

CHAPTER NINE - PRIORITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the Facility and Program Needs Assessment is to provide a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs and recreation program needs for the residents of the City of Durango. The Needs Assessment evaluates both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes the statistically valid Community Survey, which asked 568 City of Durango residents to list unmet needs and rank their importance. Qualitative data includes resident feedback obtained in Focus Group meetings, Key Leader Interviews, and Public Forums.

The information in the Facility and Program Needs Assessment is supplemented with the recommended Level of Service Standards and Equity Mapping to develop the strategic recommendations to identify the facilities/amenities and programs of highest priority for the community. These priorities will play a vital role in dictating the sequence and extent of implementation of the projects identified in the Master Plan.

A weighted scoring system was used to determine the priorities for parks and recreation facilities/amenities and recreation programs. For instance, as noted below, a weighted value of 2 for the unmet desires means that out of a total of 100%, a value of 20% would be attributed to unmet desires or support identified in the survey.

This scoring system considers the following:

- Community Survey
- Unmet desires for facilities and recreation programs – This is used as a factor from the total number of households mentioning whether they have a need for a facility/program and the extent to which their desires for facilities and recreation programs have been met. Survey participants were asked to identify their desire for or support of 28 different facilities and 26 recreation programs. Weighted value of 2.
- Importance ranking for facilities – This is used as a factor of the importance allocated to a facility or program by the community. Each respondent was asked to identify the top four most important facilities and recreation programs. Weighted value of 4.
- Consultant and Steering Committee Evaluation
- Factor derived from the consultant and steering committee’s evaluation of program and facility priority based on survey results, demographics, trends and overall community input. Weighted value of 4.

These weighted scores were then summed to provide an overall score and priority ranking for the system as a whole. The results of the priority ranking were tabulated into three categories: High Priority (1), Medium Priority (2), and Low Priority (3).

The combined total of the weighted scores for Community Unmet Needs, Community Importance and Consultant Evaluation is the total score based on which the Facility/Amenity and Program Priority is determined. **Figure 59** and **Figure 60** below depict the Facility/Amenity and Recreation Program Priority Rankings for the City of Durango.



Since this is a community-wide survey, it is obvious that amenities that benefit the widest demographic cross-sections of the community would tend to be ranked higher than those that serve a niche market. It is, therefore, typical in such assessments nationwide that broad categories, such as trails or neighborhood parks, tend to rank higher than individual facilities or programs.

9.1 FACILITY/AMENITY PRIORITY RANKINGS

Figure 60 shows that natural surface trails for hiking and biking, hard surface trails for bike and pedestrian and neighborhood parks were the top three facilities/amenities. These were followed by indoor fitness and exercise facilities, river recreation and ski and snowboarding areas.

City of Durango			
Facility/Amenity Priority Rankings			
	High	Medium	Low
Natural surface trails for hiking & biking	1		
Hard surface trails for bike & pedestrian	2		
Neighborhood parks	3		
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities	4		
River recreation	5		
Ski & snowboarding areas	6		
Off-leash dog parks	7		
Soccer/football/multipurpose fields	8		
Outdoor aquatic centers	9		
Sledding areas		10	
Cross country skiing areas		11	
Fishing areas		12	
Picnicking areas & shelters		13	
Indoor aquatic recreation centers		14	
Baseball and softball fields		15	
Community gardens		16	
Outdoor tennis courts		17	
Playgrounds		18	
Outdoor basketball courts			19
Indoor ice rink			20
Indoor gymnastics space			21
Boating & sailing areas			22
Outdoor amphitheaters			23
Frisbee golf			24
Golf courses			25
BMX/bicycle park			26
Equestrian trails			27
Skate park			28

Figure 60 - Facility/Amenity Priority Rankings

9.2 PROGRAM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Figure 61 identifies Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs, Before and After School programs and Youth/Teen Sports programs as the three core program areas that merited the highest priority.

City of Durango			
Program Needs Assessment			
	High	Medium	Low
Adult fitness and wellness programs	1		
Before and after school programs	2		
Youth/teen sports programs	3		
Preschool programs	4		
Special Events	5		
Youth Learn to Swim programs	6		
Youth/teen fitness and wellness programs	7		
Nature and wildlife interpretive programs	8		
Biking events	9		
Lifeskill Classes		10	
Youth/teen summer camp programs		11	
60 years plus programs		12	
Kayaking / paddling sports		13	
Gymnastics programs		14	
Adult swim programs		15	
Youth/teen art, dance, performing arts		16	
Programs for people with disabilities		17	
Adult art, dance, performing arts		18	
Adult sports programs			19
Ski & snowboarding programs			20
Ice skating and Hockey			21
Water fitness programs			22
Tennis lessons, clinics and leagues			23
Running events			24
Golf programs			25
Martial arts programs			26

Figure 61 - Program Needs Assessment