

RESOLUTION NO. MCM 2001- 183

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PARKS POLICY FOR MESA COUNTY,
COLORADO

WHEREAS, on April 19, 1983, the County of Mesa adopted a resolution establishing a Parks and Recreation Policy for Mesa County; and

WHEREAS, Mesa County funded a Parks Master Plan which, as a major component of the process, solicited public input through a series of public meetings focused on the East Grand Valley with an emphasis on valley-wide parks policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2000, Mesa County accepted the Final Parks Master Plan–East Grand Valley;

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2001, the County of Mesa adopted the Mesa County Strategic Plan of which Issue #8, PARKS, states the following goal: “Provision of parks and trails.”

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MESA that the following is adopted as official policy of Mesa County and will guide the future actions of the Mesa County Commissioners (along with the two Plans referenced above) with regard to providing for the capital development and/or maintenance of public parks in Mesa County, particularly in Unincorporated Mesa County and rescinds previous parks policies adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. Any future substantive changes to the policy must be presented to the Board for approval.

The Board defines the following:

1. Regional Parks/Sports Complex

These parks are over 40 acres in size, usually within a half-hour drive of users with large on-site parking and access by foot/bike/bus/car. These facilities may include specific-purpose sports fields and courts for organized sports, a recreation center, swimming pool, and/or other community amenities.

Regional parks are not a high priority with Mesa County Government and will not be undertaken by Mesa County. Development of these parks rely solely on partnerships with local neighborhoods, schools, and/or municipalities. Mesa County believes that the large amount of Federal Lands (80%) in the county provide adequate, supplemental regional- type recreation opportunities in the unincorporated area.

2. Community Parks

These parks are 10-40 acres in size, usually within two (2) miles of users; some on-site parking and access by foot/bike/bus/car. These parks are characterized by playgrounds for various age groups, benches, picnic tables/shelter, and restrooms. They generally have large grass areas for

unorganized play and may include amenities such as a skateboard park, roller hockey rink, etc. They may be located next to a school site and serve as complimentary facilities.

Along with neighborhood parks, community parks geographically placed in unincorporated Mesa County rank higher in terms of public need. Development of these parks rely on partnerships with local neighborhoods, schools, and municipalities. Mesa County may assist, through its lottery program and/or other resources, with planning and construction of such a park with a neighborhood special district, school, local unit of government, or a Homeowner's Association maintaining the park.

3. Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are 2-10 acres in size within ½ mile of users; minimal or no on-site parking with access primarily by foot/bike/bus. These parks include playgrounds for several age groups, benches, picnic tables and shelters, and an on-site trail for walking, rollerblading, etc. These parks may also be located next to a school site and serve as complimentary facilities.

Mesa County may assist, through its lottery program and/or other resources, with planning and construction of such a park with a neighborhood special district, school, local unit of government, or a Homeowner's Association maintaining the park. A neighborhood park determined to be a Public Site in unincorporated Mesa County prior to adoption of this policy, may be maintained by Mesa County.

4. Mini-parks

Also known as playlots or pocket parks, these parks are less than two (2) acres in size, usually within 1/4 mile of users, with no on-site parking and access by foot and bike. There may be more than one active area, and one set of playground equipment may be included for smaller children, as well as grass and trees.

Mini-parks are generally constructed and maintained by developers and/or homeowners associations and complement multi-family and planned unit development. With adoption of this policy, Mesa County will no longer build or maintain such parks. If a mini-park was determined to be a Public Site in Unincorporated Mesa County prior to this policy, Mesa County may maintain this type of park.

5. Trail Connectors

Trail connections are defined as trails that connect neighborhoods to parks and/or neighborhoods to schools in the unincorporated area. To the extent possible, trail connections will be made in partnership with the municipalities and/or school districts and accompany new schools and/or subdivision development. The Urban Trails Master Plan will serve as a guide and trail connectors will be coordinated with the Riverfront Commission, Urban Trails Committee, and municipalities, as appropriate. Maintenance will be determined, by agreement, at the time of trail development.

6. River Corridor Projects

Mesa County may partner with Federal, State, and Local agencies, including the Riverfront Commission, in the development of or enhancement of projects supporting the river corridors.

These projects will be approved by the Board of Commissioners on a case by case basis and subject to written agreements.

7. Recreation Centers

Activities requiring recreation programming or staffing, such as indoor recreation centers, swimming pools, sports fields, skating rinks or similar facilities, are considered urban recreation and therefore the primary responsibility of municipalities or special recreation districts. This would include capital construction as well as maintenance responsibilities. Mesa County may assist, through its lottery allocation or other resources on a specific request for assistance in construction of such a facility in concert with a municipality or special district. Mesa County does not anticipate financially assisting in Recreation Center operations, but may assist through an 1159 special district or through C.R.S. 30-20-702, as approved by district voters.

Park Development and Maintenance—General

Operational issues related to parks in the Unincorporated Area shall be on a case by case basis, using the Final Parks Master Plan—East Grand Valley as a guide. However, generally, the existence or non-existence of homeowners associations and/or mutual agreements with other local units of government will determine Mesa County involvement in park/trail repair and/or maintenance.

House Bill 1159 provides for the formation of public improvements districts under the authority of the Board of County Commissioners that could fund not only capital improvements, but also ongoing operations and maintenance. Subject to the approval of affected voters, a public improvement district could be organized and funded to develop and maintain specific neighborhood parks deemed important. Funding for the district could be by revenue or special assessment bonds, user fees, service charges, or property taxes, subject to the approval of the affected voters. Additionally, CRS 30-20-702 allows counties to establish recreation districts not to exceed one mill for purposes of meeting the specific obligations of creating, maintaining, and/or operating such a district.

It is the policy of Mesa County to assist with public sites (oftentimes identified as future parks) in Unincorporated Mesa County, however, if and when annexations occur, resulting in new public ownership of such site, Mesa County may withdraw from direct assistance.

IT IS THE INTENT OF THE MESA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THIS POLICY THAT PARK/TRAIL DEVELOPMENT NOT BE DUPLICATED BY MESA

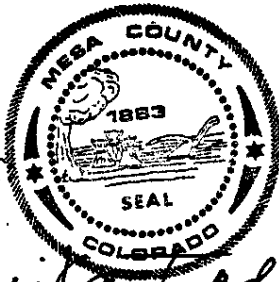
COUNTY, BUT RATHER THAT IT PROVIDES FOR UNIQUE AND APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND/OR MAINTENANCE, RESULTING IN THE MOST EFFICIENT EXPENDITURE OF COUNTY RESOURCES.

Passed and adopted this 10th day of December, 2001.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MESA COUNTY

By: Kathryn H. Hall
Kathryn H. Hall, Chair
Mesa County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST



Monika Todd
Monika Todd,
Mesa County Clerk and Recorder

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