

Root & Renew

Littleton's Parks, Open Space, and Trails Vision Plan

1. Introduction

a. Why now

b. Benefits of access to parks

(include importance of equitable access within the narrative text in this section)

c. The system today

Community profile

- Introduce districts approach (the why)
- Discuss age, race, income
- Discuss future growth

Assets today

- Map showing districts, parks, open space & trails

SSPRD & Littleton

- Discuss history of relationship between SSPRD & Littleton
- Infographics Littleton vs. SSPRD ownership/maintenance

d. Planning process

Building on past efforts

- *Littleton Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan* (2016)
- *Envision Littleton* (2019)
- *South Suburban Parks and Recreation Master Plan* (2022)
- *Urban Tree Canopy Report* (2023)

Project timeline

What we heard

Engagement summary & key themes

2. Foundation

a. Peer cities

- i. Burlington, VT
- ii. Boulder, CO
- iii. Fort Collins, CO

b. Benchmarking

i. Level of Service

1. Access to parks
2. Access to open space
3. Access to parkland
4. Access to trails

ii. Amenities

3. The Vision

a. Vision

The City of Littleton aims to equitably serve all communities within Littleton with a focus on resilience, maintaining, and upgrading to meet trends.

The plan's recommendations are organized within four major themes inspired by the Envision Littleton recommendations and community feedback; **parks and open space, activities and trends, resiliency and nature, and community and culture**. Each theme includes specific goals and relevant case studies that can be used as inspiration.

b. Parks and Open Space

Maintain and enhance existing assets

- i. Align with the SSPRD park classification system and enhance their definitions to define park classifications for the Littleton parks
- ii. Improve entrances to parks and create gateways that create a safe sense of arrival, utilizing the Littleton Linkages plan to make these type of changes in tandem with the plan's identified improvements
- iii. Identify parks that should be high priority to receive new amenities.
 1. Playgrounds should be added to District I, III, and IV
 2. Basketball courts should be added to District III
 3. Skate parks should be added to District II, III, and IV
 4. Dog parks should be added to District II, III, and IV
 5. Tennis courts should be added to District III
 6. Restrooms and water fountains should be implemented city-wide
- iv. Enhance capital maintenance and address issues with rundown equipment and amenities, prioritizing improvements to trails, playgrounds, and courts
- v. Prioritize cleanliness within parks, related specifically to geese and dogs
- vi. Identify properties for acquisition
 1. Additional parks should be prioritized in District IV
 2. Additional open space should be prioritized in District II
 3. Additional trails should be prioritized in District II

c. Activities and Trends

Develop more opportunities for residents based on emerging trends

- i. Add disc golf courses city-wide and integrate them into existing parks and open space
- ii. Add pickleball courts city-wide
- iii. Add more more water play and splash pads city-wide with a focus on District II part of the city

d. Resiliency and Nature

Prioritize protecting and preserving Littleton's natural environment

- i. Prioritize enhancing tree canopy within existing open space and parks city-wide with a focus on District II
- ii. Enhance shade around play areas and within parks and open space city-wide
- iii. Assess parks to determine where there can be turf conversions away from high water-use turf grass while being intentional about maintaining turf grass for high-use active areas

- iv. Evaluate planting areas that can be transitioned to pollinator gardens with low water-use plants
- v. Provide demonstration educational garden as a pilot project in a high traffic / easily accessible area

e. **Community and Culture**

Cultivate inclusive social spaces

- i. Establish partnerships with community organizations to encourage volunteer programs
- ii. Engage residents with park improvements that are culturally responsive including public art installations and language inclusive signage and wayfinding
- iii. Provide multi-generational activities within parks and open spaces
- iv. Activate parks through community events and educational activities
- v. Enhance maintenance of existing community gardens and consider implementing new gardens in District I and District III

4. **Moving Forward**