CITY OF LANDER

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 240 Lincoln Street

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81185538199

1. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

A. Ayers Master Plan Presentation

B. Strategic Plan Wrap Up Kristen Gunther

2. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Special Meetings: 6:00 PM Tuesday, May 27, 2025, City Council Chambers

Regular Meetings:

6:00 PM Tuesday, June 10, 2025, City Council Chambers

6:00 PM Tuesday, July 8, 2025, City Council Chambers

Work Sessions:

6:00 PM Tuesday, May 27, 2025, City Council Chambers

6:00 PM Tuesday, June 24, 2025, City Council Chambers

All meetings are subject to cancellation or change.

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
Community Growth	**GR1.1. Grow Responsibly: Objectively Review Development Requests**					
		Consider allying development procedure rigor to the Priority Growth Matrix.	Short Term	City	PC	
		Implement administrative or expedited review of Priority Area 1 projects	Short Term	City	PC	
		Change development review procedure to require a more thorough review of projects located outside of a Priority Area	Short Term	City	PC	
	GR1.2. Grow Responsibly: Guide Infrastructure Investment					
		Incorporate into capital improvement plans those locations in Lander that should be in Priority Growth Area 1 based on demand, landowner will, or topography; but lack water, sewer, or paved roads fostering shovel-ready sites.	Ongoing	City	PW	
	GR1.3. Grow Responsibly: Update Review Tools Frequently					
		Review the scoring criteria regularly to ensure they accurately capture Lander priorities and so the Lander Growth Map represents up-to-date infrastructure location and status.	Ongoing	City	PC	
	EC1.1. Strengthen and Diversify the Local Economy: Promote Business Growth					
		Partner or promote programs that attract businesses that bring external revenue (e.g., outdoor rec, tourism, and remote work hubs).	Ongoing	External		LEDA; Chamber
	EC1.2. Strengthen and Diversify the Local Economy: Support Small Businesses					
		Partner or promote grants or low-interest loans for startups and existing businesses to expand, particularly along Main Street.	Ongoing	External		LEDA; Chamber
	EC1.3. Strengthen and Diversify the Local Economy: Leverage Economic Development Funds					
		Continue to partner with the Wyoming Business Council and the Lander Economic Development Association (LEDA) to provide funding assistance for community infrastructure to facilitate the start-up, retention, expansion, or location of a specific committed business.	Ongoing	External		LEDA; Chamber
	EC2.1. Enhance Main Street Vitality: Revitalize Vacant Properties					
		Partner and promote the use of vacant Main Street buildings for retail, restaurants, or community	Ongoing	External		LEDA; Chamber
	EC2.2. Enhance Main Street Vitality: Expand Retail and Dining Options					
		Partner with LEDA to encourage businesses to keep evening hours, especially restaurants; and to offer unique retail experiences.	Ongoing	External		LEDA; Chamber
	EC2.3. Enhance Main Street Vitality: Promote Main Street Foot Traffic					
		Promote walkability on Main Street through improved pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.	Ongoing	City	PW	
		Upgrade crosswalks for ADA compliance	Mid-Range	City	PW	
		Enhance pedestrian wayfinding signage	Short Term	City	PW	
	EC3.1. Address Workforce Challenges: Enhance Childcare Accessibility					
		Align services that support childcare programs for working families, such as recreational or educational programming, to encourage more childcare businesses	Mid-Range	City	PW/CD	
		Simplify applications for new childcare homes.	Short Term	City	PC	
	EC3.2. Address Workforce Challenges: Support Job Creation					

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
Economic		Encourage job training programs and partnerships with industries that align with Lander's economic strengths. Promote the creation of diverse workforce opportunities.	Ongoing	External		
		Participate in career fairs that connect schools to local industries and launch job training programs	Ongoing	Partnership	CD	Schools
	EC4.1. Foster a Resilient Community: Promote Local Tourism					
		Promote TAD Grant program to invest in public events (e.g., farmers' markets, rodeos) to boost tourism and local spending.	Ongoing	External	CD	
	EC4.2. Foster a Resilient Community: Support the Lander Economic Development Association					
		Promote the existence and opportunities of the Lander Economic Development Association through efforts to raise awareness of its resources.	Ongoing	External		LEDA, County
	EC4.3. Foster a Resilient Community: Promote Economic Opportunities					
		Explore opportunities to support the growth and expansion of local economic development programs as a resource for economic growth in Lander.	Ongoing	External		LEDA
	EC5.1. Enhance The Beauty of Main Street: Revitalize Blighted Public Areas					
		Develop a beautification plan for Main Street, focusing on revitalization of blighted spaces with murals, public art, and native plant landscaping.	Mid-Range	Partnership		Multiple nonprofits
		Encourage the use of EPA Brownfield grant opportunities to revitalize properties.	Ongoing	External		Private owners
		Provide letters of support for qualifying opportunities.	Ongoing	City	CD	
	EC5.2. Enhance The Beauty of Main Street: Increase Shade and Seating					
		Add more shade trees and benches in public locations to enhance pedestrian comfort.	Ongoing	Partnership	PR	WYDOT; Private landowners
		Encourage shade trees along Main Street and benches in high-traffic areas	Ongoing	Partnership	PR	Tree Board; other nonprofits
		Create a maintenance plan for Main Street trees and benches	Ongoing	Partnership	PR	Tree Board; other nonprofits
	EC5.3. Enhance the Beauty of Main Street: Enforce Property Upkeep					
		Enforce codes to ensure vacant buildings are maintained or revitalized, improving aesthetics through compliance.	Ongoing	City	BLDG; PD; MuniCourt	
		Inspect vacant properties annually	Ongoing	City	BLDG; PD	
		Issue code enforcement notices for violations	Ongoing	City	BLDG; PD	
	HS1.1. Improving Housing Attainability: Develop Workforce Housing					
		Encourage the development of affordable housing options for teachers, nurses, police officers, and other essential workers by partnering with developers and local industries like the school district or hospital.	Ongoing	External	CD	Private with fed/state assistance
	HS1.2. Improve Housing Attainability: Support "Missing Middle" Housing					

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
Housing		Promote diverse housing types through flexible zoning codes, such as duplexes, townhomes, and cottage developments, to provide attainable options for young families, first-time homebuyers, and retirees.	Short Term	City	PC	
		Amend zoning codes to increase flexibility in allowable housing types.	Short Term	City	PC	
	HS1.3. Improve Housing Attainability: Expand Affordable Rentals					
		Promote the increase the inventory of affordable rental housing through relaxed zoning for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and incentives for multi-family developments, utilizing the planning commission process to update and review the code.	Short Term	City	PC	
		Update code to relax ADU regulations	Short Term	City	PC	
	HS1.4. Improving Housing Attainability: Explore Deed-Restricted Housing Initiatives					
		Promote initiatives for deed-restricted housing to create attainable homeownership and rental opportunities for future generations.	Mid-Range	Partnership	PC	Housing Authority
	HS2.1. Revitalize Aging Housing Stock: Establish a Housing Rehabilitation Program					
		Promote organizations that create grant or low-interest loan programs to help homeowners repair and modernize homes, with focus on pre-1960 properties.	Short Term	City	Building	
		Provide educational information on home maintenance and energy efficiency	Short Term	City	Building	
	HS2.2. Revitalize Aging Housing Stock: Capitalize on Existing Programs					
		Encourage cleanup and revitalization efforts of vacant homes which are dilapidated or uninhabitable.	Ongoing	External		State
	HS2.3. Revitalize Aging Housing Stock: Identify and Encourage Adaptive Reuse Opportunities					
		Explore with the planning commission the expansion of housing opportunities by reviewing code changes that could allow for the rehabilitation of vacant or underused structures.	Short Term	City	PC	
		Develop zoning changes that expand possibilities for vacant or underused structures.	Short Term	City	PC	
	HS3.1. Encourage Well-Planned, Efficient, & Balanced Neighborhood Development: Focus on Infill Development					
		Prioritize the development within city limits to prevent urban sprawl and capitalize on existing infrastructure.			PC	
		Streamline permitting for infill development applications			PC	
	HS3.2. Encourage Well-Planned, Efficient, & Balanced Neighborhood Development: Protect Neighborhood Identity					
		Preserve and enhance neighborhood character by supporting cohesive design, historic integrity, and community identity.			PC	
		Host community sessions to gather feedback on mixed-income plans			PC	
		Amend zoning policies to accommodate diverse housing types			PC	
	HS3.3. Encourage Well-Planned, Efficient, & Balanced Neighborhood Development: Encourage Workforce Housing Opportunities					
		Support housing developments that include a mix of affordable and market-rate units.		City	PC	
		Explore employer-sponsored housing assistance programs.		Partnership		
		Revise zoning for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and shared housing to expand transitional housing options.		City	PC	

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
		Support major local employers (e.g., healthcare facilities, schools, or industries) in workforce housing initiatives to provide temporary housing for employees in transition.		External		
	HS4.1. Expand Housing Opportunities to Meet Future Needs: Facilitate Transitional Housing					
		Adopt flexible zoning codes that allow development of housing options for all life stages, including starter homes, family-sized housing, and senior living communities.		City	PC	
		Promote social service organizations that provide support services with referrals		City	CD	
	HS4.2. Expand Housing Opportunities to Meet Future Needs: Address Short-Term Rentals					
		Implement policies to regulate short-term rentals, such as Airbnb listings, to reduce their contribution to the housing shortage and long-term rental cost inflation		City	PC	
		Create a database of short-term rental properties				
		Develop regulations to cap the number of short-term rentals				
		Implement a licensing system for short-term rental owners				
	HS4.3 Expand Housing Opportunities to Meet Future Needs: Support Higher Density Housing					
		Revise zoning policies to allow for multi-family dwellings, tiny home communities, and ADUs in appropriate area while preserving low-density neighborhoods where desired.		City	PC	
		Explore through the Planning Commission the potential for developing second floor residential spaces and downtown establishments.		City	PC	
	HS4.4 Expand Housing Opportunities to Meet Future Needs: Partner on Annexation for Housing					
		Annex adjacent land for higher-density housing developments, such as condominiums and apartments, while limiting large-acreage, single-home subdivisions.				
	HS4.5 Expand Housing Opportunities to Meet Future Needs: Balance Development and Zoning					
		Review zoning policies to accommodate diverse housing and business development while maintaining Lander's character.		City	PC	
	IN1.1. Enhance and Maintain Core Infrastructure: Support Comprehensive Street Maintenance					
		Continue implementing the existing street maintenance plan with a consistent and prioritized repair schedule to address potholes and deteriorating roads, ensuring long-term roadway durability.		City	PW	
		Conduct a citywide road condition assessment within six months		City	PW	
		Create a CIP plan to repair high-priority roads		City	PW	
		Leverage the existing streets plan to develop a five-year street maintenance plan		City	PW	
		Continue to Provide Rural Water Services		Partnership		Fremont County
		Assess and implement safety protocols at the RV Water and Sewer Dump Station		City	PW	
	IN1.2. Enhance and Maintain Core Infrastructure: Upgrade Water Systems					
		Implement the 2022 Water Master Plan to replace aging and shallow water lines, prevent freezing, ensure adequate fire-fighting pressure, and enhance the reliability of water delivery for all.		City	PW	
		Replace aging water lines and upgrade fire hydrant connections in accordance with the Water Plan.		City	PW	
		Secure state funding for water line replacements		City	PW	

Section 1, ItemA.

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
	IN1.3. Enhance and Maintain Core Infrastructure: Create and Maintain a Water Infrastructure Database					
		Use the Water Master Plan to create a prioritized database of water infrastructure		City	PW	PACD
		Create a digital system (Google Sheets, GIS platform, or open-source database) to store and manage data.		City	PW	PACD
		Establish a reporting system for agricultural and industrial water use to ensure long-term sustainability.		City	PW	PACD
		Identify aging infrastructure in need of repairs or upgrades to prevent leaks and contamination.		City	PW	PACD
	IN1.4. Enhance and Maintain Core Infrastructure: Protect Wastewater Infrastructure					
		Use or obtain a current CIP Plan; Maintain the systems; Educate the public how to use the system appropriately; create a digital system		City	PW	PACD
	IN1.5. Enhance and Maintain Core Infrastructure: Improve Stormwater Management					
		Create and adopt a stormwater master plan for the city		City	PW	PACD
		Install new drainage systems in flood-prone areas		City	PW	PACD
		Transition private stormwater systems to public management		City	PW	PACD
		Develop a citywide stormwater infrastructure map		City	PW	PACD
	IN2.1. Improve Community Safety & Accessibility: Enhanced Snow Removal Operations					
		Develop a strategic snow removal plan to improve the safety of streets and sidewalks during winter months, prioritizing high-traffic areas and neighborhoods most impacted by accumulation		City	PW	
		Develop a strategic snow removal plan.		City	PW	
		Purchase additional snow removal equipment.		City	PW	
		Prioritize clearing high-traffic areas during snow events		City	PW	
	IN2.2. Improve Community Safety & Accessibility: Sidewalk and Crosswalk Connectivity					
		Expand sidewalk networks and install pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, including push-button crosswalk lights at key intersections, to improve safety and accessibility for all residents, especially in schools, parks, and downtown areas.		City	PW	WYDOT; Pathways; Rec Board/Agencies
		Expand sidewalk networks in underserved neighborhoods		City	PW	
		Install push-button crosswalk lights		City	PW	
		Upgrade sidewalks to meet ADA compliance standards		City	PW	
	IN2.3. Improve Community Safety & Accessibility: Smart & Efficient Street Lighting					
		Enhance public safety by upgrading streetlights to energy-efficient models that minimize light pollution, preserve dark skies, and ensure adequate lighting		External		EE Task Force, Rocky Mountain Power
		Encourage installation of smart streetlights on major roadways		External		EE Task Force, Rocky Mountain Power
		Develop a plan to reduce light pollution near residential areas		Partnership		EE Task For
	IN3.1. Prepare with Resilient Infrastructure: Disaster-Resistant Infrastructure					

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
Infrastructure		Weather-proof infrastructure for floods and other hazardous events		City		EETF; Fremont County EMA
		Upgrade flood defenses in critical areas		City		EETF; Fremont County EMA
		Keep backup systems for emergencies		City		EETF; Fremont County EMA
		Develop a citywide emergency power backup system	Ongoing	City		EE Task Force
		Offer to host disaster preparedness workshops				Fremont County EMA
	IN3.2. Prepare with Resilient Infrastructure: Underground Utility Installation					
		Incorporate utility line burial into new developments and infrastructure upgrades to improve aesthetic quality, reduce maintenance, and enhance resilience against environmental hazards.		Partnership	PW; Building	Rocky Mountain Power; franchise agreement
		Bury utility lines in five neighborhoods prone to outages		Partnership	PW; Building	
		Secure grants for underground utility projects		Partnership	PW; Building	
		Coordinate with utility companies for infrastructure upgrades		Partnership	PW; Building	
	IN3.3. Prepare with Resilient Infrastructure: Broadband Access Expansion					
		Encourage broadband infrastructure to ensure reliable, high-speed internet access is available to all households and businesses, fostering inclusivity and economic growth.		Partnership		franchise agreements
		Collaborate with ISPs to provide affordable broadband packages		Partnership		franchise agreements
		Review broadband franchise agreements for coverage areas to see if Lander has underserved areas		Partnership		franchise agreements
	IN3.4. Prepare with Resilient Infrastructure: Expansion of Infrastructure					
		Expand infrastructure to new areas suitable for residential development in accordance with the 2022 Water Master Plan and the 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan		City	PW	
		Apply for funding from programs like USDA Rural Development, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and state transportation funds.		City	PW	
		Identify high-traffic or deteriorating roads and sidewalks for phased improvements.		City	PW	
		Create a phased infrastructure improvement plan that balances immediate needs with future growth.		City	PW	
	IN3.5. Prepare with Resilient Infrastructure: Adopt Construction Standards					
		Oversee contractors to ensure construction meets town standards.		City	Building	
		Establish baseline standards for safety, durability, and energy efficiency tailored to local needs.		City	Building	
		Incentivize energy-efficient materials, thicker insulation, and water-efficient plumbing in new developments.		City	Building	EE Task For
		Develop a resource hub with guidelines, best practices, and technical assistance to help builders comply with new standards.		Partnership	CD	EE Task For

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
	IN4.1 Establish Sustainable Pracitices: Solar Energy Expansion					
		Explore rooftop solar installations on public buildings using incentives and support for implementation, making Lander a leader in renewable energy.	Ongoing	Partnership		EETF, RMP,
		Install solar panels on municipal buildings where feasible.	Ongoing	Partnership		EETF, RMP,
		Promote financial incentives for residential solar installations	Ongoing	Partnership		EETF, RMP,
		Host renewable energy workshops	Ongoing	Partnership		EETF, RMP,
	IN4.2 Establish Sustainable Practices: Electrification of Municipal Assets					
		Explore electric models when replacing municipal fleet vehicles.		City		EE Task Force
		Encourage the installation of EV charging stations at a high traffic public locations		External		
		Provide training sessions on EV maintenance for staff, as needed.		City		
	IN4.3 Establish Sustainable Practices: Energy Efficient Retrofits					
		Retrofit municipal buildings with energy-efficient systems, such as upgraded HVAC, insulation, and LED lighting, to reduce energy costs and set a community example for sustainable infrastructure	Ongoing	City		EE Task Force; WY Energy Authority;
		Create a priority list of assets to upgrade		City		
	IN4.4 Establish Sustainable Practices: Promote Sustainable Material Use					
		Encourage selection of quality materials that maximize the longevity of infrastructure improvements, such as providing educational materials on available sustainable products		City		EE Task Force
		Partner with local businesses, contractors, and manufacturers to promote sustainable building materials.		City		
		Provide educational resources on cost-effective sustainable building options.		City		EE Task Force
		Recognize and promote local businesses that commit to sustainable material use through a "Green Business" certification or public recognition program.		City		EE Task Force
	PR1.1. Enhance Connectivity and Accessibility: Develop a Network of Recreational Pathways					
		Create a comprehensive system linking neighborhoods to all parks, open spaces, and the river corridor, such as a town loop or Popo Agie River pathway.		City	PR	
		Refer to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to establish a CIP for pathway development.		City	PR	
		Host community feedback sessions on pathway designs.		City	PR	
	PR1.2. Enhance Connectivity and Accessibility: Implement Pathway Improvements					
		Use staff to collaborate with property owners and stakeholders to address pathway access challenges and advance pathway development in parks, cemetery and rodeo grounds.		City	PW; PR	
		Determine if a pathway volunteer organization would be helpful.		City	PW; PR	
	PR1.3. Enhance Connectivity and Accessibility: Improve Multi-Modal Access in Parks					
		Provide safe, level, and accessible paths to and within cemetery and recreational areas, such as City Park and new park lands.		City	PW; PR	
		Add bike-friendly routes to connect parks and neighborhoods.		City	PW; PR	
		Prioritize crosswalks providing access to parks.		City	PW; PR	

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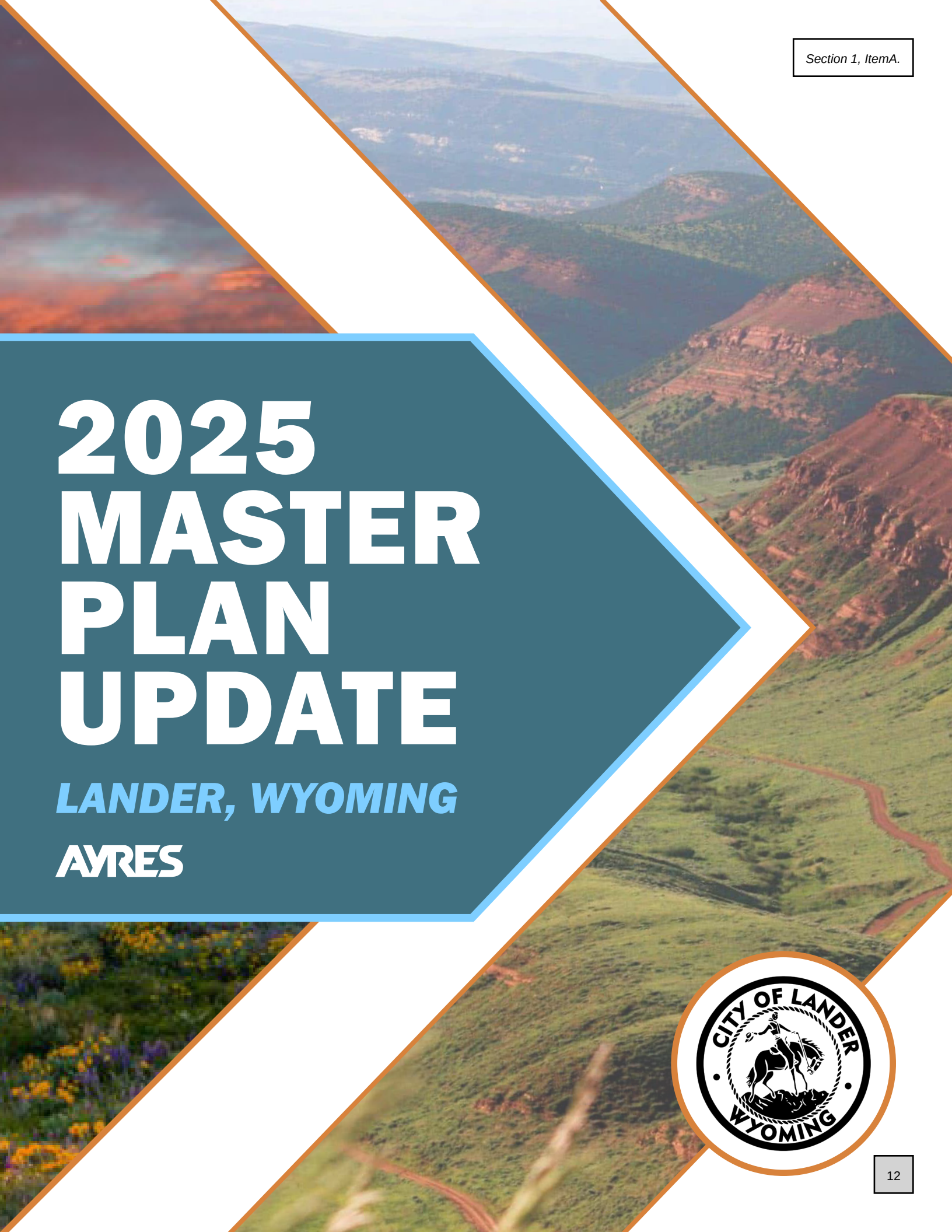
Parks & Recreation		*Develop a maintenance schedule for trails and bike paths*		City	PW; PR	
	PR2.1. Expand and Diversify Recreational Opportunities: Increase Shade and Weather Protection					
		Enhance park and rodeo ground usability by adding shade trees and shelters to provide relief during extreme weather events.		City	PR	Tree Board
		Plant new trees in parks in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.		City	PR	Tree Board
		Develop a tree maintenance and care plan.		City	PR	Tree Board
		Install shade structures in playgrounds in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.		City	PR	
	PR2.2. Expand and Diversify Recreational Opportunities: Develop New Community Facilities					
		Build ADA accessible amenities, such as natural playgrounds or ball fields, to cater to youth, seniors, families, and sports enthusiasts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.		City	PR	Recreational associations
		Build ball fields in underserved areas.		City	PR	
		Host quarterly fundraising events for new facilities.		City	PR	
		Partner with the school district and other community partners to develop a plan to replace aging pool infrastructure.		City	PR	
	PR2.3. Expand and Diversify Recreational Opportunities: Maintain Quality Parks and Recreation Programs					
		Be a hub for affordable and inclusive recreational activities for all residents, emphasizing opportunities for youth, families, and seniors.		City	PR	
		Encourage affordable programs for youth and families		City	PR	
		Provide scholarships to approved programs for students with free and reduced lunch qualifications		City	PR	
		Continue to offer ice skating and hockey as weather allows		City	PR	
	PR3.1. Preserve Public Natural and Green Spaces: Protect Riparian Buffers and Natural Areas					
		Maintain streamside buffers and incorporate native features to support sustainability and reduce		City		Healthy Rivers
		Designate riparian areas as protected zones		City	PC	Healthy Rivers
		Incorporate native plants to prevent soil erosion		City	PR	Healthy Rivers
		Host community clean-ups near rivers		Partnership	PR	Healthy Rivers
	PR3.2. Preserve Natural and Green Spaces: Designate Underdeveloped Open Spaces					
		Preserve specific areas for natural enjoyment, incorporation compact dirt pathways, benches, and scenic views.		City	PR	Other rec associations
		Preserve underdeveloped areas for recreational use		City	PR	
		Develop compact dirt pathways and scenic views		City	PR	
		Install seating and informational signs in open spaces		City	PR	
	PR3.3. Preserve Natural and Green Spaces: Improve Maintenance and Infrastructure					
		Replace aging maintenance equipment and infrastructure needed for efficient park maintenance and to extend the usable season.		City	PR	Weed & Pest D
		Develop a snow removal plan for park pathways		City	PR	Weed & Pest D

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
		Repair critical park infrastructure in accordance with the Park and Rec Plan		City	PR	Weed & Pest Division
		Address invasive species with both educational materials and enforcement and by removing invasive species from city-owned properties.		City	PR	Weed & Pest Division
		Remove invasive species in parks annually		City	PR	Weed & Pest Division
		Provide residents with access to information on invasive species		City	PR	Weed & Pest Division
	PR4.1. Foster Sustainable Landscaping in Public Spaces: Promote Native Landscaping					
		Encourage the use of native plants on city-owned property to promote water efficiency, sustainability, and environmental health.		City	PR	Weed & Pest Division
		Encourage private groups to host native landscaping workshops or demonstration gardens.		External		Local programs
	PR4.2. Foster Sustainable Landscaping in Public Spaces: Plant More Trees					
		Expand tree planting programs and improve existing greenery in public spaces for shade and aesthetic value.		City	PR	Tree Board & others
		Plant trees in parks and cemetery		City	PR	Tree Board & others
		Engage volunteers for tree planting		City	PR	Tree Board & others
		Maintain planted trees with regular checks and remove damaged or diseased trees		City	PR	Tree Board & others
	PR4.3. Foster Sustainable Landscaping in Public Spaces: Protect Local Nature					
		Promote and protect public access to public lands and rivers.		City	PR	Tree Board & others
		Analyze code to ensure developments are required to respect natural areas		City	PC/Bldg	
		Minimize developments along riparian areas and rivers.		City	PC/Bldg	
		Promote volunteer opportunities for maintenance		City	PR	
	TR1.1. Promote Safe and Active Transportation: Invest in Safe Routes for Multi-Modal Transportation					
		Expand bike lanes, add trails along major routes, and provide clear signage to ensure cyclist safety and connectivity in accordance with the 2020 Safe Routes to Schools, Walkable, Bikeable Study.		City		WYDOT, & nonprofits
		Add dedicated bike lanes in accordance with the Transportation Plan		City		WYDOT, & nonprofits
		Install bike racks in high-traffic areas		City		WYDOT, & nonprofits
		Develop a public awareness campaign on cyclist safety		City		FCAG; WRTA
		Encourage expand transit routes to underserved areas		External		FCAG; WRTA
		Improve transit locations, making them more artistic, educational, comfortable		Partnership		FCAG; WRTA
		Launch a public transit marketing campaign to increase ridership		External		FCAG; WRTA
	TR1.2. Promote Safe and Active Transportation: Focus on Multi-Modal Safety Enhancement					
		Improve visibility and accessibility at intersections, enforce safe usage of sidewalks, and add pedestrian-focused features such as controlled crosswalks and visible stop signs.		City	PW	WYDOT; Pathways
		Upgrade intersections with safety features in accordance with the 2020 Safe Routes to Schools, Walkable, Bikeable Study CIP Plan.		City	PW	WYDOT; Path

Theme	Goal	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility	Dept	Partners
Transportation		*Install pedestrian-focused stop signs at crossings in accordance with the 2020 Safe Routes to Schools, Walkable, Bikeable Study CIP Plan.*		City	PW	WYDOT; Pathways
		Create multi-use pathways that connect to transit in accordance with the 2020 Safe Routes to Schools, Walkable, Bikeable Study CIP Plan.		City	PW	WYDOT; Pathways
		Attempt to connect pathways to public transit stops as part of transportation-related CIP projects.		City	PW	WYDOT; Pathways
		Gather community input on pathway designs		City	PW	WYDOT; Pathways
		Incorporate pedestrian safety into the Transportation Plan		City	PW	WYDOT; Pathways
	TR2.1. Enhance Connectivity and Sustainable Mobility: Maintain the Street Network					
		Require new developments to integrate into the existing street patterns.		City	PC	
		Replace signs to meet UTC requirements		City	PW	
	TR2.2. Enhance Connectivity and Sustainable Mobility: Improve Public and Alternative Transit					
		Explore expansion public transportation options, provide better connections to the airport, and encourage EV-friendly hubs at key locations.		City	PW	FCAG; WRTA
		Encourage electric vehicle charging stations in key locations, such as Main Street areas, major roadways, public parking lots, and public facilities.		City	PW	EETF
	TR2.3. Enhance Connectivity and Sustainable Mobility: Address Parking and Traffic Concerns					
		Improve education and walkability to alleviate downtown traffic, optimize parking space usage, and balance pedestrian and vehicle needs.		City	PW	WYDOT, Urban Systems
		Increase parking availability with education and enforcement of parking limits		City	PW	
		Survey existing parking for opportunities for restriping for better traffic flow and increased parking		City	PW	
		Reduce downtown traffic congestion through optimized flow systems in accordance with the Transportation Plan		City	PW	
	TR2.4. Enhance Connectivity and Sustainable Mobility: Promote Collaborations with WYDOT					
		Partner closely with WYDOT to balance safety and accessibility of major roadways on Main Street.		City	PW	WYDOT, Urban Systems
		Create opportunities for frequent meetings with WYDOT to discuss roadway improvements		City	PW	
		Continue to complete currently identified projects to improve highway safety		City	PW	
		Coordinate on traffic signal optimization along Main Street		City	PW	



2025 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

LANDER, WYOMING

AYRES

CITY OF LANDER WYOMING

A Special Thank You

To the hundreds of Lander community members, leaders, and organizations that participated in creating this plan: Your invaluable feedback has been the foundation of this journey. Your insights and contributions directly shaped the vision and goals. This is more than just a plan; it is a reflection of your aspirations for Lander's future.

Thank you for your dedication, support, and involvement.

Prepared by Ayres Associates

AYRES

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01

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE MASTER PLAN UPDATE?

This Master Plan Update serves as a comprehensive, long-term strategic framework guiding the City Council, Planning Commission, staff, residents, and land developers in decision-making for future development in Lander.

The update builds upon the 2012 Master Plan and incorporates the updated vision and goals of the community. While some goals from the previous Master Plan were successfully achieved, others remain relevant today and will be carried forward into the new plan.

Community feedback played a core role in the Plan's process, ensuring community involvement and identifying opportunities and challenges within the community. Themes identified are based on community input and address areas of focus for Lander's future.

A Community Snapshot summarizes the current state of the community, setting the context for core planning themes.

The Master Plan includes a growth map, growth guidelines, and theme-related goals and objectives.

The Implementation Matrix outlines actions needed to achieve plan goals and objectives. It informs programs, policy, code change recommendations, and other community actions.

This structure allows the plan to serve as a guiding framework for the community, facilitating regular reviews and updates every five to ten years and informing related studies and future projects.

HOW TO USE IT?

The primary intent of the Master Plan Update is to provide a shared vision with goals that reflect our community's aspirations, facilitating informed decision-making for future developments and policies. The Master Plan Update can be used for various purposes, including guiding development through establishing policies, zoning regulations, infrastructure planning, budget allocations, and more. Elements throughout the plan are built from what was heard from community members, staff, and stakeholders.

HOW CAN I USE THE MASTER PLAN?

The Master Plan Update is a useful document.
Note the ways in which various individuals may find this document useful!

- **City Council Member:** Use the Blueprint to align development policies, budget decisions, zoning decisions, and infrastructure investments with the community's long-term goals.
- **City Staff Member:** Reference the Blueprint in day-to-day decisions to ensure projects, permits, and policies align with the City's vision.
- **Nonpro it Organizations:** Identify areas where your goals align with City priorities to strengthen external funding proposals, shape policy, and collaborate effectively.
- **Developers:** Use the Blueprint to design projects that meet City expectations, align with community goals, zoning decisions, and streamline the approval process, reducing risks and delays.
- **Community Members:** Gain insights into community priorities and planned improvements. The action plan helps clarify which projects are being prioritized, their timelines, and potential funding sources.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The previous 2012 Master Plan had many goals and objectives for our community. Since the creation of the previous plan, Lander has accomplished several of the aspirations identified.

The 2025 Master Plan Update identifies new goals based on what the residents identified as priorities for the community.

EXAMPLE 1: BUSINESS PARK
Previous plan: 1-12

Goal: Develop a new business park adjacent to the current City limits.

Accomplishment: A business park was created to help improve commerce in the Lander area. The brochure below details some of the benefits that this business park provides.

https://www.landerwyoming.org/media/66#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20the%20Lander,at%20307%2D332%2D2870.

EXAMPLE 2: COMMUNITY CENTER
Previous plan: 1-17

Goal: Explore the feasibility of creating an all-season public community center.

Accomplishment: A 19,000 sf community/event center was developed for Lander after the original (pictured left) burned.

https://landercommunityconvention.com/

EXAMPLE 3: CITY PARK EXPANSION
Previous plan: 1-18

Goal: Expand City Park.

Accomplishment: The City added 9.5 acres to City Park and acquired land for the Popo Agie Park.

City of Lander

PROCESS

SPRING 2024

- Project Kickoff
- Community Engagement Preparation
- Created MPU Outline

SUMMER 2024

- Airport and Cemetery Memos
- Utility and Infrastructure Review
- Bullseye Workshop
- Community Feedback Analysis
- Produced Engagement Summaries

FALL 2024

- Community Survey
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Content Development
- Staff Meetings

WINTER 2025

- Draft Review

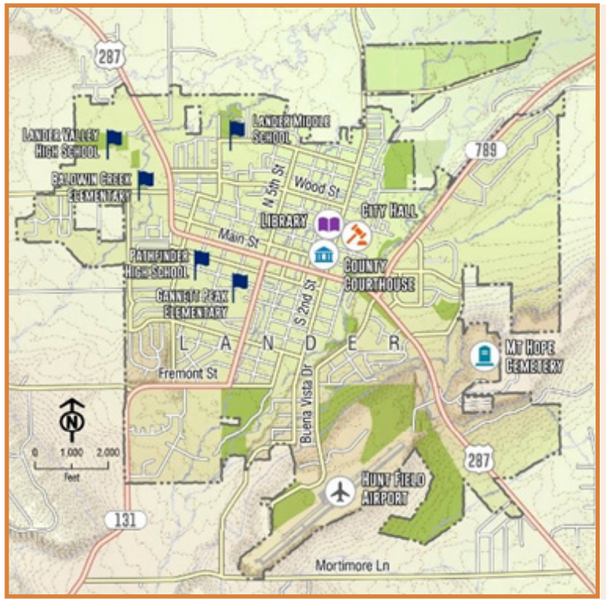
SPRING 2025

- Final Plan Adoption

02

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY CONTEXT



Lander is located at the base of the Wind River Range, along the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River, experiencing a semi-arid climate. U.S. Highway 287 and Wyoming Highway 789 connect the town to surrounding areas.

Major employers in Lander include Fremont County School District #1, Wyoming Cathoilic College, SageWest Health Care, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), and various governmental agencies. Nearby natural attractions, such as Sinks Canyon State Park and the Shoshone National Forest, make Lander a gateway for hiking, climbing and other outdoor recreational activities in Wyoming.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Lander sits in Fremont County in central Wyoming, and functions as the county seat. Lander sits directly south of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Major highways, U.S. Highway 287 and Wyoming Highway 789 connect Lander to neighboring communities such as Hudson and Riverton, as well as connect the city to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

As a regional hub, Lander provides the region with essential services such as healthcare and education, while also drawing visitors and outdoor enthusiasts to its natural attractions and recreational opportunities.

HISTORY

19TH CENTURY

Before the establishment of Lander, the land was used as summer hunting grounds for various Native American tribes such as Shoshone and Arapaho. These tribes utilized the rich natural resources in the area to sustain their communities.

1875 The residents of future Lander recognized the need for their improved communication and connectivity with the outside world prompting them to apply for their first post office. The addition of a post office represents a commitment to the growth and development of Lander through its connections to broader networks.

1884 The Eighth Wyoming Legislative Assembly split the former Sweetwater County into Fremont County and made Lander the county seat. This establishment of Fremont County led to increased investment in public services and infrastructure such as government buildings and roads.

1890 The town site for Lander was built in 1890, named after General Frederick W. Lander, a notable early explorer. The town was made to accommodate miners and settlers heading to nearby mines. Its location made it an ideal trading post, providing goods and services to residents and travelers.

The 1890s were a transformative period for Lander, with significant growth in cattle ranching and agriculture. The town became known for its production of hay, cattle, sheep, horses, and attracting diverse settlers. As Lander's population grew, so did its infrastructure, including roads, schools, and churches. The first schoolhouse was built in 1895.

1894s Established in 1894, the Pioneer Days Rodeo is one of the oldest in the U.S. It has become a cherished local tradition to celebrate Lander's cowboy heritage and deepening its cultural roots.

Heebe-tee-tse, Shoshone Indian, (1899)

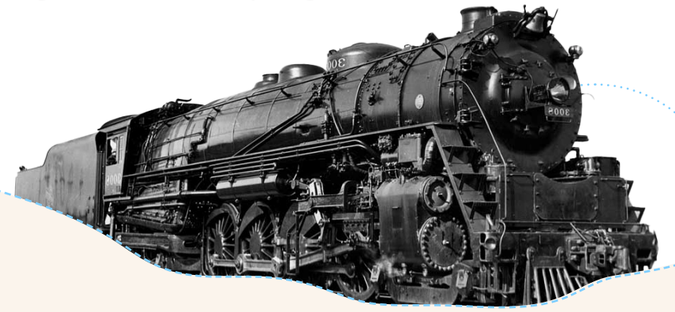
20TH CENTURY

1900s By 1900, Lander marked a significant economic milestone by establishing its first bank. This provided essential financial services, enabling residents to invest in homes and businesses, thus contributing to the town's continued growth and prosperity.

In the early 1900s, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad extension connecting Casper and Lander was completed, facilitating coal and mineral mining operations in the region. Though coal mining declined by 1922, oil exploration began to rise, driving Lander's industrial development. However, the railroad ceased operations in 1972.

1953 Following WWII, the urgency to develop nuclear weapons spurred economic growth in Lander. In 1953, just east of Lander, the Lucky Mc mine was established and became one of the richest mines in the state. This mine brought new settlers and industries to the Lander region, further diversifying its economy.

1962 By 1962 U.S. Steel established an iron-ore mine near Atlantic City. Most of the mine workers lived in Lander and commuted to the mine for work. This development reflected Lander's ongoing evolution as a center for resource extraction, contributing to its economic stability and growth.



Chicago and Northwestern Railroad train (1949)

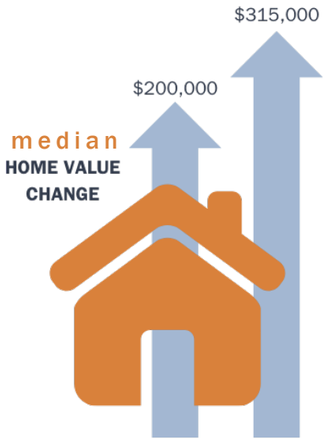
21ST CENTURY

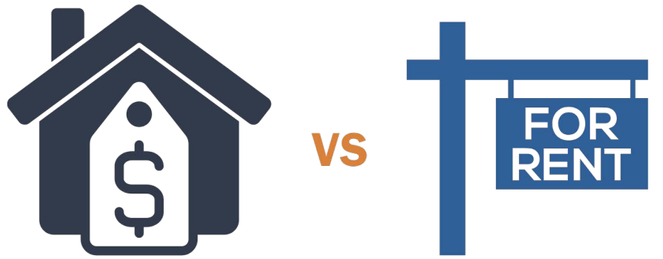
Lander remains a vital regional hub, providing essential services and amenities to residents while sustaining its economy through a blend of rich cultural history and the natural beauty of its surrounding landscapes. Its heritage, combined with its appeal to visitors, continues to shape Lander's identity in the 21st century.

Lander Mill (2016)

COMMUNITY STATISTICS

HOUSING



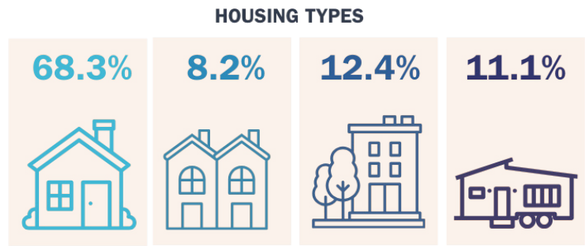


OWNING **65.8%**

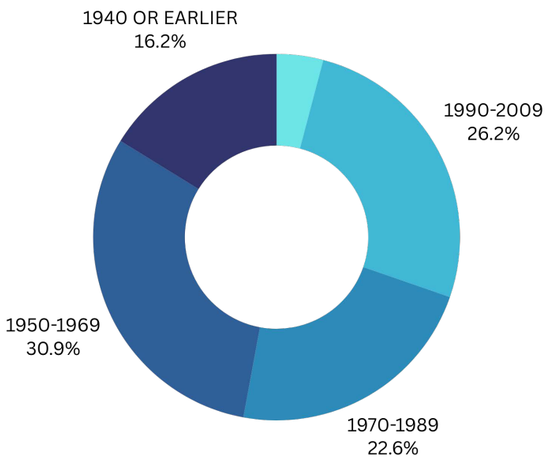
RENTING **34.2%**

OCCUPANCY TRENDS IN 2023

HOUSING TYPES

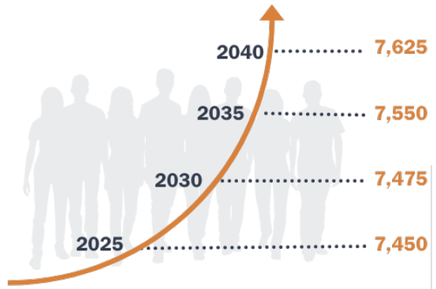


AGE OF HOUSING

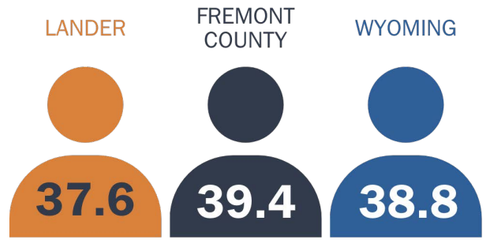


MOST HOMES HAVE
3 BEDROOMS

DEMOGRAPHIC

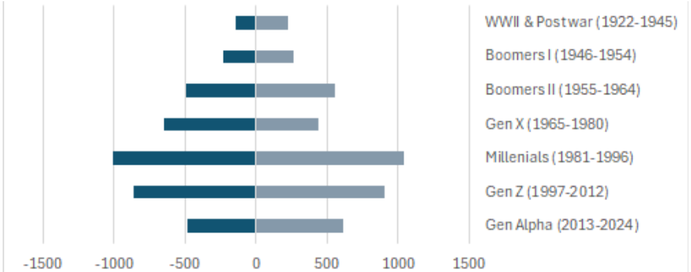


LANDER POPULATION PROJECTION

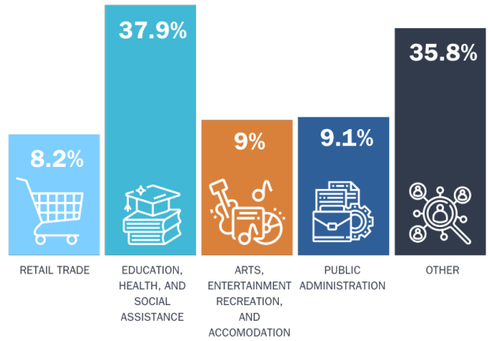


MEDIAN AGE IN 2023

GENERATIONAL POPULATION PYRAMID IN 2023



ECONOMIC



TOP INDUSTRIES IN LANDER

IN 2023, 9.8% OF LANDER LIVED BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

THE MAJORITY
OF LANDER RESIDENTS
DRIVE ALONE TO WORK

Approx.
$71,000

2023 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

03

VISION

Mission
To provide a safe, stable, and responsive environment that supports a traditional, yet progressive, community resulting in a high quality of life.

Vision
Preserving the past, while embracing the future.

"A MELTING POT OF MANY PEOPLE, IDEAS, CULTURES, AND BACKGROUNDS"

"WALKABLE AND BIKEABLE"

8 Community Engagement Events

"A GREAT MIX OF PEOPLE, IDEAS, AND TRADITION"

"BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE IN A BEAUTIFUL PLACE"

"BEAUTIFUL NATURE AND WILDLIFE"

"A GREAT PLACE TO RAISE KIDS"

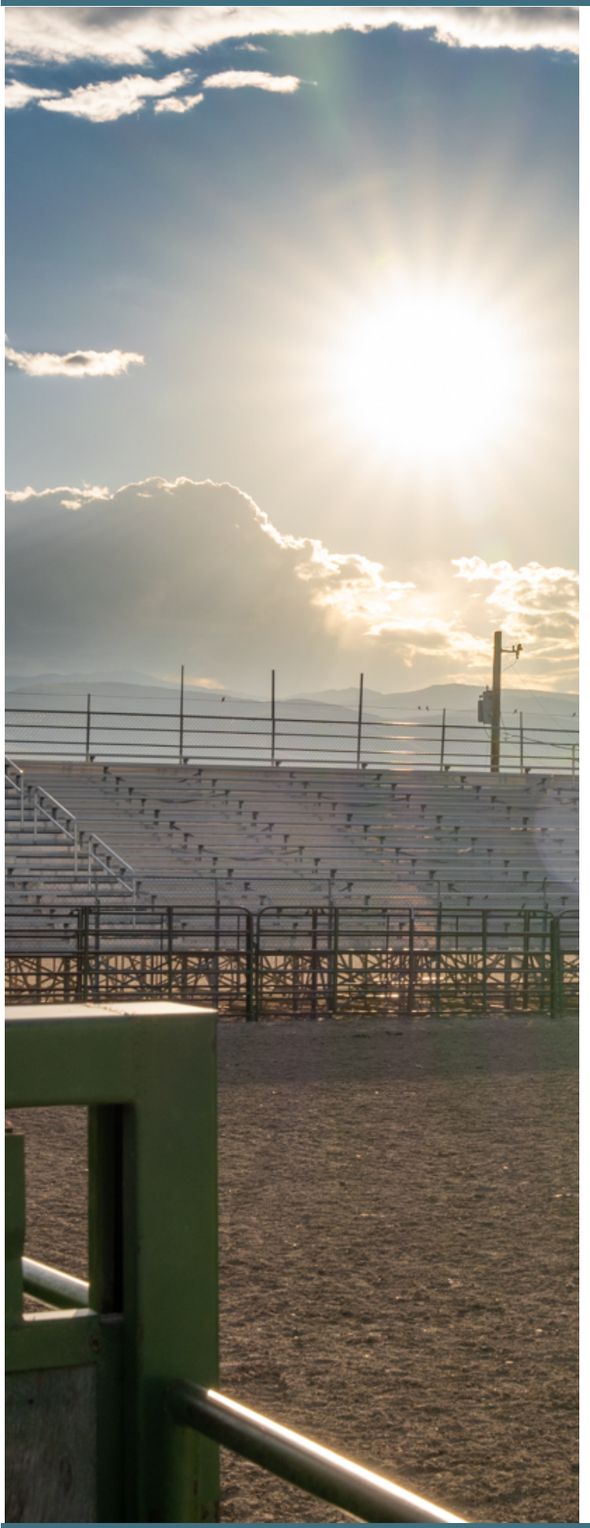
1385 Community Member Interactions

"WARM AND WELCOMING CULTURE"

"GREAT ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES"

"COMMUNITY SPIRIT"

"SAFE AND SMALL TOWN FEEL - WE ALL KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS"



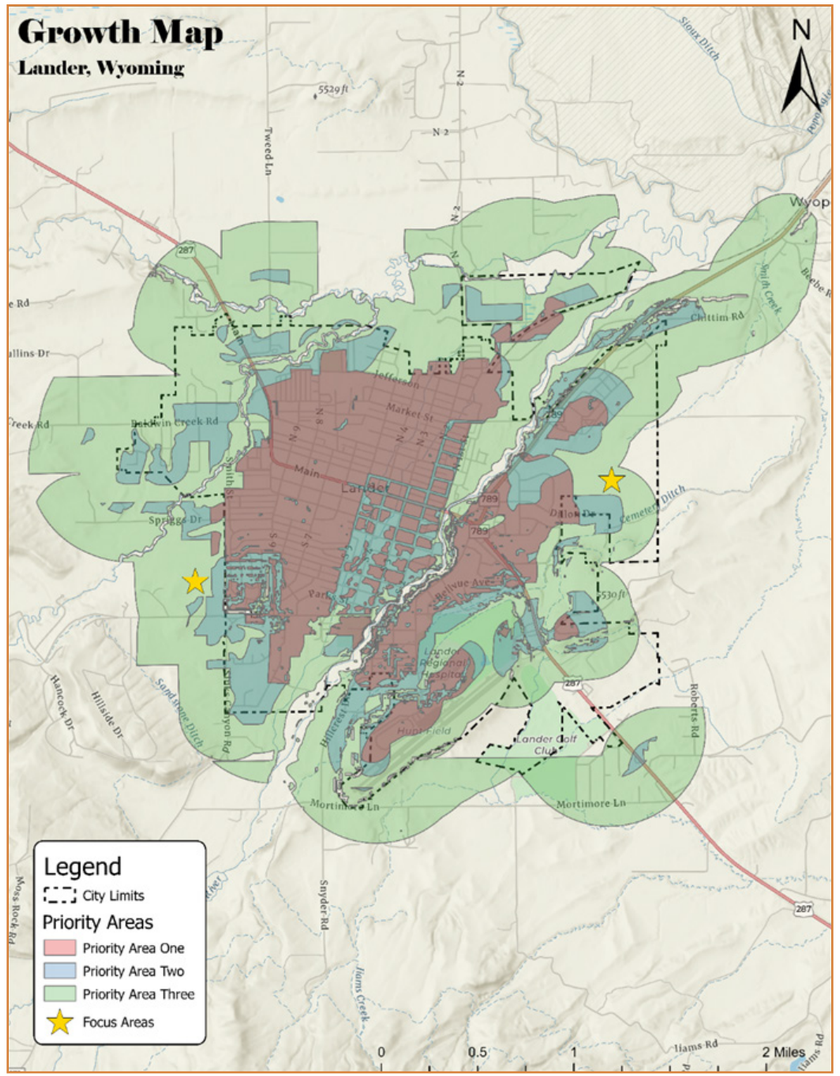
04

COMMUNITY GROWTH

LANDER GROWTH MAP

This theme reflects Lander's vision for future growth that is mindful of existing geography, environmental sensitivity, and concern for maintaining small-town feel in the form of the Lander Growth Map.

The Lander Growth Map identifies Priority Areas where growth is most feasible, the remaining themes focus on how that growth should happen. Each plan theme offers targeted strategies to ensure that, as Lander grows, it does so in a way that supports a thriving, livable community.



PRIORITY AREAS

The priority areas are created based on availability of infrastructure, proximity to the core, environmental constraints, and other factors described in further detail below.

By focusing on optimal areas for development with a set of objective criteria, the Master Plan provides a framework for case-by-case evaluation of development requests. The Priority Areas do not inform specific recommendations for types of development, or the specific uses that may occur, as this may greatly vary as Lander grows with time.

Use-specific decisions, such as initial or changes to zoning classification, fall to the elected leadership of Lander with recommendation from Planning Commission. This review not only determines compliance with municipal code but can be administered in a way that balances progress with preserving the community's character.

PRIORITY FACTORS

The priority growth matrix below contains the six development feasibility factors used in the Lander Growth Map. This matrix is intended to take precedence over the Lander Growth Map when determining Master Plan compliance of a land use-related request, as the matrix will be relevant, even as infrastructure in Lander changes over time.

The score of development feasibility ranges from favorable to unfavorable.

Priority Area 1: 18 pts, Favorable

Priority Area 2: 12 - 17 pts, Moderate

Priority Area 3: 6 - 11 pts, Limited

Outside: 5 pts or fewer, Unfavorable

PRIORITY GROWTH MIX

FACTORS	POINT RATING			
	Priority Area 1 3 Points	Priority Area 2 2 Points	Priority Area 3 1 Points	0 Points
City Proximity	Adjacent	Within 1/4 mile	Within 1/2 mile	Beyond 1/2 mile
Water Lines (Lander)	Adjacent (in the street)	1/4 mile	Within 1 mile	Beyond 1 mile
Sanitary Sewer Lines (Lander)	Adjacent (in the street)	1/4 mile	Within 1.2 mile	Beyond 1/2 mile
Flood Risk (FIRM rating)	X or D (limited or unknown)	0.2% annual chance (500 yr)	1% annual chance (100 yr)	Floodway
Steep Slope	0% to 2%	2% to 5%	5% to 10%	>10%
Soils (NRCS Building Limitation Rating)	None	Low	Moderate	High

PRIORITY AREA 1

Priority Area 1 includes the most development-ready locations within and around city limits. The areas identified are directly connected to existing infrastructure, with water and sewer lines already in place or easily accessible. The terrain is also stable, with minimal flood risks and gentle slopes, making these sites ideal for various uses such as but not limited to high-density residential, commercial, or mixed-use developments.

Development here is cost-effective and efficient, requiring little additional investment to integrate into the city's core. Growth in this priority area supports Lander's vision of maintaining a compact, connected community while reducing the strain on resources and preserving surrounding open spaces.

PRIORITY AREA 2

Priority Area 2 offers strong potential for development but requires some investment in infrastructure and planning. These areas are within a reasonable distance from water and sewer lines and adjacent to paved or maintained roads, though they may need improvements or extensions to fully support new developments.

The terrain is slightly more challenging in these areas, with moderate slopes or minimal floodplain concerns while still being manageable for developments like medium-density housing or light commercial developments. This priority area provides opportunities to expand Lander's footprint while ensuring that new development aligns with the community's long-term goals.

PRIORITY AREA 3

Priority Area 3 represents areas that are less practical for immediate development but may become viable with investment in infrastructure and environmental management. These locations are farther from city services and may feature more challenging terrain, like steep slopes or higher flood risk.

For now, the priority area would be best suited for low-density uses, such as agricultural operations, or open space preservation. If future growth demands expansion into these areas, careful planning will be necessary to address infrastructure gaps and environmental challenges.

FOCUS AREAS

Focus Areas do not currently fall into a Priority Area 1 or 2 category according to the Priority Growth Matrix but have been identified as desirable locations for development. They are denoted on the map as stars. If city or developer resources, depending on the intended end user, are focused in these areas, such as extending water service, building or improving roads, or stabilizing soils, these areas could be considered prime for development.

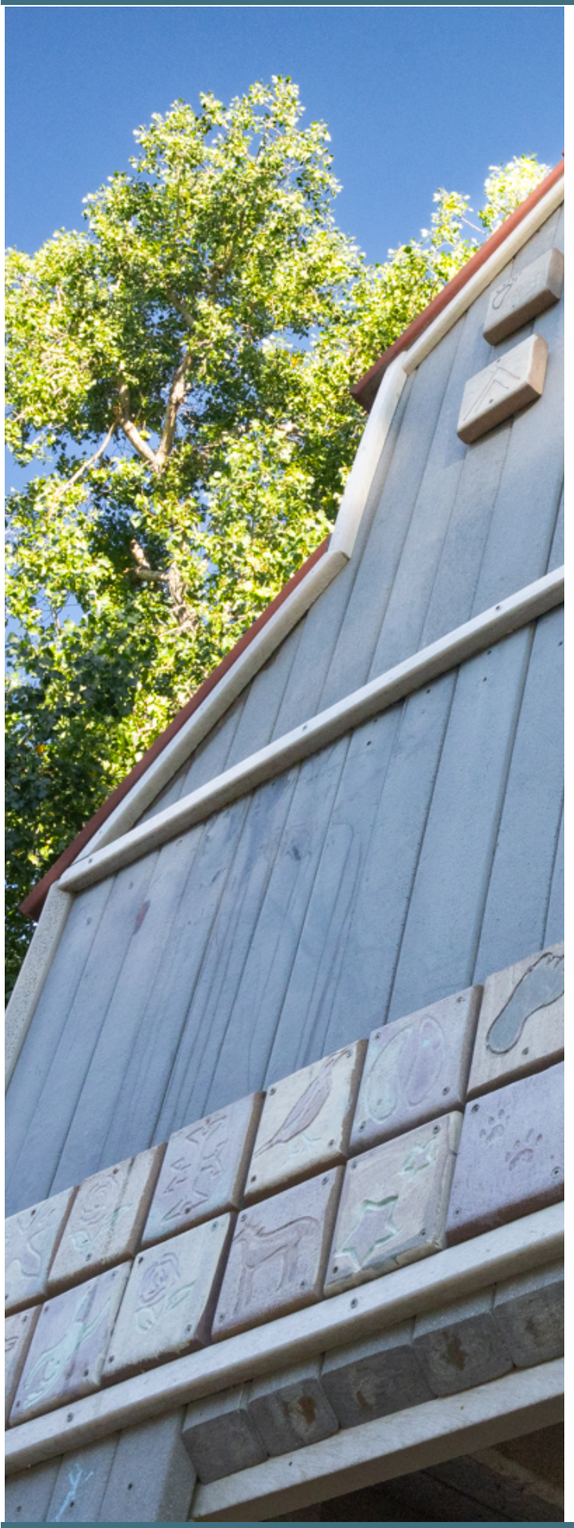
GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL: GROW RESPONSIBLY

Objective 1: Objectively Review Development Requests
- Consider allying development procedure rigor to the Priority Growth Matrix.
- For example, implement an administrative or expedited review of projects located in Priority Area 1 that align with Lander goals and objectives. Conversely, require a more thorough review of projects found outside a Priority Area.

Objective 2: Guide Infrastructure Investment
- Incorporate into capital improvement plans those locations in Lander that should be in Priority Growth Area 1 based on demand, landowner will, or topography; but lack water, sewer, or paved roads fostering shovel-ready sites.

Objective 3: Update Review Tools Frequently
- Review the scoring criteria regularly to ensure they accurately capture Lander priorities and so the Lander Growth Map represents up-to-date infrastructure location and status.



05

ECONOMY

This theme focuses on fostering a resilient and thriving local economy that benefits all residents. It aims to support small businesses, attract new industries, address workforce challenges, and promote tourism while preserving our identity and ensures long-term sustainability.

PEAKS OF PERSPECTIVES

Outreach efforts revealed strong considerations, concerns, and aspirations regarding Lander's economic future.

Our community vocalized interest in a broader range of businesses and greater support for local businesses. Residents raised concerns about the availability of local commercial spaces, alongside the growing challenges with wages and the rising cost of living. The community noted a heavy reliance on outdoor recreation for economic development, as well as concerns on limited local businesses. Residents emphasized the importance of preserving our unique small-town character as we experience growth and development, while also advocating for a greater variety of retail and dining options. The community expressed a powerful desire to revitalize downtown areas to enhance businesses and tourism related draws, while calling for better local business support and diversification of the economy.

GROWTH GUIDELINES

Strategic land use is critical for fostering economic growth. Priority Area 1 provides the opportunity for new growth and mixed-use developments that attract visitors and support local businesses. Priority Area 2 allows for thoughtful expansion into areas that can accommodate industries needing larger spaces, such as light manufacturing or logistics. Areas near the city core in Priority Area 1 can support vibrant, visually appealing streetscapes, while outer areas can integrate natural aesthetics to blend with the surrounding landscape. The Lander Economic Plan ensures that these developments align with Lander's character, supporting small businesses while encouraging economic diversity.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: STRENGTHEN AND DIVERSIFY THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Objective 1: Promote Business Growth
- Partner or promote programs that attract businesses that bring external revenue (e.g., outdoor rec, tourism, and remote work hubs).

Objective 2: Support Small Businesses
- Partner or promote grants or low-interest loans for startups and existing businesses to expand, particularly along Main Street.

Objective 3: Leverage Economic Development Funds
- Continue to partner with the Wyoming Business Council and the Lander Economic Development Association (LEDA) to provide funding assistance for community infrastructure to facilitate the start-up, retention, expansion, or location of a specific committed business.

GOAL 2: ENHANCE MAIN STREET VITALITY

Objective 1: Revitalize Vacant Properties
- Partner and promote the use of vacant Main Street buildings for retail, restaurants, or community spaces.

Objective 2: Expand Retail and Dining Options
- Partner with LEDA, the Chamber, and other organizations to encourage businesses to keep evening hours, especially restaurants; and to offer unique retail experiences.

Objective 3: Promote Main Street Foot Traffic
- Promote walkability on Main Street through improved pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, such as upgrading crosswalks or adding wayfinding signage.

GOAL 3: ADDRESS WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Objective 1: Enhance Childcare Accessibility
- Align services that support childcare programs for working families, such as recreational or educational programming, to encourage more childcare businesses.
- Simplify applications for new childcare homes.

Objective 2: Support Job Creation
- Encourage job training programs and partnerships with industries that align with Lander's economic strengths
- Promote the creation of diverse workforce opportunities

GOAL 4: FOSTER A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Objective 1: Promote Local Tourism
- Promote TAD Grant program to invest in public events (e.g., farmers' markets, rodeos) to boost tourism and local spending.

Objective 2: Support the Lander Economic Development Association
- Promote the existence and opportunities of the Lander Economic Development Association through efforts to raise awareness of its resources.

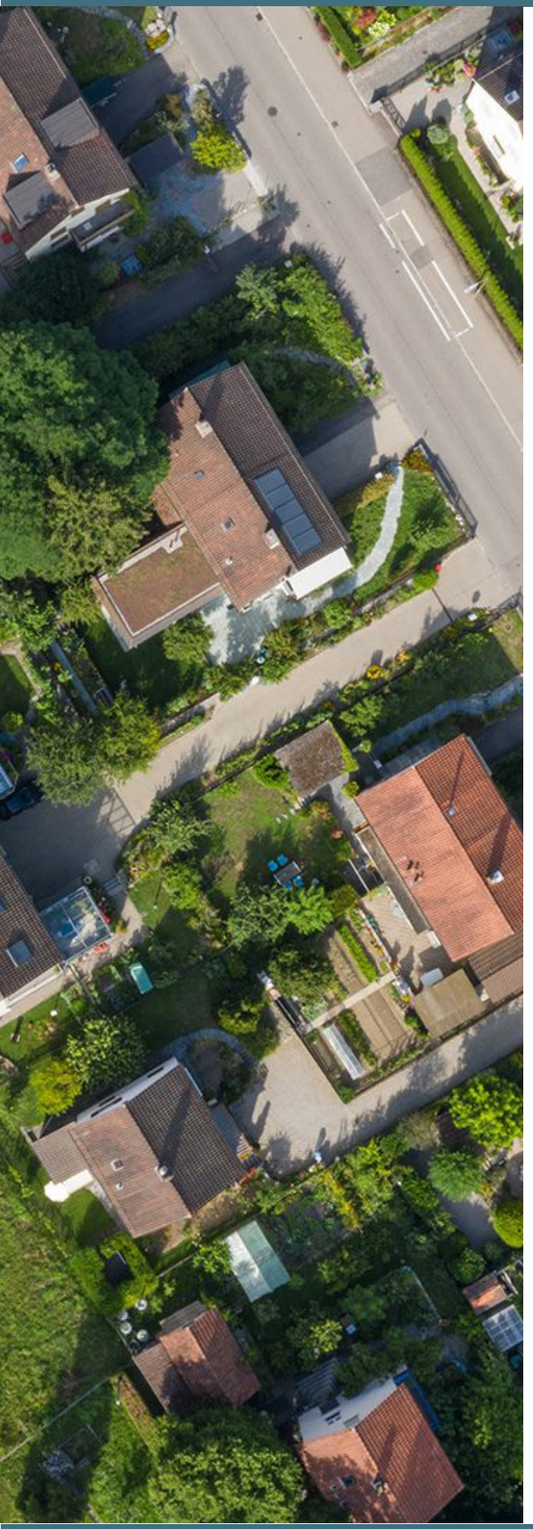
Objective 3: Promote Economic Opportunities
- Explore opportunities to support the growth and expansion of local economic development programs as a resource for economic growth in Lander.

GOAL 5: ENHANCE THE BEAUTY OF MAIN STREET

Objective 1: Revitalize Blighted Public Areas
- Develop a beautification plan for Main Street, focusing on revitalization of blighted spaces with murals, public art, and native plant landscaping.
- Encourage the use of EPA Brownfield Grant opportunities

Objective 2: Increase Shade and Seating
- Add more shade trees and benches in public locations to enhance pedestrian comfort.

Objective 3: Enforce Property Upkeep
- Enforce codes to ensure vacant buildings are maintained or revitalized, improving aesthetics through compliance.



06

HOUSING

This theme addresses our community's need for diverse housing options. It aims to improve housing accessibility for all income levels, revitalize aging homes, and support efficient neighborhood development, meeting the needs of current and future residents while maintaining the community's unique character.

PEAKS OF PERSPECTIVES

Our community expressed various considerations, concerns, and aspirations regarding housing needs in Lander during our engagement opportunities. The community expressed a need for diverse, accessible, and sustainable housing options to accommodate all residents.

A common theme heard for housing was the rising cost of living, which is financially straining for many residents, along with concerns about shortages of rental properties. The lack of attainable housing options has made it difficult and, in some cases, impossible for residents to find ideal housing options. There is a strong desire for transitional housing options that support various stages of life, as well as more attainable housing solutions and increased housing stock in general.

GROWTH GUIDELINES

The Housing theme focuses on meeting the diverse needs of Lander's residents. The Priority Areas are intended to result in residential growth that aligns with infrastructure availability and environmental considerations. Priority Area 1 supports higher-density housing to provide attainable options near the community's core. Priority Area 2 offers opportunities for moderately dense neighborhoods with a mix of housing types. While Priority Area 3 could support low-density or rural housing for those seeking larger lots or agricultural uses.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: IMPROVING HOUSING ATTAINABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Objective 1: Develop Workforce Housing
- Encourage the development of affordable housing options for teachers, nurses, police officers, and other essential workers by partnering with developers and local industries like the school district or hospital.

Objective 2: Support "Missing Middle" Housing
- Promote diverse housing types through flexible zoning codes, such as duplexes, townhomes, and cottage developments, to provide attainable options for young families, first-time homebuyers, and retirees.

Objective 3: Expand Affordable Rentals
- Promote the increase the inventory of affordable rental housing through relaxed zoning for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and incentives for multi-family developments, utilizing the planning commission process to update and review the code.

Objective 4: Explore Deed-Restricted Housing Initiatives
- Promote initiatives for deed-restricted housing to create attainable homeownership and rental opportunities for future generations.

GOAL 2: REVITALIZE AGING HOUSING STOCK

Objective 1: Establish a Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Promote organizations that create grant or low-interest loan programs to help homeowners repair and modernize homes, with focus on pre-1960 properties.

Objective 2: Capitalize on Existing Programs
- Encourage cleanup and revitalization efforts of vacant homes which are dilapidated or uninhabitable.

Objective 3: Identify and Encourage Adaptive Reuse Opportunities
- Explore the expansion of housing opportunities by reviewing code changes that could allow for the rehabilitation of vacant or underused structures.

GOAL 3: ENCOURAGE WELL-PLANNED, EFFICIENT, AND BALANCED NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Objective 1: Focus on Infill Development
- Prioritize the development within city limits to prevent urban sprawl and capitalize on existing infrastructure.

Objective 2: Protect Neighborhood Identity
- Preserve and enhance neighborhood character by supporting cohesive design, historic integrity, and community identity.

Objective 3: Encourage Workforce Housing Opportunities
- Support housing developments that include a mix of affordable and market-rate units.

GOAL 4: EXPAND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS

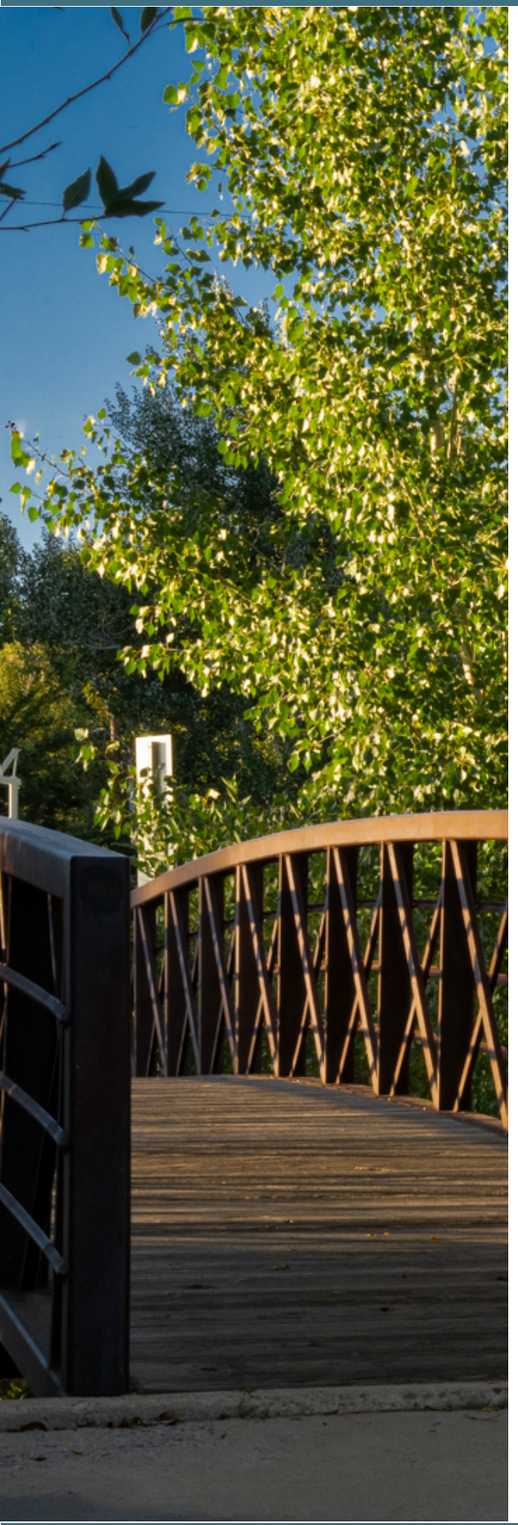
Objective 1: Facilitate Transitional Housing
- Adopt flexible zoning codes that allow development of housing options for all life stages, including starter homes, family-sized housing, and senior living communities.

Objective 2: Address Short-Term Rentals
- Implement policies to regulate short-term rentals, such as Airbnb listings, to reduce their contribution to the housing shortage and long-term rental cost inflation.

Objective 3: Support Higher-Density Housing
- Revise zoning policies to allow for multi-family dwellings, tiny home communities, and ADUs in appropriate area while preserving low-density neighborhoods where desired.
- Explore through the Planning Commission the potential for developing second floor residential spaces above downtown establishments.

Objective 4: Partner on Annexation for Housing
- Annex adjacent land for higher-density housing developments, such as condominiums and apartments, while limiting large-acreage, single-home subdivisions.

Objective 5: Balance Development and Zoning
- Review zoning policies to accommodate diverse housing and business development while maintaining Lander's character.



07

INFRASTRUCTURE

This theme ensures our long-term resilience by addressing core infrastructure needs while embracing sustainability and innovation. The theme focuses on modernizing water, roadways, stormwater systems, expanding broadband access, and promoting renewable energy. By improving community safety, accessibility, and disaster preparedness, the theme also supports a foundation for growth and enhances the quality of life for all residents.

PEAKS OF PERSPECTIVES

Our community expressed ideas for considerations, concerns, and aspirations throughout engagement opportunities regarding the future of Lander's infrastructure. The community vocalized the need for sustainable infrastructure. The community also emphasized the need for maintaining efficient and updated utilities and general infrastructure, including better management of water lines and enhancing internet capabilities to support local businesses and personal connectivity.

Road condition was often mentioned in community feedback. Proactive maintenance will result in infrastructure longevity. The community highlighted outdated water lines and general infrastructure. Stakeholders requested updates to the snow removal process and more effective communication about public infrastructure. The community aspires for resilient and efficient infrastructure, increased use of renewable energy sources within the community and improved drainage systems, sidewalks, and public amenities to create a safer and more inclusive community.

GROWTH GUIDELINES

Infrastructure is the backbone of Lander's growth, and its availability is a key factor in the Priority Growth Matrix. The infrastructure plan theme prioritizes efficient use of existing systems in Priority Area 1, while addressing extensions and upgrades needed in Priority Areas 2 and 3. This ensures new developments have access to water, sewer, roads, and utilities, all while considering long-term sustainability.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: ENHANCE AND MAINTAIN CORE INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective 1: Support Comprehensive Street Maintenance
- Continue implementing the existing street maintenance plan with a consistent and prioritized repair schedule to address potholes and deteriorating roads, ensuring long-term roadway durability.

Objective 2: Upgrade Water Systems
- Implement the 2022 Water Master Plan to replace aging and shallow water lines, prevent freezing, ensure adequate fire-fighting pressure, and enhance the reliability of water delivery for all.

Objective 3: Create and Maintain a Water Infrastructure Database
- Use the Water Master Plan to create a prioritized database of water infrastructure.

Objective 4: Protect Wastewater Infrastructure
- Educate the public on proper use of sanitary sewers.
- Maintain a database of equipment and incorporate needs into CIP plans.

Objective 5: Improve Stormwater Management
- Create and adopt a stormwater master plan for the city.

GOAL 2: IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Objective 1: Enhanced Snow Removal Operations
- Develop a strategic snow removal plan to improve the safety of streets and sidewalks during winter months, prioritizing high-traffic areas and neighborhoods most impacted by accumulation.

Objective 2: Sidewalk and Crosswalk Connectivity
- Expand sidewalk networks and install pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, including push-button crosswalk lights at key intersections, to improve safety and accessibility for all residents, especially in schools, parks, and downtown areas.

Objective 3: Smart and Efficient Street Lighting
- Enhance public safety by upgrading streetlights to energy-efficient models that minimize light pollution, preserve dark skies, and ensure adequate lighting.

GOAL 3: PREPARE WITH RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective 1: Disaster-Resistant Infrastructure
- Weather-proof infrastructure for floods and other hazardous events.
- Keep backup systems for emergencies.

Objective 2: Underground Utility Installation
- Incorporate utility line burial into new developments and infrastructure upgrades to improve aesthetic quality, reduce maintenance, and enhance resilience against environmental hazards.

Objective 3: Broadband Access Expansion
- Encourage broadband infrastructure to ensure reliable, high-speed internet access is available to all households and businesses, fostering inclusivity and economic growth.

Objective 4: Expansion of Infrastructure
- Expand infrastructure to new areas suitable for residential development in accordance with the 2022 Water Master Plan and the 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Objective 5: Adopt Construction Standards
- Oversee contractors to ensure construction meets town standards.

GOAL 4: ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Objective 1: Solar Energy Expansion
- Explore rooftop solar installations on public buildings using incentives and support for implementation, making Lander a leader in renewable energy.

Objective 2: Electrification of Municipal Assets
- Transition city-owned fleet vehicles to electric or alternative fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and align with broader sustainability goals.

Objective 3: Energy Efficient Retrofits
- Retrofit municipal buildings with energy-efficient systems, such as upgraded HVAC, insulation, and LED lighting, to reduce energy costs and set a community example for sustainable infrastructure.

Objective 4: Promote Sustainable Material Use
- Encourage selection of quality materials that maximize the longevity of infrastructure improvements, such as providing educational materials on available sustainable products.

08

PARKS AND RECREATION

This theme highlights enhancing Lander's outdoor spaces to improve accessibility, usability, and environmental management. By connecting our parks with pathways, diversifying recreational facilities, and preserving natural areas, the theme reflects our commitment to fostering outdoor enjoyment and strengthening its identity as a hub for recreation and natural beauty.

PEAKS OF PERSPECTIVES

The community expressed ideas and hopes regarding parks and recreation in Lander throughout engagement opportunities. Community members recommended enhancing our parks and recreation spaces by focusing on expanding access and improving amenities. Key interests included maintaining free or reasonably priced camping, increased pool capacity, and better connectivity, maintenance, and safety of trails.

The community expressed concerns about balancing growth with the natural character of Lander parks, ensuring growth does not impact Lander's natural beauty. The community emphasized the need for accessible parks and recreation facilities for all age groups, physical capabilities, as well as proper maintenance. Residents envision enhanced accessible and safe trails, parks and recreation facilities with diverse amenities.

GROWTH GUIDELINES

Open spaces and recreational opportunities are vital to Lander's identity. The Parks and Recreation goals and objects aim to provide connections to Lander parks from all Priority Areas, whether through pathways, green spaces, or recreational facilities. Priority Area 1 offer opportunities to enhance walkable connecting to existing parks, while Priority Areas 2 and 3 can incorporate new natural areas and trails to maintain access to nature as the community grows.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Objective 1: Develop a Network of Recreational Pathways
- Create a comprehensive system linking neighborhoods to all parks, open spaces, and the river corridor, such as a town loop or Popo Agie River pathway.

Objective 2: Implement Pathway Improvements
- Use staff to collaborate with property owners and stakeholders to address pathway access challenges and advance pathway development in parks, cemetery and rodeo grounds.

Objective 3: Improve Multi-Modal Access in Parks
- Provide safe, level, and accessible paths to and within cemetery and recreational areas, such as City Park and new park lands.

GOAL 2: EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Objective 1: Increase Shade and Weather Protection
- Enhance park and rodeo ground usability by adding shade trees and shelters to provide relief during extreme weather events.

Objective 2: Develop New Community Facilities
- Build ADA accessible amenities, such as natural playgrounds or ball fields, to cater to youth, seniors, families, and sports enthusiasts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Partner with the school district and other community partners to develop a plan to replace aging pool infrastructure.

Objective 3: Maintain Parks and Recreation Programs
- Be a hub for affordable and inclusive recreational activities for all residents, emphasizing opportunities for youth, families, and seniors.

GOAL 3: PRESERVE PUBLIC NATURAL AND GREEN SPACES

Objective 1: Protect Riparian Buffers and Natural Areas
- Maintain streamside buffers and incorporate native features to support sustainability and reduce erosion.

Objective 2: Designate Underdeveloped Open Spaces
- Preserve specific areas for natural enjoyment, incorporation compact dirt pathways, benches, and scenic views.

Objective 3: Improve Maintenance and Infrastructure
- Replace aging maintenance equipment and infrastructure needed for efficient park, cemetery, and rodeo grounds maintenance and to extend the usable season.
- Address invasive species with both educational materials and enforcement and by removing invasive species from public properties.

GOAL 4: FOSTER SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING IN PUBLIC SPACES

Objective 1: Promote Native Landscaping
- Encourage the use of native plants on city-owned property to promote water efficiency, sustainability, and environmental health.

Objective 2: Plant More Trees
- Expand tree planting programs and improve existing greenery in public spaces for shade and aesthetic value.

Objective 3: Protect Local Nature
- Promote and protect public access to public lands and rivers.
- Minimize developments along riparian areas and rivers.

09

TRANSPORTATION

This theme aims to create a more connected, safe, and sustainable mobility network in our community. By enhancing walkability, investing in bike-friendly infrastructure, and improving transportation options, the theme supports transportation and accessibility for all residents. The theme addresses traffic concerns, integrated public and alternative transit, and ensure future developments align with Lander's transportation goals.

PEAKS OF PERSPECTIVES

The community expressed ideas and hopes regarding parks and recreation in Lander throughout engagement opportunities. Community members recommended enhancing our parks and recreation spaces by focusing on expanding access and improving amenities. Key interests included maintaining free or reasonably priced camping, increased pool capacity, and better connectivity, maintenance, and safety of trails.

The community expressed concerns about balancing growth with the natural character of Lander parks, ensuring growth does not impact Lander's natural beauty. The community emphasized the need for accessible parks and recreation facilities for all age groups, physical capabilities, as well as proper maintenance. Residents envision enhanced accessible and safe trails, parks and recreation facilities with diverse amenities.

GROWTH GUIDELINES

Efficient and safe transportation ties all themes together. Priority Area 1 focuses on enhancing pedestrian-friendly streets and connectivity to existing networks. Priority Area 2 emphasizes upgrading roads and adding pathways to integrate new developments, while Priority Area 3 considers long-term opportunities for major transportation improvements. The Transportation goals and objectives aim to provide safe and efficient travel with Lander and connections to the State highway system for travel beyond the city.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: PROMOTE SAFE AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Objective 1: Invest in Safe Routes for Multi-Modal Transportation
- Create a comprehensive system linking neighborhoods to all parks, open spaces, and the river corridor, such as a town loop or Popo Agie River pathway.

Objective 2: Focus on Multi-Modal Safety Enhancements
- Use staff to collaborate with property owners and stakeholders to address pathway access challenges and advance pathway development.

GOAL 2: ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Objective 1: Maintain the Street Network
- Require new developments to integrate into the existing street patterns.

Objective 2: Improve Public and Alternative Transit
- Explore expansion of public transportation options, provide better connections to the airport, and encourage EV-friendly hubs at key locations.
- Encourage electric vehicle charging stations in key locations, such as Main Street areas, major roadways, public parking lots, and public facilities.

Objective 3: Address Parking and Traffic Concerns
- Improve education and walkability to alleviate downtown traffic, optimize parking space usage, and balance pedestrian and vehicle needs.

Objective 4: Promote Collaborations with WYDOT
- Partner closely with WYDOT to balance safety and accessibility of major roadways on Main Street.

10

APPENDIX

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY - JULY 2024

2024 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT #1 SUMMARY

AYRES

CITY OF LANDER WYOMING

Ayres Associates collaborated with the City of Lander to conduct a series of community engagement activities with residents and stakeholders from July 18th to July 20th, 2024

The engagement activities focused on gathering input for the 2024 Master Plan Update. The goal was to hear from as many residents, stakeholders, and visitors as possible, capturing diverse perspectives from people across different walks of life. This public engagement event received a total of 1,385 responses, offering valuable feedback that will be considered as the project moves forward.

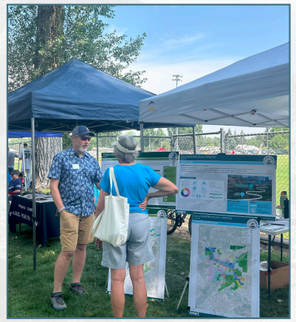
2024 MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Lander, WY

OVERVIEW

WHAT IS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT?

At its core, public engagement is involving individuals and communities in the decision-making, planning, and implementation of projects or policies that affect them. It includes activities such as informational sessions, public consultations, and participatory decision-making.

Public meetings, such as this one, benefit a project by ensuring diverse perspectives are considered, leading to more inclusive and effective outcomes. Involving the community helps build trust and transparency, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment among stakeholders. It can also identify potential challenges early on, allowing for proactive problem-solving and reducing the risk of conflict later. Ultimately, effective public engagement enhances the relevance, acceptance, and success of a project.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 18th
- Drop in session at the Lander Community Center (2:00pm-4:00pm)
- Booth at Lander Presents Music Festival (5:00pm-9:00pm)

JULY 19th
- Open House at Lander Bake Shop (7:30am-10:30am)
- Open House at Lincoln Street Bakery (7:30am-10:30am)
- Open House at Lander Senior Center (11:00am-1:00pm)
- Drop-in session at the Lander Library (2:00pm-4:00pm)

JULY 20th
- Booth at Pig Roast in City Park (11:00am-4:00pm)

2024 MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Lander, WY

THOUGHT WALL FEEDBACK

The Thought Wall activity was featured at all events, with a particular focus on the drop-in sessions at the Lander Community Center and Library. This interactive activity sought to gather insights into major elements of the master plan, including challenges and opportunities related to housing access, community aesthetics, parks, recreation and open spaces, transportation and mobility, economic health and diversity, infrastructure and utilities, as well as any other comments that may not be covered in the previous sections. In total, there were approximately 65 responses, reflecting significant community engagement.

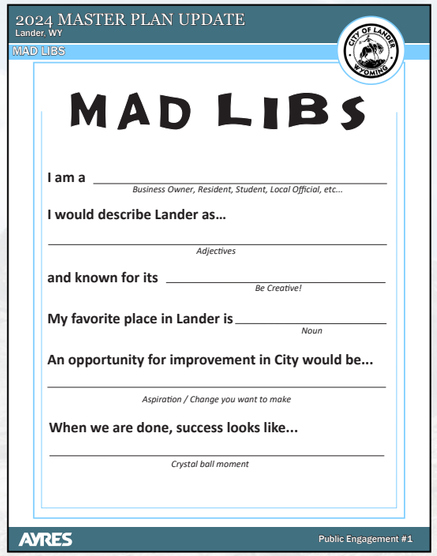
Below, each of the thought wall sections will be broken down and the most common themes of each section will be highlighted.

THOUGHT WALL FEEDBACK

TOPIC	MOST COMMON RESPONSES
Housing Access	*Affordable housing, diversity in housing types, increase in rental housing*
Community Aesthetics	*City beautifiation, green spaces and nature, infrastructure/maintinence*
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	*Infrastructure/connectivity, park development, community activities*
Transportation and Mobility	*Pathways, connectivity, bike infrastructure, public transportation*
Economic Health	*Economic diversification, local business support, real estate development, healthcare/childcare*
Infrastructure and Utilities	*Sustainability, renewable energy, road and street maintinence, water infrastructure*

2024 MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Lander, WY

MADLIBS FEEDBACK



Madlib activities were used during the drop-in sessions at the Community Center and the Library, with occasional distribution at other events upon request. Participants were prompted to fill in the blanks with descriptive words or ideas that came to mind to complete statements about their perspectives on the City of Lander. This exercise aimed to gather diverse viewpoints of the city and identified areas of opportunity for the 2024 Master Plan Update.

In total, 58 participants completed the madlib. Below, each of the madlib prompts are broken down and the most common themes of each section will be discussed.

MADLIBS FEEDBACK

SENTENCE COMPONENT	MOST COMMON RESPONSES
"I am a..."	*Resident, business owner, retiree*
"Describe Lander as..."	*Community oriented, scenic, beautiful, friendly, small town*
"Lander is known for..."	*Outdoor recreation, adventure, natural beauty, scenic setting, strong community, quality of life*
"Favorite place in Lander..."	*City Park, Sinks Canyon, Home, Backyard*
"Opportunity for improvement..."	*Better infrastructure, development, more trails/paths, afforable housing, economic development*
"Success looks like..."	*Sustainability, environmental stewardship, community well-being,*

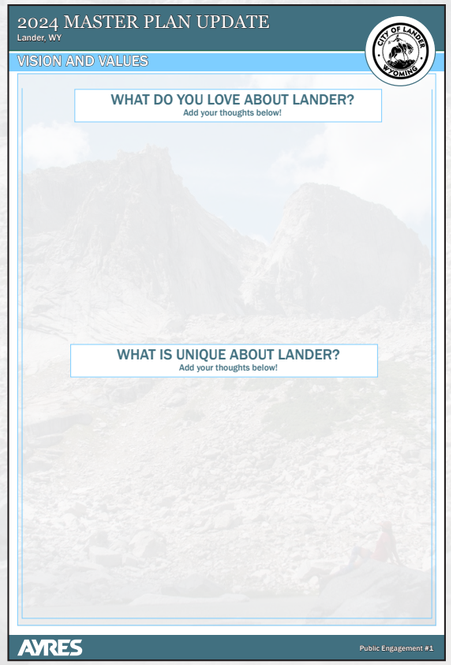
Public Engagement #1

2024 MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Lander, WY

VISION AND VALUES FEEDBACK

The vison and values board was at all community engagement events, participants were prompted offer feedback to two questions, "what do you love about Lander?" and "what is unique about Lander?". This activity aimed to gain insights into the elements that are most valued by the community and identify features that contribute to Lander's uniqueness. There was a total of 55 responses to the first prompt, "what do you love about Lander?" and 50 responses to "what is unique about Lander?"

Below, both questions will be broken down and the most common themes of each section will be discussed.



WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT LANDER?

For the question "what do you love about Lander?", there was a range of answers that described what residents and visitors love about the community.

1. Community
2. Nature
3. Businesses
4. Biped friendly
5. Recreational activities
6. Weather

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT LANDER?

For the question "what is unique about Lander?", a range of answers described what residents and visitors found unique about Lander.

1. Recreational diversity
2. Local culture
3. Small town charm
4. Unique attractions
5. Recreational facilities
6. Local environment

Public Engagement #1

2024 MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Lander, WY

COMMENT CARDS

At every event, comment cards were provided. These cards featured 2024 Master Plan Update related prompts on one side and Parks and Recreation Plan prompts on the other. Participants used these cards to share their feedback, concerns, or suggestions for both plans.

A total of 86 participants submitted comment cards related to both the 2024 Master Plan Update and the Parks and Recreation Plan, indicating a strong level of engagement. Below, we break down the responses received and highlight common themes.

The 2024 Master Plan Update related comment cards reflected a variety of feedback for the new plan. The most common themes are outlined below, listed in order of frequency from most to least mentioned:

1. Economic related developments
2. Housing opportunities
3. Multi-modal transportation infrastructure
4. Local recreation
5. Sustainable long-term planning

2024 MASTER PLAN UPDATE
Lander, WY

SUMMARY:

In a city of just over 7,000 residents, we successfully gathered around 1,385 community engagement interactions. This high level of participation reflects the community's strong interest and dedication to shaping local projects. The volume of responses underscores the enthusiasm for the future of Lander and offers a significant amount of information. These insights will be crucial in guiding future planning and decision-making, ensuring that community voices are effectively integrated into the development of the city's 2024 Master Plan Update.

Residents and visitors showed strong attendance at each engagement event organized by the City of Lander and Ayres Associates. While there are many different themes in the 2024 Master Plan Update, Parks and Recreation Plan, and supplemental efforts, several key themes emerged throughout the engagement events. Across the seven engagement events, there were roughly 1,385 interactions from the community members engaged with the project's efforts.

KEY THEMES:

Through interaction on boards, conversations with attendees, and information written on comment cards following the event, the desires of the community regarding the 2024 Master Plan Update became clear. The most common themes seen are outlined below in order of how often they were mentioned:

1. Infrastructural development
2. Community involvement
3. Indoor and outdoor recreation
4. Environmental sustainability
5. Economic prosperity and development

Based on this information, Ayres Associates can confidently move forward with crafting the 2024 Master Plan Update knowing that the community's needs have been clearly identified at this first stage. Emphasis on economic development and new housing will remain central to the project's goals as planning efforts progress.

SURVEY SUMMARY

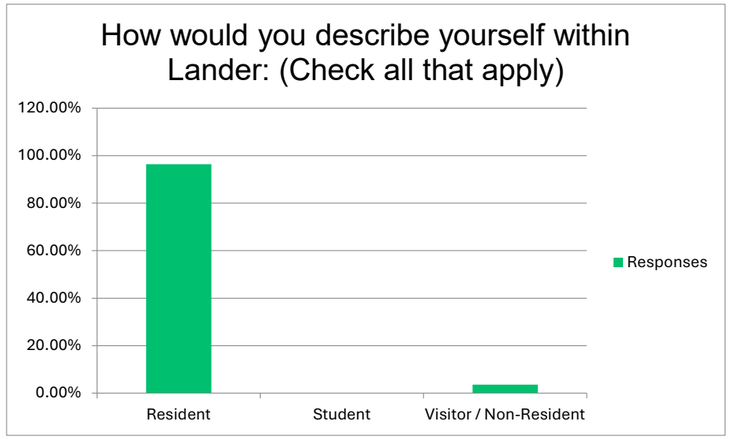
Lander, Wyoming
Master Plan Update Survey
12.16.2024

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide summarized comments of the Lander Master Plan Survey results. Results may include comments from the community for the Parks & Recreation plan theme. The information below does not summarize findings from the Parks & Recreation Plan survey.

Question 1 – Describe Yourself

When respondents were asked to describe themselves within Lander, 96.38% of respondents said they were residents. The two remaining options were students or visitors, no respondents said they were students while the remaining 3.62% said they were visitors or non-residents.



Question 2 – What Respondents Love Most About Lander

Lander, Wyoming
Master Plan Update Survey
12.16.2024

Access to Outdoors

Lander's **proximity to outdoor recreation**—mountains, trails, and public lands—was a consistent highlight. Residents value the ability to engage in activities like hiking, fishing, and climbing year-round.

Key Quotes:

- "The community and access to outdoor recreation on public land."
- "Living in the foothills of one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the U.S."
- "Access to public land and family activities—camping, hiking, and fishing are in our backyard."

Small-Town Feel

Respondents love Lander's **peaceful, small-town charm**, which includes low crime, little traffic, and a slower pace of life. There is also appreciation for maintaining traditions and local businesses.

Key Quotes:

- "Small-town charm with good local restaurants, shops, and little traffic."
- "I love the peaceful, calm atmosphere and lack of overdevelopment."
- "Safe, wholesome town with great access to the outdoors."

Summary:

Residents deeply value Lander's **small-town character**, **tight-knit community**, and **outdoor opportunities**. These attributes are central to its identity and must be preserved as part of future planning efforts. Many expressed a desire to balance growth while maintaining Lander's charm and connection to nature.

Lander, Wyoming
Master Plan Update Survey
12.16.2024

Question 3 – Housing

The survey responses show that the **top priorities** for housing in Lander over the next 10 years are promoting **housing attainability for all income levels** (56.86% rated as 4 or 5), improving the **quality and safety of existing housing** (51.52%), supporting **workforce housing for key professionals** (50.55%), and developing **senior and retirement housing opportunities** (52.19%). Moderately supported strategies include encouraging a **variety of housing types** (44.11%) and creating **low-income housing options** (41.53%). Supporting **additional residential units in the downtown area** received the lowest importance, with only 31.7% rating it a 4 or 5.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Workforce housing, housing attainability, improving existing housing, and senior housing opportunities align closely with the existing goals.
2. **Lower Priorities:** Supporting downtown residential units should be de-emphasized based on community feedback.
3. **Adjustments:** Highlight rehabilitation efforts for aging housing stock and refine objectives to better address senior housing and workforce needs.

Question 4 – Transportation

The survey responses reveal that the **highest transportation priorities** for Lander are **improving safety at major intersections** (61.58% rated as 4 or 5) and **increasing pedestrian access and safety** (60.49%). Enhancing **bicycle-friendly connections and infrastructure** received moderate support (45.11%), while **expanding parking availability** in high-demand areas like downtown had the lowest importance, with only 28.14% rating it as a 4 or 5.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Improving safety at intersections and enhancing pedestrian access align strongly with existing goals and objectives.
2. **Moderate Priorities:** Bicycle-friendly infrastructure should remain part of the plan but with less emphasis compared to pedestrian and intersection safety.

Lander, Wyoming
Master Plan Update Survey
12.16.2024

3. **Low Priority:** Expanding parking availability should be de-prioritized based on minimal community support.

Question 5 – Economy

The survey results reveal that the **highest priorities** for economic development in Lander are **supporting existing local businesses** (61.2% rated as 4 or 5), **creating more jobs** (60.5%), and **attracting young professionals and families** (56.1%). Workforce training and education also received notable support (49.04%). **Promoting tourism** (44.54%) and **diversifying local industries** (44.41%) ranked moderately, while **sustainable development** received the lowest level of importance, with only 40.6% rating it as a 4 or 5.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Supporting existing businesses, creating jobs, and attracting young professionals align strongly with the goals of strengthening the local economy and addressing workforce challenges.
2. **Moderate Priorities:** Workforce training, tourism promotion, and diversifying industries align with existing goals but require targeted strategies.
3. **Lower Priority:** Sustainable development received the least support; consider scaling this focus back or tying it to job creation efforts.

Question 6 – Parks & Recreation

The survey results show that the **top priorities** for parks and recreation in Lander are **expanding or adding new youth programs** (61.99% rated as 4 or 5) and **upgrading or improving existing parks and recreation amenities** (61.64%). Adding **new amenities to existing parks for all ages and abilities** (49.31%) was also a notable priority. Expanding **adult and family programs** (46.3%) and **senior/retiree programs** (40.55%) received moderate support. Meanwhile, **improving neighborhood proximity and access to parks** ranked lower, with only 42.11% rating it as a 4 or 5. These results highlight the community's preference for enhancing recreational programs and improving existing park infrastructure over expanding access.

Lander, Wyoming
Master Plan Update Survey
12.16.2024

Key Takeaways:

1. **Top Priorities:** Expanding youth programs, improving park amenities, and adding new amenities for all ages align strongly with community feedback.
2. **Moderate Priorities:** Expanding adult and senior programs aligns with survey responses, though less critical than youth-oriented efforts.
3. **Lower Priorities:** Goals related to park connectivity and access should be de-prioritized or reframed to focus on maintenance and program development.

Question 7 – Short answer

This question asked residents to provide an option short answer for the following statement: imagine lander 10 years from now, what additional thoughts do you have regarding housing, transportation, economic development, or parks and recreation.

Housing

The responses highlight the critical need for **affordable and diverse housing** to support young families, essential workers, and retirees. Many respondents expressed concerns about the rising cost of living and housing availability, particularly for lower-income earners.

Key Quotes:

- "We need affordable housing for teachers and service workers… housing prices in the $75,000-$150,000 range."
- "Lander needs more affordable housing options, especially for young families in low to moderate income."
- "The middle class will be as priced out as the lower class unless housing is protected. We lose potential nurse and teacher applicants because they can't afford to live here."

Lander, Wyoming
Master Plan Update Survey
12.16.2024

Transportation

There is significant interest in improving **roads, pedestrian safety, and bicycle infrastructure**. Many emphasized the importance of safer pathways and connectivity for walkers, cyclists, and strollers, alongside addressing road maintenance issues.

Key Quotes:

- "Not having a bike path that connects through town is one of Lander's biggest downfalls."
- "I'd like to see sidewalks on all streets, bike lanes on major routes, and safer pedestrian pathways."
- "Fix the roads and do it right… add bike lanes with separation from autos."

Economic Development

Respondents value supporting **local businesses** and fostering a diverse economy while maintaining Lander's small-town charm. There is also strong interest in attracting young families and professionals to sustain growth. Concerns were raised about certain institutions limiting downtown opportunities.

Key Quotes:

- "Support local businesses, promote community events, and preserve our natural spaces."
- "We should revitalize downtown… fewer empty storefronts and more opportunities for small businesses."
- "Attracting young professionals and families is key. We need affordable housing and new businesses."

Parks & Recreation

The community supports enhancing existing parks, expanding youth programs, and adding connected pathways to improve access and usability. A recreation center was a recurring suggestion for year-round family activities.

Lander, Wyoming
Master Plan Update Survey
12.16.2024

Key Quotes:

- “A multi-function recreation center for our youth, including an ice rink and evening activities for teens.”
- “More pathway integration to connect parks, river corridors, and Main Street.”
- “Parks and pathways are essential for making Lander a vibrant and attractive community.”

Summary:

Across all themes, residents emphasized **maintaining Lander’s identity** while addressing key issues: affordable housing, road and pathway improvements, support for local businesses, and enhanced recreational opportunities. Infrastructure maintenance emerged as a foundational priority before pursuing new developments.

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LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION 2025 MASTER PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

An update to the Lander Parks and Recreation Plan was initiated as part of an overall Comprehensive Plan effort in 2024. This plan is designed to guide the development, enhancement, and sustainability of local parks and recreational resources. This report builds on the previous planning efforts, however, as the community evolves, so do its needs and priorities. This plan serves as an opportunity to re-evaluate the current system and ensure it continues to provide vibrant, accessible, and inclusive outdoor spaces that meet the changing demands of residents and visitors.

The report is organized into key chapters that provide a roadmap for Lander's parks and recreation system. The **Goals and Objectives** chapter outlines the guiding principles that shape the plan, focusing on the vision for future growth and priorities for resource allocation. The **Public Involvement** chapter details feedback and insights gathered from community members, ensuring the plan is connected to the voices of those who use and cherish these spaces. The **Analysis of Existing System** chapter examines demographic and recreational needs, identifies gaps within the current park system, and clarifies how well existing facilities align with the community's expectations and requirements. Building on this foundation, the **Inventories and Recommendations** chapter offers a detailed account of Lander's parks, trails, and recreation amenities, accompanied by targeted recommendations to address gaps and maximize opportunities. Finally, the **Implementation** chapter outlines a strategic approach to making these recommendations a reality, including timelines, potential funding sources, and metrics for measuring success.

Together, these chapters represent a collaborative vision for the future of Lander's parks and recreation system, ensuring it remains a vital resource for current and future generations. Ultimately, the Parks and Recreation Plan provides a strategic framework for decision-making and investment over the coming years.

STUDY PURPOSE

This document aims to evaluate and define the vision for Lander's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. Rooted in community feedback and informed by current needs and industry best practices, this study aims to build upon the previous plan's successes while addressing the Lander community's evolving priorities. As Lander continues to grow and attract new residents and visitors, this update ensures the parks and recreation system remains a vital component of the City's identity as it promotes health, connection, and environmental stewardship.

This study seeks to align community aspirations with actionable strategies by focusing on key areas identified through public engagement. These include:

- Expanding access to recreational facilities
- Trail connectivity
- Enhancing safety and maintenance

The community's call for accessible, inclusive spaces and modern amenities is balanced with the desire to preserve Lander's parks' natural beauty and character. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of sustainability, collaboration, and equity to ensure the parks system serves all age groups, abilities, and interests.

Ultimately, this report provides a strategic framework for decision-making and investment over the coming years. This plan ensures that the park system remains adaptable and relevant by addressing goals such as improving physical connectivity, diversifying recreational opportunities, and protecting Lander's green spaces. By implementing this updated vision, Lander will continue to provide high-quality recreational opportunities while fostering a strong connection between its residents and the natural environment.

HISTORY

The Lander Lady Boosters, a women's organization formed in 1907, can be credited for the creation of some of the parks Lander enjoys today, including City Park.

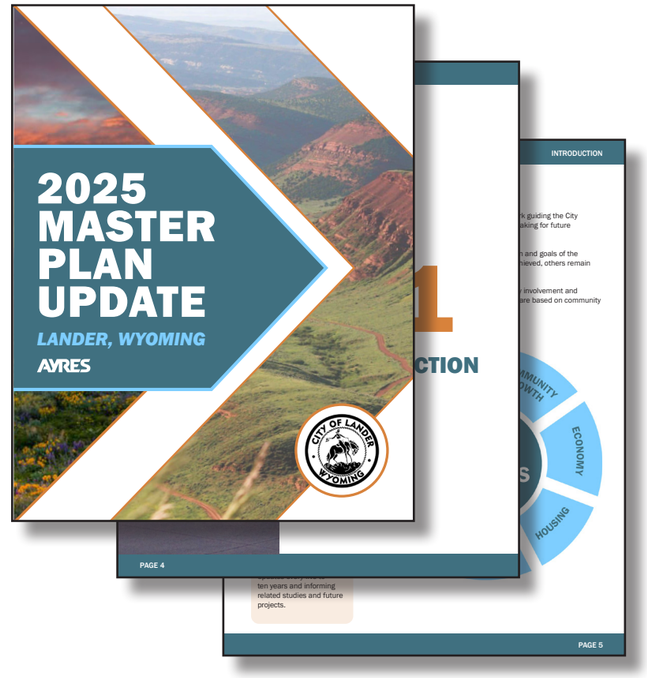
For more information on the history of Lander's park systems, see appendix page 132.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an integral component of Lander's broader 2025 Master Plan Update, supporting its vision and aligning with its long-term strategic framework. While the Master Plan Update provides a comprehensive roadmap for the city's future growth and development, the Parks and Recreation Update focuses on enhancing recreational opportunities and preserving natural spaces. Both plans emphasize the importance of community engagement, sustainability, and accessibility in shaping Lander's future.

The 2025 Master Plan Update identifies overarching themes and policies, including land use, infrastructure, and community well-being, which directly inform the goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Update. The Parks and Recreation Plan complements these efforts by providing detailed recommendations for park improvements, trail expansions, and the development of new recreational amenities, contributing to the Master Plan's vision for a thriving, well-connected community.

Together, these plans create a cohesive framework for Lander's development, ensuring that decisions related to parks and recreation are integrated into the city's broader planning initiatives. The Parks and Recreation Update draws from the themes and strategic actions outlined in the Master Plan while addressing the specific needs and aspirations of the community as they relate to outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities. By working in tandem, these plans ensure that Lander remains a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive place for residents and visitors alike.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

Establishing clear goals and objectives is essential for guiding the future of Lander's parks and recreation system. This chapter outlines three primary goals:

Goal 1: Enhancing connectivity and accessibility
Goal 2: Expand and diversity recreational opportunities
Goal 3: Preserve and sustain Lander's Natural and Green Spaces

These goals provide a shared vision, while their objectives offer actionable steps to improve access, foster inclusivity, and ensure sustainability. Together, they form a roadmap to create a vibrant and resilient park system that meets the needs of residents.

PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS

Goal 1: Enhance Connectivity and Accessibility

Objective 1: Develop a Network of Recreational Pathways
Create a comprehensive system linking neighborhoods to all parks, open spaces, and the river corridor, such as a town loop or Popo Agie River pathway.

Objective 2: Implement Pathway Improvements
Use staff to collaborate with property owners and stakeholders to address pathway access challenges and advance pathway development.

Objective 3: Improve Multi-Modal Access in Parks
Provide safe, level, and accessible paths to and within recreational areas, such as City Park and new park lands

Goal 2: Expand and Diversify Recreational Opportunities

Objective 1: Increase Shade and Weather Protection
Enhance park usability by adding shade trees and shelters to provide relief during extreme weather events.

Objective 2: Develop New Community Facilities
Build amenities, such as natural playgrounds or ball fields, to cater to youth, families, and sports enthusiasts.

Develop a plan to replace aging pool infrastructure with the school district and other community partners.

Objective 3: Establish Recreational Hub for All Ages
Reintroduce affordable and inclusive recreational activities for all residents, emphasizing opportunities for youth, families, and seniors.

Goal 3: Preserve and Sustain Lander's Natural and Green Spaces

Objective 1: Protect Riparian Buffers and Natural Areas
Maintain stream-side buffers and incorporate native features to support sustainability and reduce erosion.

Objective 2: Designate Underdeveloped Open Spaces
Preserve specific areas for natural enjoyment, incorporate compact dirt pathways, benches, and scenic views.

Objective 3: Improve Maintenance and Infrastructure
Replace aging maintenance equipment needed for efficient park maintenance and to extend the usable season. Infrastructure may also need review.

Address invasive weed species with both educational materials and law enforcement. Additionally, remove invasive weed species from city-owned properties.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

Public engagement is the process of involving community members in decision-making to ensure their voices, needs, and ideas shape projects and policies. In the Parks and Recreation Plan for Lander, this engagement includes a stakeholder meeting in June 2024, a series of public meetings in July 2024, and a public survey released in December 2024. These efforts ensured that a diverse range of perspectives were considered, fostering transparency and community trust. By incorporating public feedback throughout the process, the resulting plan is more inclusive, sustainable, and reflective of Lander's recreational needs and priorities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

JUNE 14TH, 2024 *INITIAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING*

Representatives from Ayres Associates met with key stakeholders in Lander in June of 2024. This visit to Lander focused on key projects aligned with the 2025 Lander Master Plan, including utility updates, transportation, floodplain management, and housing development.

Discussions emphasized infrastructure improvements such as road reconstruction, water and sewer enhancements, and strategies to address housing affordability challenges. Notable concerns included flood hazard mitigation, aligning FEMA standards with local visuals, and exploring sustainable growth opportunities. Additionally, participants highlighted the desire for recreational water opportunities, such as river access or an outdoor pool, airport and cemetery updates, and strategies for engaging the community through surveys and public events. Key points involve integrating actionable recommendations, leveraging grants, and aligning with long-term development goals.

JULY 18TH-20TH, 2024 *PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS*

July 18th:
- Drop in session at Lander Community Center
- Booth at Lander Presents

July 19th:
- Open House at Lander Bake Shop
- Open House at Lincoln Street Bakery
- Open House at Lander Senior Center
- Drop-in Session at the Lander Library

July 20th:
- Booth at Pig Roast in City Park

To view this public engagement trip in full detail, see pg 124 in the appendix.

SURVEY RESULTS

Ayres Associates published and publicized a survey on December 3rd, 2024. The survey was open for twelve days and closed on December 15th, 2024. The intent of this survey was to provide those who were unable to attend in-person public engagement events with a platform to share their opinions. The survey gathered 226 responses in total.

Below is a summary of the survey responses that highlight key takeaways. Each response is noted with its weighted average of responses, indicating the frequency that the priority was identified.

To view the full survey responses, see Appendix pg 156.

SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

The Parks & Recreation Survey highlighted Lander residents' desire to balance natural preservation with enhanced recreational opportunities. Key priorities included:
- Improved river access
- Connected parks through trails
- Maintaining open, natural spaces that reflected the community's outdoor lifestyle

Respondents consistently emphasized the importance of preserving riparian areas, planting more trees, and minimizing overdevelopment to protect the charm and ecological health of existing park spaces.

Recreation infrastructure, such as a year-round recreation center, splash pads, and improved playgrounds, emerged as critical needs to support families, youth, and seniors. There was also interest in the following:
- Organized camping facilities
- Upgraded restroom amenities
- Better trail connectivity to enhance accessibility for all.

While some supported new amenities and facilities, others advocated for maintaining and improving existing parks and minimizing large-scale development.

Overall, the community envisioned a parks and recreation system that prioritized sustainability, natural beauty, and inclusivity while fostering connections among residents through well-maintained outdoor spaces and diverse recreational opportunities. This feedback highlighted a shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Lander while preserving its unique character.

The following pages will go over each question and it's key takeaways according to the survey responses. Priorities, in order of top, moderate, to lower, have been identified in applicable cases.

Question 1 – For parks & recreation in Lander, rank the following items from highest to lowest priority.

- Improving neighborhood proximity and access to parks and recreational spaces
- Upgrading or improving existing parks and recreation amenities for all ages and abilities
- Adding new amenities to existing parks for all ages and abilities
- Expanding or adding new youth programs
- Expanding or adding new senior/retiree programs
- Expanding or adding new adult and family programs

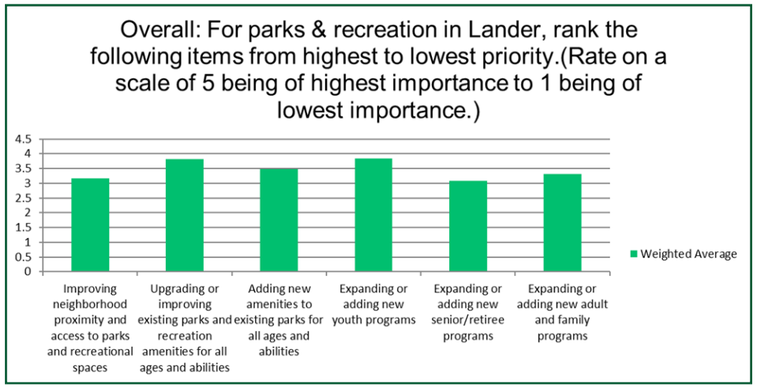
Top Priorities:
- The highest-ranked priority is expanding or adding new youth programs, with a weighted average of 3.83, indicated strong support for increased facilities surrounding this age group.
- Upgrading or improving existing parks and recreation amenities for all ages and abilities follows closely with a weighted average of 3.81, emphasizing the need to maintain and modernize current infrastructure.

Moderate Priorities:
- Adding new amenities to existing parks for all ages and abilities scored a weighted average of 3.48, showing interest in incremental improvements.
- Expanding or adding new adult and family programs received a weighted average of 3.32, highlighting its importance but with slightly lower emphasis than the top priorities.

Lower Priorities:
- Improving neighborhood proximity and access to parks and recreational spaces and expanding or adding new senior/retiree programs ranked as lower priorities, with weighted averages of 3.16 and 3.07, respectively, though many respondents still consider them relevant.

Q1 SUMMARY

The survey highlights that Lander residents prioritize programs for youth and upgrades to existing parks and amenities. While there is moderate support for new amenities and programs for adults and families, proximity to parks and programs for seniors rank lower. This suggests a community focus on enhancing activities and spaces for younger populations while maintaining inclusivity for broader age groups.



Question 2 – What recreational facilities/amenities would you like to see more of in the community?

Most Desired Amenities:
• A recreation center (rec center) is the most frequently mentioned desired amenity. Many respondents highlighted the need for a facility offering multiple activities for all ages, including pools, climbing walls, and gym space.
• Splash pads and outdoor swimming pools are also highly requested, reflecting a community interest in water-based recreation, particularly for families and children.
• Trail connectivity and natural space preservation are important to many respondents, with calls for more bike paths, walking paths, and connections to natural areas like the Popo Agie River.

Specific Facility Suggestions:
• Indoor ice rinks are popular, with multiple mentions emphasizing winter recreation and youth sports.

Diverse Opinions:
• Some respondents prefer developing existing facilities and maintaining natural park settings over building new amenities.
• There are requests for sports facilities (e.g., soccer fields, softball fields), community gardens, and specialized recreational options like a whitewater park or archery range.

"A rec center would benefit people of all ages, anything that will benefit the children."

"Lander's parks are wonderful places for the community to gather, recreate, and enjoy the outdoors. Please consider a balanced approach to development."

"A splash pad and connected bike paths would be a great way to bring families together and enhance our community."

Q2 SUMMARY:
Lander residents express a strong desire for enhanced recreational infrastructure, with a recreation center and water-based amenities like splash pads and pools leading the list of priorities. There is significant interest in facilities that promote both indoor and outdoor activities, catering to families, youth, and seniors. Trail connectivity and preserving natural spaces are also key themes, reflecting the community's appreciation for its natural environment.

Question 3 – Sports Complex Area

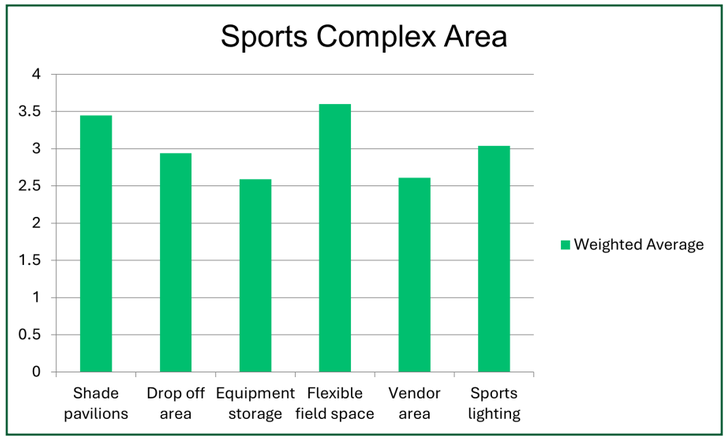
This question asked participants to identify their most desired sports complex amenities.

- Shade pavilions
- Drop-off Areas
- Equipment storage
- Flexible field space
- Vendor area
- Sports lighting

Top Priorities:
• Flexible field space ranks as the highest priority with a weighted average of 3.6, indicating strong community interest in multi-use areas that can accommodate various sports and activities.
• Shade pavilions are the second-highest priority with a weighted average of 3.45, emphasizing the need for covered spaces to improve comfort and usability.

Moderate Priorities:
• Sports lighting (3.04) is moderately prioritized, reflecting a desire for better visibility and extended usability of the complex during evening hours.
• Drop-off areas, such as roundabouts or other temporary parking features, (2.94) are valued for improving accessibility and convenience but are less emphasized than other features.

Lower Priorities:
• Equipment storage and vendor areas rank lower, with weighted averages of 2.59 and 2.61, suggesting these amenities are less critical to the community's vision for the sports complex.



Q3 SUMMARY:
The survey reveals a strong preference for adaptable and user-friendly spaces in Lander's sports complex. Flexible field space is the highest priority, supporting the need for versatile infrastructure to cater to various activities. Shade pavilions and sports lighting are also important, enhancing the area's comfort and functionality. While features like equipment storage and vendor areas are seen as less essential, they remain useful for specific needs.

Question 4 – Natural Open Space Area

This question asked participants to identify their most desired open space amenities.

- Natural Playgrounds
- River Access
- Soft Surface Trails
- Tree Canopy
- Fitness Stations
- Picnic Pavilions (shade)

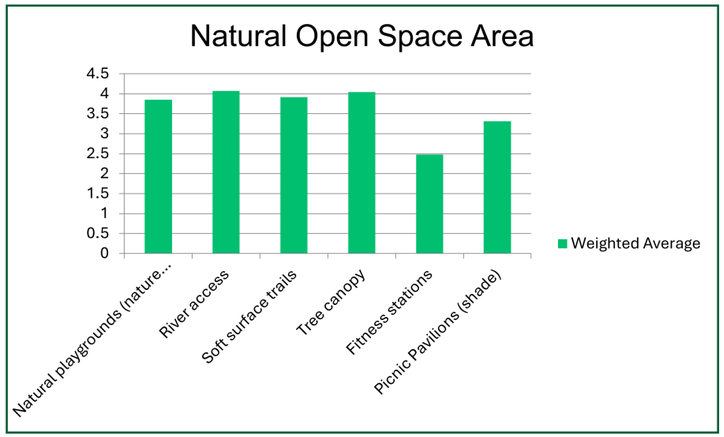
Top Priorities:
• River access is the highest-rated priority with a weighted average of 4.07, indicating a strong desire for improved opportunities to enjoy and interact with natural waterways.
• Tree canopy follows closely with a weighted average of 4.04, reflecting the community's interest in enhancing shaded areas and preserving natural greenery.

Moderate Priorities:
• Soft surface trails rank as a moderate priority (3.91), suggesting a community focus on expanding trail options for walking, hiking, and biking.
• Natural playgrounds (3.85) also rank well, emphasizing the value of nature-based play areas for families.

Lower Priorities:
• Picnic pavilions (shade) have a moderate interest (3.31), showing they are appreciated but not as critical.
• Fitness stations rank the lowest (2.48), suggesting they are less relevant or valued compared to other amenities.

Q4 SUMMARY:

Lander residents prioritize access to natural spaces, with a strong focus on river access and tree canopy preservation. Trails and natural playgrounds are also important, highlighting a preference for amenities that integrate with the natural environment. Picnic pavilions are moderately valued, while fitness stations are seen as less essential. These findings reflect a community desire to balance recreational infrastructure with environmental preservation.



Question 5 – City Park: Please rank the following ideas for City Park from highest to lowest priority.

- Pedestrian Circulation & Safety
- Additional Parking/Formalized Parking
- River Access
- Additional Amenities
- Food Truck Area
- Concert Stage
- Playground
- Tennis Courts
- Picnic Areas
- Ice Skating

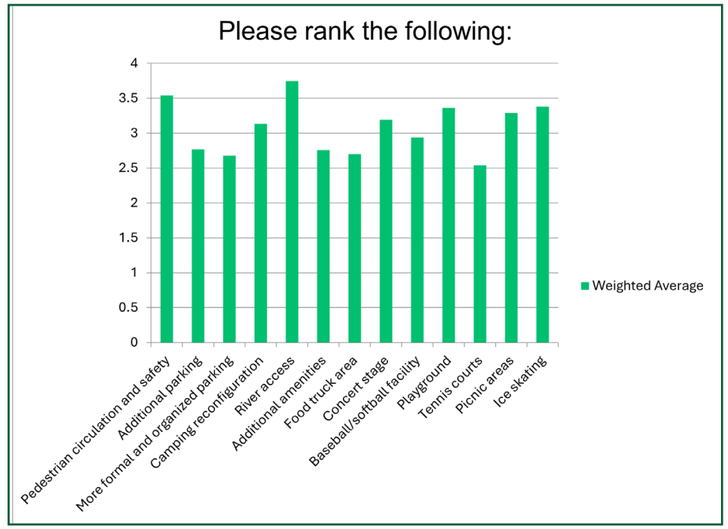
Top Priorities:
• River access is the top priority with a weighted average of 3.75, underscoring the community's interest in maximizing interaction with natural waterways.
• Pedestrian circulation and safety ranks second (3.54), highlighting the importance of ensuring accessibility and safety for park users.

Moderate Priorities:
• Ice skating (3.38) and playground upgrades (3.36) are moderately prioritized, reflecting community interest in recreational amenities for families and seasonal activities.
• Picnic areas (3.29) and a concert stage (3.19) show interest in spaces that encourage social and cultural gatherings.

Lower Priorities:
• Additional parking (2.77), more formal/organized parking (2.68), and food truck areas (2.7) rank lower, suggesting less concern for parking-related amenities compared to recreational and natural features.
• Tennis courts rank the lowest (2.54), indicating limited demand for this specific facility.

Q5 SUMMARY:

The survey results emphasize the community's desire to enhance natural and recreational elements in City Park. River access, pedestrian safety, and seasonal amenities like ice skating and playground improvements are key priorities. Social features like picnic areas and a concert stage also hold significant appeal. Parking and vendor-related amenities are less critical, suggesting that the community prioritizes experiences and natural connections over logistical improvements.



Question 6 –Imagine Lander 10 years from now. What additional thoughts do you have regarding parks and recreation?

Preserving Natural Areas:
1. Many responses highlight the importance of preserving the natural beauty of Lander's parks, especially the river corridor and surrounding riparian habitats. Suggestions include restoring natural vegetation, planting more trees, and minimizing paved or heavily developed spaces.

Improving Access and Connectivity:
2. A strong emphasis is placed on trail connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, and natural areas. Respondents suggest creating pathways along the river and connecting parks for walking, biking, and other outdoor activities.
3. River access is another key theme, with many advocating for features like whitewater parks, fishing areas, and spaces for families to enjoy the river safely.

Recreation Infrastructure:
4. The desire for a recreation center remains strong, particularly to support year-round activities for youth and families. Other suggested amenities include splash pads, outdoor pools, and improved restroom facilities.
5. Some respondents advocate for better-organized camping at City Park, potentially limiting RV access or charging small fees to reduce misuse while maintaining free or donation-based camping for smaller groups.

Balancing Development and Conservation:
6. While some support new infrastructure, others stress keeping spaces open and natural, avoiding overdevelopment. The importance of maintaining Lander's small-town charm and unique outdoor culture is a recurring theme.

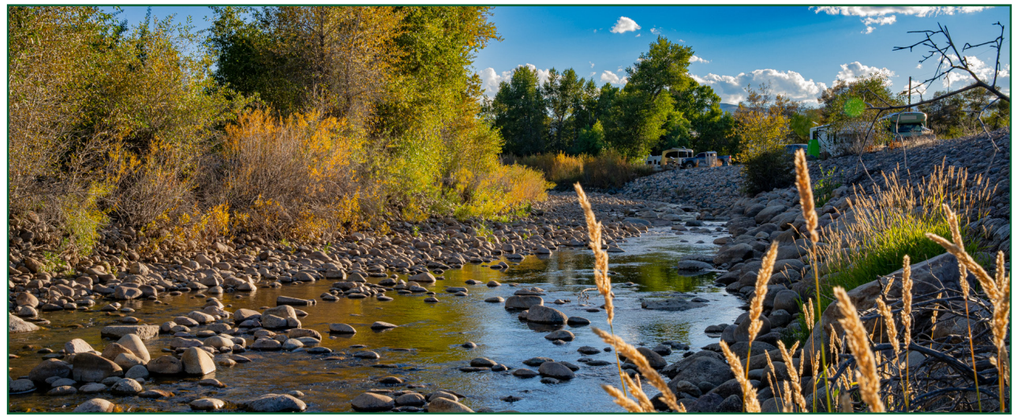
Q6 SUMMARY:

Lander residents envision a balanced approach to parks and recreation, prioritizing natural preservation and improved accessibility. Connectivity between parks and trails, river access enhancements, and year-round facilities like a recreation center are key aspirations. There is a clear preference for maintaining the natural character of spaces, limiting heavy development, and focusing on sustainable park management.

"Parks should prioritize open spaces, river access, and nature-based play while fostering connections through the outdoors and culture."

"Lander's unique outdoor culture thrives on its natural beauty—let's plant trees, restore habitats, and keep our spaces green and inviting."

"Connecting parks with trails and pathways will enhance access and make Lander even more of a draw for residents and visitors alike."



ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SYSTEM

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Analysis of Existing System chapter evaluates the current state of Lander's parks and recreation facilities, focusing on how well they serve the community's needs. It examines demographic trends and park accessibility to identify gaps in service and opportunities for improvement.
By categorizing parks into distinct types and analyzing their service areas, this chapter highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the existing system. These insights provide a foundation for making informed decisions about future investments and ensuring the parks and recreation system meets the needs of all residents.

DEMOGRAPHIC NEEDS

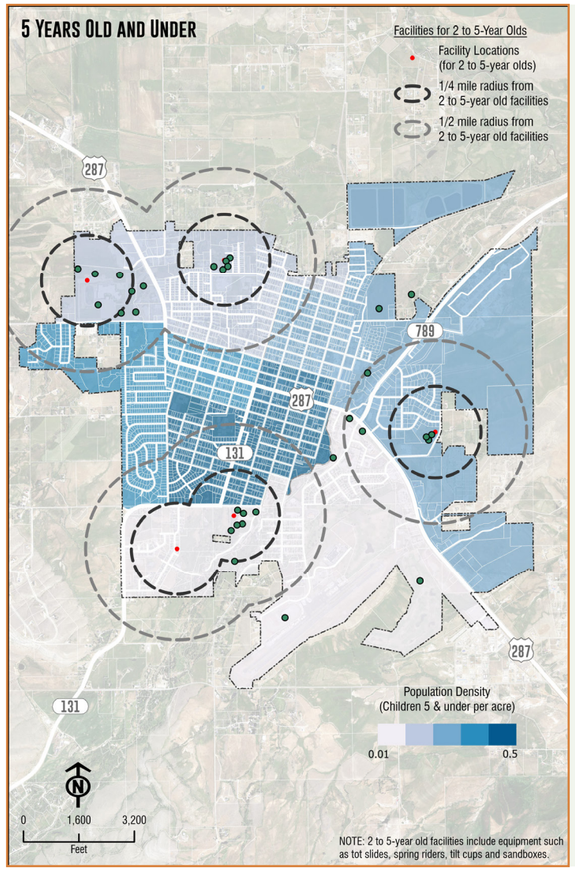
To help understand the demographic needs of the community, Ayres Associates produced an Age Cohort Analysis. This type of analysis compares the population density of certain age groups with park facilities that would match their needs. Doing this increases clarity on which age groups currently have access to park facilities that are usable to them and within a reasonable distance. Most importantly, this analysis helps to identify gaps where certain groups may be underserved.

For this Age Cohort Analysis, four different age groups were studied:

- 5 Years Old and Under
- Ages 5 to 9
- Ages 10 to 17
- Ages 18 to 54
- 55 Years Old and Above

For each of these age groups, two different radiuses were emphasized. The first, 1/4 mile, is considered reasonable walking distance. The second, 1/2 mile, is considered reasonable driving access.

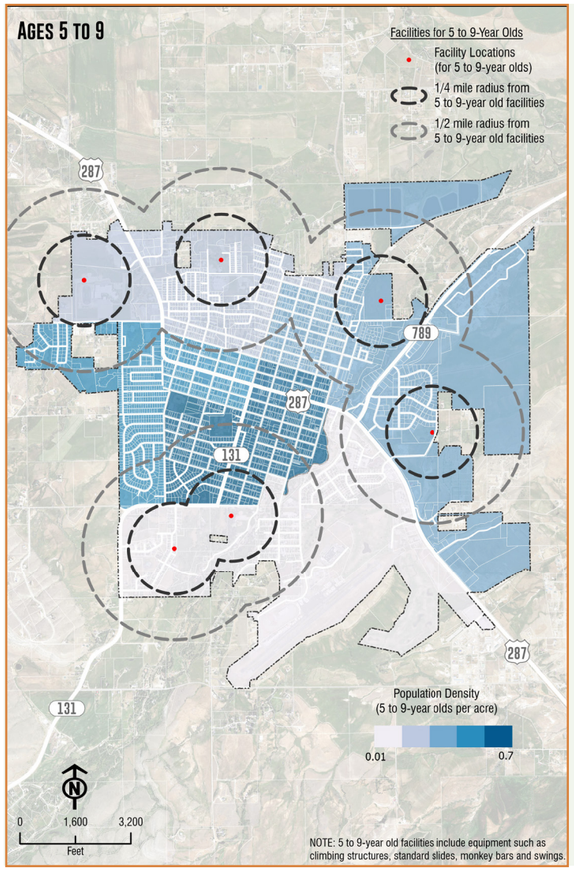
Population data is US Census block information from the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.



5 Years Old and Under

This age group was measured based on facilities that include amenities such as tot slides, spring riders, tilt cups, and sandboxes.

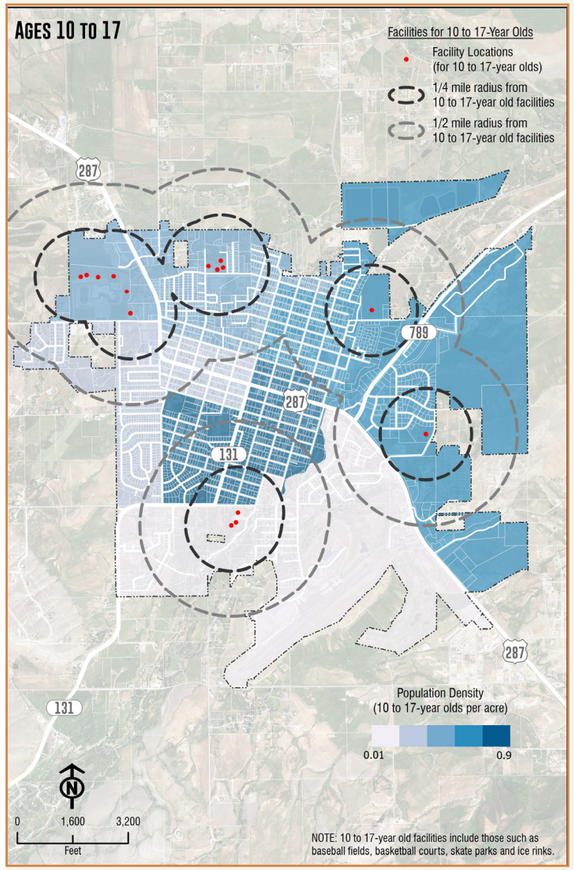
According to the map, most residents under the age of 5 live outside of a 1-mile radius of park facilities that would benefit them. In total, five parks would be able to service these residents, and all but one of them fall into an area where the population density of this age group is lowest. However, it is essential to note that some of these parks are located near preschools in the area, such as Absaroka Headstart (within ¼ mile) and Apple Valley School (within 1 mile).



5 to 9 Years Old

This age group was measured based on facilities that include amenities such as climbing structures, standard slides, monkey bars, and swings.

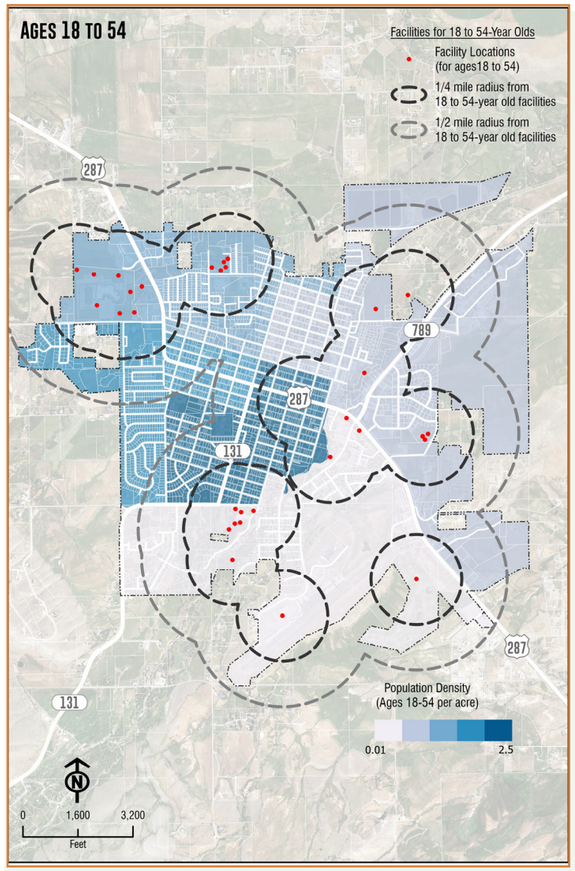
According to the map, most residents between 5-9 years old live outside of a 1-mile radius of park facilities that would benefit them, similar to the youngest age group, 5 years old and younger. In total, five parks would be able to service these residents, and all but one of them fall into an area where the population density of this age group is lowest. However, it is essential to note that some of these parks are located close to elementary schools in the area, such as Baldwin Creek Elementary (within 1 mile), and Gannet Peak Elementary School (within 1 mile).



10 to 17 Years Old

This age group was measured based on facilities that include amenities such as baseball fields, basketball courts, skate parks, and ice rinks.

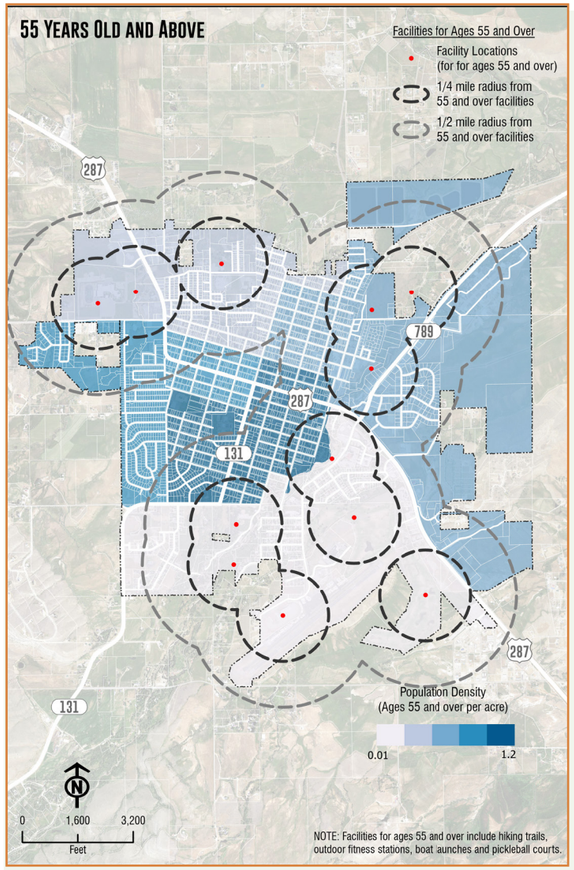
According to the map, a fair amount of residents between 10-17 years old live within a 1-mile radius to a facility that would benefit them. In total, 14 facilities would service these residents. There is a particular abundance of these facilities on the northwest side of town and a distinct gap near Main Street. This is likely due to the physically large spatial needs of the types of amenities that this age group requires, such as sporting fields. Lander Middle School and Lander Valley High School have access to multiple parks within a ¼ mile radius, making these facilities an accessible recreational option for this age group.



18 to 54 Years Old

This age group was measured based on amenities such as athletic facilities, skate parks, ice rinks, hiking trails, outdoor fitness, boat launches, and pickleball courts.

According to the map, the highest population density of middle-aged adults lives within western/northwestern Lander, and many of the associated park facilities reside further out of town. This creates a significant gap for many residents within this age group, as most would need to drive, rather than walk, to their recreational facilities. Understanding this gap and keeping it in mind when planning further development will be vital to serving this age group, which comprises a large percentage of the population of Lander.



55 Years and Older

This age group was measured based on amenities such as hiking trails and pickleball courts.

According to the map, quite a few facilities would service this age group, and they generally align with areas in which older adults tend to live. In total, 12 facilities would meet their needs, located primarily along the west and central parts of Lander. Nearly all of Lander, except the western side, has a facility within 1 mile of each other. This demonstrates that most older adults currently have access to parks that would serve them. Recognizing the service area gap on the western side will be important when considering future development.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

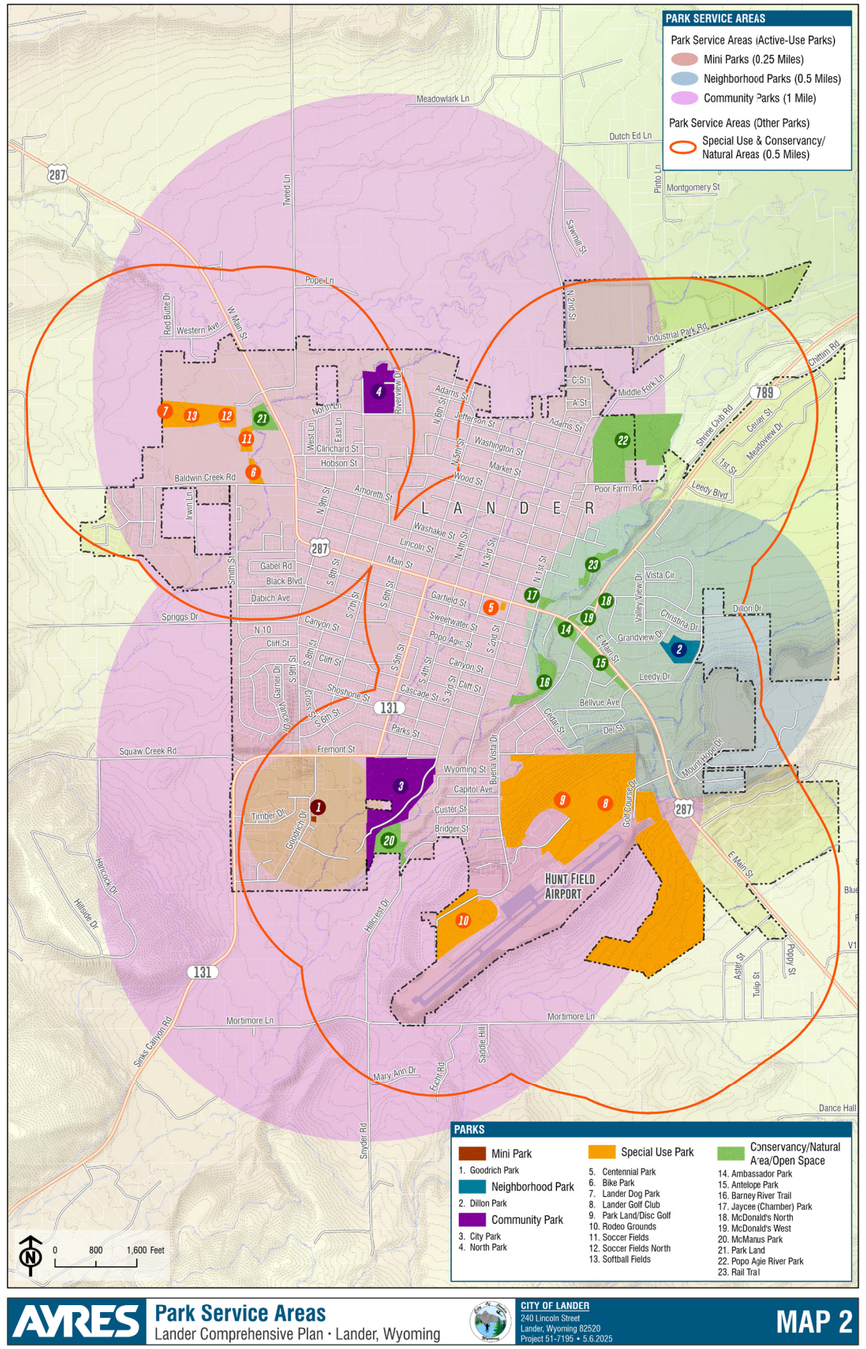
Understanding what types of parks exist in Lander is critical to making educated decisions about future development. With this, it is important to analyze the service area of each park according to its designated function. This helps to identify gaps where there is little or no park service.

Each park in Lander can be categorized into one of 5 categories
1. Mini Park (service area of .25 miles)
2. Neighborhood Park (service area of .5 miles)
3. Community Park (service area of 1 mile)
4. Special Use Park
5. Conservancy/Natural Area/Open Space

Each park was categorized based on existing standards provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Based on this map, most Lander is serviced by at least one park. In some cases, some areas are serviced by multiple parks. These heavily serviced areas correspond with the areas of the highest population density, such as around Main Street. There are areas along the outskirts of town that are not serviced by formalized parks; however, they are within the boundaries of Special Use and Conservancy/Natural Areas. This indicates that most of the population of Lander has access to some type of outdoor recreation.



INVENTORIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Inventories and Recommendations chapter provides a high level assessment of Lander's parks and recreational facilities, outlining their current conditions, key features, and opportunities for improvement. Each park is evaluated based on its unique characteristics with specific recommendations tailored to enhance usability, accessibility, and overall visitor experience.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of addressing maintenance needs, upgrading amenities, and ensuring ADA compliance across the system. It also identifies opportunities for new features and infrastructure to maximize the potential of each park while aligning with community goals. These recommendations aim to guide future investments and improvements, ensuring Lander's parks continue to serve as vibrant and inclusive spaces for all residents and visitors.

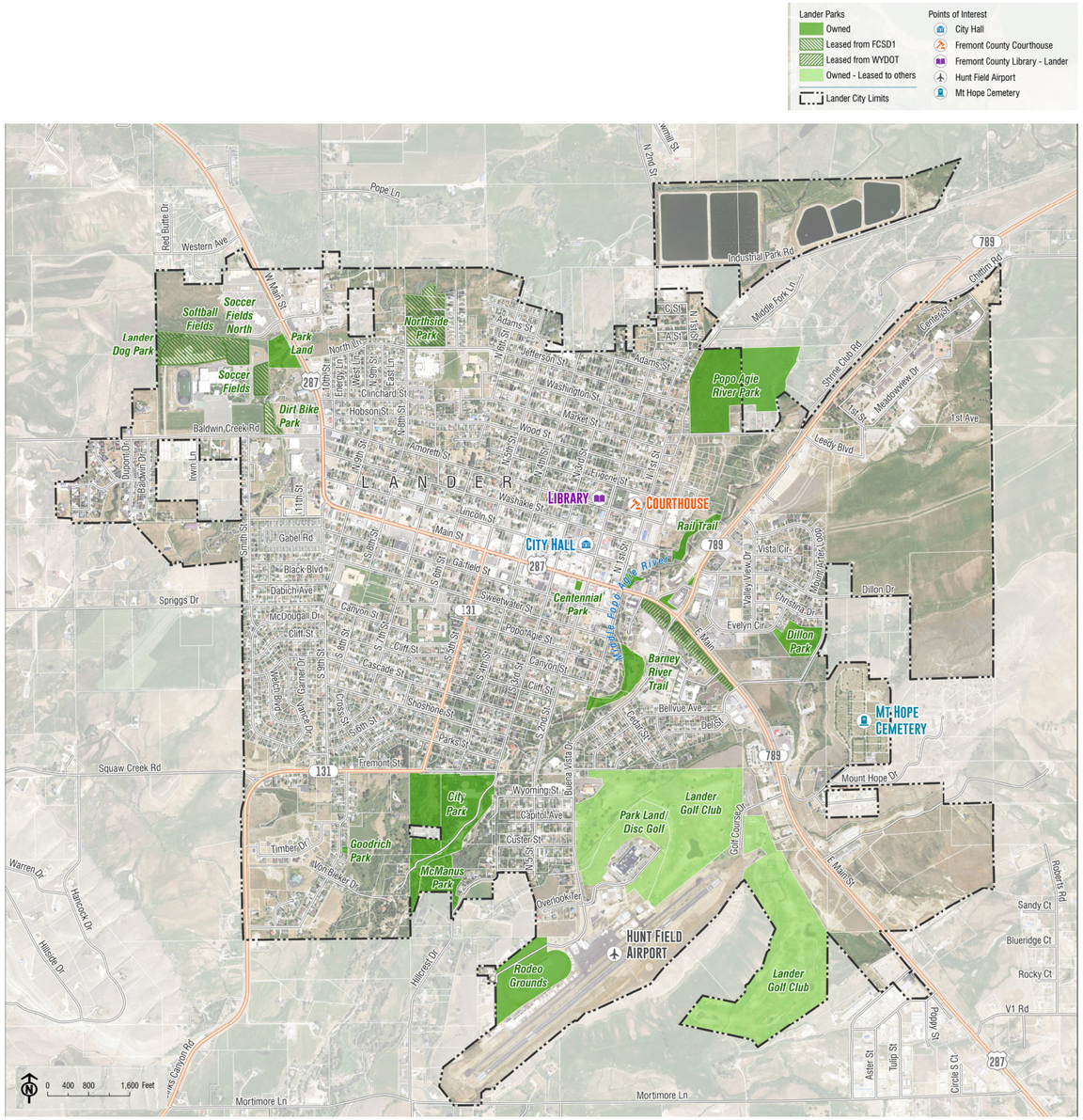
LIST OF INCLUDED PARKS

ESTABLISHED PARKS

- NORTH PARK
- POPO AGIE RIVER PARK
- JAYCEE PARK (DEPOT BUILDING)
- DILLON PARK
- MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY
- CENTENNIAL PARK
- AMBASSADOR GREEN SPACE PARK
- ANTELOPE PARK
- GOLF COURSE
- RODEO GROUNDS
- MCMANUS PARK
- CITY PARK
- GOODRICH PARK
- BIKE PARK
- KRISTOPHER GEORGE AND DAVE CLARK SOCCER FIELDS
- TOM ST. JOHN SOFTBALL COMPLEX
- LANDER DOG PARK

OPPORTUNITY SITES

- PIONEER MUSEUM *ADJACENT PROPERTY*
- SAGEWEST HOSPITAL *ADJACENT PROPERTY*
- FREMONT MOTORS *ADJACENT PROPERTY*
- SWEETWATER/7TH/9TH



NORTH PARK

OVERVIEW

North Park offers a range of amenities including open fields, playgrounds, and walking paths, and notably, a skate park. This makes it a versatile space for recreational activities and family gatherings. It's a popular spot for sports and community activities.

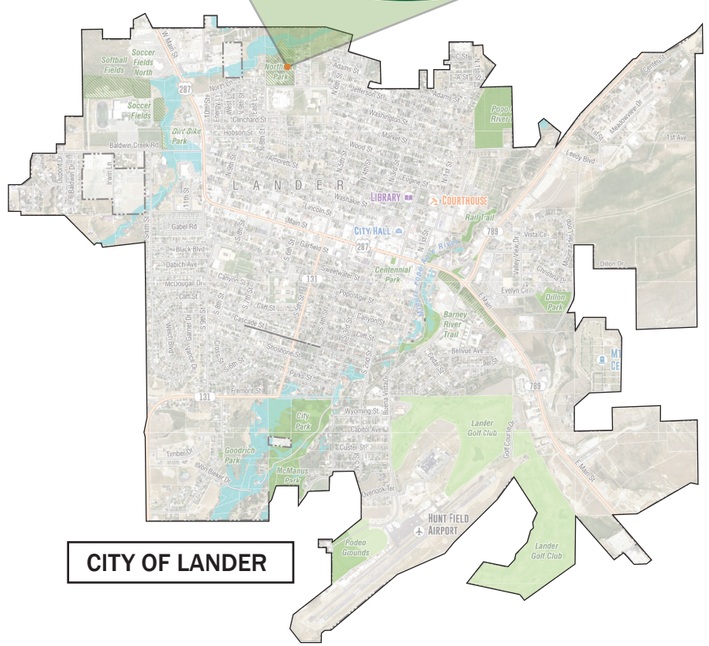
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Baseball Field
- Open Field
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Restrooms

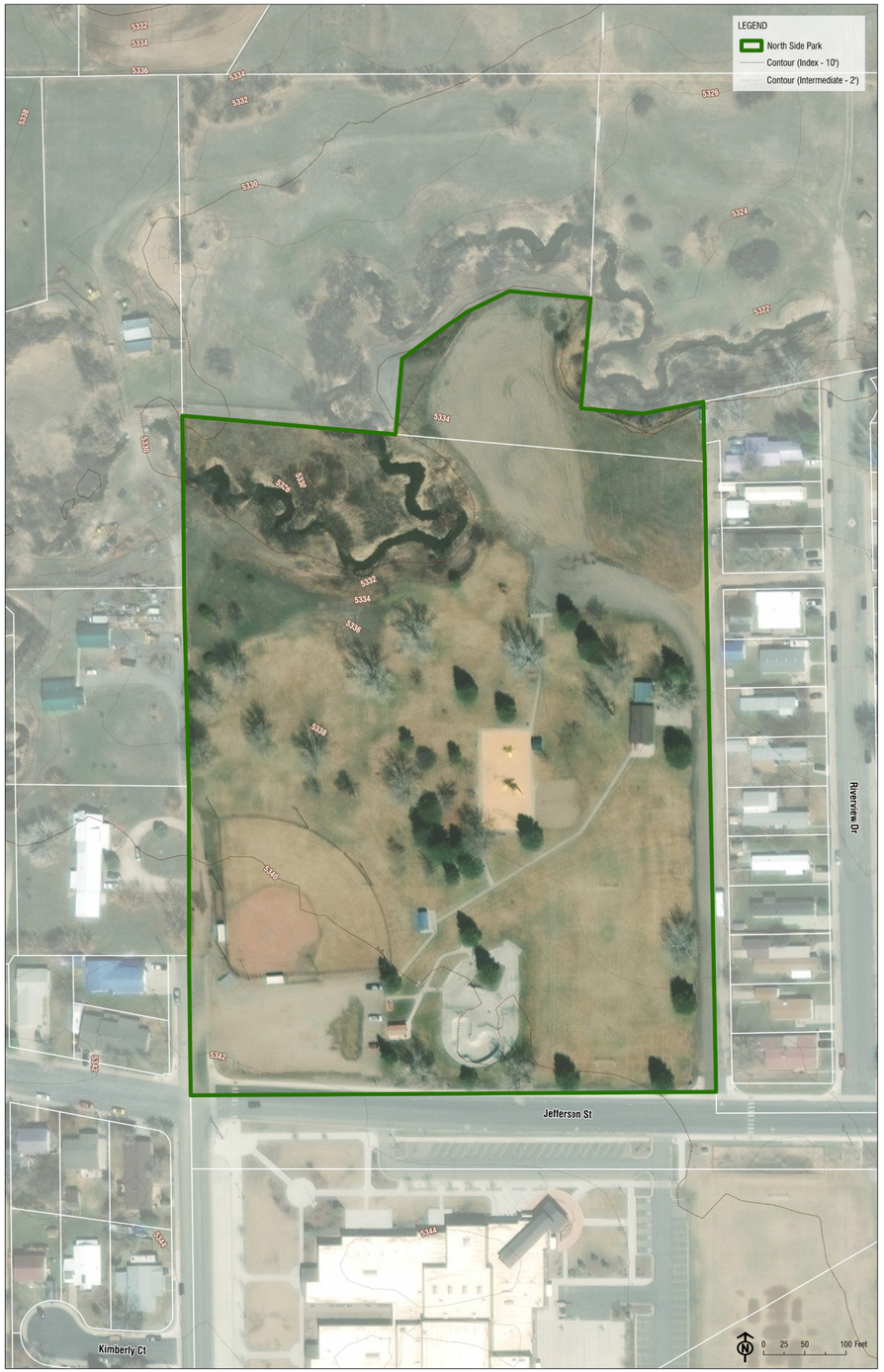
QUICK FACTS

10 acres

738-798 N 8th St



CITY OF LANDER



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: Leased to City of Lander (FCSD1)

MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

North Park offers a wide range of recreational opportunities, including a skatepark, ADA-accessible playground, ballfields, restrooms, a volleyball court, a large picnic shelter, ample trash facilities, and a soccer field. Its central location near the middle school makes it a popular destination for residents. Despite its many amenities, the park has opportunities for further development to enhance its appeal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Study alternate park layout to optimize for ball field safety and additional program. Explore feasibility of additional ball park, expanded and improved parking, and the addition of other program like pickleball.
- Add a loop trail to encourage recreational walking and create a cohesive flow throughout the park.
- Ensure all drinking water stations are operational and upgrade ADA facilities in both the park shelter and playground.
- Explore additional landscaping opportunities to enhance the park's aesthetic and recreational value.
- Update playground equipment to provide activities for all ages. Look at options for mid-schoolers like obstacle and ninja warrior courses.
- Ensure a safe parking lot for park guests and middle school overflow along Jefferson.
- Consider a paved parking lot on Jefferson Street.
- Consider removing the Jefferson street parking and make better parking at rear of the park.
- Improve configuration of parking at rear of park.
- Consider reconfiguring soccer and baseball fields to better optimize the park and safety.

POPO AGIE RIVER PARK

OVERVIEW

Popo Agie River Park features scenic river views and walking paths along the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River. The park is known for its tranquil setting and is a great spot for enjoying nature and outdoor activities.

It is currently undeveloped and has an open field available for public use.

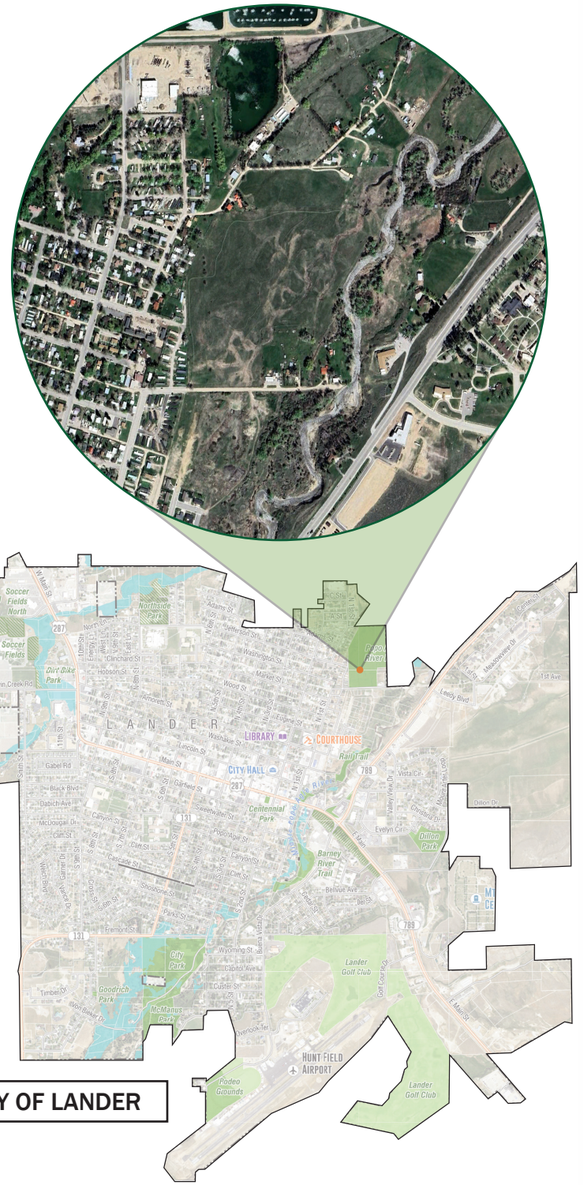
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Open Field
- River Access

QUICK FACTS

36.4 acres

North of Poor Farm Rd



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Popo Agie River Park features an open field with sparse vegetation and trees along the north fork of the Popo Agie River, and offers river access to users. Its natural setting offers opportunities for both passive and active recreation. However, the park's potential is underutilized without additional infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a multi-sports complex with 2–3 ball fields, a playground, public restrooms, a irrigation pond, and a picnic shelter with a grill area.
- Emphasize ADA compliance in all new developments to ensure inclusivity for all users.
- Consider enhancing the natural areas with additional trees and landscaping to balance recreation with ecological preservation.

See page 100 for detailed conceptual plans of Popo Agie River Park.

POPO AGIE RIVER PARK

Popo Agie River Park is located along the Popo Agie River in the northeastern side of Lander. Presently, it is an open space filled with native grasses and sparse trees, with no formalized program.

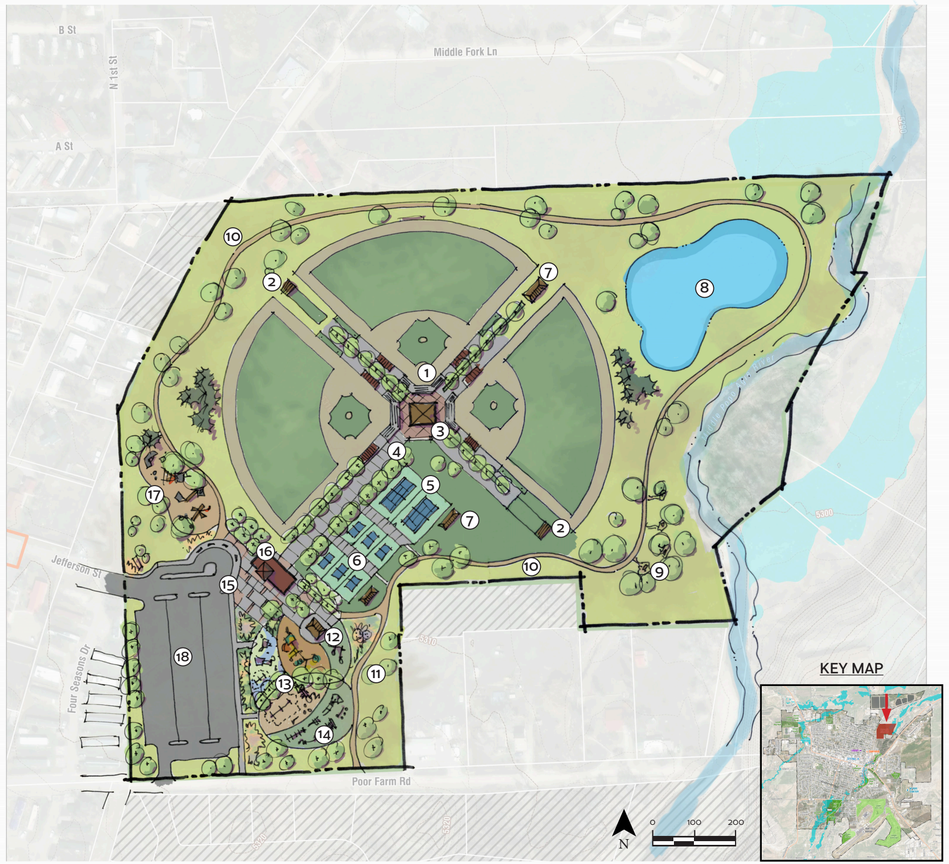
Public feedback emphasized a need for a multi-sports complex that would have the capacity to serve for tournaments as well as general recreation and natural areas. This large site allows for natural recreation through soft surface trails and natural playgrounds as well as soccer fields, pickleball, baseball, and softball facilities. To support this program and complete the site other recommended park elements include: formalized circulation for pedestrians and vehicles, right-sized parking, public restrooms, shelters/shade, picnic equipment, and appropriate storage.

POPO AGIE RIVER PARK CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

LANDER, WYOMING

LEGEND

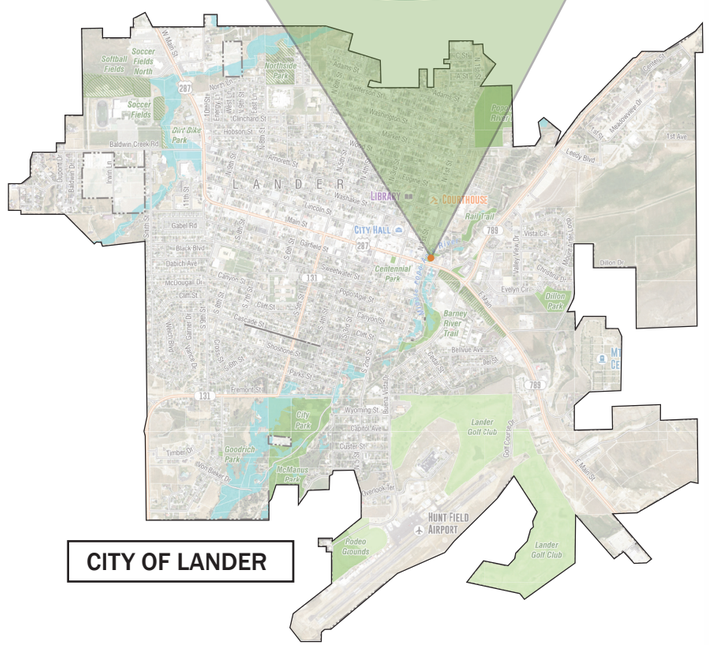
1. BASEBALL / SOFTBALL FIELD
2. BATTING CAGE / STORAGE
3. COVERED SHELTER / PLAZA
4. PLAYER PROMENADE
5. TENNIS COURTS (QTY: 2)
6. PICKLEBALL COURTS (QTY: 6)
7. STORAGE / MAINTENANCE BUILDING
8. IRRIGATION / FISHING POND
9. DAY USE PICNIC AREAS
10. SOFT SURFACE TRAIL (± 4000 LF)
11. NATIVE PLANTINGS
12. SHADE SHELTER
13. PLAYGROUND (2-12YR)
14. FITNESS / NINJA COURSE
15. DROP OFF / ENTRY PLAZA
16. PAVILION / TICKETING / RESTROOMS
17. NATURE PLAY AREA
18. PARKING LOT (± 200 SPACES)



JAYCEE PARK (DEPOT BUILDING)

OVERVIEW

Jaycee Park is an open green space directly in front of the Depot building It features a flat, open grassy area with access to the river.



EXISTING FACILITIES

- Open Field
- Benches
- River Access
- Restrooms

QUICK FACTS

.5 acres

1st and Main St

INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander

MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Located near downtown and the Lander Chamber of Commerce, this park sits alongside the river but lacks formal programming. It contains a single bench and table, providing minimal amenities for visitors. Despite its proximity to key areas, the park remains underutilized and could greatly benefit from thoughtful enhancements. Public restrooms for daytime use are located inside the Lander Chamber of Commerce.

See Appendix pg 130 for Public Engagement materials developed for Jaycee Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Introduce formalized river access to encourage recreational use and improve connections to the water.
- Consider a partial street closure on N 1st St to house a farmers market or outdoor dining. This could be seasonal, permit only, or permament.
- Add a shaded picnic area or shelter to create a more inviting space for families and individuals. Consider additional landscaping and benches to make the park a more vibrant part of the downtown area.
- Have this park serve as a trailhead for locals and tourists to access City Park and Popo Agie River Park via a trail system. Incorporate maps of the trail system for public display and orientation, include route distances, etc.
- Draft agreement for public art installation
- Develop a concept plan for this area. Include relevant stakeholders and people who would help program and use the space (adjacent businesses, Chamber, etc.)
- Consider re-uses for the depot building and explore feasibility of the options.

DILLON PARK

OVERVIEW

Dillon Park features well-maintained open areas, playgrounds, and sports facilities, making it a popular choice for outdoor activities and family gatherings. The park provides ample space for sports and recreation, and it often hosts local events.

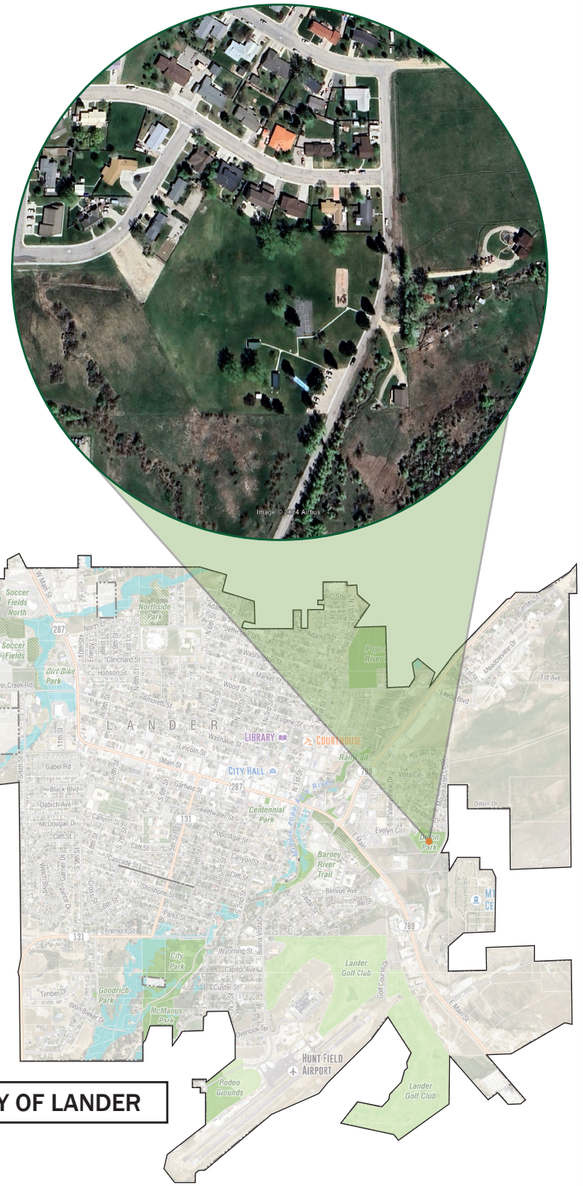
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Basketball Court
- Open Field
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Restrooms

QUICK FACTS

4 acres

200 Leedy St



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander

MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Dillon Park is a neighborhood park that includes two shelters (one large and one small), basketball courts, a playground, and ADA-compliant parking spaces and access. The park prohibits overnight camping and parking, ensuring it remains a safe and family-friendly environment. While the park is well-used, its infrastructure could benefit from upgrades. The site has issues with standing water and can often be difficult to mow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Formalize the gravel parking lot by paving it and adding marked spaces to enhance accessibility and organization.
- Evaluate the condition of existing amenities and update them as necessary to maintain the park's usability.
- Consider additional landscaping to further beautify the park and improve the overall visitor experience.
- Explore options to better utilize the western half of this park. This could require de-watering and drainage enhancements to allow improvements in this wet area.
- Ballfields and other active programming had been considered in the past but was not completed due to the water issues. If de-watering is not possible, consider a native wetland approach with an ADA walking loop.

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

OVERVIEW

Mount Hope is a large site used primarily as a cemetery. It contains paved walk/drive routes, signage, and sparse trees for shade.

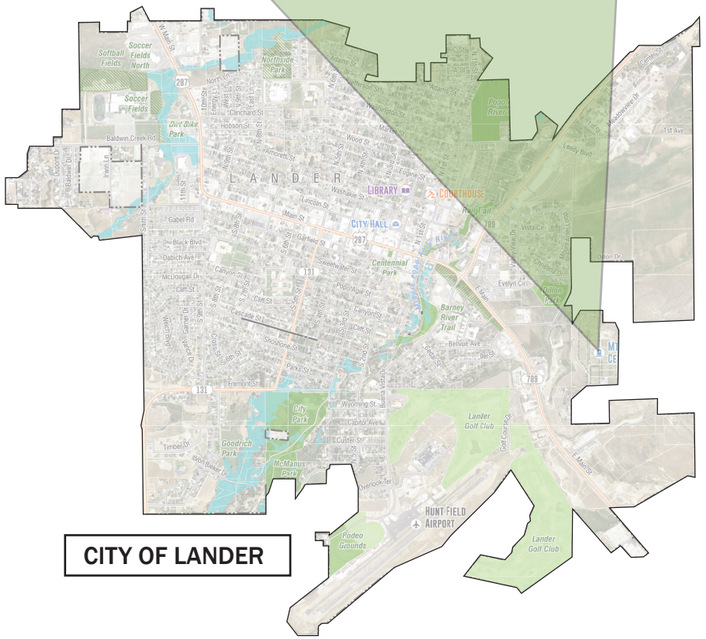
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Benches
- Sculpture

QUICK FACTS

~20 acres

850 Mount Hope Dr



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

In addition to being an important community memorial space, Mount Hope Cemetery is used for recreation, dog walking, and historical tours. It is well known for having the “Best View in Lander”. It does not have water rights for irrigation beyond what currently exists. The cemetery also houses the Veterans Memorial.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Potential 10 acre expansion area to the east - would need to be annexed as it is currently county land and look at opportunity for using this space for parks or residential in the future.
- Develop a plan for long term water use: Have an irrigation audit performed on the system to ensure best practices and optimal efficiency.
- Potential to expand existing maintenance facility: Study and explore how the maintenance facilities on this site can be incorpoated into the larger city maintenance facility inventory.

CENTENNIAL PARK

OVERVIEW

Centennial Park features open grassy areas, picnic spots, and a peaceful environment perfect for relaxation and outdoor activities. It provides a great space for casual gatherings and family outings. The park is a charming spot for enjoying the outdoors in a downtown setting.

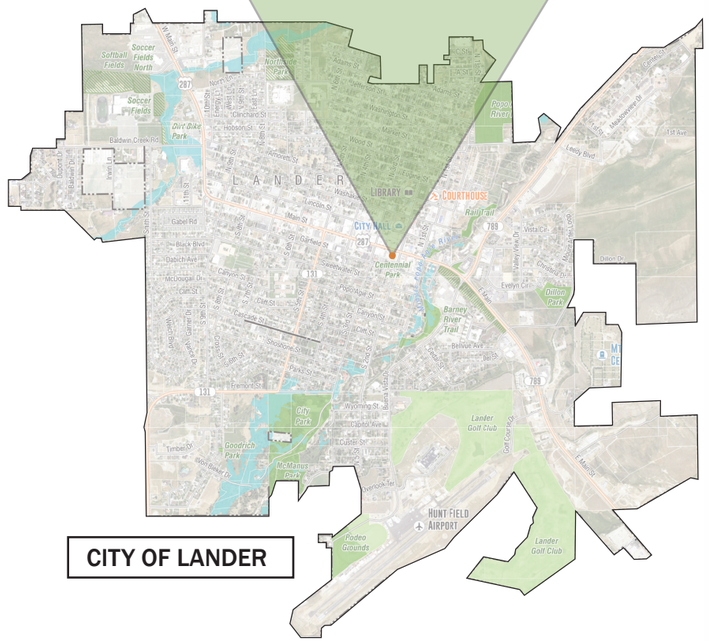
EXISTING FACILITIES

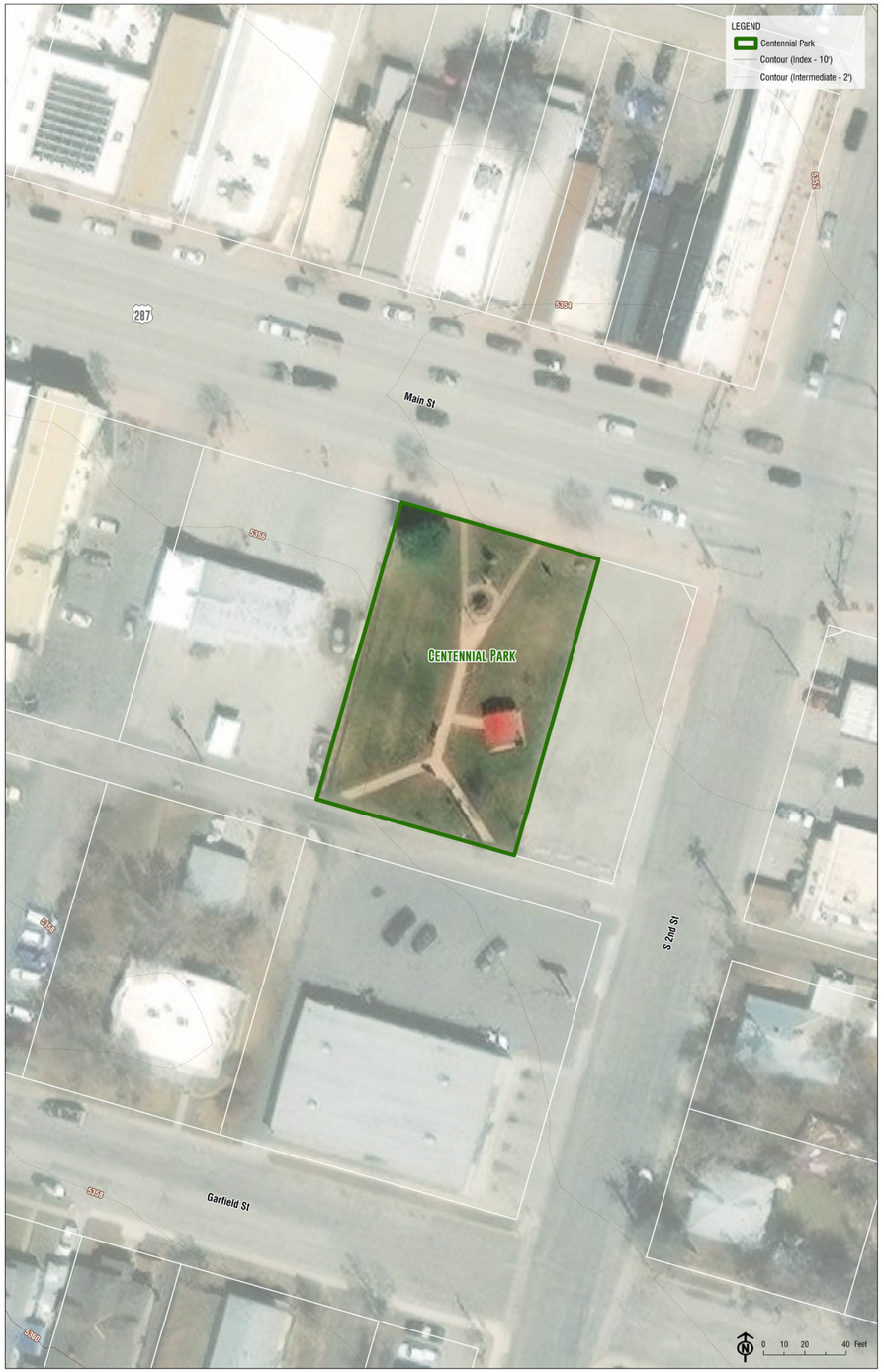
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Sculpture

QUICK FACTS

.75 acres

209 Main Street





INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Situated on Main Street, Centennial Park offers a picnic shelter with two tables, additional tables and benches, and a sculpture as its focal point. The park's central location makes it an important public space, but its amenities could be enhanced for greater functionality and appeal. Its connection to Main Street presents a unique opportunity for historical interpretation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Standardize park furniture and ensure seating bases are sturdy and durable.
- Incorporate historical signage that highlights Lander's rich heritage and install pedestrian lighting for better visibility and security.
- Explore the potential for a "Welcome to Lander" sign to serve as an inviting gateway for visitors arriving via Main Street.
- Explore expanding or reconfiguring the park to the east and re-programming the space to better support Main Street businesses and community activities.
- Explore options to better utilize the park year-round: Public engagement space, demonstration, race headquarters, Christmas village, and farmer's markets.
- Good location for EV charging stations

AMBASSADOR GREEN SPACE PARK

OVERVIEW

Ambassador Green Space Park is located just south of Main Street on River Place. It features bronze statues of cattle and is open for the public to access at all times of the day.

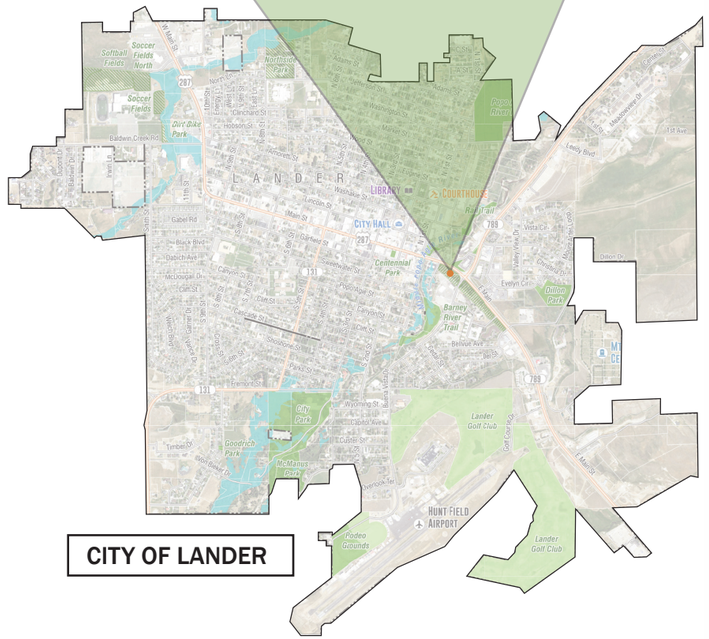
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Open Field
- Sculpture Park
- Community Gateway

QUICK FACTS

.75 acre

River Place



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: Leased (WYDOT)
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Ambassador Green features an expansive, flat grassy open space, complemented by notable bronze cattle drive statues. Mature trees, both deciduous and coniferous, are scattered throughout the park, providing some shade. Overhead power lines run across the property, which may limit certain development opportunities. This park provides aesthetic enhancement at the eastern entry to the community. It is currently not actively programmed and there is no parking provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enhance pedestrian connection to the picnic areas to draw visitors from the forest service ranger station, gas station, motel, and Westward Heights.
- Consider addressing the visual and physical impact of the power lines on park aesthetics and usability if feasible.
- Study opportunities to further enhance this area for community gateway and branding by expanding art offerings, introducing signage, and changing the landscape.
- Consider using native seed and wildflowers in lieu of sod to save water and create an identity more unique to Lander.

ANTELOPE PARK

OVERVIEW

Antelope Park features open fields and picnic areas, providing ample space for various outdoor activities and family gatherings. It also offers scenic views of the surrounding area, adding to its appeal as a community recreation spot. The park is a popular choice for picnics and travelers.

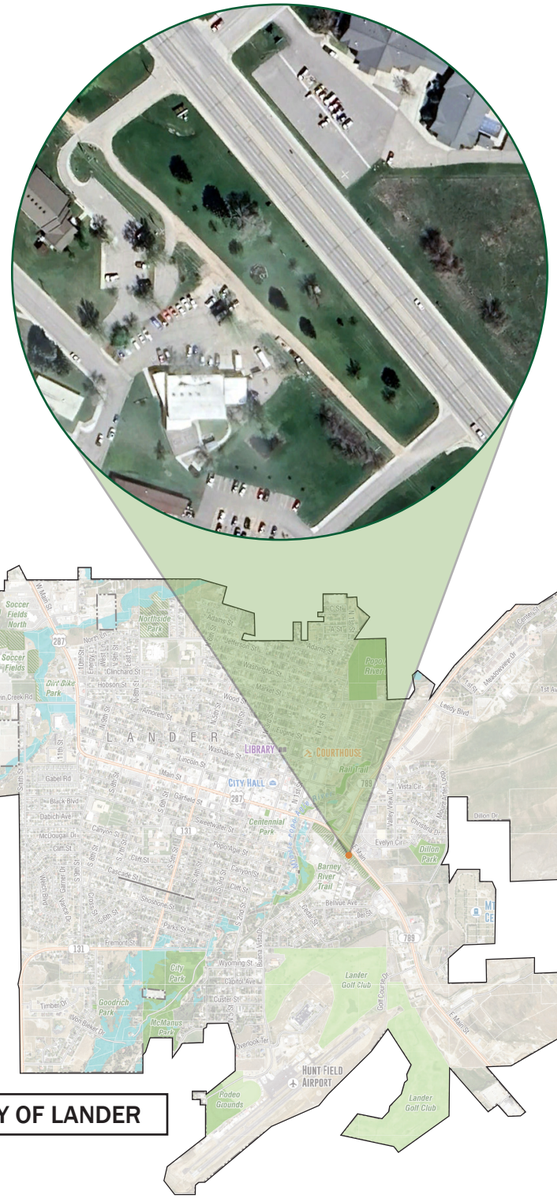
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Open Field
- Benches
- Sculpture Park
- Community Gateway

QUICK FACTS

1.5 acres

150 Caring Way



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: Leased (WYDOT)
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

This ample green space includes picnic tables, a barbecue area, memorial trees, trash cans, and various ornamental and shade trees. In the center is an antelope sculpture that serves as the park's focal point, adding artistic value to the space. The park's design encourages relaxation and small gatherings, but accessibility can be improved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure ADA accessibility by extending sidewalks into the park to connect key features such as picnic areas and the sculpture.
- Enhance pedestrian connection to the picnic areas to draw visitors from the forest service ranger station
- Develop designated parking areas, ideally off Caring Way, to improve visitor convenience.
- Update landscaping around the antelope sculpture could further enhance its role as a central attraction.
- Study opportunities to use this area for community gateway and branding and serve as a connection to Westward Heights, Pushroot Village, and Child Development Services
- Consider using native seed and wildflowers in lieu of sod to save water and create an identity more unique to Lander

GOLF COURSE

OVERVIEW

Lander Golf Course is an 18-hole course set on the southeastern side of town. It features a picturesque backdrop of mountains and sparse tree cover, along with paved paths for golf carts or walking players.

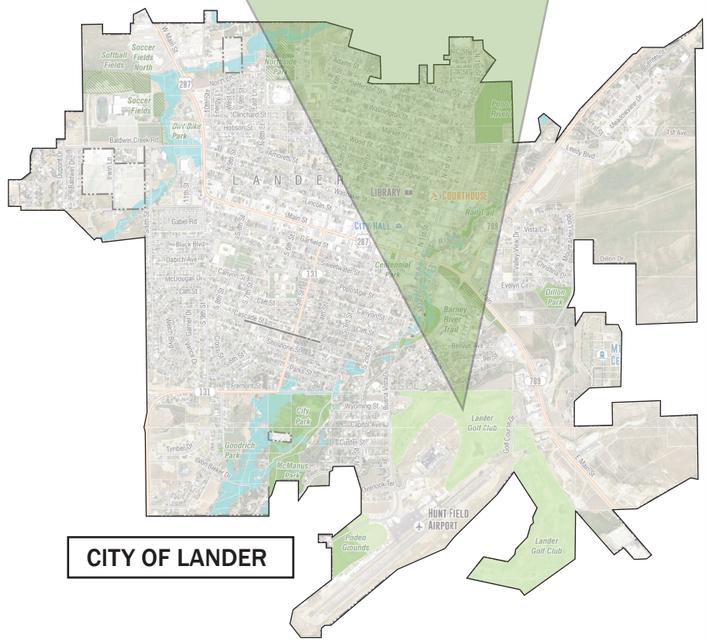
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Golf

QUICK FACTS

~100 acres

1 Golf Course Dr



Legend
Golf Course
Property Lines
Lander Community & Recreation Center
Lander Golf and Country Club
Lander Municipal Airport
Hangar
Hangar
Hangar

RODEO GROUNDS

OVERVIEW

The Rodeo Grounds are comprised of multiple buildings and a large arena. It hosts a variety of events seasonally.

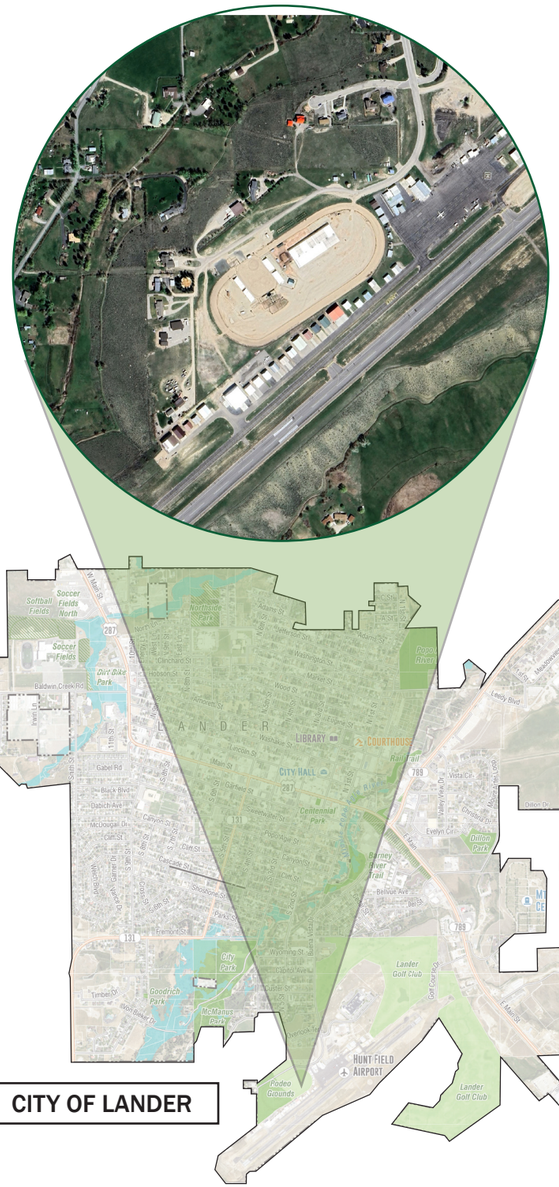
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Open Field
- Restrooms

QUICK FACTS

~30 acres

1663 Rodeo Dr



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander

MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

The Rodeo Grounds host a variety of events, including the Indian Relay and 4th of July, as well as smaller events such as rodeo and roping.
There is currently an issue with poor lighting and safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain historical programming and uses.
- Look at improvements that promote multi-season use.
- Consider a master plan with stakeholder and public engagement sessions.
- Discover the ongoing best use through a concessionaire or volunteer board

MCMANUS PARK

OVERVIEW

McManus Park is a well-maintained green space featuring open grassy areas and shaded picnic spots. The park is designed for various recreational activities and provides a pleasant environment for families and community gatherings. It's a popular choice for casual outings and outdoor events. This park is accessed via pedestrian bridge or on trail from Hillcrest Drive.

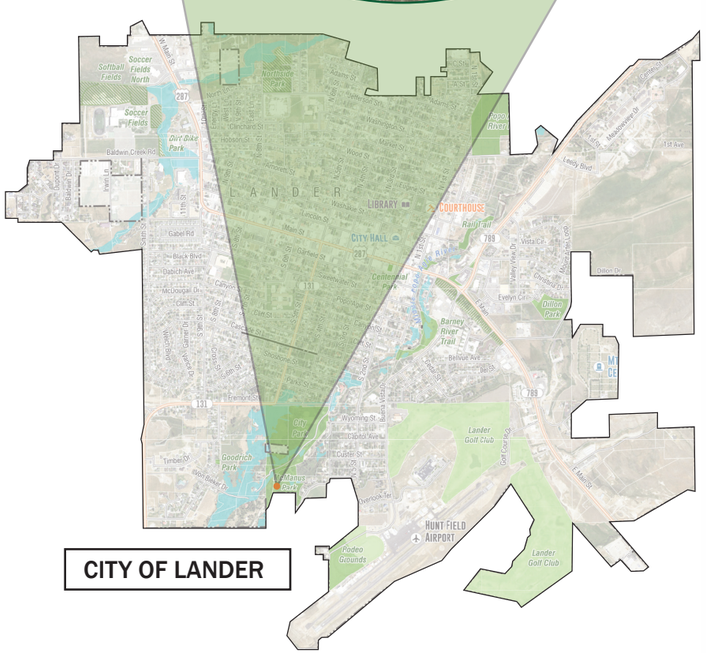
EXISTING FACILITIES

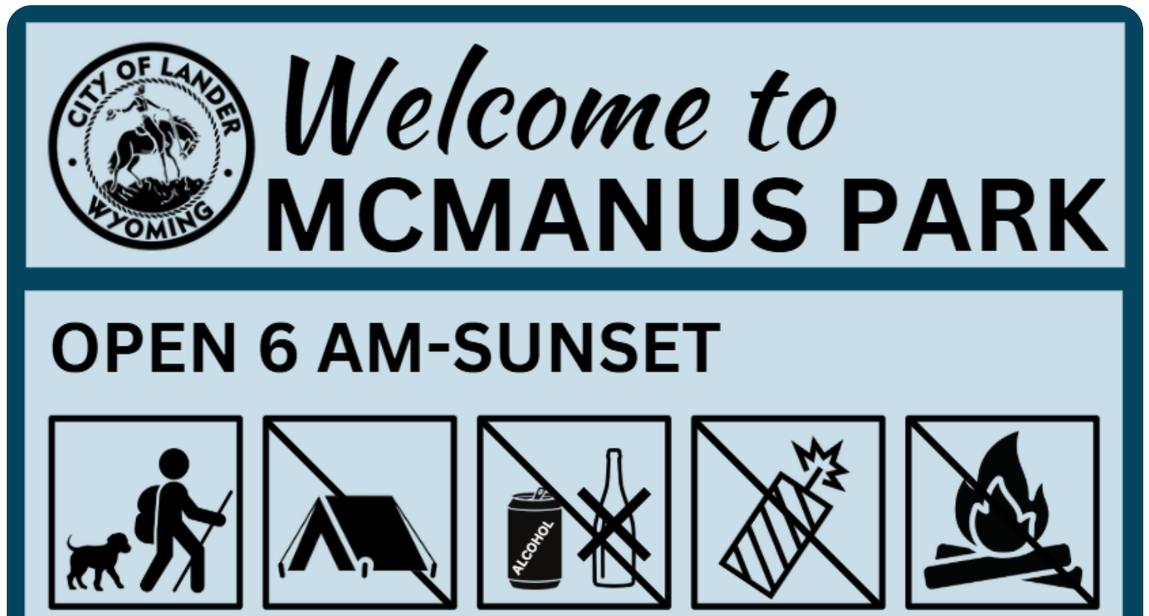
- Open Field
- Benches
- Restrooms (nearby)
- River Access

QUICK FACTS

6.9 acres

1352 City Park Dr





INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Located adjacent to popular City Park, McManus Park is a less formalized native area that consists of walking paths, dense tree cover, and open fields. It is accessed by City Park through a pedestrian bridge over the Popo Agie River, or by the trail located off of Hillcrest Drive. It is primarily used for walking, biking, and jogging. There are public bathrooms available for use in nearby City Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Keep McManus park in mind when further developing City Park, especially considering the pedestrian bridge. Maintain the integrity of the park by keeping it wild and underdeveloped with mindful improvements.
- Ensure all paths are well-maintained and comply with ADA standards.
- Consider an expansion of the pathway system.
- Maintain trees and foliage to reduce fire hazards.
- Manage noxious weeds and promote native plant species
- Consider adding interpretive signs on relevant topics like natural resources, plant and animal species, and river ecology (to name a few)

CITY PARK

OVERVIEW

City Park features expansive grassy areas, large shade trees, and playground equipment, making it ideal for family picnics and outdoor activities. The park is a popular spot for community events and gatherings, offering a welcoming environment for all ages. It also includes a free camping site for travelers and outdoor enthusiasts.

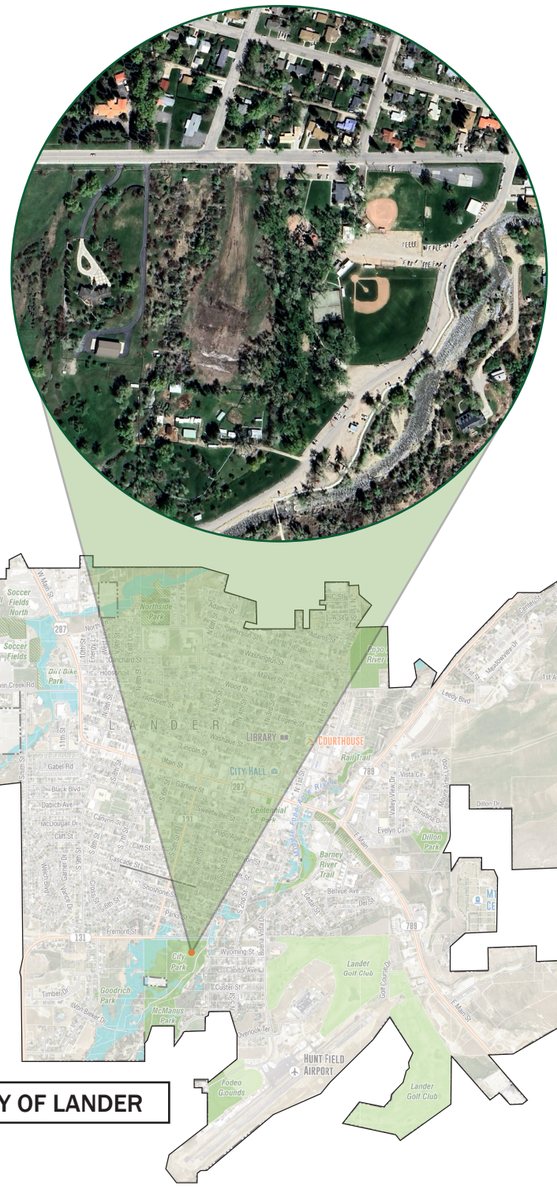
EXISTING FACILITIES

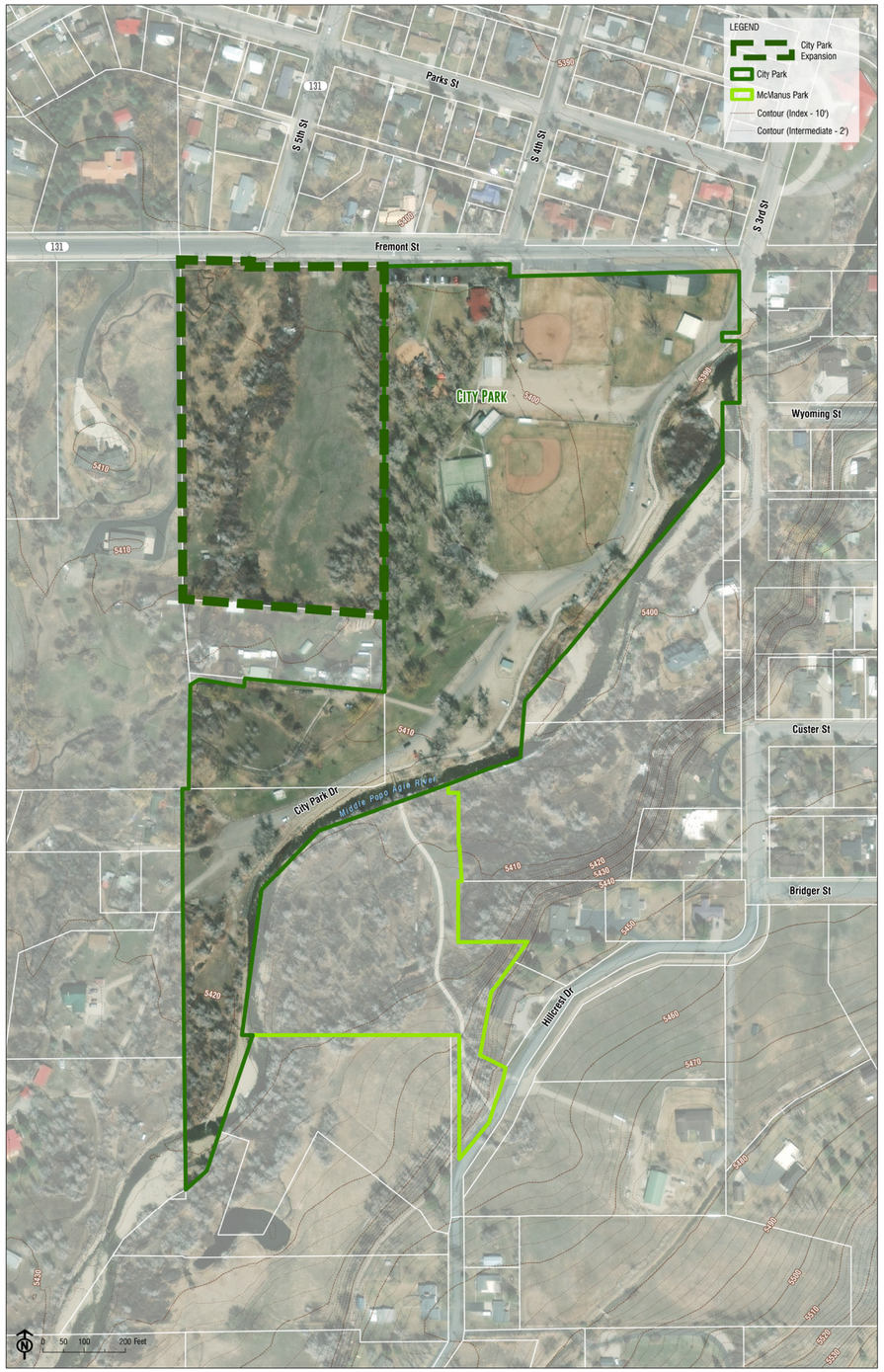
- Baseball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Open Field
- Benches
- Pavilions
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Tennis
- River Access
- Camping
- Seasonal Ice Rink

QUICK FACTS

32 acres

405 Fremont St





INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander

MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

City Park hosts a basketball court, baseball fields, stage, tennis courts, free camping areas, and ice skating in the winter. It also includes a shaded picnic area, making it a popular spot for organized sports, informal gatherings, as well as community event programming from Lander Presents. In addition to this diverse programming, the site is also home to a maintenance building and the fire station training grounds. As a result of this extensive use, the park's layout could benefit from greater organization to meet the needs of its varied users and ensure safe separation of pedestrians and vehicles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish formalized pickup and drop-off zones for the baseball fields to improve traffic flow during events.
- Enhance the open camping area by creating designated spaces with supporting amenities.
- Develop a food truck court surrounded by grassy and shaded areas to attract more visitors.
- Convert tennis court to basketball courts.
- Add an ADA accessible ramp to the stage to ensure accessibility for all.
- Relocate tree nursery from Cemetery.
- Parks and Recreation Building: Improve restrooms, remodel to include office spaces, and address safety concerns throughout the building.
- Additional improvements include relocating the maintenance building, maintaining a seasonal ice rink on the baseball fields during winter, and creating safe and well-marked river access points.

See page 62 for detailed conceptual plans of City Park.

CITY PARK

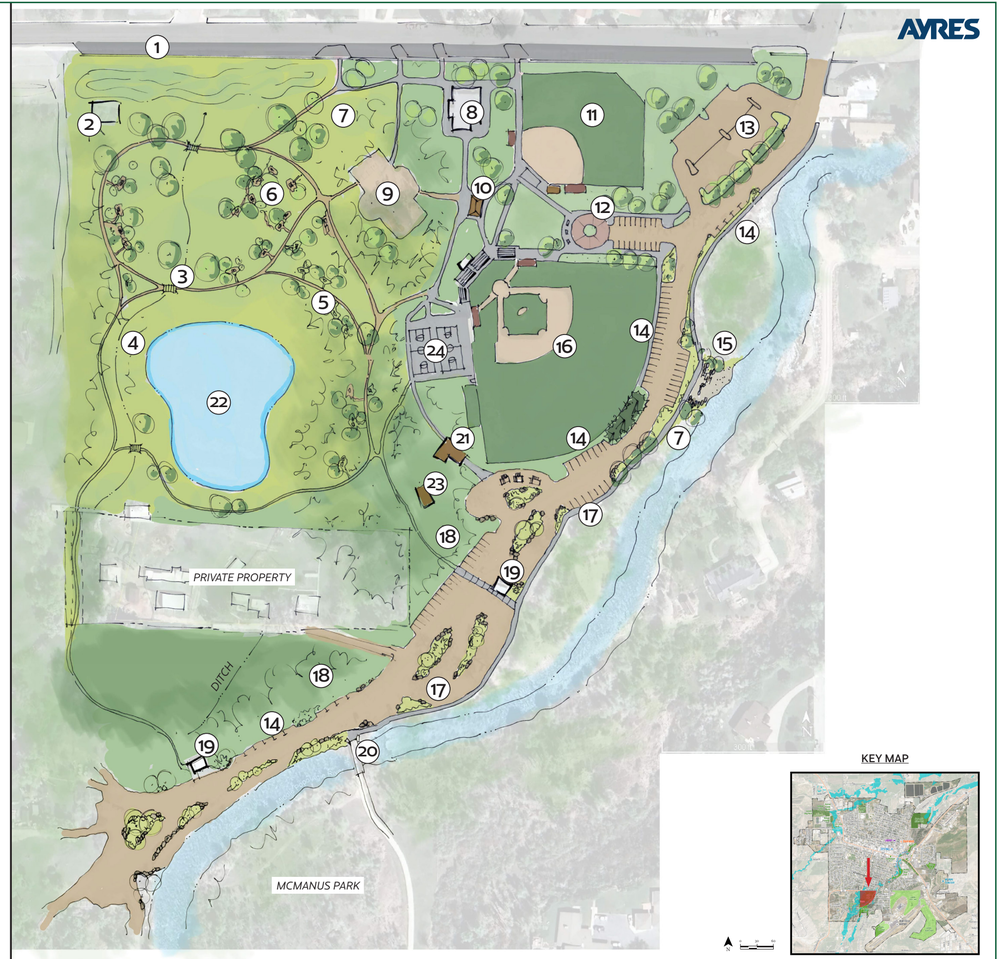
City Park is in the southwest side of Lander. It is a well-established and loved part of the community with existing programming such as baseball fields, a basketball court, seating, a pavilion, playground, and public restrooms. City Park's most well-loved feature is the event space/stage area, which hosts festivals and events frequently in the summer.

The City of Lander has identified a need for City Park's amenities to be formalized for safety and more effective usage. Development goals include creating a pick up/drop-off zone near the baseball fields, establishing an organized method of camping (check in area, separated parking, etc), creating safe water access, and adding a more expansive trail system. Some of these developments will include adjusting existing buildings, better locate the fire department training facility and maintenance shop to another location in town to better utilize City Park space, and adding an ADA accessible ramp to the stage.

CITY PARK
CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
LANDER, WYOMING

LEGEND

1. ANGLED HEAD-IN PARKING (SPACES)
2. RELOCATED FACILITIES BUILDING
3. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
4. IRRIGATION DITCH
5. SOFT SURFACE TRAILS (±3,850 LF)
6. DAY USE PICNIC AREAS
7. NATIVE PLANTINGS
8. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT BUILDING
9. EXISTING PLAYGROUND
10. COVERED SHELTER / PLAZA
11. SOFTBALL FIELD
12. DROP-OFF PLAZA
13. PARKING LOT (±60 STALLS)
14. PARKING AREA
15. WALK UP RIVER ACCESS
16. BASEBALL FIELD
17. CAR CAMPING
18. TENT CAMPING
19. EXISTING RESTROOM
20. EXISTING BRIDGE
21. LION'S SHELTER
22. IRRIGATION / FISHING POND (± 10 ACRE-FEET)
23. EXISTING STAGE
24. BASKETBALL COURTS



GOODRICH PARK

OVERVIEW

Goodrich Park provides a serene environment with open grassy areas and a playground, ideal for family outings and relaxation. The park features shaded spots and ample space for picnics and casual activities. It's a community favorite and notable for it's location within a neighborhood.

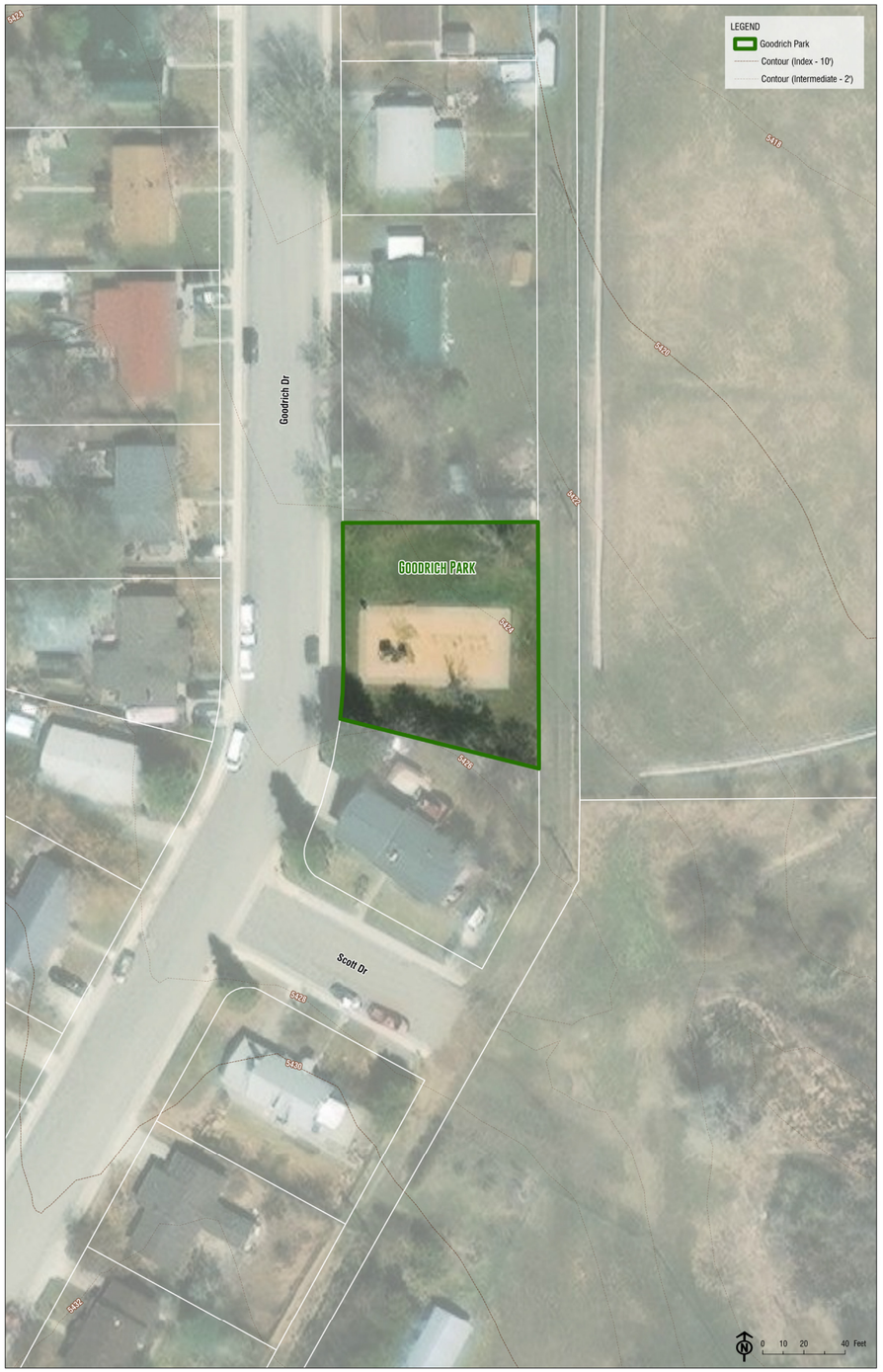
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Benches
- Playground

QUICK FACTS

.5 acres

100 Goodrich Dr



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: City of Lander
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Goodrich Park is a small neighborhood park featuring a playground, two benches, a trash can, a picnic table, and entry signage. A large mature tree in the northeast corner provides limited shade for visitors. While functional, the park lacks the amenities and connectivity to make it more inviting for the surrounding community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand shade options by planting trees or adding a small picnic shelter to create comfortable gathering areas.
- Improve ADA accessibility by extending sidewalks to connect the park entrance with the playground and other features.
- Ensure that all playground equipment includes ADA-compliant options to make the space inclusive for children of all abilities.
- Survey local neighborhood around the park to see what additional amenities would benefit these primary users.
- Consider adding a seasonal port-a-potty to this location.

BIKE PARK

OVERVIEW

Bike Park is a dedicated space for bike enthusiasts, featuring trails and obstacles designed for riders of all skill levels. It provides a great environment for both beginners and experienced riders to practice their skills. The park also hosts local biking events and gatherings, making it a community hub for outdoor sports.

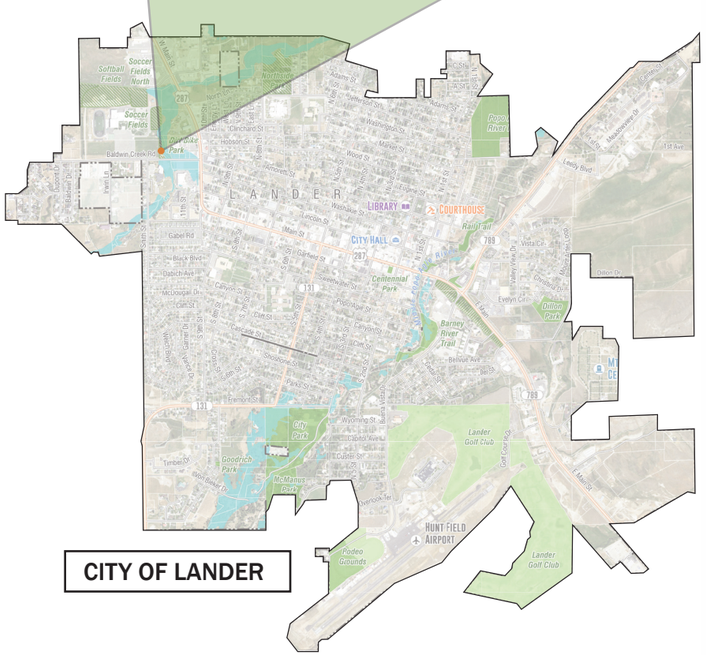
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Benches
- Pavilion

QUICK FACTS

2 acres

150 Baldwin Creek Rd



CITY OF LANDER

INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: Leased (FCSD1)
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

This park features pump tracks and bike paths with ramps, attracting cycling enthusiasts of all ages. Its location near soccer fields, schools, and the town makes it a convenient recreational spot. However, the park's amenities and infrastructure require improvements to fully meet user needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Level the dirt starting mound to address safety concerns and enhance park usability.
- Add more shade with trees or shade structures to provide comfortable rest areas for visitors.
- Address drainage issues to prevent flooding issues.
- Expand or collaborate with nearby church to utilize their land for recreational purposes or connectivity.
- Size and location may need to change as Lander grows.
- Floodplain is present on the eastern half of the property and may pose a concern for the future.

KRISTOPHER GEORGE AND DAVE CLARK SOCCER FIELDS

OVERVIEW

The Kristopher George and Dave Clark Soccer Fields offer well-maintained fields ideal for soccer games and practices, catering to both organized leagues and casual play. The facility is designed to accommodate a variety of soccer events and is popular for local tournaments. It provides ample space and amenities for players and spectators alike.

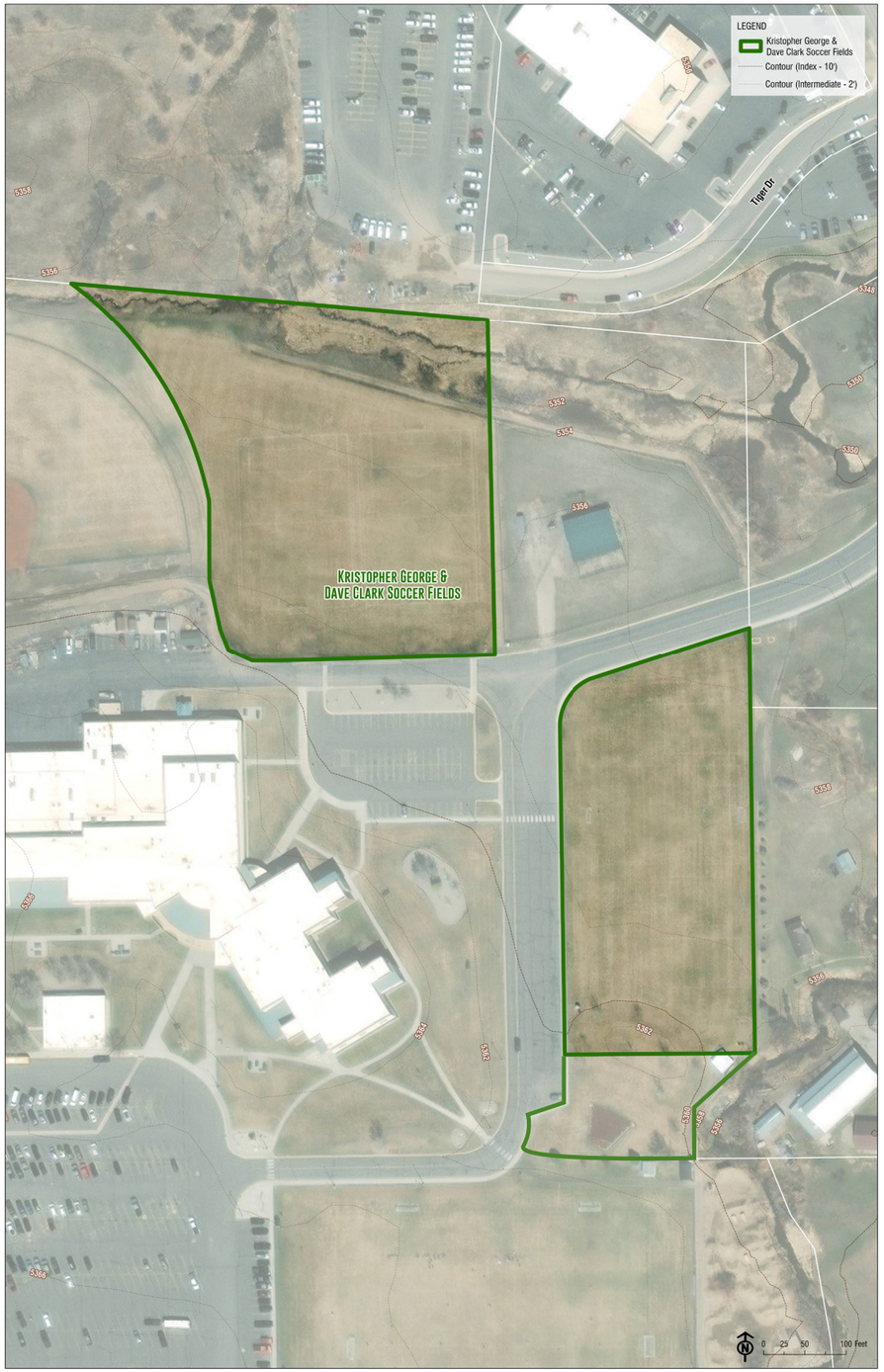
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Open Field
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Concrete Stage Pad

QUICK FACTS

5 acres

101 Baldwin Creek Rd



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: Leased to City of Lander (FCSD1)

MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Located around Lander Valley High School, this space includes open playing fields used primarily for soccer, and a small playground with a park shelter. Geotechnical and soils conditions in this area make structural improvements like fencing, dugouts and backstops difficult to maintain. For example, posts do not remain plumb and gates become difficult to operate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Any structural elements like fencing and backstops require oversized and overbuilt footings and bases to be maintained in a reasonable fashion. There may be better locations to develop program space that includes more structural elements such as baseball and softball.
- Generally, long term, this area will be better suited to open all-purpose fields for soccer and similar programming that do not require high backstop fencing, dugouts, etc.
- Improve playground and open path to the public welcome center restrooms located next to the Pioneer Museum - include signage to help direct people to these locations.
- Establish any agreements or easements to the trail/path access to the bathrooms
- Perform a micro master plan study on school/parks complex for better programming efficiency

TOM ST JOHN SOFTBALL COMPLEX

OVERVIEW

The Tom St. John Softball Complex is designed for softball enthusiasts, featuring multiple well-maintained fields and spectator seating. The facility supports various levels of play, from local leagues to competitive tournaments. It's a key venue for community sports and recreational activities.

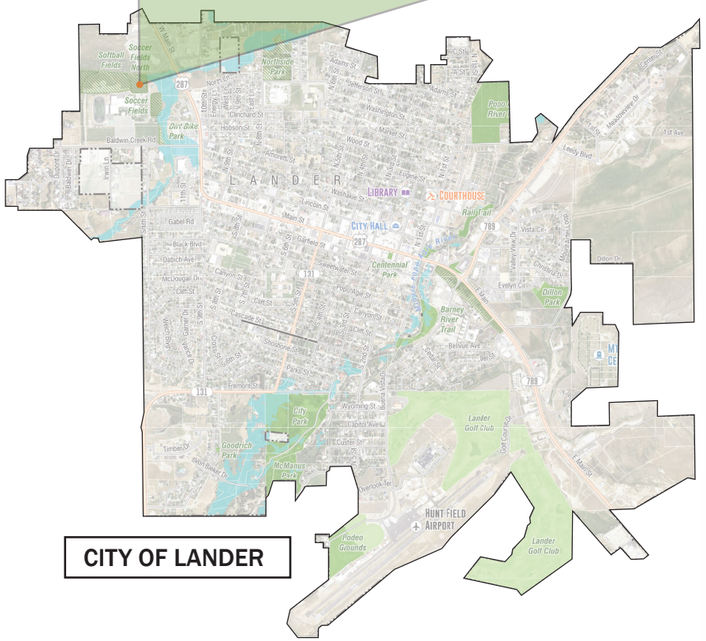
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Baseball Field
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Concession Stand

QUICK FACTS

7 acres

350 Baldwin Creek Rd



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: Leased to City of Lander (FCSD1)

MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

Located around Lander Valley High School, this space includes lighted baseball and softball fields with restrooms and storage/concession building.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Geotechnical and soils conditions in this area make structural improvements like fencing, dugouts and backstops difficult to maintain.
- Generally, long term, this area will be better suited to open all-purpose fields for soccer and similar programming.
- Any structural elements like fencing and backstops need excessively large footings and bases to be maintained in a reasonable fashion and there may be better locations to develop program space that includes more structural elements such as baseball and softball.
- Balance long term plans with needs of softball in the short term. Decide on overall plan for the school and park facility before investing heavily.

LANDER DOG PARK

OVERVIEW

Lander Dog Park provides a designated area for dogs to run and play off-leash inside a fenced area. It's a popular spot for dog owners to socialize their pets and meet other dog enthusiasts.

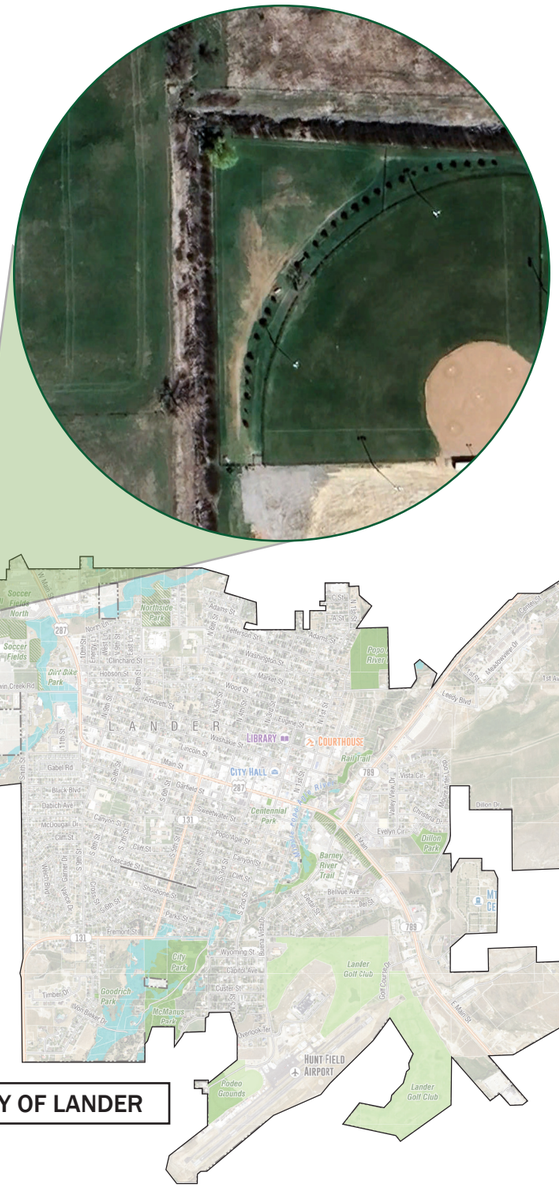
EXISTING FACILITIES

- Dog Park

QUICK FACTS

1 acre

686 Baldwin St



INVENTORY

OWNERSHIP: Leased to City of Lander (FCSD1)
MAINTAINED BY: City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

The Lander Dog Park is a grassy, fenced area designed for off-leash play, with educational signage, three benches, two trash cans, and an entry sign. The park provides an important resource for dog owners but faces maintenance and infrastructure challenges. Ensuring the park is both functional and welcoming is key to its continued success.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove dead trees and repair the fence to eliminate holes and ensure safety.
- Add new shade opportunities with trees or structures and install running water taps for both dog bowls and visitor use.
- Maintain existing shade trees, ensure waste bag dispensers are consistently refilled, and update educational signage to keep it engaging and relevant.
- The dog park has the same geotechnical issues described at the soccer fields. Correct fencing and gate issues by enhancing structural bases. Consult at structural or geotechnical engineer.
- Utilize this area as a formalized trailhead for JB's Loop.

PIONEER MUSEUM ADJACENT PROPERTY
OPPPORTUNITY SITE - POTENTIAL PARK SPACE

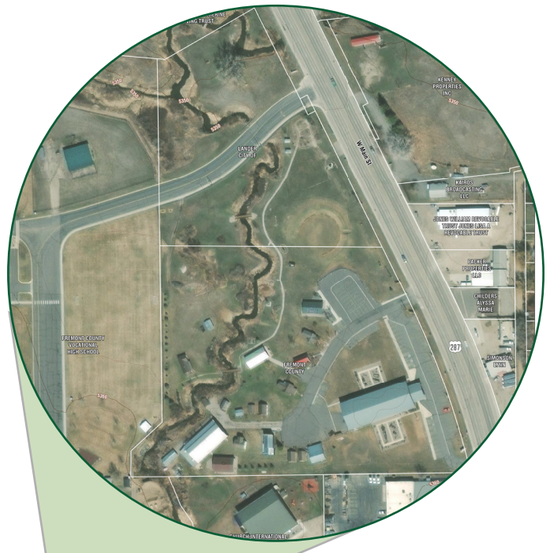
OWNERSHIP:
City of Lander

OBSERVATIONS

This space is used by weekly Indian Dances in the summer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider long term landscaping and maintenance plan



SAGEWEST HOSPITAL ADJACENT PROPERTY
OPPORTUNITY SITE - POTENTIAL PARK SPACE

OWNERSHIP:
City of Lander/Leased to City of Lander by Hospital

OBSERVATIONS

This property is primarily used for the disk golf course. It does get overgrown and it becomes difficult to see the full course.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove old fitness equipment stations
- Consider strategies for weed management
- Consider more frequent mowing, landscaping, or trimming

FREMONT MOTORS ADJACENT PROPERTY

OPPORTUNITY SITE - POTENTIAL PARK SPACE

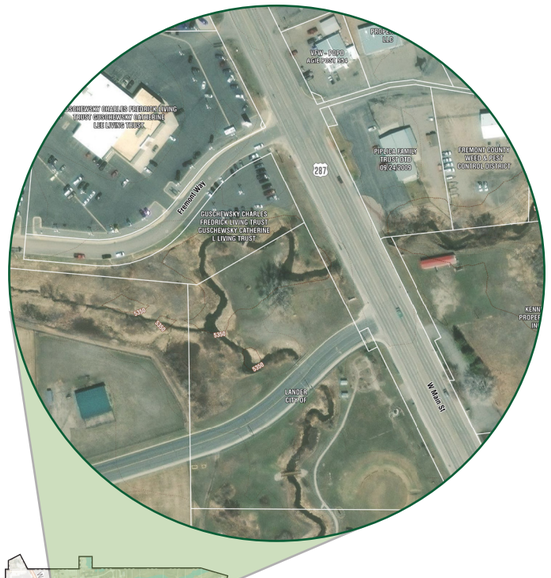
OWNERSHIP:
Jointly by Guschewsky Trust and City of Lander

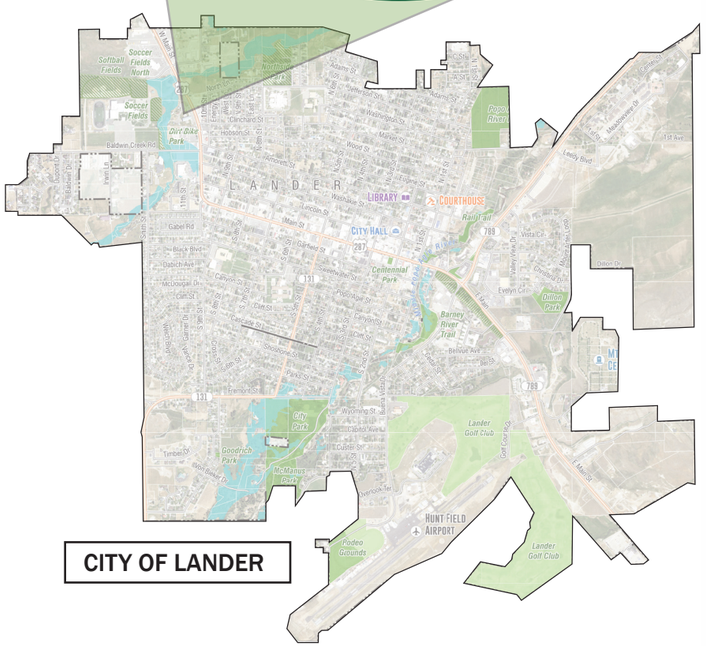
OBSERVATIONS

This space is mainly used as a quiet picnic space and boasts fishing access.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add wayfinding signage
- Encourage more functions to take place in this location





SWEETWATER/7TH/9TH ADJACENT PROPERTY

OPPORTUNITY SITE - POTENTIAL PARK SPACE

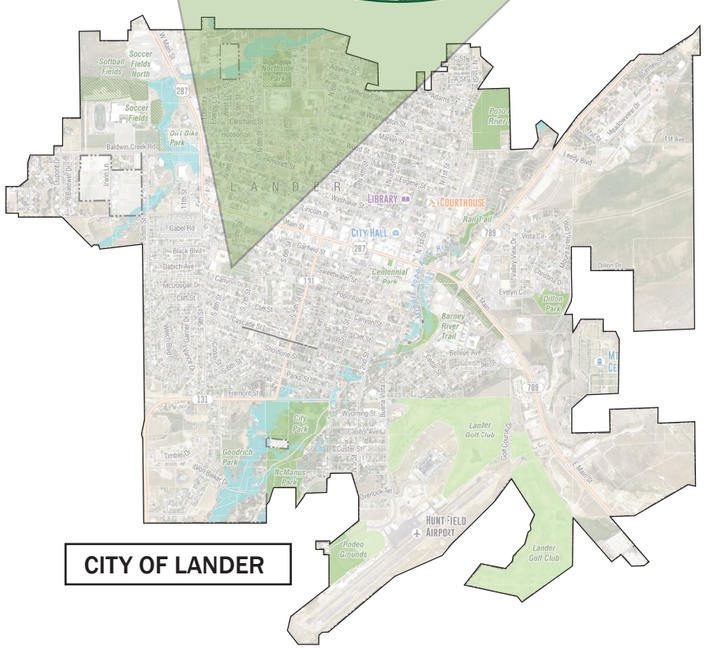
OWNERSHIP:
FCSD1

OBSERVATIONS

This park functions primarily as field space and holds great importance to the community as a place of recreation. There is an informal path leading from 7th St to a FCSD building.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include in a micro master plan study with the school
- Enhance and strengthen partnership with the school district



EXISTING TRAILS/CONNECTIVITY

The existing Lander Area Pathway System map identifies linkages between different areas of Lander. It highlights the parks within the city limits and calls out highways and other important roadways.

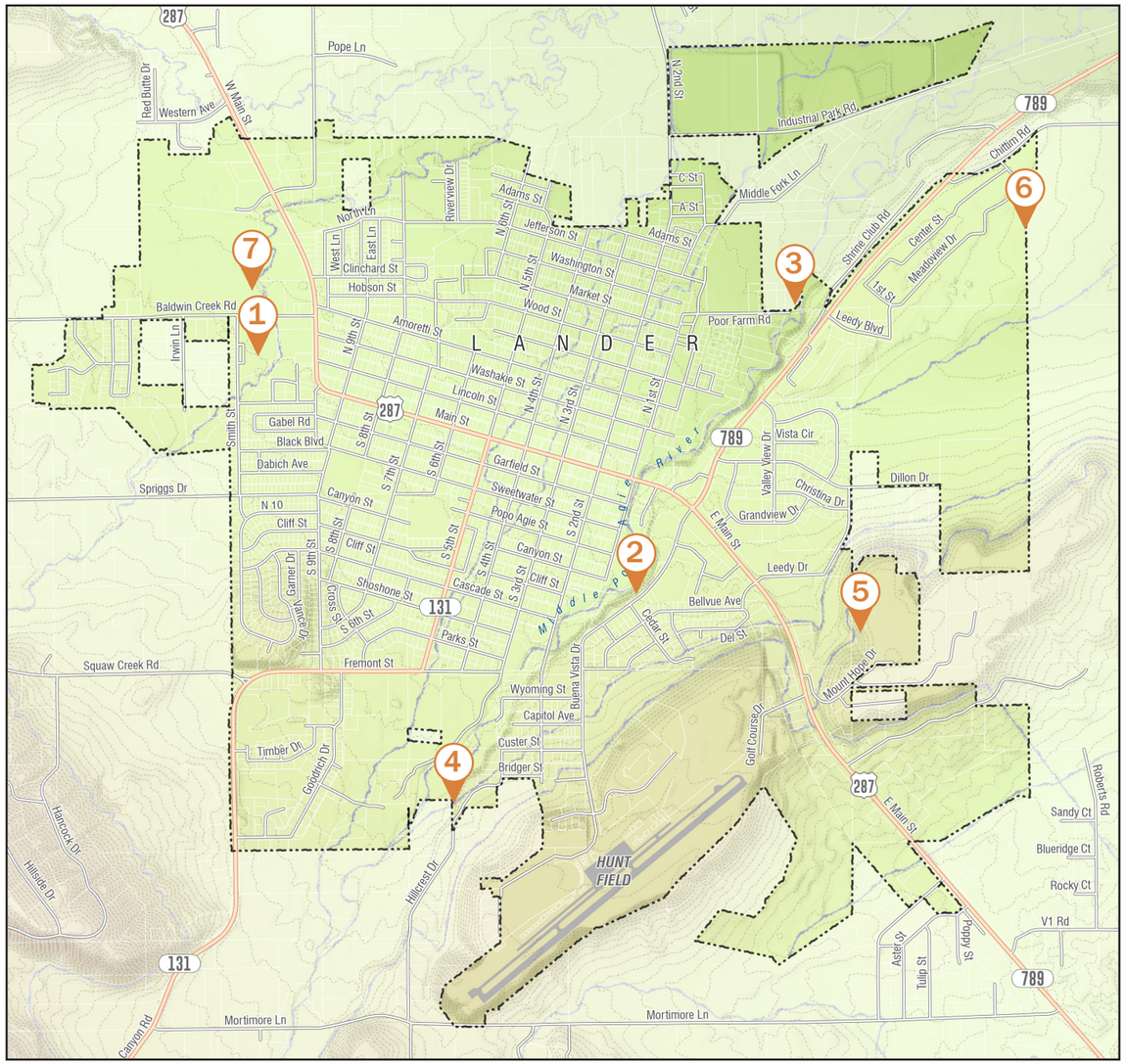
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE TRAILS AND CONNECTIONS

- Create a new connection leading into the development of Popo Agie River Park, linking into the proposed trail.
- Ensure that any redevelopment in City Park is well connected to existing trails and sidewalks beyond the property.
- Promote accessibility for all ages and mobility levels.

ADDITIONAL CONNECTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the formalized parks, there are multiple other opportunities to enhance the Parks and Recreation system in Lander. Various informal trails and park spaces would benefit from close attention and planning to help shape them to better serve the City.

Below, view a map identifying sites that may require more attention and inclusion in to the larger, existing trail system.



1 Baldwin Creek Elementary Trail

OBSERVATIONS: Well used to connect to the high school, Senior Center, Elementary School, and Bike Park. Located on an easement with Joint Powers Tiger Board as well as FCSD1 land.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Address pet waste issue, improve trail surface and end of trial on Baldwin Creek Road as it has a large drop-off into the street.

2 Barney Trail

OBSERVATIONS: Paved trail in a natural setting along the river, located on City land.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Address pet waste issue and increase safety as the trail is relatively remote. The trail may need to be moved away from the river for future flood mitigation projects.

3 Courthouse Trail

OBSERVATIONS: Short path along the river, popular for recreational exercise, fishing, and river access.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Seek funding for expanded path development - this path presents an opportunity to connect existing trails and provide connectivity to Popo Agie River Park.

4 Hillcrest Trail

OBSERVATIONS: Pedestrian trail located on deeded land. It offers a safe pathway along Hillcrest and drops down into McManus and City Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Consider increased mowing and weed management, and install a crosswalk with flashing lights to enhance pedestrian safety as the path transitions across the road.

5 Cemetery Trail

OBSERVATIONS: Trail on City land and a mix of easements across private land.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Install a sign off of Mount Hope Drive to call out trail location.

6 Luckey Pond

OBSERVATIONS: Located on a permanent easement across state land for access from Wyoming Life Resource to pond.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None at this time.

7 Road to Softball Fields

OBSERVATIONS: Road is used by both pedestrians and vehicles.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Consider adding a pathway along the existing tree row to separate pedestrian traffic.

IMPLEMENTATION

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Implementation chapter serves as a roadmap for translating the vision of Lander's Parks and Recreation Update into actionable steps. It focuses on advancing key projects, managing resources effectively, and laying the groundwork for long-term success. By addressing both immediate priorities and overarching strategies, this chapter bridges the gap between planning and execution, ensuring the community's goals can be achieved efficiently and sustainably.

This chapter provides an overview of Lander's existing budgetary constraints and projected future financial needs, emphasizing the importance of aligning resources with strategic priorities. It also identifies the steps necessary to move forward, from exploring funding opportunities to establishing partnerships and setting phased timelines. Together, these elements create a comprehensive framework to guide the city's efforts in enhancing its parks and recreation system for current and future generations.

EXISTING BUDGET AND OPERATIONS

The scope of this report did not include budget, fee and operational evaluation and recommendations. These items were considered at a high level where possible (and where introduced by staff) in order to inform the parks recommendations included here. We recommend that these areas be reviewed in future analyses to develop a better understanding of operations and to look specifically at the following:

- Alignment of Parks Department Mission, Facilities, Program, and Funding
- Right-sizing of permanent and temporary parks staff
- Review and recommendations of maintenance facilities and operations
- Review and recommendations of revenue sources and community/program fees
- CIP and any deferred maintenance items
- Grant pursuits and strategies

FUNDING SOURCES

The planning team has provided a stand-alone Wyoming funding overview separate from this report. It addresses multiple categories of infrastructure funding including parks, trails and open space as well as transportation and other areas discussed in the Comprehensive Master Plan. This is a dynamic and ever changing space and we will share this with staff as this document is periodically updated.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Other recommended areas of investigation and study are listed here for your consideration.

- **Irrigation Audit** - Hire an irrigation professional to perform a water use and water efficiency audit. Identify high water loss areas, review controls and make recommendations for efficiency and operation improvement.
- **Playground Audit** - Review play structures overall or at specific parks for and safety issues
- **Accessibility** - Specific ADA study at each park and playground
- **Tree Plan** - Review tree inventory with the Tree Board to identify challenges and opportunities with trees in the park system. Develop and implement a short and long term improvement plan to maintain and improve tree assets in the parks.
- **Multi-Modal Trail Study** - Using the analysis in this report develop detailed plan for overall trail connectivity and perform feasibility studies to examine costs and any land needed to complete the connections. Focus on connectivity to schools, senior centers and other community spaces.
- **Maintenance Facility Planning** - Review existing maintenance facilities across the park system and provide recommendations for operational efficiency and possible consolidation.

NEXT STEPS

SHORT TERM (YEARS 1-5)

- Evolve the concept design studies for Popo Agie River Park and the modifications at City Park to a schematic or design develop level and develop a cost model for each
- Work with the FCSD #1 to develop a micro master plan for the combined school and park facilities at both the LVHS and LMS/North Park.
- Work with the School District to develop a micro master plan for the combined school and park facilities at both the high school and the Middle School/North Park areas
- Develop a grant and funding strategy for the above and define project timelines
- Prioritize and work on smaller individual park improvement efforts with ongoing parks budget
- Conduct smaller concept design efforts such as the Jaycee Park improvements and other early planning efforts

LONG TERM (5+ YEARS)

- Finalize construction documents for Popo Agie River Park and City Park Improvements
- As funding is available publish bid packages for Popo Agie River Park and City Park Improvements to procure contractors and complete the work.

APPENDIX

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

Within the appendix, find important supporting documents, such as the Public Engagement Summary and Survey Findings.

LANDER PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT #1 SUMMARY

AYRES

Ayres Associates collaborated with the City of Lander to conduct a series of community engagement activities with residents and stakeholders from July 18th to July 20th, 2024.

The engagement activities focused on gathering input for the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The goal was to hear from as many residents, stakeholders, and visitors as possible, capturing diverse perspectives from people across different walks of life. This public engagement event received a total of 1,385 responses, offering valuable feedback that will be considered as the project moves forward.

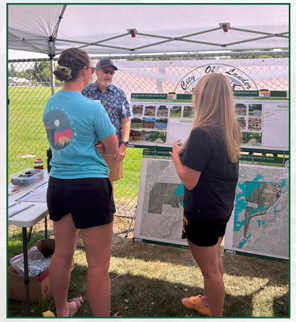
LANDER PARKS MASTER PLAN
Lander, WY

OVERVIEW

WHAT IS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT?

At its core, public engagement is involving individuals and communities in the decision-making, planning, and implementation of projects or policies that affect them. It includes activities such as informational sessions, public consultations, and participatory decision-making.

Public meetings, such as this one, benefit a project by ensuring diverse perspectives are considered, leading to more inclusive and effective outcomes. Involving the community helps build trust and transparency, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment among stakeholders. It can also identify potential challenges early on, allowing for proactive problem-solving and reducing the risk of conflict later. Ultimately, effective public engagement enhances the relevance, acceptance, and success of a project.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 18th
- Drop in session at the Lander Community Center (2:00pm-4:00pm)
- Booth at Lander Presents Music Festival (5:00pm-9:00pm)

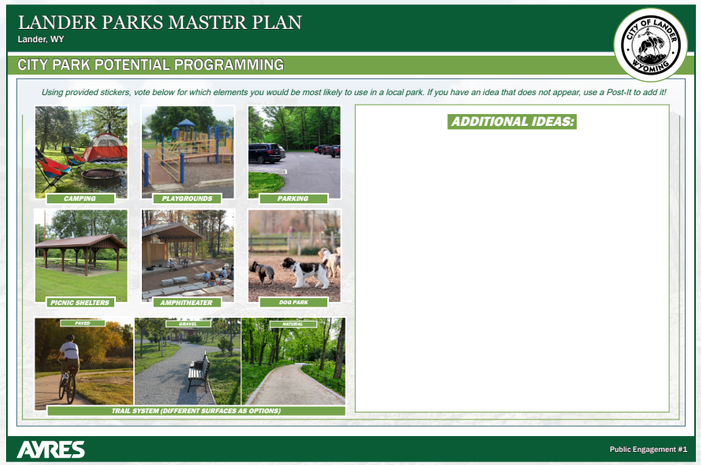
JULY 19th
- Open House at Lander Bake Shop (7:30am-10:30am)
- Open House at Lincoln Street Bakery (7:30am-10:30am)
- Open House at Lander Senior Center (11:00am-1:00pm)
- Drop-in session at the Lander Library (2:00pm-4:00pm)

JULY 20th
- Booth at Pig Roast in City Park (11:00am-4:00pm)

LANDER PARKS MASTER PLAN
Lander, WY

CITY PARK FEEDBACK

The City Park board was placed at all community engagement events. Participants were asked to vote on suggested ideas for City Park by placing a sticker and/or provide additional ideas through written comments. This activity seeks to gain insights into the community preferences in City Park. A total of 281 responses were recorded.



Feedback:

This board helped increase our understanding of the types of programming the community most desires for City Park. The top three preferences were **(1) natural trails, (2) playgrounds, and (3) camping.** The options with the fewest votes were (7) parking, (8) paved trail, and (9) picnic shelters.

The responses reflected a strong desire within the community for natural areas in City Park by a large margin. Comparatively, playgrounds and camping also saw high levels of interest compared to other park element opportunities.

LANDER PARKS MASTER PLAN
Lander, WY

POPO AGIE RIVER PARK FEEDBACK

The Popo Agie board was placed at all community engagement events. Participants were asked to vote on suggested ideas for City Park by placing a sticker and/or provide additional ideas through written comments. This activity seeks to gain insights into the community preferences in Popo Agie River Park. A total of 378 responses were recorded.

Feedback:

This board helped increase our understanding of the types of programming the community most desires for Popo Agie River Park. Out of all the options presented, the three top responses included **(1) natural trails, (2) natural playgrounds, and (3) fishing access.** the options with the fewest votes (7) parking, (8) paved trail, and (9) playgrounds.

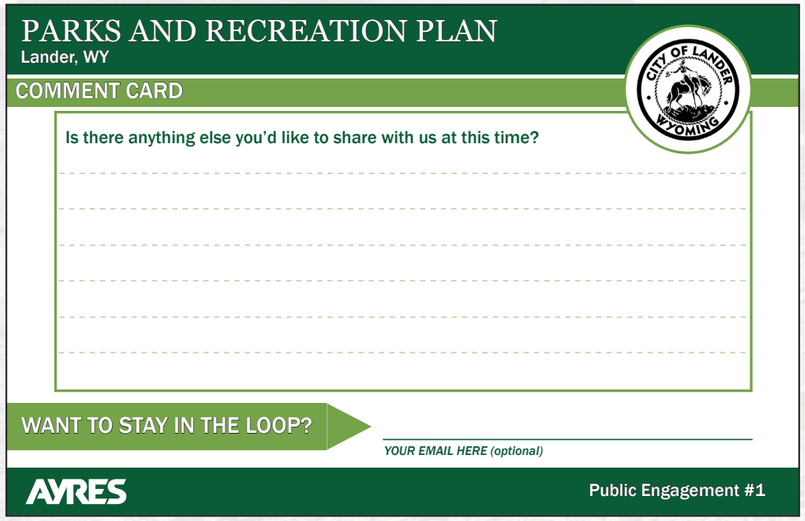
The most common themes as reflected by the responses given by the public were a strong desire for more open recreational green space, alongside recreational facilities.

LANDER PARKS MASTER PLAN
Lander, WY

COMMENT CARDS

At every event, comment cards were provided. These cards featured 2024 Master Plan Update related prompts on one side and Parks and Recreation Plan prompts on the other. Participants used these cards to share their feedback, concerns, or suggestions for both plans.

A total of 86 participants submitted comment cards related to both the 2024 Master Plan Update and the Parks and Recreation Plan, indicating a strong level of engagement. Below, we break down the responses received and highlight common themes.



The Parks and Recreation Plan comment cards reflected a variety of feedback for the new plan. The most common themes are outlined below, listed in order of frequency from most to least mentioned:

1. Trail connections
2. Recreational facilities
3. Local event spaces
4. Infrastructural planning
5. Safety upkeep

LANDER PARKS MASTER PLAN
Lander, WY

KEY TAKEAWAYS

SUMMARY:

In a city of just over 7,000 residents, we successfully gathered around 1,385 community engagement interactions. This high level of participation reflects the community's strong interest and dedication to shaping local projects. The volume of responses underscores the enthusiasm for the future of Lander and offers a significant amount of information. These insights will be crucial in guiding future planning and decision-making, ensuring that community voices are effectively integrated into the development of the city's Parks and Recreation Plan.

Residents and visitors showed strong attendance at each engagement event organized by the City of Lander and Ayres Associates. While there are many different themes in the 2024 Master Plan Update, Parks and Recreation Plan, and supplemental efforts, several key themes emerged throughout the engagement events. Across the seven engagement events, there were roughly 1,385 interactions from the community members engaged with the project's efforts.

KEY THEMES:

Through interaction on boards, conversations with attendees, and information written on comment cards following the event, the desires of the community regarding the Parks and Recreation Plan became clear. The most common themes seen are outlined below in order of how often they were mentioned:

1. Trail connectivity
2. Recreational facilities
3. Green spaces
4. Accessibility
5. Community event space

Based on this information, Ayres Associates can confidently move forward with crafting the Parks and Recreation Plan, knowing that the community's needs have been clearly identified at this first stage. Emphasis on trails, connectivity, and recreational facilities will remain central to the project's goals as planning efforts progress.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS - JAYCEE PARK

MOUNTAINEER

ER OF LANDER AND FREMONT COUNTY

Wyoming, Friday, June 18, 1926 - No. 35.

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STREET PARADE A BIG FEATURE OF PIONEER DOINGS

NEW, ORIGINAL FLOATS TO BE PRESENT; COMMITTEE DESIRES COOPERATION

The big free Street Parade and Stampede will open this year's Pioneer Days Celebration, and it is planned to make this a real feature. Cleverly designed floats, 1000 Indians, the Lander band, the Cavalry troop, pioneers in authentic costumes, cowboys andcowgirls,comic floats and clowns—all these and more will make up the grand procession to pass in review before the crowds that will line the streets of Lander on July 2nd.

The Pioneer Days ommittee will award the following ash prizes: for the best float, $25.00; seond best, $15. best dressed Indian chief, $10.00, best dreseds Indian squaw, $10.00, oldest authentic pioneer costume, $5.00; best comic costume, $5.00. Awards will be made by majority vote of three judges.

Since this is the Sesqui-centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, many of the floats will beatuifully portray episodes of the history of the United States and of early Wyoming. Plans of other merhants and organizations show that many new and original ideas will be carried out in the floats they have designed as their representation.

The cgostumes of the early Wyoming pioneers are always most interesting to everyone and particularly to the tourists who will be here for the big celebration and also to the younger generation. The Committee has recognized this interest and will arrange a prominent position in the parade for the wearers of these oldtime costumes. It is hoped that all who are so fortunate as to possess such costumes will either wear them in the parade or elese loan them so that they may be seen. A $5.00 prize for the oldest authentic pioneer costume will be awarded.

The Indians are planning to attend in full force and a thousand at least will appear in the parade in colorful

A REAL CELEBRATION IN STORE FOR VISITORS DURING 4th of July

The preparations for the Pioneer Days celebration are going forward with great success. Real broncs are being lined up for the busting contests. As usual, the Indians will be well represented with some fast horses for the relays and half mile races.

As in past years, there will be lots of entertainment in the evening, with dances, street shows, Indian dancing, etc.

School election will be held the 21st of this month. Two trustees for District No. 1 and 3 trustees for the Vocational district will be chosen. A vote on a special levy will also be held.

Frank Schwoob arrived from Laramie, where he has been attending the University of Wyoming.

Harold Ballangee arrived in Lander this week after spending the year at Laramie, where he is attending the state university. Mr. Ballangee has accepted a position in the Lander Yellowstone Transportation Co. office. Mr. and Mrs. Francis Savage were visitors in Lander from Casper over the week end.

Dan Hudson came in from Long Creek Thursday. He left today for Thermopolis to attend the state gathering of the Democratic party.

RESOURCES OF FOREST AT GLANCE

NATIONAL forests constitute one of Wyoming's most valuable resources and the following points show why:

Grazing provided for 123,416 horses and cattle and 574,130 sheep to turn grass into meat supply.

They contain 14,030,267,000 board feet of standing timber and great supplies of cordwood in addition.

Annual growth of wood is 210,-500,000 board feet. Total cut last year was 78,000,000 board

LANDER PARK RE-DEDICATED BY KIWANIANS

Honors Women Who Made Possible Beautiful Tourist Park

Lander's beautiful tourist and city park was re-dedicated Wednesday evening by the Kiwanis club in paying a tribute to the founders and complimenting the city council on their work in making it an outstanding feature of Lander's welcome to the motor tourist. A new and commodious kitchen with gas plates, shower baths for ladies and men and an office for the caretaker are all provided in the building and completes a fine equipment for the comfort of the motorist.

President Dr. J. L. Linn presided and called upon Mayor E. J. Farlow for the opening address. He told of the plans of the city council and the work they had done in developing the park. Councilman August Dupont on whose shoulders had directly rested the responsibility was recognized for his efforts in the work and asked to respond. He told of the trees planted, the beautiful flower beds made and the putting in of gas, water and electric lights. Chas. Cox, councilman, voiced appreciation of the value of the work done. His interest seemed to center about the fine fishing stream which dashes thru the park and invites the angler to try his skill.

Among the ladies present as wives of Kiwanis Mrs. P. B. Coolidge told of the struggles of the Ladies Booster club in the early days to establish the park and Mrs. S. Conant Parks who is here for the summer said the fondest dreams of the ladies of twenty years ago had been realized in what she considered the most beautiful park of the West. She has traveled from Seattle to San Diego and has found nothing to compare in na-

are so fortunate as to possess ch costumes will either wear them n the parade or elese loan them so that they may be seen. A $5.00 prize for the oldest authentic pioneer costume will be awarded.

The Indians are planning to attend in full force and a thousand at least will appear in the parade in colorful ocstume ranging in style from the primitive breechcloth to full dress regalia. Cowboys and cowgirls riding regular cow ponies in true western manner, the military bearing and trained horsemanship of the Cavalry troop, the funny antics of the comics and the stirring music of the Lander band will all do their part in making this the finest parade that has ever been witnessed in this section of the country.

The Pioneer Days Committee has appointed Vance Houston and Rufus Williams to take charge of the parade arrangements, and they are anxious to get in touch with all interested parties within the next few days. They will gladly give information and suggestions concerning floats, costumes, and other matters in this connection. Those planning to take part in the parade should bear in mind that they have less than three weeks in which to make preparations.

Don't miss the parade on the opening day, July 2nd.

James Gratiot drove down to Casper to meet Mrs. Gratiot and children who had come from Chicago on Saturday and will spend the summer out at the Bar G ranch.

State banks of Fremont county county have undergone examination the past week. Jay Reed and W. P. Powers included Dubois, Lander and Hudson banks in their rounds.

Miss Wanda Poston returns from Columbia, Missouri, enthusiastic over the fine school she has attended the past year. Her many Lander friends are glad to see her home. She is very active socially among the younger set.

Dyer Hays, assistant county and prosecuting attorney of Natrona county, came up from Casper for a week end visit. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Park C. Hays and is another of Lander's sons who is making good.

Miss Ruth McIntyre comes back to Wyoming having finished a course in social welfare work at the Cincinnati Training school. She specialized in kindergarten methods and completed two years at the conservatory of music in voice. She plans to teach next year.

Grazing provided for 123,416 horses and cattle and 574,130 sheep to turn grass into meat supply.

They contain 14,030,267,000 board feet of standing timber and great supplies of cordwood in addition.

Annual growth of wood is 210,-500,000 board feet. Total cut last year was 78,000,000 board feet.

State derives direct revenue in cash return from government from forest earnings.

Thousands of visitors flock to Wyoming annually to enjoy unexcelled hunting, fishing and camping privileges. As a national playground the forests vie for popularity with the parks.

The tables which follow set forth facts and values:

Forest, County	Acres
Bighorn—	
Bighorn	383,628
Johnson	306,942
Sheridan	395,254
Washakie	39,748
Total	1,125,632
Ashley, Uinta	6,460
Black Hills, Crook	144,416
Caribou, Lincoln	6,315
Hayden, Carbon	328,124
Medicine Bow—	
Albany	200,837
Carbon	276,998
Total	477,835
Shoshone—	
Fremont	1,648
Hot Springs	12,314
Park	1,570,444
Total	1,584,306
Targhee, Teton	345,569
Teton—	
Sublette	238,673
Fremont	74,648
Lincoln	59,602
Park	174,930
Teton	1,332,382
Total	1,880,735
Washakie, Fremont	860,066
Wyoming—	
Lincoln	763,560
Fremont	30,340
Sublette	867,184
Teton	6,385
Total	1,667,469

P. J. O'Connor returned yesterday from Jackson Lake lodge where as one of the committee of management for the bond holders he looked after the business for the coming season. He believes the outlook for volume is better this year than previous ones and the place will continue to do an increased business. More room has been made for guests as the place ran to capacity last year. Irving W. Wright will manage the resort again this year.

of the struggles of the Ladies Booster club in the early days to establish the park and Mrs. S. Conant Parks who is here for the summer said the fondest dreams of the ladies of twenty years ago had been realized in what she considered the most beautiful park of the West. She has traveled from Seattle to San Diego and has found nothing to compare in natural beauty with the park in Lander.

H. H. Schwoob, speaking for the club, paid a high tribute to the ladies of twenty years ago. "It was in 1905", he said, "that this organization of far-seeing ladies came into being and two years later numbered 100 and that year in marching order appeared at the station then a novel sight to see a train come in and greeted the Omaha boosters here on a trade excursion. The town received its first publicity as a result of many columns of praise in the Omaha Bee, Globe Democrat and other metropolitan papers. The trade trippers sent a draft for $100 to express their interest in the work of the club.

"The main objective of the organization was the establishment of the city park. They purchased the land near where Tom Ferrell lives just off Third street near where it crosses Big Popo Agie. They gave a mortgage for all it was worth and the leaving of the city of the mortgagee and the demand for the money caus-

(Continued on Page Eight)

ed many a fear and heartache that they would lose the property. They gave dances, carnivals and benefits and finally worked the balance down to $300 and then the city council heard their appeal and paid the balance. The deed was transferred to the city and title rests in it as the lady dreamers planned.

"Mrs. Stasia Allen was president of the club and her loyal supporters never lagged in their efforts. There are but four or five of them left and Lander owes a greater debt of gratitude to them than it can ever repay," concluded Mr. Schwoob.

S. Conant Parks offered a motion that a vote of appreciation be sent to Mrs. Allen on behalf of the Kiwanis club expressing their sense of gratitude to the ladies of early Lander who had built an everlasting monument to public service and the good of all who come within the confines of this beautiful park which the Kiwanis club is rededicating today.

Bernard Connelly returned from Washington Saturday and says he had the finest year of his life at the national capital. He liked his school, made a fine record and will leave within a few weeks for Chicago where he joins the Edison organization in the further study of electric science.

Charley and Stasia Allen
left their marks on Lander

Dr. George H. Allen, grandson of Charley and Stasia Allen, lives at McKinleyville, California. He and I attended college together at the University of Wyoming after World War II and became friends. Little did we know that our family roots were entwined back here in Lander, Wyoming. His grandparents and my great grandparents, Ed and Saria Alton, must certainly have known each other. Both men were Civil War veterans and belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic, Thomas A. McCoy Post #32, G.A.R, and Saria undoubtedly wore fashionable hats purchased from Stasia in her ladies' millinery store. George and I did not know this until 1989 when he came to Lander to trace his family roots. I am indebted to him for the photos of his grandparents and his father and other material and information he has furnished.

* * *

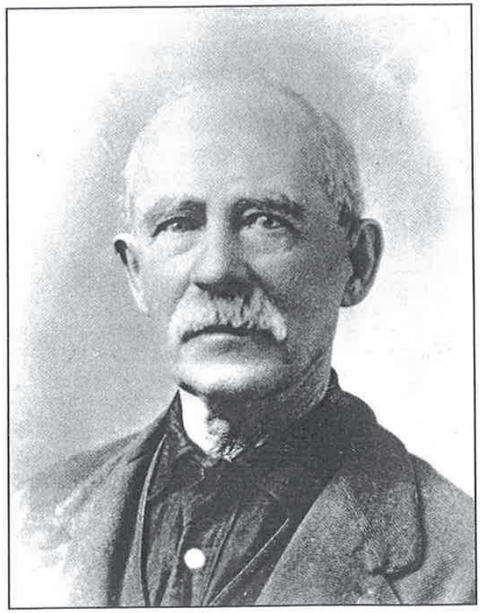

Photo Courtesy George Allen

Charles Allen, pioneer Lander lawyer
1836-1911

Photo Courtesy George Allen

Anastasia "Stasia" Allen, wife of Charley Allen and an astute Lander business woman for 45 years.
1857-1931

Charley and Stasia Allen came to Lander in 1885. They were accompanied by two small children, "Dot," and Charles Jr.

Harry Wadsworth arrived the same year, to work as a printers' devil for the original *Wind River Mountaineer* newspaper. He was later to reminisce (*Wyoming State Journal*, July 18, 1935) about the Allens. He recalled, "Charley and his young wife, Stasia, lived in a little shack between the printshop and the alley, or in the alley. He couldn't pay for a town lot and so the townsite company let him build there.

Photo Courtesy Pioneer Museum

Harry Wadsworth returned to Lander in 1935 and recalled that Charley and Stasia Allen had lived in a little shack (gone in this photo) behind the log cabin (at bottom center) and near the alley (above the back of the garage shown here). The log cabin was the site of the *Wind River Mountaineer* print shop in 1885 when Wadsworth had come as a young printer's devil. The log cabin in now gone and the garage (at the time of this photo, Angus Terry's Ford Garage) is now a part of the Sweetwater Grille at 148 Main.

"Charley played the fiddle for dances which brought greater revenue than the meagre law practice in which he was trying to establish himself. 'A good lawyer he became, too,' said Mr. Wadsworth."

"`Not so much in court, but a good counsellor,' agreed Mr. (S. Conant) Parks, the town banker.

"Stasia had a few women's sundries she kept in a box under the bed. Women would call on her and she would display her wares and make some sales. Later, she opened a store and for many years her mercantile business was an important factor on Main Street."

From humble beginnings, the Allens went on to become two of Lander's most solid citizens. Charley had fought in the Civil War and attained the rank of Captain, so many of his friends called him Captain Charley.

His obituary (*Wyoming State Journal*, March 3, 1911) said, "Charley Allen was one of the most careful and painstaking attorneys that ever lived in Lander; no legal problem was too knotty or intricate for him to untangle. He came to Lander with his family 26 years ago and since that time has been held in high esteem by all who knew him.

"He was eccentric to a marked degree but his friendship was well worth the while, for a friendship with him was a sacred trust, as lasting as life itself - for only death could sever the ties of a friendship which he considered worthy of holding.

"Mr. Allen had a very severe attack of illness two years ago, at which time his life was despaired of, but he rallied and his legion of friends were rejoiced to see his familiar figure about the streets again and to see him attending to business in the same old way. But owing to his advanced age, being at the time in his 74th year, the decline has been slowly and gradually taking place. His death did not come as a surprise, but his loss none the less will be hard to bear.

"The first few years of his life in Lander were spent in attending to matters pertaining to his profession. After that, for many years, he filled the positions of district court commissioner and police judge of Lander. His work in all lines was at all times handled in the most efficient manner.

"Many years will elapse before the old time friends of Judge Allen will cease to remember his genial smile, and the friends of recent years will ever remember him as Lander's Grand Old Man."

The story of his life history was better told by his son, Charles Jr., who wrote in his own inimitable and humorous manner. According to his son's narratives, Charley Allen would have been about 25 years old when he was admitted to the bar as a lawyer in Illinois. His life in that era is somewhat shrouded in mystery. He married and had three children. His first wife died at some time during the Civil War and what happened to his children is not known.

He was 44 years old and Stasia was 21 when they married in 1880. They had three children, the youngest of which, Fred, was born in Lander.

Anastasia Kelly was born in Lockport, Illinois, in 1857. After the Civil War, Stasia's father moved his family to Iowa. While still in her teens, Stasia worked in her mother's millinery store and it was here she learned about the ladies' wear business. Years later, a write-up about her father said she was an attractive and prominent young woman in social life and literary groups.

Stasia Allen became one of the prominent women of the little town of Lander. She was one of the founders and was the first president of the Lander Lady Boosters. (She may have been the only president of the organization.) With the coming of the railroad in October, 1906, Lander began to stir with many portentous things. Some of the ladies felt there were things they could do to help their community and on May 20, 1907, formed the Lander Lady Boosters.

The week was not out before they were called upon to begin boosting their fair city. The Denver Boosters, a contingent of Denver businessmen, rode the train in on Friday after the ladies launched their boosters club on Monday. *The Denver Post* reported they were lined up on the receiving platform, 100 strong, carrying banners of royal purple.

The Lady's were very civic and socially minded. No sooner was the reception for the Denver Boosters over before they began to plan for the July 4 celebration. They built two floats for the parade and sponsored one of them. They were also asked if they could furnish entertainment for the Wyoming Press Association meeting in Lander on August 2. This they did by putting on a musicale and reception with a buffet luncheon. Out of this came the idea for a minstrel show, beauty contest, and a dance as a money raising project to fund community needs.

And so it was that Stasia's days were filled by attention to her business and by affairs affecting her community. He children were nearly grown and she could devote much time to her interests outside the home.

Stasia's business

Harry Wadsworth alluded to Stasia's millinery business from earliest days. At first her business was conducted

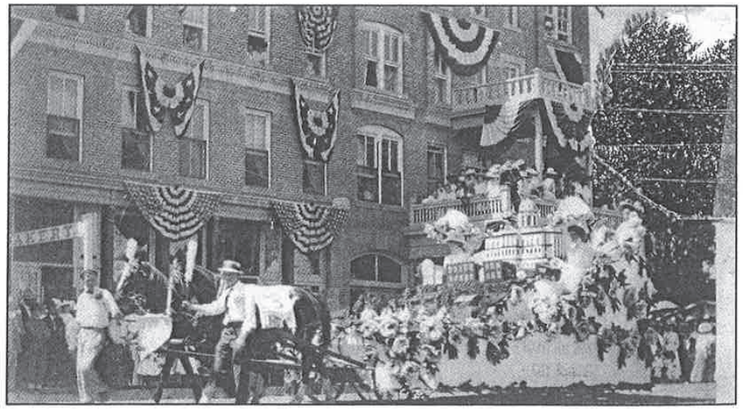

Photo Courtesy Pioneer Museum

The Lander Lady Boosters designed and built two floats for the 4th of July parade in 1907. One was entitled "Wyoming" and their own, shown in this photo, was entitled "We Boost for Park and City Beautiful". The centerpiece of the float was a model of a state capitol building, a reminder to all citizens that Lander still considered itself in the running for the permanent Wyoming State Capitol. Several of Lander's lovely young ladies rode the float, all decorated with flowers and bunting. The setting was in front of the Fremont Hotel (site now occupied by Central Bank & Trust, 285 Main) and showed the famous Fremont balcony where folks could stand and view the parade.

out of her home but it was not long until the income from both her and her husband allowed them to expand. They bought lots at the corner of Second and Garfield Streets and built a home for themselves at what is now 217 Garfield in about 1888. There the youngest son, Fred, was born in 1890.

Shortly after building the house, they built an office building for themselves on the corner. Stasia's millinery store occupied the east part while Charley's law office was in the west part. However, they soon discovered that even if they were only one block off Main Street, their businesses did not prosper. At the end of May, 1892, she moved her store one block north to the Amoretti Building on the corner of Second and Main (now 201 Main Street).

Photo Courtesy Pioneer Museum

Charley and Stasia Allen and their family were photographed in front of their office building in about 1891. Their building was located on the corner of Second and Garfield Streets (across the street, south of NAPA, 185 South Second). Earlier, they had built the house next door (now 217 Garfield) and it was here that Fred Allen was born in 1890. In this photo, Dorthelle "Dottie," is standing at the corner, left, and Charley, Jr. is seated on the step. Stasia is standing by the door to her millinery store and Charley is holding the baby, Fred. Stasia's store was in the east part of the building and Charley's law office occupied the west part. However, both businesses suffered because they were not located on Main Street. As a result, they both wanted to have places on Main Street and in March, 1895, they rented the building to the federal government for the location of the U.S. Land Office. In 1904, they sold the building to William H. Rhein, a Lander hardware merchant.

At about the same time (May 27, 1892), *The Fremont Clipper* reported, "Will L. Simpson has purchased the entire law library of Charley Allen. Will expects to be admitted to practice at the July term of court. We predict for him a bright future." (Will Simpson did indeed go on to a bright future. He became one of Wyoming's most noted attorneys. He also produced a son, Milward, who became a quite notable attorney himself and moved on to become Governor and United States Senator. Al Simpson, a grandson of Will, became a U.S. Senator in turn.)

The next week the *Clipper* said W.H. Rhein, a Lander hardware merchant and later mayor, had bought their house on Garfield and reported that Charley Allen was going east on business. It also said, "His trip is purely on business but we shall hope to see him return much improved physically as his health has been rather precarious for some time." The *Clipper* then reported on July 1 that Charley and his son, Charley Jr., had returned from their trip to New York and Chicago. The elder Allen had returned west to Chicago to take in the Democratic national Convention.

Charley and Stasia both began advertising in the old *Fremont Clipper* in 1890. Both were rather restrained and gave only the essential details of their businesses. Stasia's main competitors from earliest days were Baldwin's Store, Amoretti's Store, and the Lander Mercantile. Later, in addition, it was Hulstone & Co., the Golden Rule (forerunner to Penneys and later taken over by that company), Alta Norman (for only a short time), and Cora Graves, daughter of I. C. Wynn. (Wynn was the first editor of the *Wind River Mountaineer* newspaper, then later was one of the founders and editor of *The Fremont Clipper*. Cora Wynn was brought up in

a newspaper family and often went back to the pen and the printing press. But for many years, she was a serious competitor of Stasia Allen. They remained good friends for both were greatly involved in the Lander Lady Boosters.)

By 1893, Stasia was going for simple display ads. Later, as her business flourished, she went in for quite large and artistic ads. Her progress through the years can be followed

GOING THROUGH THE WORLD

Especially that portion of the world which immediately surrounds Lander.

You will find no more **INTREPID EXPLORER** after low prices on Merchandise than Mrs. Stasia Allen of Lander. She is bound that her store shall be the head quarters for all the low-price hunters in the country, and to establish that reputation she is just now naming some **PRICE PARALYZERS**, in dress goods, children & ladies underwear, mittens, &c., **BUY A STYLISH HAT FOR ELECTION DAY**, and don't fail to call in and see our Boys and Gents underwear, they are "BARGAINS" not found elsewhere. Come over and lets talk about-it. I mean business.

MRS. STASIA ALLEN.

by her ads in both the *Wind River Mountaineer* and *The Fremont Clipper*. In the earliest years, she almost invariably advertised before Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. There were a few years when that is all the advertisng she did.

Charley died in March, 1911, but her ads took up in April and continued on about once a month throughout the year and into 1912 and 1913. She must have moved her store in the spring of 1912 for her ads said her location was in the Jackson Building at Third and Main. Later, the ad said "Opposite Hotel Fremont," even though it was the same location (now the location of the Key Bank Building, just around the corner off Main on Third Street). She was there through 1916 but still later, she was to move to a location on "West Main." West Main at the time would have been somewhere on the Fourth or Fifth Street blocks.

There must have been ups and downs for her and other things to occupy her mind. There were only two ads, both in March, 1913, and none in 1914. The ads took up again in July, 1915, and continued with some continuity through 1916. There were two ads in April, 1917, and then no more until December, 1918.

The *Wyoming State Journal* noted on September 22, 1916, that a J.M. Lowndes had leased the residence of Mrs. Charles Allen in West Lander. No other explanation was added but the inference can be drawn that she still owned a house at that time.

We know her business continued on for the *Journal* reported on January 28, 1931, that Mrs. H.O. Barber was going to open a flower shop "in the location formerly used by Mrs. Stasia Allen, who retired from the business on account of ill health." A later account told of the flower shop opening on Main Street.

The last ten years of her life may have been ones of financial hardship. We get some insight into her plight through a report in the *Journal* in May, 1923. The paper said, "Through the assistance of Senator (F.E.) Warren, Mrs. Anastasia Allen of Lander has been granted a pension from November 25, 1921, as widow of Charles Allen who served as Captain of Company K, 38th Ohio Infantry, during the Civil War. . .Mrs. Allen will receive arrears of pension and also some back pension due Mr. Allen." She was then 64 years old and Charley Allen had been dead ten years. She would live on another ten years.

The Lander Lady Boosters

The founding of the Lander Lady Boosters in 1907 has already been recounted earlier. Stasia Allen appears to have been the driving force behind the Boosters but she was by no means the only civic "booster" among the ladies of Lander. She was the first president of the group and appears to have remained so for as long as the organization existed.

The roster of officers recorded by the *Journal* (May 20, 1907) was Stasia Allen, president; Cora Wynn Graves, vice president; Emma Heenan Johnson (wife of Mayor W.G. "Billy" Johnson), secretary, and Pearl Simpson Keister (widow of S.A.D. Keister and great aunt of Sen. Al Simpson) as treasurer. *Crossroads of the West*, published in 1965, listed the charter members, but the list was probably recalled from the memory of someone then living. That list showed Katharine Marshall, wife of Dr. Marshall, as secretary-treasurer, indicating a later roster than the original.

Others on the list were Emma Replogle, wife of Dr. Josef Replogle (the Replogles didn't move to Lander until 1917), Dora Lamoreaux Robertson; Mary Lamoreaux Butler; Matilda Cheney, wife of Ervin F. Cheney; Myra Earle, wife of Edson Earle; Mrs. Charles Bunce; Mamie Sherlock; Camille MacKenzie; Lucy Logue; Edna (Ms. Zeke) Farlow; Lucy Crowley; Beatrice (Mrs. Frank) Brower; Clara (Mrs. Conant) Parks, and Amelia (Mrs. Robert) Hall. These were the leading ladies of the town - the wives of attorneys, bankers, and businessmen. And in the case of Amelia Hall, the wife of Lyons Valley rancher Bob Hall. There were probably many more ladies who joined in the endeavors down through the years but their names are now lost.

Following the successful summer of 1907, the Lady Boosters began to look for other projects. It did not take them long. The *Journal* editor noted on January 31, 1908, that the Lady Boosters were considering plans for the improvement of streets. He then said, "This no doubt means that the improvements will be made as they have proven themselves tireless workers when once enlisted."

Without waiting to see results on the streets, they plunged into another project. On April 3, 1908, the newspaper said the Lady Boosters were going to vote on the proposition of a public park. Their vote must have been positive for a week later the *Wind River Mountaineer* said the Lady Boosters were going to look at land for a "public park." Two offers were going to be considered. William Umbanhower, who owned a dairy on the river south of the business district, had nine acres for sale for $3,500. Ed Farlow offered one whole block (location not noted although he and his wife, Lizzie Lamoreaux Farlow and sister of Dora Robertson and Mary Butler, owned all of the land surrounding what is now the Pioneer Museum) for $2,500.

The decision was made to buy the Umbanhower property and on May 15, the *Journal* reported that the first payment had been made. The Lady Boosters "will at once begin the work of making a park of the place." Today, that original nine acres makes up the heart of Lander's City Park.

The enthusiasm of the Lady Boosters was contagious and kindled more interest. On August 20, the *Wind River Mountaineer* announced that the issue of the paper the following week was going to be a souvenir edition. It was to be published by the Lander Lady Boosters as a money raiser for the park.

Sure enough, the August 27, 1908, *Wind River Mountaineer* was headlined "Lander Lady Boosters' Edition." The Mountaineer Publishing Co., Park C. Hays, editor, donated all of the proceeds of many large ads, some of them full pages, in a 16-page paper, to the Lady Boosters.

The edition featured the three original founders of Lander - B.F. Lowe, P.P. Dickinson, and Eugene Amoretti Sr., as well as Mayor W.G. "Billy" Johnson. President Stasia Allen wrote an editorial and so did Cora Graves, vice president. The mayor's wife and the secretary of the Lady Boosters wrote about the Boosters. The edition was complete with photos of the river running through the park.

The *Wind River Mountaineer* reported the announcement by President Stasia Allen on February 4, 1909, on the park. She said the payments on the park land had been met and that satisfactory arrangements for the payments on the balance had been met. A deed to the land had been made to the Lady Boosters.

At the same time, she announced that the Fremont County Pioneer Association had been given permission to build a rustic log building in the park. It was to be used by the Association as a meeting place. A committee was named to select a site for the Pioneer Cabin.

EDITORIAL

Lander Lady Boosters' Special Edition

Wind River Mountaineer, August 27, 1908

No feature of a great city is as greatly appreciated by its own people, or as greatly admired by visitors, as a park system. It abounds in natural forests, beautiful lakes or rivers, connected by driveways, inviting the traveler on, and affording many opportunities for healthful outdoor sports and recreation.

Walks should be designed to bring people in all directions. Ornamental grasses, flowers and shrubbery, rustic bridges, and a band stand with free music - all may be made so attractive that it is a very haven of rest for the weary toiler of the day.

To the Lander Lady Boosters belongs the honor of presenting to the City of Lander in the near future such a park as I have described. Through the courtesy of the Mountaineer Publishing Company we are permitted to use its pages for the purpose of raising money to make our third payment on the property recently purchased from William Umbanhower as a park site.

It is but justice to this company to add that without the generous financial assistance supplied by them, together with effective aid from others, we could not have managed to meet our payments on time.

Spurred on by the thought that ours is to be a great city, second to none in the state, now is the time to buy and beautify our property. We, as an organization, have banded together for that purpose and we extend our sincerest thanks to all who have so kindly tendered their services at this time and heretofore.

The work achieved is an unselfish one and should command the respect of every citizen of Lander.

Mrs. Stasia Allen
President, L.L.B.

After the land was secured, members of the Lady Boosters were driven over the grounds in the Fremont Hotel bus. The Ladys then met to schedule some kind of entertainment to raise money.

The *Journal* came out a day after the *Mountaineer* and

A DISTINGUISHED NEWCOMER

ARISTEN GAGE, has made its firse appearance in fashiondom? Are you interested in knowing what style authorities say is correct in millinery for the immediate present?

MRS. STASIA ALLEN
Opposite Fremont Hotel
LANDER, - - - - - WYOMING

said the Lady Boosters had arranged for a $950 payment on the city park and that the interest bearing debt had been reduced to $1,800. A committee had also been appointed to lease the house and grounds for the year. The ladies were already at work to raise more funds and they were making plans for beautifying and improving the grounds.

The Pioneer Association appeared to be going on with the intention of building a log cabin in the park. The *Mountaineer* reported on March 11, 1909, that the Pioneers of Fremont county planned the construction of the cabin. Each log used in the construction was to be furnished by a pioneer, "with the inside dressed smooth and the family's history engraved thereon." A photo in the paper which accompanied the article was captioned, "Scene in Lady Booster's Park, place where the proposed Pioneer Cabin is to be erected."

But plans change and the *Journal* reported on September 10, 1909, that the Pioneer Association had decided to build the log cabin on the Farlow grounds. (Ed and Lizzie Farlow donated the land on which the Pioneer Museum now stands. In the spring of 1910, the land was graded but the cabin didn't get built until 1915. Today, the cabin is a part of the total museum complex.)

It was in June, 1909, that the Lander Lady Boosters invited the Casper Civic Club to Lander for all of the festivities of the 4th of July. There was to be an added inducement: "There will be `restrooms' for the ladies and carriages placed at the disposal of all who care to drive and enjoy the sights about town. . ."

Nothing is heard of the Lady Boosters in 1910 but the *Journal* reported on January 13, 1911, that the Ladys had cleared $100 on a minstrel show for the benefit of the park fund. Stasia Allen was still president and reported that the Ladys had enough money to meet the outstanding bills.

Stasia's husband, Charley, died in March, 1911, and that curtailed her activities for awhile. There is no mention of Lady Boosters activities throughout 1912 and 1913. There was no July 4 parade in 1913 but there was in 1914 and the Lady Boosters had a float in it. Following that, on July 17, 1914, the *Journal* reported that the Lady Boosters had given a reception for Episcopal Bishop Thomas and Miss Grace Scoville. Miss Scoville had just paid off all the indebtedness on Bishop Randall Hospital and she was being honored.

In August, 1914, the *Journal* referred to the park as Lady Booster Park. In September, 1914, the Denver Boosters came back to Lander but there was no mention of the Lady Boosters welcoming them. There was a July 4 parade in 1915 but no Lander Lady Boosters float entered in it.

The *Journal* reported in November, 1916, that there was to be a Lady Booster Dance held for the benefit of the park. It was to be held in the Armory (now Senior Citizen Center) with good music. It would appear from the scant newspaper accounts that the Lander Lady Boosters were no longer actively involved, as they had been before, after 1914. Part of the reason for that may have been that their sparkplug, Stasia Allen, had diverted her interests. Nevertheless, later accounts noted that it was Stasia Allen who was held accountable for the debts on the park.

Stasia enters politics

During the political season of 1914, Stasia decided to run for state representative on the Democratic ticket. She was one of only three women in the state to try for a seat in the legislature that year. One of the women, a Democrat from Crook County, was elected. Previously, in the 1913 Legislature, two women had been elected and served, one from Crook County and one from Albany County. They were the first women to serve in the Wyoming Legislature.

Stasia would certainly have dedicated considerable time to her campaign. She was well known in Lander but probably little known in Riverton, Hudson, and the outlying areas. In the November election she came in a respectable sixth in a field of eleven, and only 400 votes below the top vote getter, Ralph Kimball, a Lander attorney who later served as a district judge.

It was a Republican sweep of the state that year and Kimball and three other Republicans went into office. James Graham, a Sweetwater rancher, had served in three previous legislatures and became Speaker of the House in the 1915 Legislature. Jacob Delfelder was a prominent sheep man from Riverton who was also elected mayor of the town in 1915. In spite of the political tide and the tough competition she was up against, Stasia had done all right in her political debut. But there is no record of her ever running for another office.

Lander's City Park

What Stasia Allen and the Lander Lady Boosters had set in motion continued to develop. In May, 1919, an article in the *Journal* said that the town of Lander had granted $650 to the Lander Lady Boosters for assistance in purchasing the park and camping site. In June, 1919, an ad appeared in the *Journal* for a "Patriotic Dance. . .Given for benefit of Lady Boosters'Park Fund and Armory Building Fund." How all of the debt on the park ever got paid is not known. An article in the *Journal* in August, 1922, (see accompanying sidebar) says only that Stasia Allen appears to have been personally stuck with some of the debt.

Earlier, in July, the *Lander Evening Post* had an article on Lander's camp grounds (see sidebar). This was prompted by the ever increasing tourist travel. Traveling conditions, including the dirt roads, were still very primitive and Lander could point with pride to a camp ground in a beautiful setting. Here travelers could have some conveniences. This continued on into the early 1930s when hotels began to advertise and there were few motels as we know them today.

The *Journal* noted on May 28, 1930, "That the tourist season is soon to be in full swing is seen by the increasing number of overnight visitors at the city tourist camp on the south side of the city. Numerous cars from all sections of the country have been registered at the park during the past week. (This is) an indication that the annual pilgrimage to the big western vacation grounds is getting under way in earnest." And on June 25, the *Journal* had a whole section touting the amenities of the area for the traveling public. There it said, "The city maintains the most attractive park of natural beauty to be found in the whole world. Through this park rushes the picturesque Popo Agie River. This is a typical trout stream, winding its way over ages-worn boulders from the mountains nearby. Its banks are heavily shaded by native trees and shrubs and liberally touched with the beauty of varied wild flowers. Many species of bird life sing their songs of happiness under the spell of the restful rush of the waters of the Popo Agie. The park is open to the public and camp and cottage accommodations are provided for the tourist or other visitors, including natural gas, electric lights, baths, and car shelters."

Stasia Allen's foresight and energy had paid off handsomely for the town. What she and the other Lady Boosters had promoted only as a park for the local citizens had evolved into an attraction for tourists.

Stasia's family

Stasia had two of her three children born before the Allens moved to Lander. Fred, the youngest, was born here in 1890. Her oldest, listed on her marriage record as Dorthelle E., married a young Lander dentist in 1903. Dr. Finis E.

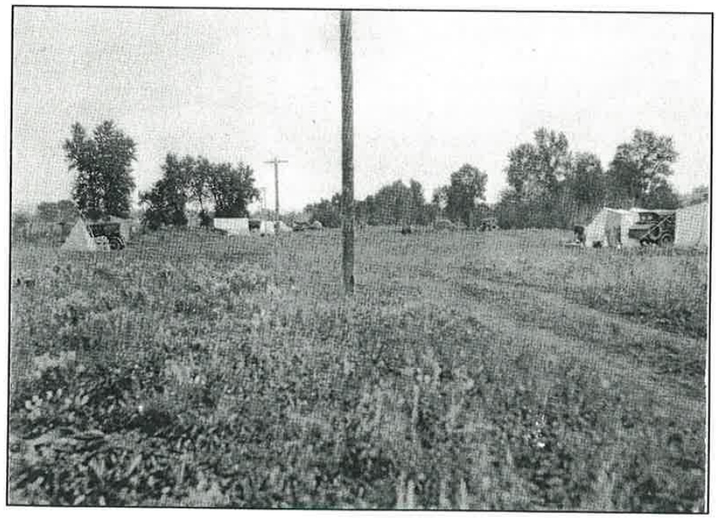

Photo Courtesy Pioneer Museum

The *Lander Evening Post*, July 15, 1922, carried an article about Lander's city park and campground. It extolled the virtues of the municipal campground and what it had to offer. Fortunately, a photograph of the campground in 1922 exists and is shown here.

Godfrey was from Nevada, Missouri, and upon completion of dental college returned there to practice. His uncle, Dr. Hugh Calloway, was a Lander doctor and was probably responsible for Dr. Godfrey moving his practice to Lander in about 1900. (Dr. W.H. Ellis, who had moved from Loveland, Colorado, in 1905, went into practice with Dr. Godfrey.)

Godfrey was later to serve as Lander postmaster from 1916 until 1924. Following that, he moved his family back to Nevada, Missouri. During the time he was here, he had invested in oil lands and so he would return occasionally to attend to leases and other business.

Little tidbits of information about Stasia and members of her family would appear in one or the other of the local newspapers down through the years. But for such a prominent citizen, it is remarkable that so little was noted in news accounts in the 45 years she lived in Lander.

The *Wind River Mountaineer* noted in August, 1908, that the Allens had gone on a camping trip but Stasia had returned early because of illness. In February, the *Mountaineer* said she had left for Omaha to visit her son, Fred, who was attending business college there. It was also noted that a daughter had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen Jr. The newspaper said she had returned from Omaha with son, Fred, in early March, and also said that as she alighted from the train, the Lady Boosters had greeted her, "having gone in a body to welcome their president and escort her to her home."

Seven months after Charley died, Stasia had more grief. The *Wind River Mountaineer* reported on September 8, 1911, that Stasia's six month old granddaughter, Mary Eloise, had died. Charley Allen Jr. and his wife, the former Stella Iams, had three children. They were Charles Samuel, born in 1906; Marjorie Stella, born in 1909, and Mary Eloise, 1911.

The *Journal* reported in mid-October, 1913, that Stasia and others had gone by autos to Riverton. They had started Sunday morning but did not return until Monday. A lack of the availability of gasoline had held up their return, and they reported that there were lots of mud holes between Arapahoe and Riverton.

The *Journal* noted July 30, 1915, that Charley Allen Jr. had gone to Grave Lake with Dr. John Roberts and Chester Baldwin to do some fishing. Then on August 13, the *Journal* reported that Allen and Frank Sears had leased the storeroom in the Fred Earl Building (331 Main) and were planning to open another "picture show" about September 1. On August 27, the paper said the new Iris Theater would open September 5. The *Wind River Mountaineer* reported on September 17 that Allen was one of the managers of the Iris Theater located in the west half of the Earl Building. What happened to that fledgling business was never reported but on October 1 the *Journal* reported that Allen had returned from the state fair where he had been playing in the band. It also said he was the secretary of the local civil service board and the first exam to be given was for a post office clerk.

Charley Allen's marriage to Stella ended in June, 1917. The *Journal* reported that the mother was given custody of the two children and Charley was to pay her $30 per month for their care. Stella moved away, first to Riverton, then to Sheridan, and then to Casper, noted by the papers as she returned to visit her mother, Belle Iams.

The war in Europe was drawing the United States into the conflict and in August, 1917, the *Journal* said Charles Allen had taken the final exam for officers training school. Another report indicated he had not been chosen.

The *Mountaineer* reported in May, 1918, that a new Lander band had been organized and Charley Allen was playing clarinet in it. But he had evidently applied for the consular service and the *Journal* reported on November 8, 1918, that he had received his passport and was being sent to Capetown, South Africa. A week later it said he had left Lander for Capetown to take up his duties as vice consul.

He, of course, kept in touch with his mother and the *Journal* said in November, 1919, that he had written Stasia about a freak snowstorm in Capetown. He said the citizens had turned out for snowballing in the streets. Five years

Camping by the Poposia

from the *Lander Evening Post*, July 15, 1922

Lander offers free to tourists, and gladly, one of the best camp grounds in the state. It is on the banks of the turbulent, trout-filled Poposia, providing the purest mountain water, ample timber for shade and firewood, and the necessary artificial improvements for the convenience of the tourists.

A string of electric lights has recently been placed the length of the grounds, a cooking range has been set up, and additional firewood hauled and piled in convenient places about the park.

Unlike the majority of camp grounds on the Yellowstone Highway, Lander offers one which combines the conveniences of municipal installation with a wild and natural beauty of mountain stream, timber and scenery. It is a real breath of the open, unspoiled by too close proximity to city streets and the civilization that the tourist seeks to leave behind.

The camp grounds present a scene of activity every night with camp fires gleaming, banjos twanging, and voices raised in happy melody. Many and complimentary have been the remarks of these visitors paying tribute to the convenience and beauty of the spot provided for their enjoyment and entertainment by the citizens of Lander.

after his divorce from Stella, the *Journal* reported (August 25, 1922) that he had married a South African girl.

Fred Allen, Stasia's youngest son, also had a troubled first marriage. The records could not be found about who and when he first married and when he was divorced. The papers reported in July, 1917, that he and his wife had moved to Casper. Then in March, 1918, the *Mountaineer* said he had received an appointment as a civil service stenographer and in May was with the 52nd Engineers at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. The divorce must have come sometime in the interim. The *Journal* reported in December, 1919, that he had married Mattie Watson of Lander and that he was to go to France on an assignment. In January, 1931, the *Journal* said he was with the Forest Service at Spokane, Washington, and had come to visit his mother in the hospital.

When her daughter, Mrs. Godfrey, moved away in 1924 or 1925, she was alone except for the friends she had made down through the years. There is little mention of her in the ensuing years until June, 1930, when the *Journal* reported that her grandson, Charles S. Allen, and his family from Chicago had come to visit her. Six months later, in late December, 1930, the *Journal* said Stasia had been taken to the hospital suffering from severe asthma. Her daughter came from Missouri to be with her during the stay in the hospital. Then on January 21, the paper said that Stasia had left Lander with her daughter to go to Missouri. The paper said she had been in poor health for the past month and reported, "Mrs. Allen's large host of friends hope that she will soon be enjoying good health again."

She was never to return, even in death. She died April 7, 1931, at Nevada, Missouri, and was buried there. She had purchased eight cemetery plots in Lander's Mt. Hope 20 years earlier but only her husband and her baby granddaughter are buried there.

Her obituary on April 8, 1931, said that she had been in poor health for many years due to the infirmities of age. It added, "Mrs. Allen was one of the finest and best liked of the elderly ladies of the community and her passing comes as a distinct loss to the entire community."

Charley Allen Jr. maintained his residence as being in Lander all through the years he was in the consular service in South Africa, Switzerland and Canada. He gave up that residence in March, 1949, when he retired to Grants Pass, Oregon. He died there September 3, 1970.

Page Out Of The Past

Plan for city government

An editorial in *The Fremont Clipper*, June 15, 1891

We hope that in the plans of some one of the new buildings that are being projected for Lander for this season will be included provision for a town hall or council chamber. The town needs such a hall where the council may hold its meetings, the mayor and town officials have their offices, the police justice hold court, and which may be considered general headquarters for the city government.

The cost of renting such a hall would not be great, and by it a dignity would be given the government that it does not at present possess. The meetings of the council, instead of being attended by only two or three citizens as at present, would attract a large number who would regularly turn out to a place of meeting that was more accessible and would take some interest in what might be going on. And a little interest on the part of the public is just what would brace up the government a whole lot.

WIND RIVER MOUNTAINEER

Fremont County's Own History Magazine

Vol. XI, No. 2 April-June, 1995 $4.00

Photo Courtesy Pioneer Museum

Lander has always had a July 4th celebration parade with the exception of but a few years. Beginning in 1907, the Lander Lady Boosters always had a float in the parade for as long as the organization was active. This 1908 photo shows the Lady's elaborate float in the center of the photo. The location is on Main Street between Second and Third. The building at right, saying W.G. Burnett, Jeweler, is today the location of Scott Electronics, 214 Main. The two-story building with trees in front was the St. John building, today a vacant spot along Main Street. This parade was notable in that it was the last time the U.S. Cavalry from Fort Washakie would take part in the Lander festivities. Charley Allen, Jr. may have been one of the band members marching in the forefront.

Happy 100th Birthday, Lander City Park!

Come celebrate a century of fun!

Saturday, June 7th, 2008

4-7 p.m. at the park

Old time baseball, horseshoes, tennis, slack lines and four huge inflatables! Food for purchase.

By Anne McGowan
Journal Editor

One hundred and one years ago, a woman had a dream.

Stasia Allen, a wife and mother who moved to Lander in 1885, believed that the city needed a park, a "place where ornamental grasses, flowers and shrubbery, rustic bridges and a band stand with free music all may be made so attractive that it is a very haven of rest."

In 1907, Allen set about making the dream a reality. She helped form a group called the Lander Lady Boosters, took on the role of president, and set about fundraising to purchase in 1908 what would became Lander City Park.

The Lander Lady Boosters in April that year considered two parcels: a one block lot in town owned by businessman Ed Farlow and a nine acre dairy farm on the south end of town owned by William Umbanhower.

The Farlow property was priced at $2,500, the Umbanhower dairy at $3,500. The Lady Boosters opted for the larger, more expensive land, and made their first payment on the property less than six weeks later.

Sara Felix, Parks and Recreation Department Program Director, and 100th birthday celebration organizer, admires the foresight of Allen and the Lander Lady Boosters. "These gals looked ahead to buy the land and create the park. We should be looking forward to find our next treasure for the next generation."

Meanwhile, Felix wants to invite everyone in town to a party. The event, scheduled from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at Lander City Park will feature activities for all ages.

There will be food for purchase at "very reasonable" prices," according to Felix, "but everything else is free." Activities include tennis and horseshoe matches, four inflatables (two for adults), and a baseball game featuring players dressed in old fashioned uniforms.

On display will be the logos created by West Elementary art student for the occasion.

With a theme of "100 Years of Fun," kids were challenged to create a logo that reflected the century milestone.

West Elementary student Sofia Accofinti designed the winning logo, shown above.

The Lander Parks and Recreation office, which doubles as a warming hut for ice skaters in the winter, was built in the summer of 1993.

Parks and Recreation staff members have 67 combined years of experience in the department. Sara Felix (28 years), Don Reynolds (31 years) and Lori Eckhardt (8 years) stand by the memorial to the Lander Lady Boosters.

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Lander City Park as tourist attraction

What Stasia Allen and the Lander Lady Boosters began continued to grow.

The automobile was becoming very popular and, with it, western travel and car camping. Banners hung across Main Street in Lander advertising City Park as a "tourist park."

The Lander Evening Post in the July 15, 1922 edition described the park's charms this way: "Lander offers free to tourists, and gladly, one of the best camp grounds in the state. It is on the banks of the turbulent, trout-filled Poposia, providing the purest mountain water, ample timber for shade and firewood and the necessary artificial improvements for the convenience of tourists."

Those artificial improvements included a string of electric lights and a cooking range. One old photograph of the park shows a lean-to style tent in which a dining table and refrigerator sit.

There was plenty to entertain campers, according to the Evening Post article. "The camp grounds present a scene of activity every night with camp fires gleaming, banjos twanging, voices raised in happy melody. Many and complimentary have been the remarks of these visitors paying tribute to the convenience and beauty of the spot provided for their enjoyment and entertainment by the citizens of Lander.

Today's visitors to Lander City Park would agree. Free camping is still offered in the park, with grassy areas under the trees for tent-dwellers and spots by the river for campers and recreational vehicles. Modern restrooms, grill and picnic facilities (one of which is sponsored by the Lander Lions club) complete the scene.

Camping by the Popo Agie River

Then... Campers set up tents in the shade of the cottonwood trees. Now... Campers are welcome to stay overnight in City Park free of charge. Tents dot the landscape throughout the summer, but are in abundance during Pioneer Days and The International Climbers' Festival, both in July.

2008 Lander Parks and Recreation Board of Directors

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Jim Orr,
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Don Webber,
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A century's worth of growth

The building that served as pool dressing room, warming hut and Parks and Recreation Department offices was condemned in the early 1990s.

Department personnel moved into city hall, Felix said, and stayed there for about a year and a half while a new building was erected on the same site as the old, on the north side of the park property.

The new building was completed in late summer 1993 and was dedicated on September 21. Then-mayor PeeWee Carlson cut the ceremonial ribbon while city council members and a crowd of several hundred looked on. Chili and hot dogs were served.

According to the Lander Journal's September 15 issue, Parks and Recreation Director Don Reynolds said city park users were in desperate need of such a facility. "It's a facility that the people really needed because of everything we've got going on here: ice skating, baseball, the tennis courts and the playground."

The article noted that funding for the $265,000 building came from a variety of sources. Lander City Council General Fund's portion amounted to $160,000; another $62,000 came from a Community Development Block Grant. The remainder came from the Lander District Recreation Board, Parks and Recreation Gift Catalog and private donations.

Park facilities

Lions and Kiwanis Picnic Shelters, City and Dillon Park Gazebos

The Lions Picnic Shelter and the Gazebo at City Park, Dillon Park Gazebo, and the Kiwanis Picnic Shelter at Northside Park are available for groups. The Lions and Kiwanis shelters have cooking and service facilities for almost any size group. The City Park Gazebo and Dillon Park Gazebo have covered picnic facilities only. All are on a reservation basis only. A refundable damage and cleanup deposit must be made at least one week prior to the reservation date. A fee will be charged for use of the shelters. Call 332-4647 to reserve a shelter.

Picnic Shelters

see next page

Nice ice at City Park

Ice skating has been a popular activity in the park for generations. At right, Buddy Spriggs perched by the rink on a fence made of barbed wire. Above, Dawna Hopeman skated with Don and Nancy Webber at Christmas, 2007. Skating and hockey are offered through Parks and Recreation from January until the ice melts.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy 100th Birthday City Park!

Remember to try our new Bistro, take & bake pizza and Italian main dishes, also our hard ice cream.

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Sunday 4 pm ~ 10 pm

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Areas are available for small family picnics at all our parks. No reservations are necessary – they are on a first come basis.

Field Reservation Schedule

A field reservation system goes into effect when practicing begins for baseball and softball. Reservations will be taken beginning at 8:00 a.m. Monday mornings for Tuesday through the following Monday. Please call the Parks and Recreation office at 332-4647.

Picnic Fun Kits

Volleyball nets, volleyballs, Frisbees, horseshoes, basketball, tennis racquets, badminton sets, softballs and bats are available for check out at the Parks and Recreation office located in City Park. This equipment is available to use within our Park System and can be picked up Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. A refundable deposit and small use fee is required at the time of checkout.

Lander Urban Forest Council

The Lander Urban Forest Council designed, developed and published a brochure entitled "Tree and Shrubs of Lander, Wyoming" as a service to the public. This 63 page, full-color publication highlights trees and shrubs that are growing in the Lander area and the locations of the plants. It also contains several tips and suggestions on how to plant new trees and pruning techniques. This outstanding publication is free to the public and available at the Parks and Recreation office, Lander City Hall and the Popo Agie Conservation District Office.

The park's new Western-theme playground, erected in 2005 was a community effort led by a group of women - reminiscent of the original Lander Lady Boosters. It replaced older metal equipment like the slide at right.

Happy Birthday City Park!

PartsCity AUTO PARTS
(Formerly Bumper to Bumper)
185 S 2nd Street
Lander • 332-4632
116 N Federal Blvd
Riverton • 856-4850

Great job celebrating 100 years!
Keep up the good work!
McRae's Pharmacy
725 Main Street
Lander • 332-5712

Congratulations

Congratulations Lander City Park on celebrating 100 years!

We are so happy to celebrate with you!

Remember we are just four miles out of Lander ... Come play our new slot machines!

OPEN: SUNDAY ~ THURSDAY 8 AM ~ 2 AM
FRIDAY & SUNDAY OPEN 24 HOURS!

COME JOIN THE FUN!
WE HAVE OVER 150 VEGAS STYLE MACHINES IN SMOKING AND NON-SMOKING AREAS. VISIT OUR SNACK BAR!
5690 HWY 287 just 4 miles north of LANDER, WY 82520

Experience the difference!

335-7529

Shoshone Rose CASINO

We salute a century of fun at City Park!

From left: Leslie Calkins, Chairperson, Parks & Recreation Committee; Terry Hyde; Shane Barstad; and Polly Milburn.

STATE FARM
Auto Life Fire
INSURANCE®
990 Main Street, Lander • 332-2530

Godfrey was from Nevada, Missouri, and upon completion of dental college returned there to practice. His uncle, Dr. Hugh Calloway, was a Lander doctor and was probably responsible for Dr. Godfrey moving his practice to Lander in about 1900. (Dr. W.H. Ellis, who had moved from Loveland, Colorado, in 1905, went into practice with Dr. Godfrey.)

Godfrey was later to serve as Lander postmaster from 1916 until 1924. Following that, he moved his family back to Nevada, Missouri. During the time he was here, he had invested in oil lands and so he would return occasionally to attend to leases and other business.

Little tidbits of information about Stasia and members of her family would appear in one or the other of the local newspapers down through the years. But for such a prominent citizen, it is remarkable that so little was noted in news accounts in the 45 years she lived in Lander.

The *Wind River Mountaineer* noted in August, 1908, that the Allens had gone on a camping trip but Stasia had returned early because of illness. In February, the *Mountaineer* said she had left for Omaha to visit her son, Fred, who was attending business college there. It was also noted that a daughter had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen Jr. The newspaper said she had returned from Omaha with son, Fred, in early March, and also said that as she alighted from the train, the Lady Boosters had greeted her, "having gone in a body to welcome their president and escort her to her home."

Seven months after Charley died, Stasia had more grief. The *Wind River Mountaineer* reported on September 8, 1911, that Stasia's six month old granddaughter, Mary Eloise, had died. Charley Allen Jr. and his wife, the former Stella Iiams, had three children. They were Charles Samuel, born in 1906; Marjorie Stella, born in 1909, and Mary Eloise, 1911.

The *Journal* reported in mid-October, 1913, that Stasia and others had gone by autos to Riverton. They had started Sunday morning but did not return until Monday. A lack of the availability of gasoline had held up their return, and they reported that there were lots of mud holes between Arapahoe and Riverton.

The *Journal* noted July 30, 1915, that Charley Allen Jr. had gone to Grave Lake with Dr. John Roberts and Chester Baldwin to do some fishing. Then on August 13, the *Journal* reported that Allen and Frank Sears had leased the storeroom in the Fred Earl Building (331 Main) and were planning to open another "picture show" about September 1. On August 27, the paper said the new Iris Theater would open September 5. The *Wind River Mountaineer* reported on September 17 that Allen was one of the managers of the Iris Theater located in the west half of the Earl Building. What happened to that fledgling business was never reported but on October 1 the *Journal* reported that Allen had returned from the state fair where he had been playing in the band. It also said he was the secretary of the local civil service board and the first exam to be given was for a post office clerk.

Camping by the Poposia

from the *Lander Evening Post*, July 15, 1922

Lander offers free to tourists, and gladly, one of the best camp grounds in the state. It is on the banks of the turbulent, trout-filled Poposia, providing the purest mountain water, ample timber for shade and firewood, and the necessary artificial improvements for the convenience of the tourists.

A string of electric lights has recently been placed the length of the grounds, a cooking range has been set up, and additional firewood hauled and piled in convenient places about the park.

Unlike the majority of camp grounds on the Yellowstone Highway, Lander offers one which combines the conveniences of municipal installation with a wild and natural beauty of mountain stream, timber and scenery. It is a real breath of the open, unspoiled by too close proximity to city streets and the civilization that the tourist seeks to leave behind.

The camp grounds present a scene of activity every night with camp fires gleaming, banjos twanging, and voices raised in happy melody. Many and complimentary have been the remarks of these visitors paying tribute to the convenience and beauty of the spot provided for their enjoyment and entertainment by the citizens of Lander.

Charley Allen's marriage to Stella ended in June, 1917. The *Journal* reported that the mother was given custody of the two children and Charley was to pay her $30 per month for their care. Stella moved away, first to Riverton, then to Sheridan, and then to Casper, noted by the papers as she returned to visit her mother, Belle Iiams.

The war in Europe was drawing the United States into the conflict and in August, 1917, the *Journal* said Charles Allen had taken the final exam for officers training school. Another report indicated he had not been chosen.

The *Mountaineer* reported in May, 1918, that a new Lander band had been organized and Charley Allen was playing clarinet in it. But he had evidently applied for the consular service and the *Journal* reported on November 8, 1918, that he had received his passport and was being sent to Capetown, South Africa. A week later it said he had left Lander for Capetown to take up his duties as vice consul.

He, of course, kept in touch with his mother and the *Journal* said in November, 1919, that he had written Stasia about a freak snowstorm in Capetown. He said the citizens had turned out for snowballing in the streets. Five years

…ding ladies of the town - the wives of attorneys, bankers, …nd businessmen. And in the case of Amelia Hall, the wife of Lyons Valley rancher Bob Hall. There were probably many more ladies who joined in the endeavors down through the years but their names are now lost.

Following the successful summer of 1907, the Lady Boosters began to look for other projects. It did not take them long. The *Journal* editor noted on January 31, 1908, that the Lady Boosters were considering plans for the improvement of streets. He then said, "This no doubt means that the improvements will be made as they have proven themselves tireless workers when once enlisted."

Without waiting to see results on the streets, they plunged into another project. On April 3, 1908, the newspaper said the Lady Boosters were going to vote on the proposition of a public park. Their vote must have been positive for a week later the *Wind River Mountaineer* said the Lady Boosters were going to look at land for a "public park." Two offers were going to be considered. William Umbanhower, who owned a dairy on the river south of the business district, had nine acres for sale for $3,500. Ed Farlow offered one whole block (location not noted although he and his wife, Lizzie Lamoreaux Farlow and sister of Dora Robertson and Mary Butler, owned all of the land surrounding what is now the Pioneer Museum) for $2,500.

The decision was made to buy the Umbanhower property and on May 15, the *Journal* reported that the first payment had been made. The Lady Boosters "will at once begin the work of making a park of the place." Today, that original nine acres makes up the heart of Lander's City Park.

The enthusiasm of the Lady Boosters was contagious and kindled more interest. On August 20, the *Wind River Mountaineer* announced that the issue of the paper the following week was going to be a souvenir edition. It was to be published by the Lander Lady Boosters as a money raiser for the park.

Sure enough, the August 27, 1908, *Wind River Mountaineer* was headlined "Lander Lady Boosters' Edition." The Mountaineer Publishing Co., Park C. Hays, editor, donated all of the proceeds of many large ads, some of them full pages, in a 16-page paper, to the Lady Boosters.

The edition featured the three original founders of Lander - B.F. Lowe, P.P. Dickinson, and Eugene Amoretti Sr., as well as Mayor W.G. "Billy" Johnson. President Stasia Allen wrote an editorial and so did Cora Graves, vice president. The mayor's wife and the secretary of the Lady Boosters wrote about the Boosters. The edition was complete with photos of the river running through the park.

The *Wind River Mountaineer* reported the announcement by President Stasia Allen on February 4, 1909, on the park. She said the payments on the park land had been met and that satisfactory arrangements for the payments on the balance had been met. A deed to the land had been made to the Lady Boosters.

At the same time, she announced that the Fremont County Pioneer Association had been given permission to build a rustic log building in the park. It was to be used by the Association as a meeting place. A committee was named to select a site for the Pioneer Cabin.

EDITORIAL

Lander Lady Boosters' Special Edition

Wind River Mountaineer, August 27, 1908

No feature of a great city is as greatly appreciated by its own people, or as greatly admired by visitors, as a park system. It abounds in natural forests, beautiful lakes or rivers, connected by driveways, inviting the traveler on, and affording many opportunities for healthful outdoor sports and recreation.

Walks should be designed to bring people in all directions. Ornamental grasses, flowers and shrubbery, rustic bridges, and a band stand with free music - all may be made so attractive that it is a very haven of rest for the weary toiler of the day.

To the Lander Lady Boosters belongs the honor of presenting to the City of Lander in the near future such a park as I have described. Through the courtesy of the Mountaineer Publishing Company we are permitted to use its pages for the purpose of raising money to make our third payment on the property recently purchased from William Umbanhower as a park site.

It is but justice to this company to add that without the generous financial assistance supplied by them, together with effective aid from others, we could not have managed to meet our payments on time.

Spurred on by the thought that ours is to be a great city, second to none in the state, now is the time to buy and beautify our property. We, as an organization, have banded together for that purpose and we extend our sincerest thanks to all who have so kindly tendered their services at this time and heretofore.

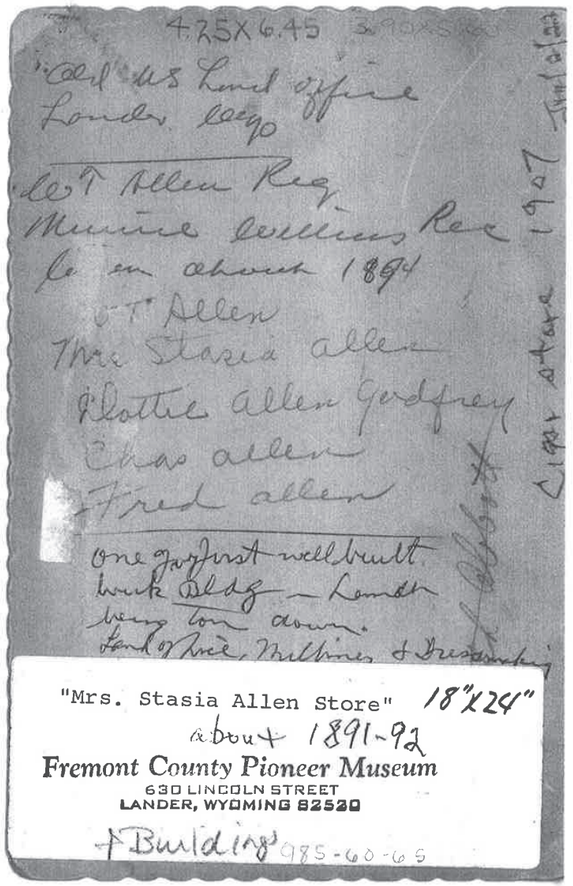
The work achieved is an unselfish one and should command the respect of every citizen of Lander.

Mrs. Stasia Allen
President, L.L.B.

After the land was secured, members of the Lady Boosters were driven over the grounds in the Fremont Hotel bus. The Ladys then met to schedule some kind of entertainment to raise money.

The *Journal* came out a day after the *Mountaineer* and

W. T. ALLEN,
Photographer.
MRS. STASIA ALLEN.
LADIES FURNISHING GOODS,
MILLINERY, DRY GOODS,
NOTIONS, TOYS AND STATIONERY.


4.25X6.45
Old US Land office
Lander Wyo
W T Allen Reg
Minnie Williams Rec
Lander about 1894
W T Allen
Mrs Stasia Allen
Dottie Allen Godfrey
Chas Allen
Fred Allen
One of first well built
brick Bldg — Lander
being torn down.
Land of Nice, Millinery & Dressmaking
Cigar store 1907
"Mrs. Stasia Allen Store" 18"x24"
about 1891-92
Fremont County Pioneer Museum
630 LINCOLN STREET
LANDER, WYOMING 82520
Building 985-60-65

ADDITION
AVE
Second St.
Third Street
FREMONT ST.
WYOMING ST.
CAPITOL HILL
ADDITION
CAPITOL AVE.
CUSTER ST.
THIRD ST.
SECOND ST.
LANDER LADY BOSTER'S CITY PARK
25 Ft. ROAD
ROAD 25 Ft. WIDE
I.F. CHAPMAN
E. W. Hainworth
1908

Arrhene Adams

Charter Members of the Lander Lady Boosters Association.

Mrs. Stasia Allen, president
Mrs. Katherine Marshall, Secy-treas.
Mrs. Joseph (Dr.) Replogle
Mrs.. Dora (Lamoreaux) Robertson
Mrs. Mary (Lamoreaux) Butler
Mrs. Erwin Cheney, Sr.
Mrs. Edson Earl
Mrs. Charlie Bunce
Mrs. Mamie Sherlock
Mrs. Camile McKenzie
Mrs. Lucy Logue
Mrs. Edna (Trosper) Farlow
Mrs. Zeke Farlow
Mrs Lucey Crowley
Mrs. Frank Brower
Mrs. Conant S. Parks, Sr.
Mrs. Robert H. Hall

Taken from: Crossroads of the West
Put out in 1965 to celebrate the
75th year of Wyoming's statehood.

Lander Lady Boosters WRM Aug. 27, 1908 edition Souvenir

Stasia Allen Pres Mrs. Karl Graves (Cora Wynn) v.p.
WRM dedicated paper to Boosters to help buy City Park

1, 2, 3—Photo at left is the shoe shop of William Cook in Lander after going there from Riverton early this century. Later his son, in the photo at right, ran a shop also in Riverton for many years before coming to Lander. In the center photo is Thomas Cook, Joe's great grandfather and a cavalry scout at Fort Washakie.

4—Old time and very well known cowboys in the early history of Lander, from left: Tom Moriarity, Roe Avant, J. Bailey and Billy Johnson.

5—Jacob S. and Carolyn Meyer with daughters Julia Hardin, Minnie Frankenfeld and Nellie Ranney. Jacob came to the Lander valley in 1880 and established the first apple orchard. He was superintendent of the experimental farm in Sinks Canyon. All three daughters graduated from high school, were married and still live in Lander.

6—Lander's first graduating class of 1894: Class as named, left to right, standing: Elliott Sheldon and Minnie Jones; seated: Jessie Roe, Prof. R. M. Little, Catherine (Kittle) Sheldon.

7, 8—Peter T. Peralta, born 1855, died 1927 and Mary Jesperson, born April 1865, died 1922, were married in Lander April 27 1885 when Lander was in Fremont County Territory. They were the parents of C. C. Nealie Peralta and Mrs. Dexter Clark of Lander. Peter Peralta was elected the first law enforcement officer in the territory with the title of constable. Election was held Nov. 4, 1884.

9—On their beautiful float with the sign proclaiming "We Boost for Park and City Beautiful", the Lady Boosters present a very charming picture. The model of a capitol on the float indicates that perhaps the ladies were doing their bit in the contest between Lander and Cheyenne to be the seat of the state government. Following are the names of prominent lady pioneers of Lander who were charter members of the Lander Lady Boosters Association: Mrs. Statia Allen, president; Mrs. Katherine Marshall, secy-treas.; Mrs. Joseph (Dr.) Replogle, Mrs. Dora (Lamoreaux) Robertson, Mrs. Mary (Lamoreaux) Butler, Mrs. Erwin Cheney, Sr., Mrs. Edson Earl, Mrs. Charlie Bunce, Mrs. Mamie Sherlock, Mrs. Camile McKenzie, Mrs. Lucy Logue, Mrs. Edna (Trosper) Farlow, Mrs. Zeke Farlow, Mrs. Lucey Crowley, Mrs. Frank Brower, Mrs. Conant S. Parks, Sr., Mrs. Robert H. Hall. Note: Mrs. Hall was Lander's first school teacher.)

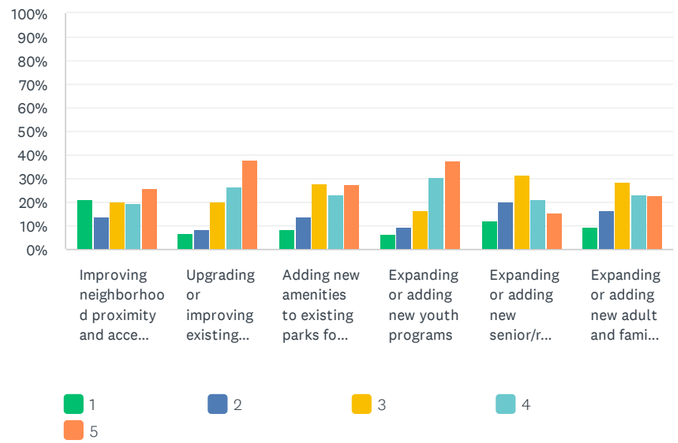
1-2-3—LANDER MOTOR PARTS, INC. 4-5-6-7-8-9—BILL HAYES

SURVEY FINDINGS

Parks & Recreation Survey

Q1 Overall: For parks & recreation in Lander, rank the following items from highest to lowest priority.(Rate on a scale of 5 being of highest importance to 1 being of lowest importance.)

Answered: 223 Skipped: 3



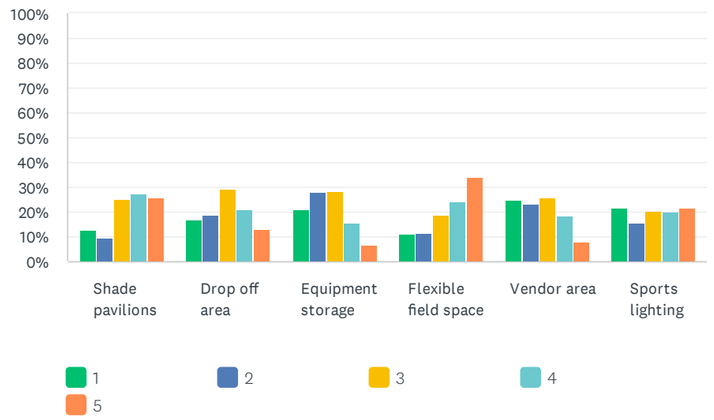
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Improving neighborhood proximity and access to parks and recreational spaces	21% 45	13% 29	20% 43	20% 42	26% 56	215	3.16
Upgrading or improving existing parks and recreation amenities for all ages and abilities	7% 15	9% 19	20% 45	26% 59	38% 85	223	3.81
Adding new amenities to existing parks for all ages and abilities	8% 18	14% 30	28% 61	23% 51	27% 60	220	3.48
Expanding or adding new youth programs	6% 14	10% 21	16% 35	30% 66	38% 82	218	3.83
Expanding or adding new senior/retiree programs	12% 27	20% 44	32% 70	21% 46	15% 34	221	3.07
Expanding or adding new adult and family programs	10% 21	16% 36	28% 62	23% 51	22% 49	219	3.32

Q2 Additional Amenities: What recreational facilities/amenities would you like to see more of in the community? (i.e. rec center with multiple activity options, indoor ice rink, splash pad, outdoor swimming pool, etc.) (Short Answer)

Answered: 181 Skipped: 45

Q3 Sports Complex Area

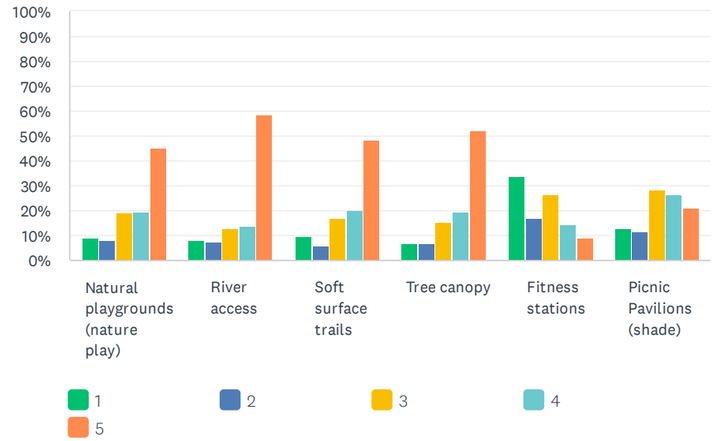
Answered: 198 Skipped: 28



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Shade pavilions	12% 24	9% 18	25% 49	27% 53	26% 50	194	3.45
Drop off area	17% 33	19% 37	30% 57	21% 41	13% 25	193	2.94
Equipment storage	21% 40	28% 54	29% 55	16% 30	7% 13	192	2.59
Flexible field space	11% 21	11% 22	19% 37	24% 47	34% 66	193	3.60
Vendor area	25% 48	23% 44	26% 50	18% 35	8% 15	192	2.61
Sports lighting	22% 42	16% 31	21% 40	20% 39	22% 42	194	3.04

Q4 Natural Open Space Area

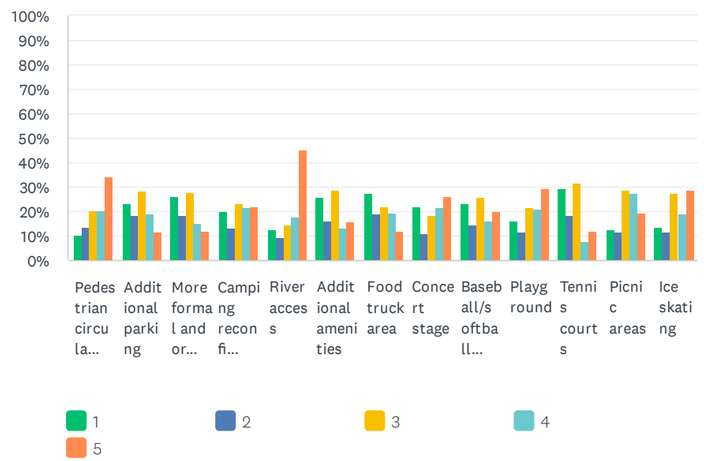
Answered: 199 Skipped: 27



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Natural playgrounds (nature play)	9% 17	8% 15	19% 37	19% 38	45% 88	195	3.85
River access	8% 16	7% 14	13% 25	14% 27	58% 115	197	4.07
Soft surface trails	10% 19	6% 11	17% 33	20% 39	48% 95	197	3.91
Tree canopy	7% 13	7% 13	15% 30	19% 38	52% 102	196	4.04
Fitness stations	34% 63	17% 32	26% 49	14% 27	9% 17	188	2.48
Picnic Pavilions (shade)	13% 25	12% 23	28% 55	26% 51	21% 41	195	3.31

Q5 City Park: With the recent purchase of land west of Lander's heavily-used and much-beloved City Park, the City of Lander has an opportunity to rethink overall park organization and how the new area can best serve the community. Please rank the following ideas for City Park from highest to lowest priority. (Rate on a scale of 5 being of highest importance to 1 being of lowest importance.)

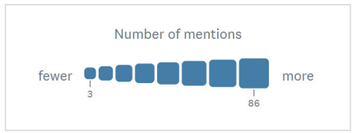
Answered: 199 Skipped: 27



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Pedestrian circulation and safety	11% 20	14% 26	21% 39	21% 39	34% 65	189	3.54
Additional parking	23% 44	18% 35	28% 54	19% 36	12% 22	191	2.77
More formal and organized parking	26% 50	18% 35	28% 53	15% 29	12% 23	190	2.68
Camping reconfiguration	20% 38	13% 25	23% 44	22% 41	22% 42	190	3.13
River access	12% 24	9% 18	15% 29	18% 35	45% 88	194	3.75
Additional amenities	26% 48	16% 30	29% 54	13% 24	16% 29	185	2.76
Food truck area	27% 52	19% 36	22% 42	19% 37	12% 23	190	2.70
Concert stage	22% 43	11% 21	19% 36	22% 42	26% 51	193	3.19
Baseball/softball facility	23% 46	15% 29	26% 51	16% 32	20% 39	197	2.94
Playground	16% 32	11% 22	22% 42	21% 41	29% 57	194	3.36
Tennis courts	30% 56	19% 35	32% 60	8% 15	12% 23	189	2.54
Picnic areas	13% 25	11% 22	29% 56	27% 53	20% 38	194	3.29
Ice skating	14% 26	12% 22	27% 52	19% 36	29% 55	191	3.38

Q6 Recommendations: Imagine Lander 10 years from now. What additional thoughts do you have regarding parks and recreation? (Optional short answer)

Answered: 125 Skipped: 101



Report prepared by Ayres Associates

For the City of Lander, Wyoming

Strategic planning process & outputs

City of Lander

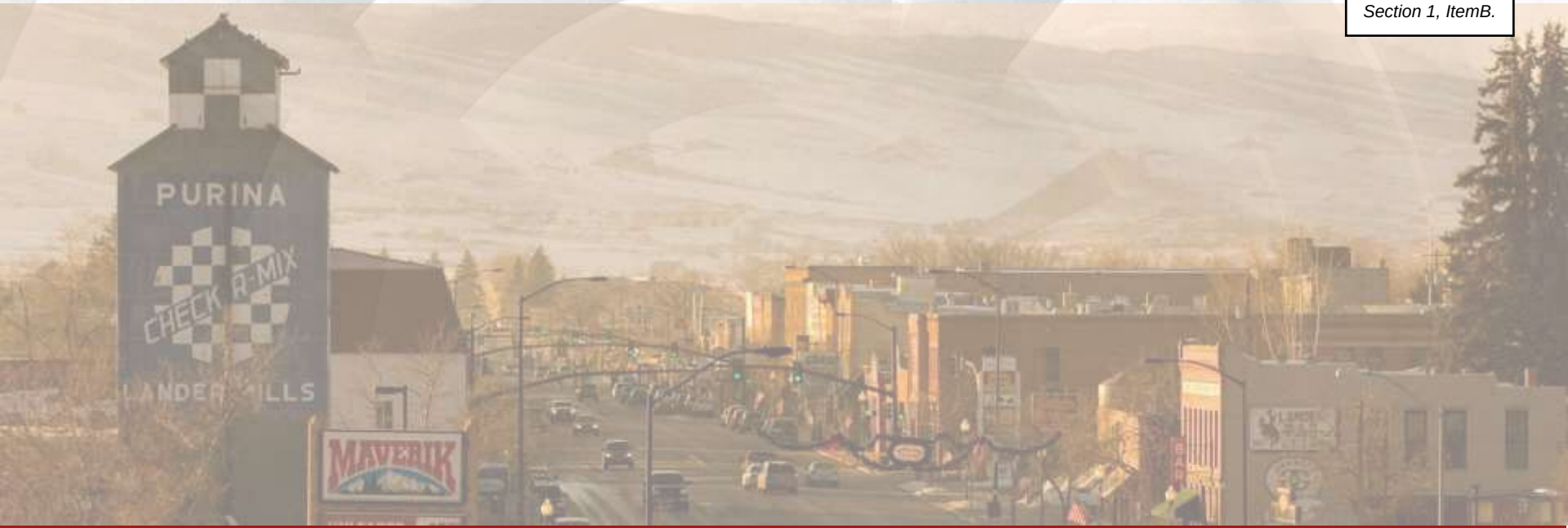
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

MPK&D™

Review of strategic planning inputs

- Discovery meetings and review of relevant existing resources
- Council survey and working session
- Staff survey and working session

Goal: Produce a simple strategic plan framework that can be used to define City activities and workplans over the next 5+ years.



Draft strategic priorities 2025-2029

MPK&D

Recommendation #1

Adopt strategic plan "pillars" used to organize and contextualize individual priorities for both internal and external audiences.

Recommended pillars:

1. Strengthening operational excellence
2. Maintaining the City's physical infrastructure and core services
3. Investing in quality of life

Pillar 1: Operational excellence

Highest Priority: Ensure long-term stability within City operations by securing the organizational structure of City staffing.

- **Charter ordinance** to outline governance structure of City staff, including transitioning leadership roles out of a mayoral appointment system.
- Continue to implement **succession planning**, ensuring that leadership roles within the City are prepared for generational transitions in leadership.

Pillar 1: Operational excellence

Additional Priorities:

- Invest in robust **strategic communications and community engagement** planning that reaches both internal City and external public audiences.
  - Internal communications
  - External communications, including public engagement plan

- Maintain **code enforcement** activities, looking for opportunities to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

Pillar 1: Operational excellence

- Pursue efficiency and solutions that maximize cost effective use of City resources in the **City's physical plant**.
  - Maintenance activities within City buildings and yards
  - Ensure ADA compliance in all city facilities
  - Continue to implement energy efficiency measures
  - Ensure resilience to cybersecurity threats

- Explore opportunities to **revise or create licensing ordinances**
  - Liquor licenses
  - Business licenses

Pillar 2: Maintaining physical infrastructure and core services

Highest Priority: Maintain and improve Lander's infrastructure, ensuring that citizens can travel and receive utility services safely and efficiently.

- Prioritize water, sewer, storm drainage, and street maintenance, including continuing to execute on major projects to address deferred maintenance and modernize city infrastructure.

- Focus on the development of safe routes to schools

Pillar 2: Maintaining physical infrastructure and core services

Additional priorities:

- Continue to maintain **law enforcement services** within the City.
  - Prepare to integrate law enforcement strategic goals within the next City strategic planning process.

- Continue **disaster preparedness** efforts to protect City infrastructure, including continuing work on flood mitigation design projects in preparation for a strategic decision by City Council.

Pillar 2: Maintaining physical infrastructure and core services

- Explore the possibility of **providing services through districts** to increase revenue and decrease expenses. Specifically focus on:
  - Fire district
  - Cemetery district
  - Transportation services

- Research the development and/or expansion of **public-private partnerships** to create additional or expanded community services.

Pillar 3: Investing in quality of life

Highest Priority: Conduct a robust **economic development strategic planning process** to create a shared understanding and definition of Lander's economic development vision, and identify priority actions to support economic development. This strategic plan should address:

- Attainable housing policies and programs
- Strategic partnerships
- Transportation infrastructure
- Considerations for pursuing growth of Lander's tax base

Pillar 3: Investing in quality of life

Additional priorities

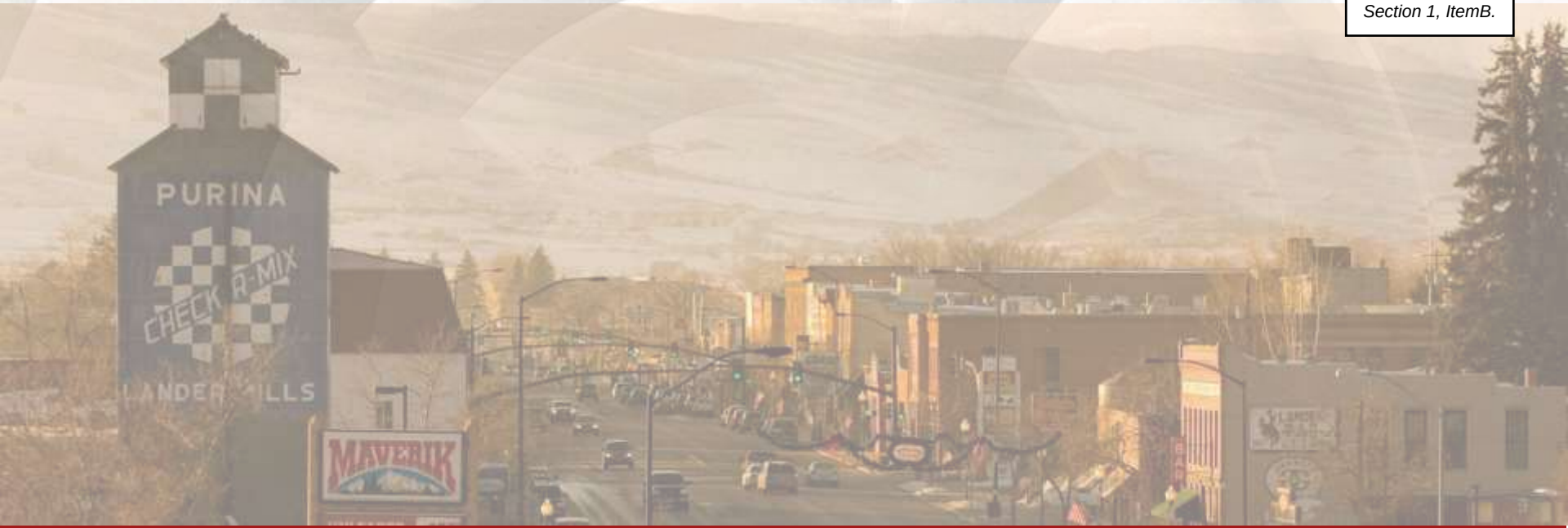
- Pursue **public safety**, ensuring a strong community sense of security from natural environmental, and other disasters (e.g. cybersecurity).

- Maintain relevant **parks and recreational opportunities**:
  - Infrastructure and long term plans to create parks and amenities.
  - Maintain relevant recreational programming and opportunities through partnerships with sports associations and interest groups.
  - Maximize the benefits of Lander's recreation district.

Pillar 3: Investing in quality of life

- Research and identify any actions needed by the City to advance **attainable housing** priorities.

- Research policies and programs that may additionally support **growth of the City's tax base.**



Additional recommendations

Recommendation #2

Identify **revenue generation activities** associated with each pillar. For example:

1. **Strengthening operational excellence:** licensing
2. **Maintaining City's physical infrastructure and core services:** districts, fees, and grants
3. **Investing in quality of life:** partnerships

Recommendation #3

Ensure that **all strategic goals are actionable** and drive activities leading to desired outputs.

Recommendation #4

Align workplans and Airtable tasks with the strategic pillars and goals. This ensures connectivity between activities and strategy.

Recommendation #5

Invest additional time into **refining and finalizing** the strategic plan to closely reflect priorities, activities, and current state.

Create touchpoints to **discuss progress on the strategic plan** as an ongoing activity and point of communication between staff and Council.

Thank you!