GILPIN COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER CAMPUS CONCEPT PLAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gilpin County has outgrown their community center campus. Due to current design and space restrictions, some spaces in the campus are highly overused while other spaces are very underutilized. The Gilpin County Community Center Campus Concept Plan is designed to provide Gilpin County Parks and Recreation with strategies which can be used to enhance facilities and programming at the Gilpin County Community Center Campus. This plan provides an overview of the background research and the public engagement conducted to support the strategies provided, as well as providing recommendations for further rounds of public engagement. Gilpin County Parks and Recreation provides important recreation and community opportunities for Gilpin County, Colorado. Many of these opportunities are on the same property as the main offices for Gilpin County Parks and Recreation, located in the Gilpin County Community Center at 250 Norton Drive, Black Hawk. In addition to the center, the property has an exhibit barn, outdoor arena, walking trail, community garden, and open space which is used for the Gilpin County fair. The facilities located at 250 Norton Drive are referred to as the Gilpin County Community Center Campus in this plan. Gilpin County Parks and Recreation also manages Pete Gones Park, which is 0.25 miles northwest of the campus. Gilpin County Parks and Recreation has expressed an interest in increased utilization for the amenities provided, as well as additional opportunities to further support the residents of Gilpin County.

The background research conducted informs the methods for increasing utilization and providing additional recreation and community opportunities for Gilpin County. The first part of the background research reveals the importance of recreation and the roles that recreation and community centers play in the community. The second part of the background research seeks to provide context for the circumstances in Gilpin County by examining some of the recreation and community opportunities available in surrounding counties such as Grand County, Clear Creek County, and Jefferson County.

In order to design strategies that are desirable to the community, public engagement was used to collect invaluable information regarding the needs and wants of different stakeholders and user-groups. The bulk of the public engagement conducted for this work took place during the months of February and January. A variety of methods were used in order to ensure a large number of respondents and to reach a diverse range of individuals. The first and most familiar method used to engage with members of the public was publishing a survey which asked a variety of questions related to the recreation and community opportunities available at the Gilpin County Community Campus. This survey was published both online and on physical sheets of paper, and hundreds of responses were collected over the course of two weeks.

During the time that the surveys were active, multiple in-person interviews were conducted with various user-groups. The groups interviewed included the following: seniors using the center for senior lunch; individuals using the space for enrichment activities such as quilting; youth-sports participants and their parents; and children who were enrolled in a daycare program at the center. Staff members were also interviewed during this time. While meeting with the different user-groups, additional interactive public engagement methods were used to further collect information about how they utilized the recreation facilities for their activities. A detailed review of the public engagement process used is provided in this work.

Analysis of the information gathered through the public engagement process was critical for informing the concepts and strategies which could be used by Gilpin County Parks and Recreation to increase facility utilization and further support the needs of county residents. Initially, the plan was to conduct a second round of public engagement to refine the preliminary concepts into a single, detailed concept plan. This process was slightly changed in response to the development of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to a quality second round of public engagement being virtually impossible due to public health concerns, it was determined that a broader concept plan with multiple options would be a more relevant product for Gilpin County. A concept "menu" was created, so that each choice within the menu can be implemented independently. This will hopefully provide Gilpin County Parks and Recreation with the flexibility to choose the strategies that best fit with the county's circumstances.

Finally, this work provides recommendations for conducting a second round of public engagement at a future time. These recommendations are made with the understanding that another round of public engagement is a critical step that must be completed in order to successfully implement any of the strategies outlined in the concept menu. This section outlines the various public engagement strategies that can be used, as well as the topics for which certain strategies may be particularly relevant. The recommendations for the second round of public engagement also draw upon lessons learned from the first round, and the strengths and potential limitations of each strategy are noted.

The Concept Items Menu

Category	Item	Cost Estimate	Relevant Age Group	Goals Met
Outdoor Infrastructure	Enhanced Trails	$-$$	All	🌱👥
	Nature Playground	$-$$	Children, young adults	🌱👥
	Ice Rink	$$$	Children, young adults, adults	👥
	Dog Park	$-$$	All	👥👁🚫
	Skatepark	$$$	Children, young adults	👁
Outdoor Programming	Exhibit Barn Space	$-$$$	All	👥👁🚫
	Outdoor Classroom	$-$$$	All	🌱👥👁🚫
	Interpretive Sign Boards	$	All	🌱👥
	Competitive & Community Events	$	All	👥🚫
Indoor Infrastructure	Barrel Sauna(s)	$$	Young adults, adults, seniors	👥👁
	Climbing Wall	$-$$$	Children, young adults, adults	🌱👥
Indoor Programming	Gear Rental	$	Yong adults, adults, Seniors	🌱👥👁🚫
	Media	$-$$	All	👥👁
General Suggestions	More Space/Expand	$-$$$	All	👥👁🚫
	More Fitness Room	$-$$$	All	👁
	Expand Hours	$$	All	👥👁

Project Goals

Connect with Nature	A Space for All	Vision & Investment	Multi-Use Spaces
🌱	👥	👁	🚫