

City Manager's Report



To: Mayor Gurulé and City Council Member
From: Stacey Milenski
Date: March 25, 2025

PROPERTIES:

- **701 Sycamore: Demo March 11**
 - Weather caused the work to cease from 3/14 - 3/19
- **501 N Main (El Capitan) Update: Status Hearing-April 23**
- **Liberty School: No update**
- **Brewer Construction Site: No update**
- **1149 Railroad Update: No update**
- **400 S Main Update: No update**
- **8th Street Property: Hope to have an update for the council**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Railroad**
 - Railroad crossing maintenance continues
 - 12th Street/Hwy 71 is planned for 3/24 & 3/25, then 9th Street 3/25-/3/26
 - BNSF has pulled permits for the State to close 12th Street
 - The sidewalks on Main Street were installed on 3/20
 - PSA's notices are being posted as we get the information
- **Sidewalks Replacement:**
 - Work at Library Park is complete, ADA ramps are in
 - Elegant Concrete is working at the pool and will start on the steps at Babcock
 - Asked that Eric work with Chad on the placement of the steps so the sprinklers aren't torn up
 - Then Washington Avenue
 - Eric would like the city to mark what needs to be replaced so we are all on the same page
 - Eric gave me some guidance on putting out an Invitation To Bid for future projects
- **Sidewalk Shaving:** Precision Concrete-will have an update for Council (meeting on 3/20)
- **Street Signs:** Thoroughly reviewing order to ensure we've covered everything, initial audit seems off
- **Regina Ortega:** Requesting to put a bench in honor of her father, Reggie, near the Chamber/Baggage Room sign at the entrance to the parking lot off Main Street

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

- **Rocky Ford Fire Department:**
 - Large fire at Ryan's Pond Recreation Area
 - Assisted La Junta in fire near Cheraw
 - Put on a demonstration at the Library for the kids on 3/14
- **Rocky Ford Police Department:**
- **Rocky Ford Communications:**
 - The sirens have been malfunctioning

- June has contacted Sentry Siren regarding the issue
- Suggested the controller be replaced in the near future
- Wednesday, March 26, Code Red Sign Up at the PSB from 10a-2p
- **Rocky Ford Public Works:**
 - Rick, Cuco, and Cody attended the 44th CRWA (Colorado Rural Water Association) in Loveland, March 17-20
 - Attended mandatory regulation training for drinking water and distribution
 - Water/Waster water, Distribution, Collections, & Leadership Classes
 - Cody Baylor was awarded Rookie Wastewater Operator of the Year
 - New Hire: Jason Queen
- **Rocky Ford Parks and Recreation:**
 - 96 Kids registered for Youth Soccer (127 in 2024 including teams from Fowler)
- **Rocky Ford Public Library:**
 - 3/20-Bent's Old Fort-Buffalo Robes to Beads Class from 10a-1p
- **Rocky Ford Museum:**



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ROCKY FORD
PARKS & RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Annual Report

The Parks and Recreation Department provides a system of youth and adult programs, parks, and facilities to enhance the quality of life for all people who live, work, and play in Rocky Ford and surrounding communities.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Stacey Milenski | Acting Director
Open Position | Recreation Coordinator
Chad Rangel | Parks Maintenance
Nick Medina | Parks Maintenance

CEMETERY STAFF

Tom Valencia | Cemetery Caretaker
Jacob Rodriguez | Grounds Maintenance

Mission Statement

Rocky Ford Parks and Recreation is committed to providing safe, accessible, and well-maintained parks and facilities to improve the quality of life for all users while pledging to foster a culture of diverse, equitable, and inclusive programming, events, and services for everyone.

Rocky Ford Parks and Recreation would like to take this time to reflect on projects and programs and recognize our community members, parents, volunteer coaches, program sponsors, City Council members, and the City Manager who have all supported this department. You have all played a critical role in our achievements.

End of Year Message from Rocky Ford Parks and Recreation - 2024

Dear Rocky Ford Community,

As we wrap up another incredible year, we are thrilled to share the remarkable progress and achievements of Rocky Ford Parks and Recreation in 2024. This year has been a testament to our community's dedication to enhancing our parks and recreational spaces, and we couldn't be more grateful for your continued support.

Funding Highlights:

- We received another round of funding from Great Outdoors Colorado, amounting to an impressive **\$400,000**. This will significantly advance our planning efforts.
- A generous **\$40,000** grant from the Children and Nature Network/Nature Everywhere will help us create more opportunities for children to connect with nature.
- The Colorado Health Foundation awarded us **\$50,000**, which will be instrumental in promoting health and wellness through our programs.
- Partners in the Outdoors (Colorado Parks and Wildlife) contributed **\$7,000** to support our initiatives.
- We also secured **\$20,000** from Colorado Parks and Wildlife for a Regional Partnership Initiative covering four counties in southeast Colorado, with the potential for additional funding as we reach key milestones in our planning process.
- Early Childhood Council BOC donated **\$300** for program expenses.
- RF Elks donated **\$1,700** for youth sports equipment and registration fees.
- Jonathan and Shari Fox Family Foundation grant award of **\$500** for a bench at the Expo Building

These grants and partnerships are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our community. They will enable us to continue improving our parks, creating more recreational opportunities, and fostering a healthier, more connected community.

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We remain committed to our mission of enhancing the quality of life for all residents through exceptional parks and recreational services. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year!

Warm regards,

Stacey Milenski

STRATEGIC PLAN (2024-2025)

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for providing high-quality, accessible, and engaging parks, and recreational activities to all residents. The strategic plan for the next three to five years aims to enhance the quality of life and well-being of residents by promoting healthy lifestyles, fostering community engagement, and increasing access to diverse and innovative recreational opportunities.

Goal #1: Preserve and modernize existing parks and facilities

- **Objective 1:** Upgrade and maintain existing parks, trails, and playgrounds to improve accessibility, safety, and aesthetic appeal.
- **Objective 2:** Develop a plan to modernize and renovate recreation spaces and sports facilities to meet the changing needs of the community.
- **Objective 3:** Partner with private foundations, local businesses, and individuals to obtain funding to support the maintenance and upgrades of parks and facilities.

Goal #2: Expand recreation opportunities

- **Objective 1:** Develop new programs, activities, and events that appeal to a broad range of ages, interests, and abilities.
- **Objective 2:** Partner with local organizations, schools, and businesses to provide diverse recreational opportunities that reflect the cultural and social diversity of the community.
- **Objective 3:** Create new recreational facilities such as walking and bicycle trails, dog parks, and athletic fields to enhance the diversity of recreational offerings.

Goal #3: Foster partnerships and community engagement

- **Objective 1:** Deepen partnerships with local non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and community groups to promote volunteerism and civic pride.
- **Objective 2:** Create an advisory board composed of community members, business leaders, and other stakeholders to provide input on parks and recreation department initiatives and foster greater community engagement.
- **Objective 3:** Host community events, such as picnics, festivals, and community service projects, to encourage social interaction, build relationships, and celebrate the community's diversity.

Goal #4: Promote health and wellness

- **Objective 1:** Develop new programs to address health and wellness.
- **Objective 2:** Identify areas in the community that lack physical activity amenities and explore opportunities to partner with local organizations to develop new parks, trails, and recreational areas.
- **Objective 3:** Develop educational programs that focus on outdoor safety practices, including bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Goal #5: Increase accessibility for all residents

- **Objective 1:** Educate community members about accessibility guidelines for parks and recreational facilities.

- **Objective 2:** Create partnerships with organizations that represent people with disabilities to enhance current offerings and promote new activities and facilities.
- **Objective 3:** Evaluate the effectiveness of existing ADA programs and incorporate improvements as necessary to ensure equitable access for all residents.

The strategic plan aims to transform the Parks and Recreation Department into one that is flexible, responsive, innovative, and equipped to meet the needs of all residents. By prioritizing the preservation of current facilities and expanding access to diverse and inclusive programming, the department will continue to be a valuable resource for the community's well-being and growth.

PARKS PROPERTIES

- **PLAY PARK HILL: 7 ACRES**
 - MAINTAIN THE HILL FROM THE ROAD UP
 - 1 PLAYGROUND
 - 2 GAZEBOS/PICNIC AREAS
 - IRRIGATION SYSTEM
 - ABANDONED TENNIS COURTS

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: .5 ACRES

- MAINTAIN GRASSY AREA/NORTH & NORTHEAST OF THE BUILDING
- IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- **SOUTH MAIN STREET TRIANGLE**
 - MAINTAIN GRASSY AREA/TRIM SHRUB
 - IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- **LINCOLN BIKE PARK: 3 ACRES** (8TH STREET PROPERTY)
 - MAINTAIN PARK AREA
 - WEED CONTROL
 - DO NOT MAINTAIN BIKE TRACKS
 - NO IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- **LIBRARY PARK: 3 ACRES**
 - MAINTAIN PARK & PLAYGROUND
 - 1 GAZEBO WITH PICNIC AREA (WEST SIDE)
 - 2 PICNIC TABLES-WEST SIDE (NOT COVERED)
 - SEVERAL BENCHES
 - DOG WASTE STATION
 - IRRIGATION SYSTEM
 - CLEAR SNOW AND ICE FROM ENTRANCE AND SIDEWALKS IN THE WINTER
- **JEFFERSON TRIANGLE (11TH STREET)**
 - MAINTAIN GRASSY AREA
 - IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- **BABCOCK PARKS: 23.5 ACRES**
 - MAINTAIN PARK
 - 3-ATHLETIC FIELDS
 - DISC GOLF COURSE

- SWIMMING POOL
- DOG WASTE STATION
- WALKING TRAIL (.8 MILES)
- PLAYGROUND
- 2 GAZEBOS WITH PICNIC AREAS
 - PICNIC TABLES NEED TO BE REPLACED (4-6 TOTAL)
- PARK IS IRRIGATED WATER FROM THE CATLIN CANAL-SHARED WITH THE GOLF COURSE
 - AREA NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE POOL TAKE STAB-IN SPRINKLERS THAT ARE PLACED MANUALLY
- POOL PERIMETER INSIDE & OUTSIDE USE CITY WATER ON AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- BASEBALL FIELD INFIELD IS ON CITY WATER AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- MAIN RESTROOMS ARE OPEN AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE WEEKDAYS FROM 7 AM TO 3 PM
- RESTROOMS BY THE PLAYGROUND ARE CLOSED DURING THE WINTER SO PIPES WON'T FREEZE BUT WILL BE OPEN ONCE THE TEMPS AT NIGHT REMAIN ABOVE FREEZING
- **RV PARK: 3.77 ACRES**
 - MAINTAIN PARK
 - MAINTAIN PARKING LOT
 - WEED CONTROL
 - PLANTED 17 TREES LATE OCTOBER FOR WINDBREAK
- **SILVER LIONS PARK: .5 ACRES**
 - PARK & 8TH STREET
 - MAINTAIN PARK
 - AGING BASKETBALL COURT
 - BENCHES
- **OTHER PROJECTS:**
 - PAINTED RESTROOMS AT THE EXPOSITION BUILDING
 - PAINTED FLOOR FOR SPORTS PROGRAMS AT EXPOSITION BUILDING
 - BUILDING MAINTENANCE AT BABCOCK PARK RESTROOMS, EXPOSITION BUILDING, 4H EVENT CENTER
 - TRIM TREES AT PLAY PARK, LIBRARY PARK, BABCOCK PARK
 - PREPARING BASEBALL FIELD FOR UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL SEASON
 - PLANT TREES
 - SNOW/ICE REMOVAL AS NEEDED/REQUESTED

SOP'S ARE IN PLACE FOR THE PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED--REVIEWED ANNUALLY
MONTHLY PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS ARE DONE
SAFETY TRAINING IS DONE MONTHLY (INCLUDES BOTH PARKS & REC AND CEMETERY STAFF)
2 SEASONAL EMPLOYEES WILL BE HIRED: 1 FOR PARKS AND 1 FOR THE CEMETERY

YOUTH PROGRAMS OFFERED

		YOUTH ACTIVITIES		
		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>BASKETBALL</u>			
	K-2ND GRADE	30	44	21
	3RD-6TH GRADE	64	61	69
	<u>SOCCER</u>			
	3-4 YRS OLD	N/A	20	N/A
	PK-KINDERGARTEN	43	28	30
	1ST-2ND GRADE	31	17	26
	3RD-4TH GRADE	25	32	42
	5TH-6TH GRADE	28	17	11
	<u>SUMMER BALL</u>			
	ALL TBALL	44	71	70
	COACH PITCH (7-8 YRS)	25	37	24
	BASEBALL (9-15 YRS)	76	76	26
	SOFTBALL (9-16 YRS)	14	14	30
	<u>VOLLEYBALL</u>			
	3RD-6TH GRADE	18	19	16
	<u>CHEERLEADING</u>			
	K-6TH GRADE	N/A	N/A	17
	FLAG (K-2ND GRADE)	9	10	16
	TACKLE (3RD-6TH GRADE)	30	39	27

****N/A (DID NOT OFFER PROGRAM)**

ADULT PROGRAMS OFFERED

		ADULT ACTIVITIES		
		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	COED VOLLEYBALL (TEAMS) SPRING/FALL	47	27	25
	COED KICKBALL	N/A	N/A	6
	MEN'S SOFTBALL	6	N/A	6
	COED SOFTBALL	N/A	N/A	6
**N/A (NO INTEREST OR NOT ENOUGH TEAMS)				
OPEN GYM: USER'S WHO PAY A FEE				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICKLEBALL 				

RecDesk

Rocky Ford Parks and Recreation offers online registration through RecDesk. RecDesk is a platform that simplifies the way we manage information when organizing programs. RecDesk creates rosters for every division of programs, league management, and financial reports, shows a calendar of events, and can take online registrations for facilities (a feature we are not currently using).

Paper registrations for youth programming have decreased by 50% with the implementation of RecDesk. The Utility Office staff spends less time taking paper registrations and can focus on their daily tasks to ensure city services are functioning smoothly, saving both the customers and staff valuable time. The annual subscription is \$3,200. RecDesk financials do not integrate into ADG and the Finance Department has to reconcile GL line items to track revenues.

PROGRAM COSTS

Youth program costs consist of uniforms (t-shirts), officials, scorekeepers, a site supervisor, and upgrading equipment as scheduled and or as needed. Helmets must meet safety standards set by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE). Football helmets have a "10 and Out" rule. Meaning, that helmets should be replaced not later than 10 years from the date of manufacturing. Helmet can only be reconditioned twice during this time. Reconditioning involves having an expert inspect and repair helmets by fixing cracks or damage, replacing missing

parts, testing helmets for safety and recertifying them for use. Batting helmets for baseball/softball should be replaced every 2-3 years as padding deteriorates with usage and also from sitting dormant.

Adult program costs consist of officials for softball leagues, tournament shirts for league champions, and a site supervisor. We hire a site supervisor for evening activities so staff or myself don't get "burn-out" from working all day and spend another 3-4 hours in the evening. Adult coed volleyball does not pay for officials. Teams are assigned to officiate games. Due to the nature of the competitiveness of the softball leagues, we hire paid officials to keep the playing field even.

**Youth registration fees: \$40 (basketball, soccer, summer ball, volleyball, flag football)
\$55 (tackle football-kids keep jerseys)
Fees have only been raised \$15 in the past 19 years

Areas town fees: Average of \$40 per participant in all towns

**Adult registration fees: \$140 (adult coed volleyball)
\$300 (adult softball)**



Ordinance Number: 989

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 13 OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF VACANT BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rocky Ford wishes to amend Article 13 of Chapter 18 to clarify its intent to require land and building owners to register all vacant property and structures within the City of Rocky Ford; and

WHEREAS, The City of Rocky Ford has the authority to enact responsible ordinances to help rehabilitate vacant buildings and land.

NOW THEREFORE, IT HEREBY BE ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY FORD, COLORADO AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 18-13-10(d) of the City of Rocky Ford Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 18-13-10. – Definitions.

* * *

(d) Vacant building. A building (~~not including government owned buildings~~) which is:

- (1) Unoccupied ~~or~~ and unsecured.
- (2) Unoccupied and secured by other than normal means.
- (3) Unoccupied and an unsafe building determined by the Fire Department.
- (4) Unoccupied and having utilities disconnected.
- (5) Unoccupied and has housing or building code violations.
- (6) Illegally occupied including loitering and vagrancy.
- (7) Unoccupied for over ninety (90) days and having an existing code violation issued by the Fire Department.
- (8) Unoccupied with a mortgage status of abandonment (deceased or foreclosed).
- (9) Unoccupied and abandoned by the property owner.

Section 2. Section 18-13-20 of the City of Rocky Ford Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 18-13-20. – Vacant property building.

* * *

(c) The owner shall submit a vacant building plan which must meet the approval of the City Manager. The plan, at a minimum, must contain information from one of the following two choices:

- (1) If the building is to be demolished, a demolition plan indicating the proposed time frame for demolition which includes starting within 30 days of acceptance of the proposed demolition timeline and does not exceed one year in accordance with the Rocky Ford Building Code. The demolition plan must also include proof of available funds of an amount equal to the actual value as set forth in the most recent Otero County Assessor's Valuation Notice, or the actual cost of demolition removal and asbestos removal. Proof of funds is required to be verified every 90 days.

* * *

Section 3. Section 18-13-30 of the City of Rocky Ford Municipal Code is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 4. The City Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the City of Rocky Ford, that it is promulgated for the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and that this ordinance is necessary for the preservation of health and safety and for the protection of public convenience and welfare. The City Council further determines that the ordinance bears a rational relation to the proper legislative object sought to be obtained.

Section 5. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction invalid, such judgment shall not affect application to other persons or circumstances.

PASSED on the first reading the ____ day of _____, 2025.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

By: _____
Duane L. Gurulé, Mayor

Attest: _____
Rebecca Korinek, City Clerk