CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION FORM

FROM: Angela Cosby, Parks and Recreation Director

Matt Barnard, Parks and Recreation Development Manager

Rob Burdine, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director

THROUGH: Gary Suiter, City Manager

DATE: May 21, 2024

ITEM: Parkland Acquisition Process Update

DIRECTION

X INFORMATION
ORDINANCE
MOTION
RESOLUTION
PROCLAMATION

I. REQUEST/ISSUE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Parkland Acquisitions Process was originally presented to City Council on 3/13/2024, with Council appointing a representative to the Parkland Acquisitions Committee at that time. The process was then presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on 2/14/2024 and a PRC member was appointed to the PAC. The PAC consists of a City Council appointee, a Parks and Recreation Commission Appointee, City Staff from Parks and Recreation, the Planning Department, the City Attorney's Office, and a GIS professional. Since that time the PAC has met on a bi-weekly basis to discuss properties of for Parkland Acquisitions and develop areas of intertest based upon their significance to the community, and ranked properties on the quality of their attributes. PAC has developed an acquisitions strategy for Slate Creek and initiated negotiations with the landowners. The PAC will present progress on the Parkland Acquisitions Plan to City Council and highlight properties of interest while sharing a draft bubble map along with a property ranking matrix. During the 2024 Capital Improvement Project process, City Council approved 500K for

pursuit of the Slate Creek Acquisition. In addition to an update on the acquisition process, City Council direction in Executive Session is needed to proceed with the adopted Parkland Acquisitions Plan and continue negotiations with the landowners of Slate Creek. The PAC will present a Pro-Forma outlining potential funding sources and timelines to acquire Slate Creek.

II. SUMMARY AND ALTERNATIVES:

City Council input and direction is required for the PAC to proceed with the Parkland Acquisitions Strategy and negotiations for the Slate Creek Parcel. Staff is looking for direction to proceed with negotiations with the landowners of Slate Creek and participate in various grant applications and purchase of development rights programs within identified timelines and milestones.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Continue with negotiations and funding opportunities identified in the Slate Creek Pro-Forma in pursuit of acquiring the Slate Creek Parcel in West Steamboat Springs

IV. <u>FISCAL IMPACT:</u>

Not applicable.

V. LEGAL ISSUES:

City Attorney's Office is represented on the Parkland Acquisitions Committee and advises throughout the process.

VI. <u>CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:</u>

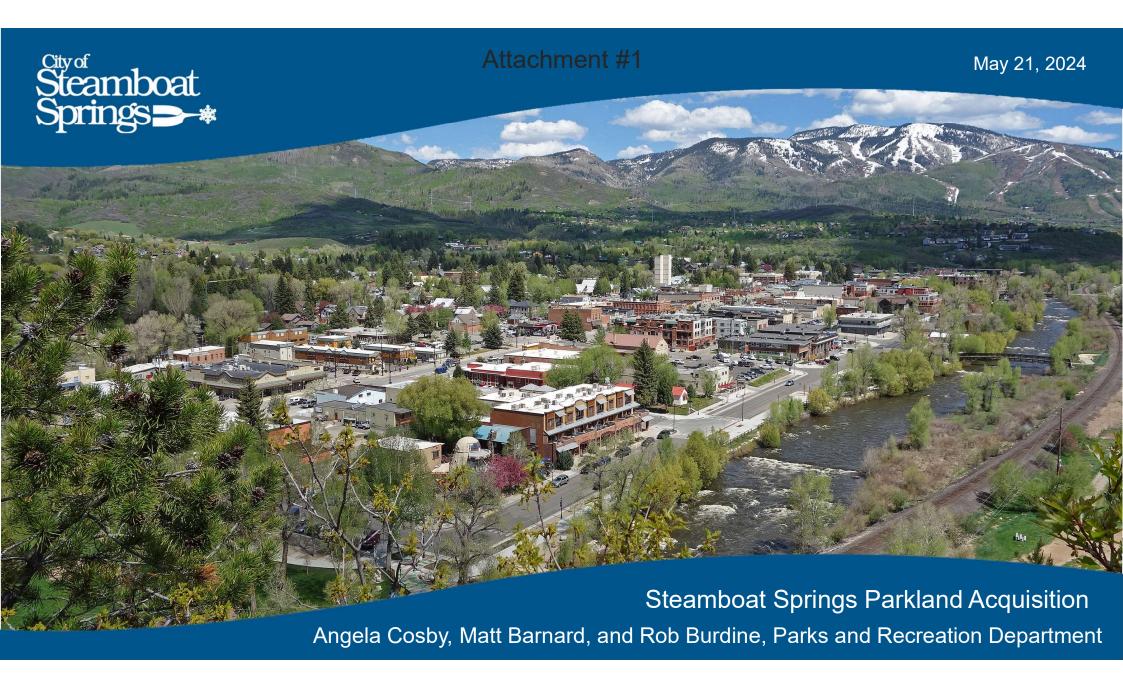
Not Applicable

VII. CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL GOALS AND POLICIES:

Providing improved access for the underserved populations with improved recreational facilities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. PowerPoint Presentation
- 2. Parkland Acquisitions Process Framework
- Acquisitions Bubble Map
 Property Ranking Matrix







- 1. Review the Parkland Acquisition Process, Bubble Map, and Ranking
- Review Areas of Interest
- 3. Discuss Acquisition Actions for the Slate Creek Parcel
- 4. Direction to Negotiators in Executive Session



Parkland Acquisition Framework

City of Steamboat Springs Parkland Acquisition Process

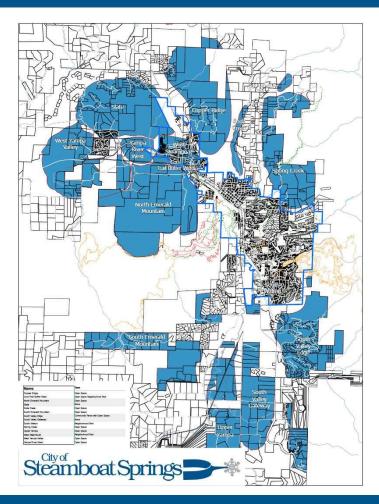
STEP	ACTION
	Parkland Acquisition Plan
Step 1	 Areas will use current adopted documents such as Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan, Parks and Recreation Open Space, Trails, and River Plan (PROSTR), West Steamboat Springs Area Plan, Yampa River Management Plan.
step 1	
	 Parkland references developed parks, recreation facilities, open space and natural areas, and trails.
	 Will identify areas of interest for parkland development.
	 Document will be public, but not list any specific land parcels, will just represent areas of interest.
	 Each identified area will have a narrative describing its significance.
	The Acquisition Plan will be generated by a team. This team consists of:
	City Councilor
	 Parks and Recreation Commissioner
	City Attorney
	Planning Department staff
	 Parks and Recreation Director, Deputy Director, and Development Manager
	This group will serve a multi-year term to enable process efficiencies and consistencies.
	Land Acquisition Strategy
	The Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Strategies provides City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission and staff
Step 2	with a roadmap for acquiring parkland.
	 Strategies may include outreach, relationship building, periodic <u>check-ins</u>
	 Strategy doesn't contemplate the use of eminent domain as this would require a different process
	 Explore partnerships and collaboration <u>options</u>
	 Once a parcel has been identified from an area of interest, a specific strategy for acquisition will be developed for
	that parcel.
	 When the strategy has been developed that is what carries it further in this process
	Strategy discussions and direction would be held in executive session.
	Acquisition Actions
	City staff will annually present a report that identifies the areas, regions, or specific parcels that could be beneficial
	parkland. Staff will recommend top priority areas and City Council will approve a direction for a specific parcel.
	The Acquisitions Team will guide the Parks and Recreation Deputy Director and Development Manager in:
	 Implementing the Acquisition Strategy
	 City attorney and staff will be negotiating directly with landowner
	 Considering conservation easement
	 Carrying out financial appraisal on the property and survey and legal description
Step 3	 Completing a due diligence that includes review of land title information and environmental documents
Step 3	 Establishing a funding plan -Grants, Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), Donations, City Funds, etc.
	Reports will be given to City Council in executive sessions.
	Acquisition Approval
2500002	Report to City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission on the outcome of the negotiation and the due diligence
Step 4	process. Discuss options to purchase and the available funding strategy for the specific parcel. City Council direction will
	be required.
-	Discussion would be in executive session.
	Complete Acquisition
Step 5	The conveyance of the parkland will be completed, and the City of Steamboat Springs will retain title. • Appropriate funds
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	Satisfy grants, acknowledge partnerships
	Complete Conservation Easements as applicable
	Ordinance to purchase
	Formal resolution to designate as Parkland or Open Space
	Announce Acquisition
	The City announces the acquisition publicly any time after the documents have been executed by both parties.
Step 6	 Press release – why the property is valuable and how it will serve our community.
	Memorializing the acquisition

- Presented to City Council during the February 13, 2024 Work Session
- Presented to Parks and Recreation Commission during the February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting
- Formed a Parkland Acquisition Committee (PAC)



Parkland Acquisition Bubble Map

- Identified areas of interest for parkland acquisition
- Areas of interest ranked by the following attributes:
 - 1. Accessibility and Resource Availability
 - 2. Connectivity and Contiguity
 - 3. Habitat Value
 - 4. Active Recreation Features
 - 5. Passive Recreation Features
 - 6. Climate Influence and Resiliency
 - 7. Landscape Context and Naturalness
 - 8. Distinct Environmental Features
 - 9. Cultural/Historical Features and Community Character
 - 10. Community Plan Compatibility
 - 11. Regional Plan Compatibility
 - 12. Site Condition





Parkland Acquisition Scoring Matrix

Areas I Properties	A	c cessibility	a Resource	e Analabi	in Redering the Rectains	ation feat	ures feeton feet	rente de Recharde Condescape	sillercy street of the contract of the contrac	adurante di contra di cont	teature to the state of the sta	added Andreas	patbility Condition	TAL
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North Emerald Mountain	3	5	4	4	4	2	3	4	1	3	3	4	76	
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Core Trail Buffer West	5	5	3	4	2	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	58	
West Yampa Valley	1	2	2	3	3	4	2	3	0	3	3	1	52	
South Valley Gateway	1	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	47	
South Walton	5	2	0	5	2	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	42	
West Steamboat	5	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	5	1	4	42	

	Current Ranking
1	Copper Ridge
2	Slate Creek
3	North Emerald Mountain
4	Spring Creek
5	South Emerald Mountain
6	Yampa River West
7	Soda Creek
8	South Valley Edge
9	Upper Yampa
10	Core Trail Buffer West
11	West Yampa Valley
12	South Valley Gateway
13	South Walton
14	West Steamboat

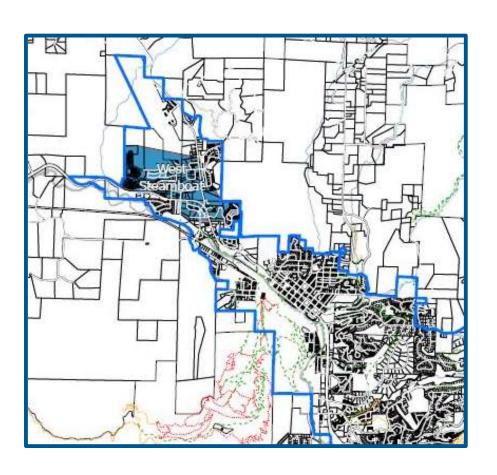




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Area #14- West Steamboat



Parkland Classification:

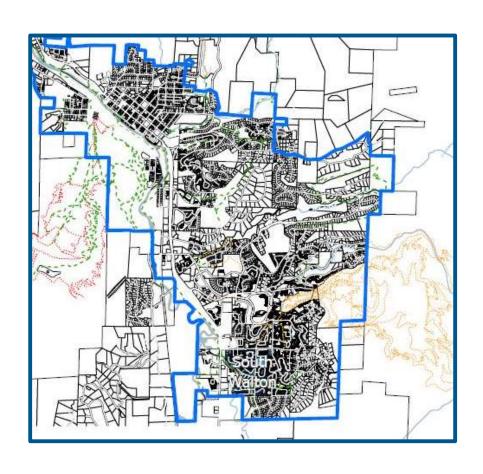
Neighborhood Park

Attribute Highlights:

 Fulfills need and access for an underserve population



Area #13- South Walton



Parkland Classification:

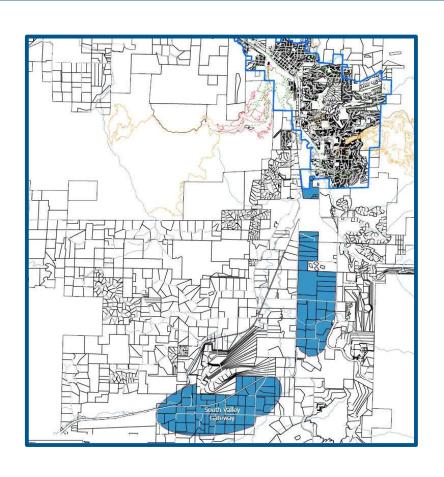
Neighborhood Park

Attribute Highlights:

 Fulfills need and access for an underserve population



Area #12 – South Valley Gateway



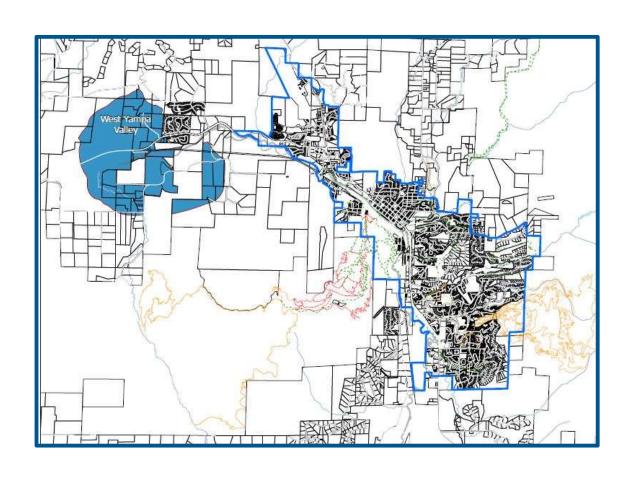
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- Connection to conserved lands
- Habitat for wildlife
- Reduces fragmentation
- Core Trail Access



Area #11 – West Yampa Valley



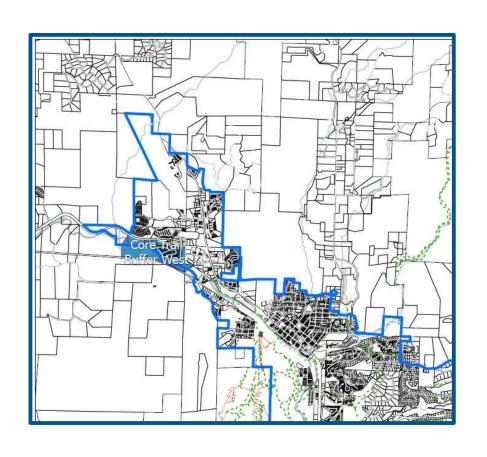
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- River property preservation
- Provides area for flood plain connectivity and control
- Potential for reclamation



Area #10 – Core Trail Buffer West



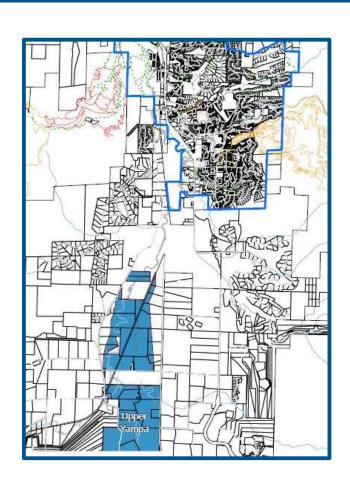
Parkland Classification:

- Neighborhood Park & Open Space
- Playgrounds, sport courts, green play space

- Stream bank habitat protection
- Fulfills need and access for an underserve population







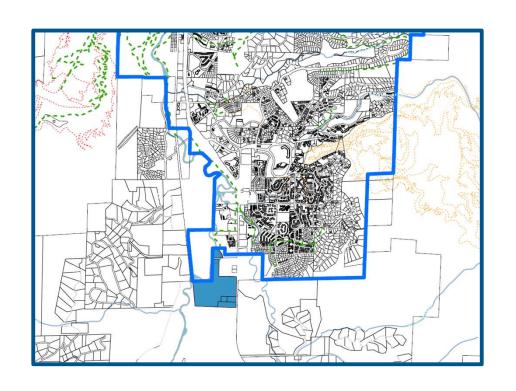
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- Connects conserved lands, connecting aquatic habitat
- Passive Recreation fishing, wildlife viewing, nature photography
- Unique Yampa River character with shoreline reaches and oxbows



Area #8 – South Valley Edge



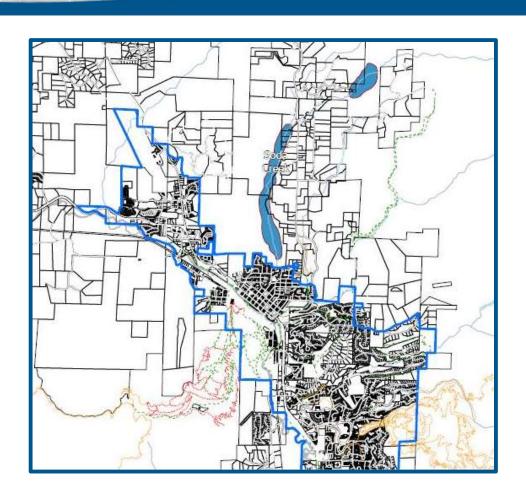
Parkland Classification:

- Community Park and Open Space
- Playgrounds, sports fields, restrooms

- Elk and Moose habitat and migratory corridor along Priest Creek
- Fulfills need and access for an underserve population







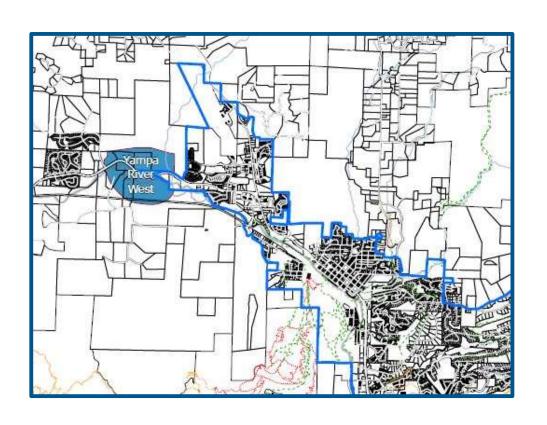
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- Preserves lands, connects to BLM
- Migration corridors
- Good habitat, riparian, steep slopes, dark timer, aspens, breeding ground
- Unique environmental features ridgelines and vista



Area #6 – Yampa River West



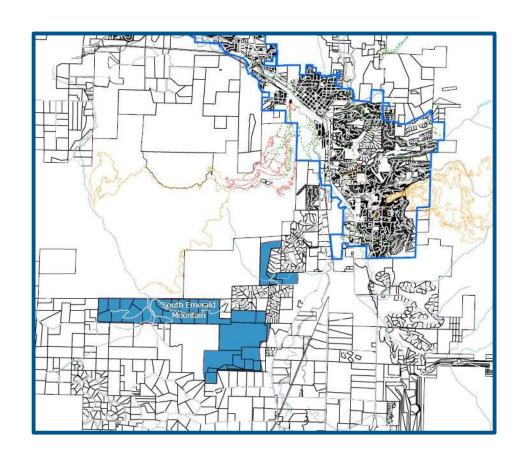
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- Fulfills needs for underserved, provides services for West End Steamboat
- Core trail connection to Steamboat II
- Habitat for wildlife
- Trail connections



Area #5 – South Emerald Mountain



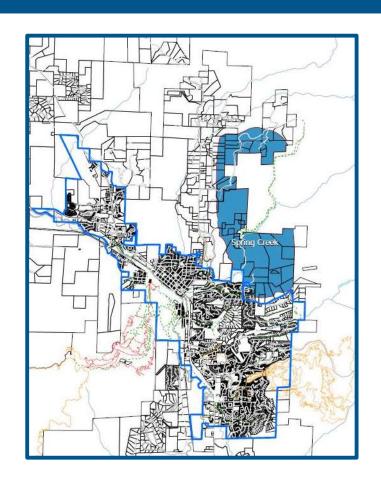
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- Protects conserved lands
- Connects protected lands
- Habitat for plants and wildlife
- Breeding grounds
- Winter range for elk and moose
- Managing to maintain ecosystem
- Protects critical habitat



Area #4 – Spring Creek



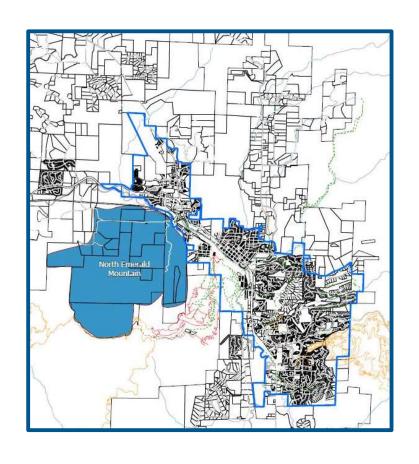
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- Protects conserved lands
- Connects protected lands
- Habitat for plants and wildlife
- Breeding grounds
- Winter range for elk and moose
- Managing to maintain ecosystem
- Protects critical habitat



Area #3 – North Emerald Mountain



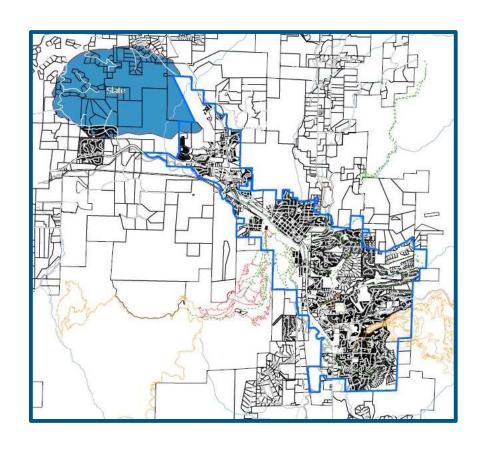
Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- River frontage
- Wildlife viewing
- Mountain
- River
- Adjacent to Emerald Mountain



Area #2 – Slate Creek



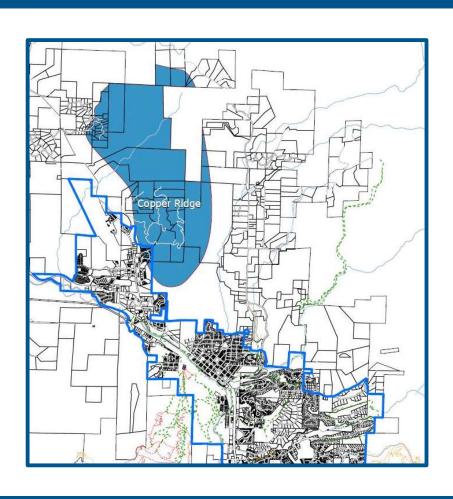
Parkland Classification:

Regional Park and Open Space

- Excellent access to the underserved
- Serves identified growth area
- Identified in the West Steamboat Springs Area Plan
- Habitat for plants and wildlife
- Supports the function of border system, promotes wildlife connections, trail connections, etc.



Area #1 – Copper Ridge



Parkland Classification:

Open Space

- Connecting to BLM, and forest service land
- Supports the function of border system, promotes wildlife connections, trail connections, etc.
- Winter concentration area for wildlife
- Several riparian areas, lakes, forests, prairies, breeding grounds
- Different ecosystems across it

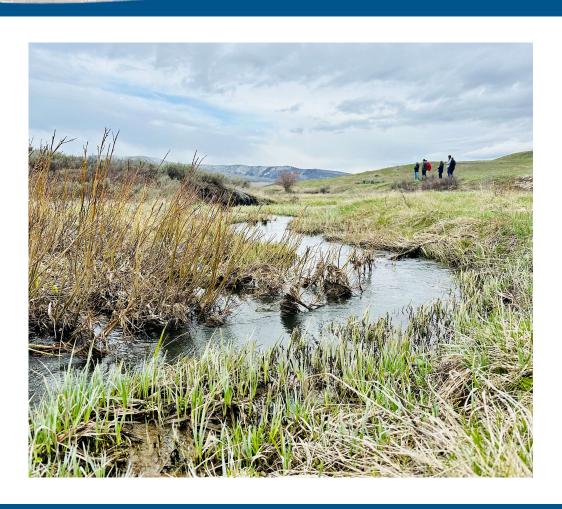




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Acquisition Actions, Slate Creek

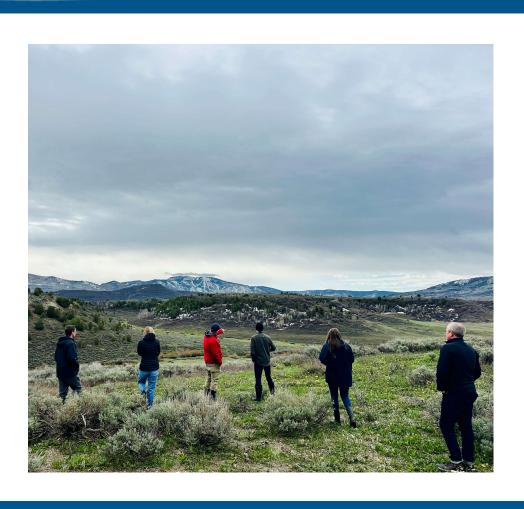


Conceptual use of Slate Creek:

- ~ 46 acres Regional Park
 - Sports Complex
 - Large playground
 - Restroom Facility
 - Parks Maintenance Space
- ~ 10 acres, Secondary Access and Trailhead Space
 - Designated Right-of-Way
 - Trailhead parking for Open Space
- ~ 131 aces of Open Space
 - Conservation Easement
 - Ridgelines and Riparian Corridor
 - Trail Network



Acquisition Actions, Slate Creek



Parkland Acquisition Process Step #3:

- Established a funding plan
- Outlined due diligence required
- PAC, City Attorney, and Staff created and proceeded with an acquisition strategy
- Negotiated directly with landowners





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Council questions prior to Executive Session?

Attachment 2

City of Steamboat Springs Parkland Acquisition Process

STEP	ACTION
	Parkland Acquisition Plan
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Stop 2	The Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Strategies provides City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission and staff with a roadmap for acquiring parkland.
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Step 3	Establishing a funding plan -Grants, Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), Donations, City Funds, etc.
	Reports will be given to City Council in executive sessions.
	Acquisition Approval
	Report to City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission on the outcome of the negotiation and the due diligence
Step 4	process. Discuss options to purchase and the available funding strategy for the specific parcel. City Council direction will
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	Complete Acquisition The conveyance of the parkland will be completed, and the City of Steamboat Springs will retain title.
Step 5	
Step 5	 Appropriate funds Satisfy grants, acknowledge partnerships
	Complete Conservation Easements as applicable
	Ordinance to purchase
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	Formal resolution to designate as Parkland or Open Space Announce Acquisition
	The City announces the acquisition publicly any time after the documents have been executed by both parties.
Step 6	 Press release – why the property is valuable and how it will serve our community.
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<u> </u>	- Memorializing the acquisition

City of Steamboat Springs Land Acquisition Criteria

The land acquisition criteria will guide and direct staff in making recommendations to City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission about selecting properties within identified geographic areas for acquisition.

INTRODUCTION

This criterion will provide:

- Guidance and assistance to the Acquisitions Team in ranking the attributes of individual parcels based on the acquisition priorities identified in Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Plan
- These ranking criteria will be the basis for making recommendations to City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission about the identified areas that should be acquired.

Parkland Significance

Parkland significance is why an area has been identified and targeted for Parks and Recreation acquisition interest. The specific geographic area or its physical attributes and environmental characteristics are what create parkland significance.

Developed Parks

Developed parks provide varied opportunities as mini/pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks regional parks, and as a recreation facility. These offering serve residents and visitors with active and passive recreation experiences in a developed park environment. All these park types will provide targeted amenities designed to engage users to be active as well as provide opportunities for relaxed passive experiences to enjoy the parks green space and an open landscaped environment. These types of parks are less focused on natural landscape features but more on the proximity to the residents it serves.

Open Space and Natural Areas

These are areas that have been selected to preserve a historical, natural, or cultural characteristic for the community. This type of parkland offers both active and passive recreation that benefits residents as well as the natural landscape and wildlife. These areas could be associated with a conservation easement as part of their Land Acquisition Strategy. These areas should provide regional significance to the community for the preservation of undeveloped areas. The spaces with diverse geography and environments will provide a natural and historical framework to our community. These open spaces and natural areas will also provide a haven for wildlife and native flora in the community.

Trails

These are areas that are required to provide the space to establish a regional trail route or provide access and or showcase geographic characteristics of a specific area or park. Trail opportunities can be active or passive recreation or transportation. Trails offerings can be paved, soft surface, single track, and two track trails.

LAND ACQUISITION CRITERIA

Acquisition Criteria Framework

A framework of Ranking Criteria is central to the plans process. A ranking framework specific to the community ensures the values and character of Steamboat Springs is foremost. For an area to be recommended for acquisition, it must be considered to have significant environmental and/or land use value to the community. An exception to this may be made where an acquisition serves important operational or land management needs. For example, an acquisition may provide a more manageable property boundary, link managed properties, or fulfill a community need such as provide public access.

The criteria will be rated on a five-point scale: 1 = Very Low, 2 = Low, 3 = Moderate, 4 = High, 5 = Very High. Ranking criteria will be weighted based on community needs and categories will be given a multiplier between 1 and 3 based on significance. The allocation of scores will be subjective but will be based on the best available information derived from an acquisitions team guided by community management plans. A composite score will be produced for each property considered for acquisition derived from the following criteria:

Criteria Attributes

1. Accessibility and Resource Availability

Does the property fulfill the needs of an underserved area or population? How accessible is the property in terms of distance from where people are living or are planned to reside? What is the access or opportunities related to underserved populations and people with low income or disabilities? Does the property fill a gap in the service area and provide equitable outcomes.

2. Connectivity and Contiguity

Does the property play an important role in connecting natural environments or conserved lands? Is the area adjacent to existing protected lands and reduce fragmentation of resources? Does the property support the functions in the broader system? (e.g., migration corridors, critical habitat, connectivity to protected lands, trail connections)?

3. Habitat Value

Are there habitats for native plants and wildlife to thrive? Are there good long-term prospects for the continued existence of the properties' natural features? Are there wetlands, riparian areas, forests, prairies, breeding grounds, winter range, and can the area be managed to maintain ecosystem processes? Does the property acquisition protect rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitat?

4. Active Recreation Features

Does the property provide for active recreation and sport, or the opportunity for future facility development to meet the recreational needs of a growing community? (Athletic Fields, Indoor Recreational Facility Complex, Mountain Biking Trail, Sport Courts, River Rafting, Skiing, Ice Hockey, Nordic Trail.)

5. Passive Recreation Features

Do the natural features of the landscape provide regionally significant opportunities for outdoor experiences and activities for residents and tourists? Do the features provide an opportunity for patrons to be close to nature for passive recreation? (Wildlife Viewing, River or Creek Access, Meditation, Photography, Interpretive Educational Programming)

6. Climate Influence and Resiliency

What role could the property have in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation? Does the property provide watershed management through flood control, and ground water recharge? Does the property provide relief to flooding through flood plain connectivity? Do lands possess the ability to act as carbon sinks and resiliency to wildfire?

7. Landscape Context and Naturalness

How well does the property represent the natural environment and specific ecosystem elements of the region? Is the property compatible with adjacent land uses? Does the area contain natural features with low relative amount of human-caused disturbance to the natural environment?

8. Distinct Environmental Features

Does the property provide or illustrate unique environmental characteristics of the region in landforms, archeological sites, vistas, ridgelines, river frontage, view sheds, mineral springs, significant ranch lands, or other local and regional community values?

9. Cultural/Historic Features and Community Character

Are there regionally significant cultural and historic features or structures present on the property? (mines, archeological sites, homesteads, cultural or natural heritage landmarks, ranch properties unique to the community)

10. Community Plan Compatibility

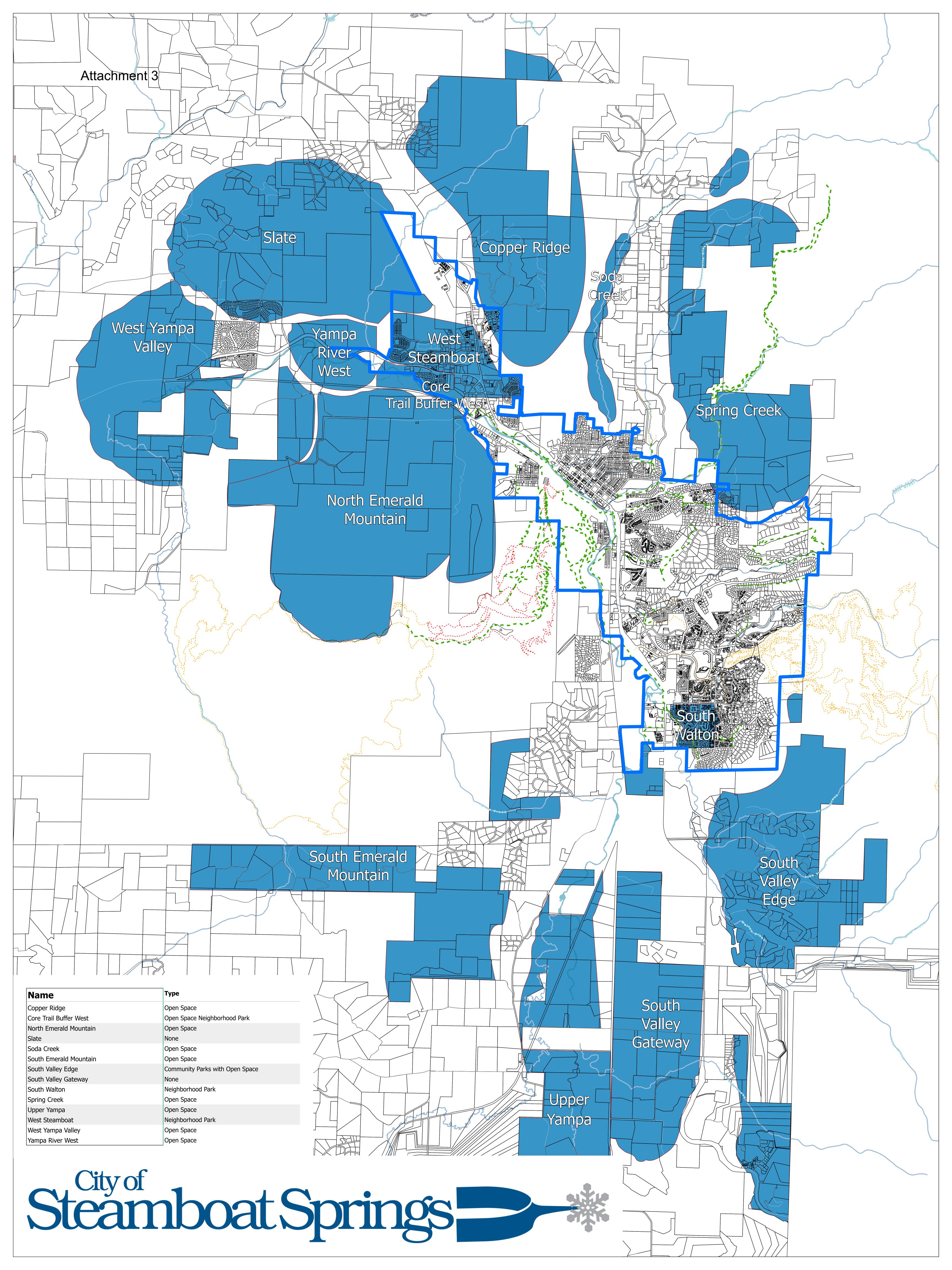
What are the Official Community Plan, Local Area Plan, Zoning, and Park and Recreation Plan designations for the area? Is there development proposed for the area? How does the area relate to the City of Steamboat Springs' growth strategies? (Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan, Parks and Recreation, Open Space, Trails, and River Plan (PROSTR), West Steamboat Springs Area Plan, Yampa River Management Plan)

11. Regional Plan Compatibility

How does the property relate and is it compatible with the growth strategies of regional partners? (Routt County Master Plan, Routt County Open Lands Plan, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Strategic Plan, Mountain Area Master Plan)

12. Site Condition

What is the current condition of the land, including physical, geophysical, climatic, ecological, environmental, geotechnical, and archeological conditions. Are there areas that exist on the property that need to be remediated? What potential for restoration exists?



Attachment 4

Areas Properties	, RE	esibility R	Resource Intectinity P	Availability Continues Active Value	The Receipt	iden kestul sine Recei	es did feath	de de la constante de la const	itency history of his	Juranestalt Juranestalt Juranestalt Juranestalt	estufes estufe	det ond significant	Control To	TAL
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