and collaboration opportunities. (Baseball/Softball Field Score Boards)
4. Maintain a list of all known Parks Capital Projects.
5. Prioritize projects with estimated timelines. (Refer to Addendum 1)
6. Collaborate with the State and Federal Forest Service to help with trees. (Deadfall and wildfire mitigation)

Strategy #2: Implement a list of known projects based on appropriated funds

Action Steps

1. Prioritize Projects with estimated timeline.
2. Use completed master plans to phase projects.
3. Seek grant funding opportunities.

Strategy #3: Create a unified approach – theme to beautify City Parks

Action Steps

1. Uniform signage and planned themes.
2. Translate signs to Spanish. (Physical or QR Code)
3. Community Master Plan.
4. Unified Accessibility.

Strategy #4: Prioritize safety within City Parks

Action Steps

1. Keep trash picked up.
2. Deter Vandalism in City parks.
 - a. Cover up reported vandalism within 24 hours.
3. Develop a program collaborating with community resources to deter and clean up graffiti.
 - a. Use lighting as a deterrent. Remove solar and replace with LEDs at Centennial and add lights going south to 3rd street.

- b. Explore alternative measures such as security cameras.
- c. Work with Rifle Police Department.
- d. Increase and maintain security.

Goal 3: Continue investment of park and recreation funds for recreation programs, parks, trails, open space, indoor and outdoor facilities, operations, maintenance, equipment, and reserves.

Strategy #1: Conduct Strategic Planning annually.

Action Steps

- 1. Review Strategic Plan quarterly.
- 2. Develop a five-year plan.
- 3. Conduct a community survey every five years. (2029)
- 4. Maintain an operational reserve.
- 5. Coordinate with the City Planning Department for trail development.

Goal 4: Provide optimal workspace for efficient operations.

Strategy #1: Identify opportunities for Parks & Recreation Department workspace.

Action Steps

- 1. Evaluate the current work area and provide a work area to meet staff needs (i.e., privacy, line of sight for supervision, proximity to work groups).
- 2. Identify adequate storage for equipment and supplies (present and future).
- 3. Evaluate opportunities for expansion in existing facilities.
- 4. Build Field House (5-10 Year Plan).

Goal 5: Build/maintain relationships and collaborate with outside organizations.

Strategy #1: Partner with other organizations.

Action Steps

- 1. Continue to collaborate and maintain relationships with existing partners.

- a. RE-2 School District
 - b. Rifle Climbing Coalition
 - c. Forest Service
2. Identify and build new relationships with community partners.
 - a. RAMBO
 - b. Colorado Outfitters Association
3. Identify and partner with Private Business
 - a. Accessible and Transparent Vendor Application Process

Strategy #2: Evaluate the Marketing Plan

Action Steps

1. Evaluate and maintain current marketing strategies
2. Review Marketing Plan

Next Steps

- Update Strategic Plan annually.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Staff review and approve the document.
- Participate in City Strategic Planning Process.

Appendix A – Beliefs

Beliefs are convictions that we generally hold to be true, usually without actual proof or evidence. Beliefs grow from what we see, hear, experience, read and think about.

- Parks and recreational activities foster human development, promote health and wellness, strengthen community image and sense of place, efficiently utilize resources, demonstrate fiscal responsibility, develop and cultivate partnership, support economic development, protect environmental resources, develop and empower staff, and increase cultural unity.
- Recreational activities should develop one physically, socially, and emotionally by enhancing athletic, cultural, and life skills.
- Programs should adapt to changing needs, age, and culture of the community.
- Participation in programs enhances one's education, promotes sportsmanship, advocacy, inclusiveness, and develops good citizenship, and overall well-being.
- A variety of recreational opportunities should be available to everyone.
- Amenities should meet the needs of a diverse population by providing a safe, clean, affordable, well-balanced, educational, wholesome, enjoyable, and rewarding experience.
- Investments in parks maintenance and improvements provide dividends that enhance the quality of life, property values, and the community's self-perception.
- Recreational activities enhance the quality of life in Rifle.
- Operations should be efficient, maintaining the facilities we currently have before building new facilities.
- Support high quality youth and adult programs through collaborative efforts.

Appendix B – Strategic Planning Participants

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| – Annie MacGregor | Board Member/Chairman |
| – Aaron Cumming | Board Member/Vice Chairman |
| – Ken Blatter | Board Member/Secretary |
| – Marisa Skajewski | Board Member |
| – John Douglas | Board Member |
| – Betsey Seymour | Board Member |
| – Kirsten Clancy | Board Member |
| – Ari Philipson | Board Member |
| – Chris Bornholdt | Council Liason |

Parks & Recreation Staff:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| – Austin Rickstrew | Parks & Recreation Director |
| – Keith Dawson | Parks & Recreation Assistant Director |
| – Sarah Stubbs | Senior Administrative Specialist |
| – Matt Rowe | Recreation Program Manager |
| – Keith Gray | Parks & Facilities Maintenance Manager |
| – Kyle Mills | Community Engagement Specialist |
| – Taylor Walters | Recreation Coordinator II |
| – Jackie Camunez | Recreation Coordinator I |
| – Delaney Passmore | Recreation Coordinator I – <i>Special Events</i> |
| – Allie Beasley | Recreation Coordinator I – <i>Aquatics</i> |
| – Aiden Harden | Recreation Specialist |
| – James Magnuson | Parks Maintenance Worker |
| – Joey Zemlock | Parks Maintenance Worker |
| – Cody Hunstad | Parks Maintenance Worker |
| – Jon Hutchinson | Parks Maintenance Worker |
| – David Lowery | Grounds & Facilities, Building Maintenance,
Cemetery Supervisor |



Year:

2007

2011

2012

2012

2014

2015

2015

2016

2016

2016

2017

2017

2017

2017

2017

2017

2017

2017

2018

2018

2018

2018

2018

2018

2018

2018

2019

2019

2020

2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Item:

Constructed picnic shelters at Davidson Park.

Completed Centennial Park Phase I, Spray Park, Amphitheater, picnic shelters, Sun dial, shade structures, Great

Upgraded playground surfacing at Arnold Park.

Upgraded surfacing at Moki Park.

Completed construction of new concession stand, press box, bleachers, dugouts, planter boxes and concrete

Installed parking lot lighting at Deerfield Park.

Construct Morrow trail.

Constructed soccer pitch/turf area with RE-2 at Wamsley Elementary.

Construct Rifle Creek trail segment-11th Street to City Market.

Construct boat ramp and trail.

Upgraded playground surface at Heinze Park playground.

Upgraded playground surface at Deerfield Park playground.

Replaced roof on Heinze gazebo.

Installed Bleachers at Taughenbaugh field. (Now Skinner Field -- 2019)

Installed Playground at Centennial Park.

Painted Pickle Ball Court at Tennis Courts.

Refurbished and re-dedicated Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial at Heinze Park.

Installed drinking fountain at Centennial Park.

Replaced Davidson Park fence

Added basketball court at Palomino Park

Completed RMP map

Rifle Climber's Coalition installed signs at RMP

Replaced DRP basketball court lighting

GOCO Grant Award \$217,500 for Aquatic Play Structure and shade shelter

Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District (GCFMLD) Grant Awarded- \$500,000 for Art Dague Pool

Installed Scoreboard at RMS Auxiliary Gym

Off Grid Solar upgrades at RMP host cabin/office.-- supports I.T. improvements and internet and staff/PD

Construct Rifle Pool Renovation Project; New Lap lane pool, zero depth entry pool, improvements to catch pool, remodel bathhouse, improved concessions, changing rooms, concessions.

Safety Fencing at Joyce Park Playground and Palomino Park Basektball Courts, vehicle gates installed at Parks

Metro Park/Pool Parking lot was repaired, crack sealed, seal-coated, and re striped prior to the opening of the

Addendum 1: Approximate Timeline--Parks Projects Updated March 15, 2025								
*Costs shown may be actual/current, or are rough estimates for future projects. Except for the pool project, no dollars have been invested in planning or design for refined estimates.								
#NAME?	Year/ Priority	2025 priority	Time Frame	Location	Item	Estimated/Cost	Notes:	Completed/other
			2027-2028	Rifle Creek Trail	Add trail lighting/street lighting	\$ 85,000.00		
			(TBD)	All Parks	Security Cameras	\$ -	I.T. planning, --Prioritize Parks, long term-phase (Comes out of IT budget	
GRANT \$			2027-2028	Centennial Park	Complete Cent Park-Remove Solar,Install Hard wired LED Trail Lights/north end, lights on south end	\$ 85,000.00	Safety Concern--Estimates are being sought	
			(TBD)	Colorado River (Rifle Island Park)	Master Planning	\$ -	GRANT \$ - Part of POST Master Plan	Council '19
GRANT \$			2027-2028	Community Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan	Master Plan All Park locations	\$ 300,000.00		
			(TBD)	Davidson Park	Parking Lot Replacement	\$ 100,000.00		
			2029-2031	Deerfield Park	Compete DFP Covered dugouts on all fields	\$ 800,000.00	Skinner, Roan, Graham, Bookcliff, and Hogback	
			2025-2030	Deerfield Park	Chainlink Fence Replacement Project	\$ 100,000.00		
			2025-2030	Deerfield Park	Baseball/Softball Field Renovations	\$ 200,000.00	Five Fields	
			2026-2030	Deerfield Park	Musco LED Retrofit Project	\$ 700,000.00		
			2030-2031	Deerfield Park	Playground Replacement	\$ 200,000.00		
			2026-2027	Deerfield Park	Skinner/Graham Concession Area Upgrades	\$ 65,000.00	Concrete under Pavillion/ADA Access to Pavillion	
			(TBD)	Field House/Community Center - Construction	Build Field House/Community Center	\$ 44,500,000.00	Fort Morgan built in 2021 for 9.3 Million	
			(TBD)	Field House/Community Center - Design/Construction Documents	Design and Construction Documents	\$ 1,200,000.00		
			2027-2030	Metro Park	Replace Picnic Shelter/Tennis Courts	\$ 400,000.00		
GRANT \$			2029-2030	Metro Park	Pump Track and Expand Skate Park	\$ 1,000,000.00		
			(TBD)	Metro Park	Re-Plan the Metro Park Area	\$ -	This could be combined with POST Master Plan	
GRANT \$			(TBD)	Metro Park	Determine use of Dirt Jump Area	\$ -	Target what community wants within survey. Could Fit in the POST Master Plan	
			2026	Palomino Park	Shade Structure	\$ 60,000.00		
			2027-2028	Rifle Metro Pool	New slide	\$ 300,000.00		
			2028-2029	Rifle Metro Pool	Resurface Leisure Pool	\$ 100,000.00		
			2030-2032	Rifle Metro Pool	Resurface Comp Pool	\$ 150,000.00		
			2026	Rifle Mountain Park	Replace chinking on Community House	\$ 25,000.00		
			2026-2030	Rifle Mountain Park	Master Plan - Build Out	\$ 2,500,000.00	Theming, landscape, screening between campsites	
			2026-2028	Rifle Mountain Park	Clean up RMP Dead Trees	\$ 150,000.00	Partner with CSU Extention and Colorado State Forest Service/BLM	
Total Amount						\$ 52,935,000.00		

COMPLETED PROJECTS				
Location	Item	Estimated/Cost	Notes:	Completed:
Metro Action Park	Action Park Lights Repaired/ Replaced	\$ 58,000.00		2016
Deerfield Park	Fun timbers, ewf playground upgrades	\$ 4,500.00		2016
Heinze Park	Gazebo Roof Replacement	\$ 8,000.00	architectural shingles	2016
Centennial Park	Playground equipment	\$ 375,000.00	Donations, CTF, CHF, Rotary, VIF, Private Donors	2017
Art Dague Pool	Concept & Schematic design	\$ 71,396.98	Complete in 2017 pending election	2017
Taughenbaugh Softball Field (Skinner Field 2019)	Elevated Bleacher System	\$ 78,000.00	& host RHS lady Bears Softball	2017
Art Dague Pool	Engage Const Manager as Advisor, PVCMI	\$ 82,000.00	Per Council Recommendation- 2017, continued 2018+	
Art Dague Pool	CM-GC Pre-Construction Services	\$ 21,900.00	FCI part 1 agreement	2018
Art Dague Pool	DD, CD, Const. Admin fee	\$ 283,185.00	Jeff Johnson Architectural engaged as of May 2, 2018	2018
Palomino Park	Added basketball court and new Bison Goals	\$ 14,000.00	fall 2018	2018
Davidson Park	South Fence replaced with vinyl clad c-link	\$ 6,264.00	spring/summer	2018
Rifle Middle School, Re-2 IGA	Scoreboard in auxiliary gym	\$ 7,032.00	late 2018	2018
Deerfield Park	Replace Basketball Court light poles, lights	\$ 5,668.56		2018
Joyce Park	Swings, fun timbers, fall zone	\$ 8,000.00	Swings, fun timbers, fall zone	2020
Metro Park	Crack fill and sealcoat <i>following pool construction</i>	\$ 15,976.00	Crack fill and sealcoat <i>following pool construction</i>	2020
Joyce Park	Safety fence at playground.	\$ 11,000.00	Safety fence at playground.	2020
Palomino Park	Safety fence for basketball court, along 24th	\$ 5,500.00	Safety fence for basketball court, along 24th	2020
Skinner Field Concession	Complete DFP Upgrade Skinner Concessions	\$ 1,000.00	Complete DFP Upgrade Skinner Concessions	2022
Promontory Park	Plan/ Design Promontory Park	\$ 105,000.00	Plan/ Design Promontory Park	2022
Metro Park	Look into Field House, Gym Multi-purpose?	\$9.3 Million/Ft. Morg	Look into Field House, Gym Multi-purpose?	2022
Deerfield Park	Upgrade Basketball Court Surface	\$ 18,076.00	Upgrade Basketball Court Surface	2018
Metro Pool	Completed Pool	\$ 6,067,996.00		
Skinner Field	Light Replacement	\$352,443	Old lights failed in 2022	2023
Skinner Field	Safety Fence	\$33,840	Request from community/council to update safety fencing	2023
All Fields	Bleacher Replacement	\$43,576	CIRSA Recommendation	2023
Skinner Field Concession	Seal and Paint Concession/Restroom exterior	\$9,000		2023
Grotto	Dog Park	\$140,000	Paid for in part by CVT Funds	2023
Moki Park	Replace Playground Per Insurance Recommendation	\$ 150,000.00		2024
Arnold Park	Replace Playground Per Insurance Recommendation	\$ 150,000.00		2024
Deerfield Park	Complete DFP Parking Lot Islands	\$ 100,000.00		2024
Community Survey 2024 (5 year intvl)	Community Survey 2024 (5 year intvl)	\$ 17,000.00		2024
Metro Park	Remove Concession/Storage Area	\$ 1,500.00		2024
Birch Park	Construction	\$ 4,600,000.00	GOCO \$800K LWCF \$1.25M Penny Tax	2026
Deerfield Park	Sidewalk & DFP Trail	\$ 65,000.00	O&M	2026
Fieldhouse / Rec Center	Feasability Study	\$ 93,639.90		2026
South Rifle	Master Plan	\$ 49,922.00	DHM Design	2026
		\$ 13,053,415.44		