

GL Lands Committee Recommendations

6/1/21

We envision that all Town Parks, Open Spaces and Rights-of-Way will:

- Provide an inviting Grand Lake Attraction
- Provide space/facilities for family and community functions and gatherings
- Provide an opportunity for increased rentals and fees
- Provide recreational opportunities and facilities for people and their pets
- Preserve Lakefront views
- Provide conserved, connected greenways and open space
- Provide access for increased site parking and foot traffic
- Value and center community engagement and ownership through organized volunteer opportunities, including fundraising, trail work, and Town clean-up events

Funding

- Recommend the creation of a Lands, Parks, Open Space, and Trails Capital Improvement Fund in the GL Town budget
- Apply for grants
- Leverage partnerships
- Work closely with the Grand County Open Lands, Rivers and Trails Advisory Committee

West End Properties: discussed 10/6/2020, 11/10/2020, 12/1/2020

Vision for the west end properties: Improve the landscaping, facilities, and continuity between the Grand Lake Center, the Center Drive Lots, and Winter's Pioneer Park

Grand Lake Center Open Space

- Remove or relocate the prairie dogs
- Repair sprinkler systems
- Improve grass areas
- Habitat connectivity
- Tree Planting
- Running/ walking track / ski path
- Outdoor pickle ball courts
- Field area for sports

- Restrooms
- Community gardens
- Covered picnic area/pavilion
- Dog Park
- Playground
- Climbing Wall
- Water Features / Splash Park
- Maintain Flight For Life Helipad landing zone

Center Drive Lots

- Greenspace access between GL Center Open Space & Winter's Pioneer Park
- Drainage improvements
- Landscaping
- Visual mitigation for temporary Pay as You Throw
- Outdoor pickle ball courts
- Dog park
- Continuation of running/ walking /ski path
- Parking
- Outdoor Restroom

Winter's Pioneer Park

- Hardscape/ benches
- Native grasses, native wildflowers (similar to Point Park)
- Visual mitigation/ screening
- Picnic area
- Continuation of running/ walking /ski path
- Rental venue
- Gazebo
- Water feature
- Restroom
- Discontinue use for storage of vehicles and stages

Thomasson Park – discussed 2/2/2021

Vision for Thomasson Park: Retain the natural environment while providing year-round trail access and honoring the RMNP mandate for cemetery overflow.

- Cemetery overflow is a requirement of RMNP

- Add multi-use trails to improve recreational connectivity, with a possible loop design to connect Thomasson Park to the Woodpecker Hill neighborhood and the Grand Lake Lodge, creating an attraction for visitors.
- Add a parking area or pull-off area which could be located on the North West end of Thomasson Park. There is a utility easement on the entire north end of the property
- Some parking could also be shared with the GL Visitor's Center.
- Add restrooms, trash cans and doggie bag station to encourage "Leave No Trace" principles
- Add Watchable Wildlife designation/signage
- Preserve Thomasson Park's natural landscape and wildlife habitat

Lakefront, Beach and Marina Spaces – discussed 3/2/2021

Vision for the Lakefront, Beach & Marina Area: Enhance the use of the Lakefront Park/Beach/Marina by balancing rustic charm/old fashioned character with modern amenities to attract year-round visitors and support Town businesses

- Add a band Shell for concerts - could double as warming hut in winter
- Add a combo ice skating rink (winter)/splash park (summer) on volleyball court with fire pits, lights, concessions/warming hut
 - Cons: emergency/delivery ingress, parking/traffic flow, handicap access
 - Cons: lake jurisdiction/liability, maintenance/grooming equipment
- Increase special events - SUP/kayak races, music festivals, ice sculptures displays, lighted boat parade, pond hockey, figure skating, etc.
- Add a groomed loop track on lake for Nordic skiing/snowshoeing/snowmobiling
 - Cons: lake jurisdiction/liability, maintenance/grooming equipment
- Improve gazebo area (west end) with landscaping, path maintenance, lighting, signage, picnic tables/benches, terraces on steep gradients, steps for water access, kayak launch/rack, etc.
- Add a parking garage
- Change Lake Avenue to a pedestrian promenade
 - Pros: tourist and family friendly attraction, safe pedestrian access
 - Cons: eliminates parking spaces, increases difficulty for senior and disabled access to the lake
 - Cons: impacts lake front businesses and deliveries
- Update/renovate marina to be used year-round - warming hut, ski/snowshoe/snowmobile/ice skate rentals, concessions, etc.

Trail Identification, Improvement and Connectivity – discussed 4/6/21 and 5/4/21

Existing trails were determined to include the Continental Divide Trail (CDT), a town walking tour (i.e.: Grand Lake Historical Society walking tour, Rotary Club walking map) and the Town-improved trail located along Cairns Avenue (also a part of the CDT). Existing roadways are

suitable for use as trails (i.e.: Center Drive) but would require shoulder improvements such as better surface material and/or the addition of fencing/railings (it was noted that trail surfaces don't have to be fancy, but they do have to be safe, and many grants will require handicap accessible paths.)

Trail Connectivity

The priorities for new trail and foot path improvement were identified as follows:

- Create a safe trail between the Grand Lake Visitor Center and Town Park with a connection to the Grand Lake Center
- Re-establish the cross-walk between the post office and Thomasson Trail
- Create a meandering path over the moraine to the sledding hill with a view area on top – pack it in, pack it out. Could loop in to Point Park
- Improve path on Cairns Avenue with a better surface and extend the path to Point Park
- Improve the “Saratoga Trail” from Thomasson Park to GL Lodge
- Improve the Patterson Hill trail through GL Lodge to RMNP
- Create a trail along West Portal Road
- Create a trail from Point Park to East Shore Trail
- Designate snowmobile, electric bike, non-electric bike and walking routes.
- Make better use of town owned right of ways
- Create/designate theme walking tours – Tree walk, family walk, GL Lodge Trail, Point Park nature walk, history walking tour, etc.
- Identify CDTC day hikes/connectors
- Create a trail from Hancock Street to East Inlet
- Create trails that connect the west side properties = Grand Lake Center, Winters Pioneer Park and Point Park loop