

PINEDALE PARKS MASTER PLAN

February 12, 2009

The Town of Pinedale contracted with WLC Engineering, Surveying, and Planning to assemble a master plan for the recently acquired park property, specifically the Park Lot Division Annexation. A master plan for the park is necessary to maintain the Town's goals for the future use of this exceptional area of Town. In addition to the Park Lot area, the master plan includes existing park areas along Pine Creek to provide a comprehensive plan of Pinedale's assets. Input for the master plan was compiled through meetings and discussion with the Park and Tree Board, Town Council, Town Staff, and various community members.

GOAL

The goal of this project is to provide a plan for the future development of Town-owned parks along Pine Creek. The interconnection of these Town parks will be key to their utilization. All proposed development is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Town's Master Plan and Mission Statement. The plan is also consistent with the recommendations of the 2006 Pinedale Area Pathway Plan. Any future developments along Pine Creek within the Town should be incorporated in to this plan.

SKINNER PARK

The oldest portion of the Town Park is located at the end of South Franklin and South Lake Avenue. This original park area is used greatly by local residents and visitors alike. Located two blocks south of Pine Street, it is easily accessible for picnics and rest stops by tourists and people passing through town. Current uses/items in the park include picnic tables, a children's fishing pond, playground equipment, swing sets, public restrooms, gravel path, and paved pathways. This park also includes the Harmony Crossing Bridge and access to Pine Creek. Some of the most popular uses of this park consist of the ability for children to play, an area for parking, wildlife watching, and eating lunch.



The current arrangement and size of the park does not lend itself to a great deal of additional uses and/or amenities. Therefore, future items to be included in this portion of the park are limited to the continued maintenance of existing items and the possible upgrade of pathways to the south.



AMERICAN LEGION PARK

The American Legion Park is another unique park area that is adjacent to Pine Creek. The Town of Pinedale acquired the park from the American Legion in 1992 as a “nature park”. Deed restrictions limit current and future use of this park. Currently the park includes horseshoe pits, picnic areas, public restrooms, pathways, a veterans’ memorial, and a gazebo/grandstand. Additional items that are permissible within the park are limited to maintenance of existing items and development of the trail to provide pedestrian and handicapped persons reasonable access to wilderness areas. Further structures are prohibited within the park, as well as parking areas, playground equipment and playing fields or courts.

The proposed use of this park consists of additional pathways to provide pedestrian connectivity. The northwest portion of the park is currently being utilized by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality for an air quality monitoring station; however, this use is temporary and will be removed at a future date.



SKINNER PARK - SOUTH TYLER

The South Tyler portion of Skinner Park is located west of South Tyler Avenue between Mapfel Street and B Street. This existing park area has been utilized off and on in the past for various activities. At one point in time the area contained a baseball field, but there are currently no existing structures within the park. The Pinedale Lions Club has expressed interest in locating a picnic shelter in this area of the park. Several proposed features are included in the master plan: This area is identified for additional gathering space and activities such as social gatherings, croquet, lawn games, picnics, as well as walking and exercise.



A picnic shelter is proposed in a location that would provide a feasible connection to town water and sewer service for a kitchen/restroom housed in the shelter. Adjacent to the shelter a grass field is recommended for outdoor field activities, including croquet. A small area is also available for a playground. A natural plays space is proposed for the playground area. There is adequate space for parking next to the picnic shelter and improved parking along S. Tyler Avenue. The existing trees along S. Tyler Avenue will be relocated to the north portion of the park area to provide a barrier for surrounding residences. Another recommended feature is drainage improvements that will provide for adequate drainage of the park and its proposed development.

Next, upgrades to the existing pathway are proposed to improve its poor condition. The path will be widened where necessary to meet current standards (8' wide) and overlaid. The existing gravel path through the park will be removed and landscaped. A new walking trail is proposed on the west side of Pine Creek to connect the existing pathway at Harmony Crossing to the new park area south of Pine Creek. A new pedestrian bridge will be required to cross the portion of Pine Creek that skirts the Redstone Second Subdivision. The new path will provide a pedestrian loop within the central area of town, utilizing new sidewalks on Quartz Avenue and Shanley Avenue.



SKINNER PARK– Park Lot Annexation

Skinner Park was recently expanded to include the area south and west of Pine Creek. Previously known as “Radakovich Field”, this area was acquired by the Town of Pinedale in an effort to prevent residential development of the site and to preserve its distinct natural features. There has been an overwhelming recommendation to limit development within the park and keep it in a more natural state. Much of the park is designated as a wetland and is within the flood plain of Pine Creek.

The general types of uses proposed for the southern portion of the park include exercise, fishing, wildlife watching, picnics, and preservation of wildlife and fish habitat. The recommended items to be included are aimed at helping to preserve the unique nature of the park while providing the people of Pinedale access to its special beauty. Items proposed for the park include a pathway, parking area, picnic shelters, landscaping, stream restoration, pond enhancement, and wetland creation.



The pathway, as described previously, will provide a link to the surrounding neighborhoods. The proposed pathway in the park is located adjacent to the existing subdivision on the west side to help limit the human disturbance to wildlife within the park. Signs and information about the surroundings are included with the pathway to take advantage of the educational opportunities that exist within the park.

Two areas are delineated for access to the park. The sidewalk at the south end of Quartz Avenue will provide pedestrian access to and from surrounding neighborhoods. A second access involves a parking lot at the south end of the park to provide area for small gatherings as well as access. Two small picnic shelters are also located adjacent to the parking area. Landscaping is proposed in the southwest corner of the park near the parking lot to help reduce any visual or noise disturbance to surrounding landowners.

The most unique items proposed for this area of the park are enhancements to the waterways and ecological items of the park. The section of Pine Creek that flows through the park provides the Town an opportunity to perform some needed stream restoration. This would improve the fish habitat in Pine Creek and enhance the drainage characteristics of the creek. With much of the park area being wetlands, it is possible to increase some of the wetland areas. Signs could be located adjacent to the pathway to help increase the educational aspects in the park.

The Town of Pinedale has a great opportunity to develop the recently acquired park for its residents and preserve the unique features that helped spur the town to purchase the park site. Because of the character of the site, it may be possible to involve other groups (e.g., Trout Unlimited, Lions Club, and Boy Scouts) for funding or construction of the items being proposed.