BV at a Glance

Located in the Arkansas River Valley only 2.5 hours away from Denver Metro, Buena Vista is a popular destination for outdoor recreation. The community aims to be a desirable place to live, work, and play. Buena Vista experiences substantial seasonal population shifts.

Seasonal population of ~6,000 - 10,000
Year-round population of 2,800

Project Objectives

1. Update infrastructure and amenities inventory
2. Identify gaps in the parks and trails system
3. Provide illustrative maps for public use

Timeline

Stage 1: Site Visit and Data Collection - February 25, 2022
Stage 2: Community Survey - March 4 to April 1, 2022
Stage 2: Level of Service Analysis - March 5 to April 1, 2022
Stage 2: Recommendations

Community Survey

97 responses from BV residents on how they use the parks and trails systems.

78% believe that Buena Vista should prioritize maintaining and improving existing parks
82% agree that the trails system is easy to access from where they live

Top comments from respondents include:
1. More trail connections
2. Increased maintenance
3. Safety improvements

The existing park system consists of 20 unique community, neighborhood, pocket, and special use parks. The Recreation Department’s vision is “to serve the local community by facilitating affordable and inclusive recreation opportunities.” Similarly, the Comprehensive Plan wishes to provide high-quality community services including well-maintained parks, create a clean and safe community with a defined sense of place, and encourage stewardship and sustainable practices.

Findings

Service area analysis shows:
- 61% of residents live within a quarter mile of a park
- 95% of residents live within a half mile of a park

Park typologies:
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Pocket / Special

Recommendations

1. Service
   - Goal: Ensuring that all residents are within a 10-minute walk from a park
   - Goal: Provide typology appropriate facilities at all parks

2. Maintenance
   - Goal: Provide regular maintenance and upkeep of park facilities

Trails provides safe, non-motorized connectivity within communities. Trails can serve as functional transit routes or recreational pathways. Within the municipal boundaries of Buena Vista there are 13 miles of dedicated trails including bike lanes and sharrows. With seven miles, half of the town trails are paved and the remaining six miles are natural paths. The 3-Mile Plan area includes an additional 19 miles of trails.

Findings

Mileage of trails by class:
- Existing: 3.78 mi.
- Proposed: 2.39 mi.
- Proposed: 11.15 mi.

Mileage of trails by surface type:
- Existing: 6.21 mi.
- Existing: 7.48 mi.
- Proposed: 2.39 mi.
- Proposed: 0 mi.
- Proposed: 11.15 mi.

Level of Service:
- Existing: 0.45
- Existing: 2.33
- Proposed: 0.45
- Proposed: 2.33

Recommended levels of service: 0.45 / 2.33

Recommendations

1. Connectivity
   - Goal: Expand the local and regional trail network and create links to key community destinations.

2. Safety
   - Goal: Ensure trail users feel safe and protected when using the local trail network.

3. Maintenance
   - Goal: Maintaining the existing facilities to enhance user experience.