

3.18 PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and recreational resources include parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas which offer opportunities for recreation. Trails are discussed in **Chapter 4 Transportation Impacts**.

Locations of existing and proposed parks and recreational facilities and open space areas were determined through coordination with local jurisdictions, analysis of Geographic Information System (GIS) data, and review of current comprehensive land use, parks, and recreation master plans. See **Chapter 10** for a full listing of references.

What's in Section 3.18?

3.18 Parks and Recreation

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3.18.1 Affected Environment

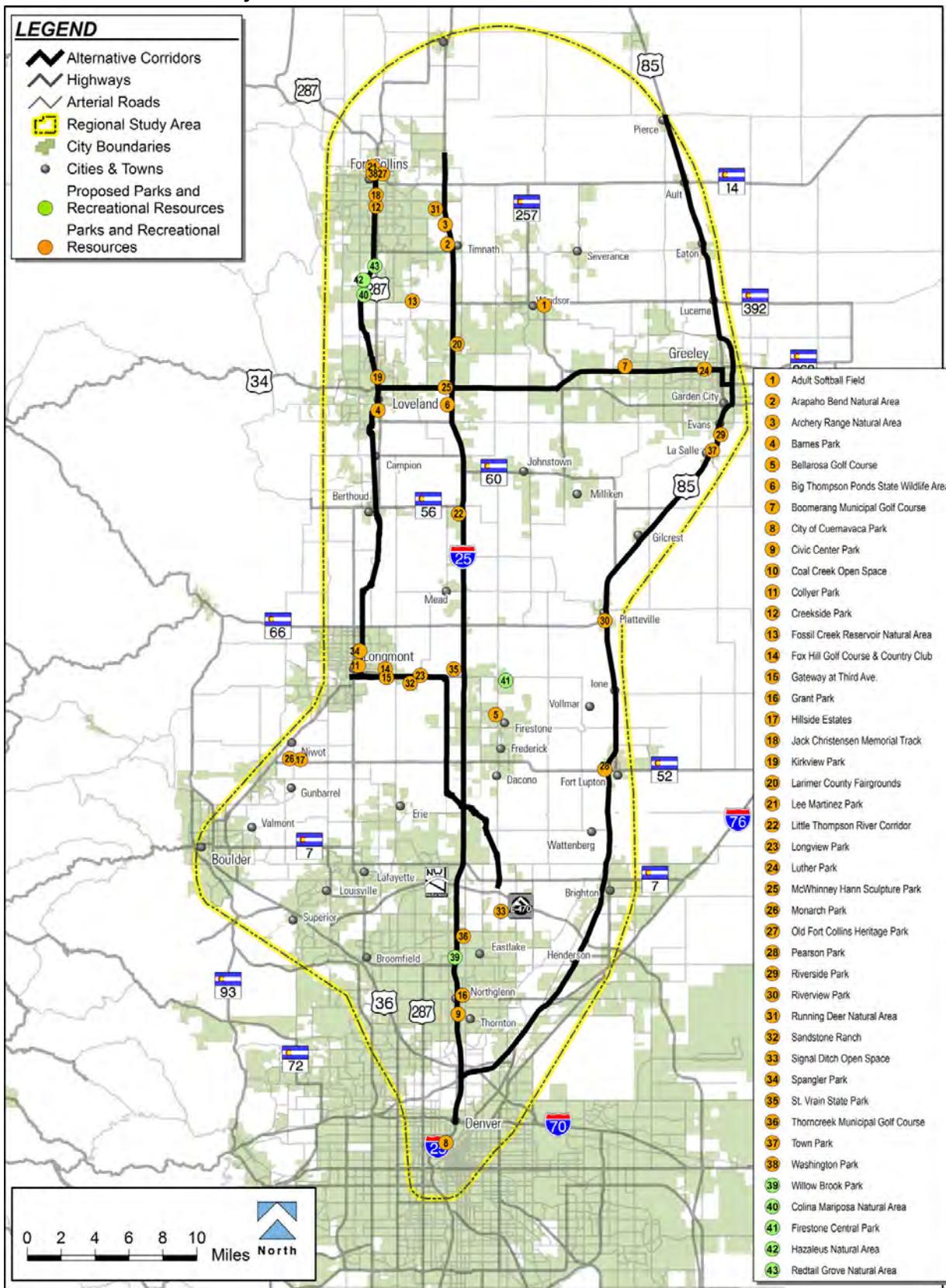
There are several hundred properties within the regional study area that offer recreational opportunities. They generally can be categorized into several categories:

- ▶ **Regional Park and Recreational Facilities.** The regional study area has several park and recreational parcels that are important regional amenities. Regional parks typically involve jurisdictional partnerships that contribute to the development and maintenance of the regional park. These areas serve residents throughout the Front Range and are regionally recognized. Also, privately and publicly owned and managed golf courses in the regional study area qualify as regional resources.
- ▶ **Community Parks and Recreational Facilities.** While generally smaller than regional parks, community parks and recreational resources provide opportunities for community activities and facilities. Community parks often have a diverse selection of amenities that serve residents within 3 miles of the park.
- ▶ **Neighborhood Parks and Recreational Facilities.** These parks are smaller parcels that generally serve residents within 0.5 mile of the park. They often include playgrounds, picnic facilities, paved trails, tennis courts, basketball courts, large grass areas, and landscaping. Neighborhood parks are commonly dispersed throughout a city according to a typical 0.5 mile radius and feature easy access for residents in the surrounding area.
- ▶ **Open Space.** Open space areas include land and water parcels that remain in a predominantly natural or undeveloped state. The intention of open space acquisition varies from growth management to habitat protection and/or passive recreation. However, it must be noted that not all open space allows public access or use. Many areas defined as open space are used as conservation easements on agricultural lands. Smaller open space parcels are often coordinated with neighboring open space acquisitions to create buffers or corridors. Jurisdictional authority belongs to either the county open space department or municipal parks and recreation departments. Open space properties included in this section are publicly accessible and offer one or more recreational opportunities, usually in the form of trails.

For the purpose of this analysis, only properties that could be affected by project improvements were evaluated. These properties include those that could be directly affected and those that could incur indirect effects as a result of proposed improvements. Properties with the potential

- for direct impacts include those that fall within 100 feet of any proposed physical improvement. Indirect effects to parks resulting from improvements could include visual impacts, noise impacts, or changes to access. Properties within 500 feet of either side of improvements were assessed for indirect effects. These properties are shown in **Figure 3.18-1**. **Table 3.18-1** identifies and provides summary information about each park or recreational resource.
- Proposed parks and recreational resources are those within the project area where funding has been set aside for completion. Proposed parks and recreational areas located in the project area near the project improvements are listed in **Table 3.18-2** and shown in **Figure 3.18-1**.

Figure 3.18-1 Existing and Proposed Parks and Recreational Resources in the Regional Study Area





1 Table 3.18-1 Parks and Recreational Resources

Map ID	Name	Amenities	Reference Location	Resource Type	Managed by
1.	Adult Softball Field	Softball field	Intersection of SH 257 and SH 392, east of I-25, Windsor	Community Park	Town of Windsor
2.	Arapaho Bend Natural Area	Fishing ponds, boating, trails, parking areas	West of I-25, north of Harmony Road, Fort Collins	Open Space	City of Fort Collins
3.	Archery Range Natural Area	Trailhead, parking area	West of I-25, Fort Collins	Open Space	City of Fort Collins
4.	Barnes Park	Batting cages, softball fields, playground, concessions, Big Thompson River access	West of I-25, adjacent to US 287	Community Park	City of Loveland
5.	Bella Rosa Golf Course	Municipal golf course	West of CR 13 in Frederick	Regional Park and Recreation Facility	Town of Frederick
6.	Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area	Fishing, hunting, restrooms	At SH 402, east of I-25, Greeley	Regional Park and Recreation Facility	Colorado Division of Wildlife
7.	Boomerang Municipal Golf Course	Golf course, driving range, practice green, miniature golf course, pro shop, grill	Adjacent (north) to US 34, Greeley	Regional Park and Recreation Facility	City of Greeley
8.	City of Cuernavaca Park	Softball fields, sandbar, river access, sculptures	Adjacent to I-25, Denver	Community Park	Denver
9.	Civic Center Park	Trail, pond	East of I-25, Thornton	Community Park	City of Thornton
10.	Coal Creek Open Space	Trail	East of US 287	Open Space	Town of Erie
11.	Collyer Park	Tennis and volleyball courts, restrooms, playground shelters	East of US 287, Longmont	Community Park	City of Longmont
12.	Creekside Park	Trail	Adjacent to US 287, Fort Collins	Neighborhood Park	City of Fort Collins
13.	Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area (including Palkowitz-Westchase addition)	Multi-use, water storage, waterfowl and wildlife refuge, trail recreation	West of Timberlake, south of Trilby, north of CR 32/Carpenter	Open Space	Larimer County Open Lands and City of Fort Collins

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Table 3.18-1 Parks and Recreational Resources (cont'd)

Map ID	Name	Amenities	Reference Location	Resource Type	Managed by
14.	Fox Hill Golf Course and Country Club	Golf course, putt putt, driving range, tennis courts, swimming pool	Adjacent to SH 119, Loveland	Regional Park and Recreation Facility	Privately owned
15.	Gateway at 3 rd Avenue	Trail, art, pond, lighting	Adjacent to SH 119, Longmont	Regional Park and Recreation Facility	City of Longmont
16.	Grant Park	Trail, picnic area	Adjacent to I-25, north of 104 th Avenue, Northglenn	Neighborhood Park	City of Northglenn
17.	Hillside Estates	Trailhead, regional trail	Adjacent to SH 52, east of SH 119, Longmont	Open Space	Boulder County
18.	Kirkview Park	Driving range, putting green, chipping area, paved cart paths	Kirkview and Mountain Street	Community Park	City of Loveland
19.	Jack Christensen Memorial Track	Track, trail, open grass area bleachers	Adjacent to existing BNSF tracks, CSU campus, Fort Collins	Recreation Facility	Colorado State University
20.	Larimer County Fairgrounds	Indoor arena, outdoor arena, events center, livestock pavilions, exhibition halls, camping facilities, multipurpose fields	East of I-25, north of US 34, Loveland	Regional Park and Recreation Facility	Larimer County
21.	Lee Martinez Park	Playground, picnic area, basketball and tennis courts, restrooms, softball field, parking area	Adjacent to US 287, Fort Collins	Community Park	City of Fort Collins
22.	Little Thompson River Corridor	Trails alongside Little Thompson River	Adjacent to I-25, Berthoud	Trail, Open Space	Town of Berthoud
23.	Longview Park	Small pond, trail	Adjacent to SH 119, Longmont	Neighborhood Park	City of Longmont
24.	Luther Park	Playground, 2 shelters, restrooms, picnic tables, BBQ pits	Bisected by US 34, Greeley	Neighborhood Park	City of Greeley
25.	McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park	Restrooms, drinking fountain, public telephone, sculpture, visitors center, "Gateway" to the City	West of I-25, north of US 34, Loveland	Community Park	City of Loveland
26.	Monarch Park	Trailhead, regional trail	Adjacent to SH 52, east of SH 119, Longmont	Open Space	Boulder County

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1 Table 3.18-1 Parks and Recreational Resources (cont'd)

Map ID	Name	Amenities	Reference Location	Resource Type	Managed by
27.	Old Fort Collins Heritage Park	Playground, community center, basketball courts, soccer fields, skate park, trail	Adjacent to US 287, Fort Collins	Community Park	City of Fort Collins
28.	Pearson Park	Baseball fields	West of US 85 near Fort Lupton	Community Park	City of Fort Lupton
29.	Riverside Park	Lake, trails, softball fields, playground area, picnic tables, basketball courts, soccer fields, restrooms	Adjacent to US 85, Evans	Community Park	Evans
30.	Riverview Park	Skateboard structure and ramps	West of 85, Platteville	Neighborhood Park	Town of Platteville
31.	Running Deer Natural Area	Trail, recycling area (mulch)	Just west of I-25, south of Prospect Road, Fort Collins	Open Space	City of Fort Collins
32.	Sandstone Ranch	Softball fields, soccer fields, trails, picnic tables, playground, skate park, restrooms, BBQ grills, concession stand	West of I-25, south of SH 119	Community Park	City of Longmont
33.	Signal Ditch Open Space	Trail	Near SH 7 in Thornton	Open Space	City of Thornton
34.	Spangler Park	Picnic, shelter, playground	East of US 287	Neighborhood Park	City of Longmont
35.	St. Vrain State Park	Fishing piers, campsites, picnic tables, BBQ grills, dump station, trail	Just west of I-25, Longmont	Regional Park and Recreation Facility	Colorado State Parks
36.	Thorn creek Municipal Golf Course	Driving range, miniature and regulation golf course	Just west and adjacent to I- 25, Thornton	Regional Park and Recreation facility	City of Thornton
37.	Town Park	Playground, 3 picnic shelters	West of US 85	Neighborhood Park	LaSalle
38.	Washington Park	Playground, basketball court	301 Maple	Neighborhood Park	City of Fort Collins

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1 **Table 3.18-2 Proposed Parks and Recreational Resources**

Map ID	Name	Amenities	Reference Location	Resource Type	Managed by
39.	Willow Brook Park	Pavilion, picnic tables, BBQ grills, stream, playground, trail	West of I-25 at 120th Avenue, Westminster	Neighborhood Park	City of Westminster
40.	Colina Mariposa Natural Area	Trail, paved bike trail	Adjacent to US 287, Fort Collins	Open Space	City of Fort Collins
41.	Firestone Central Park	Recreational center/ community center, trails, garden	East of CR 13 near Firestone	Community Park	Town of Firestone
42.	Hazaleus Natural Area	Paved bike trail	Adjacent to US 287, Fort Collins	Open Space	City of Fort Collins
43.	Redtail Grove Natural Area	Trail	Adjacent to US 287, Fort Collins	Open Space	City of Fort Collins

2 **3.18.2 Environmental Consequences**

3 The evaluation of direct impacts to parks and recreational resources was determined by
4 overlaying the construction footprint for each package on GIS-mapped parks and recreational
5 resources, and calculating the acres impacted. Indirect effects also were evaluated for each of
6 the resources affected.

7 **3.18.2.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

8 The No-Action Alternative would not conflict with nor would it promote parks and recreational goals
9 identified by municipalities and counties in the regional study area. Impacts associated with the
10 No-Action Alternative would include impacts to recreational resources associated with projects
11 already programmed, maintenance of structures, and improving interchanges to meet minimum
12 safety requirements.

13 Impacts would be less substantial than the impacts described below for Package A and
14 Package B. However, effects on parks and recreational resources in the regional study area would
15 arise as a result of transportation needs unmet by the No-Action Alternative. These would include
16 the increased traffic congestion and impaired mobility to and from regional study area resources.
17 Increased air emissions and noise could negatively affect recreationist's experience in regional
18 study area parks.

19 Portions of the Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area, St. Vrain State Park, Willow Brook Park,
20 Civic Center Park, and Thorncreek Municipal Golf Course would receive noise impacts as a result
21 of the No-Action Alternative.

22 **3.18.2.2 PACKAGE A**

23 Direct impacts associated with Package A to parks and recreational resources in the regional study
24 area are displayed in **Table 3.18-3**. Additional information about the impacts is summarized in the
25 discussion that follows the table, which is discussed according to build component.

1 **Table 3.18-3 Impacts to Parks and Recreational Resources Associated with Package A**

Component Number	Map ID No.	Parks and Recreation Resource	Original Acreage	Area of Impact (Acres)
A-H2	2	Arapaho Bend Natural Area	269.56	4.11
A-H2	3	Archery Range Natural Area	55.37	0.09
A-H2	6	Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area	48.61	0.11
A-H2	20	Larimer County Fairgrounds	234.00	1.30
A-H2	25	McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park	4.50	1.21
A-H3	22	Little Thompson River Corridor	100.92	2.04
A-T2	32	Sandstone Ranch	229.31	2.75
Total			942.3	11.61

2 The following discussion summarizes direct and indirect impacts by component:

3 ***Component A-H1: Safety Improvements***

4 There are no impacts to parks or recreational areas associated with safety improvements
5 north of SH 14.

6 ***Component A-H2: General Purpose lanes***

7 There are five properties that would be impacted by the improvements associated with this
8 component. Improvements between SH 14 and Crossroads include the addition of one general
9 purpose lane in each direction for a total of six general purpose lanes, plus auxiliary lanes
10 between Harmony Road and SH 60. These improvements would impact the Archery Range
11 Natural Area and the Arapaho Bend Natural Area.

12 **Archery Range Natural Area.** Widening would occur to both sides of the highway in this location
13 and a new frontage road would tie into the entrance into the natural area resulting in a slight
14 impact of 0.09 acres to the eastern edge of the park. None of the features or amenities would be
15 impacted as a result, and the remainder of the natural area would not be diminished in utility.
16 Access to the natural area would be improved.

17 **Indirect Effects.** In order to minimize direct impacts to the park, a 300-foot wall, 11 feet to 15 feet
18 in height, is proposed to run along the edge of the park. This would have the potential to inhibit
19 the view to the east.

20 **Arapaho Bend Natural Area.** Impacts at this location would result from the expansion of a
21 carpool lot to the north of the existing lot used by CDOT in the northwest quadrant of Harmony
22 Road and I-25. The City of Fort Collins had previously negotiated an easement in this area of
23 4.03 acres anticipating future expansion of the lot. The proposed parking lot expansion, the
24 addition of a new ramp and improvements to the bridge over Cache la Poudre would impact a
25 total of 8.15 acres, of which 4.03 acres is part of the easement, totaling a net loss of 4.11 acres.
26 None of the features or amenities would be impacted as a result, and the remainder of the
27 natural area would not be diminished in utility. Additionally, access to Harmony Road would be
28 improved from the existing one-lane entrance to a four-lane entrance with right-in and right-out.

1 No indirect effects are anticipated at Arapaho Bend Natural Area as a result of the proposed
2 improvements.

3 From Crossroads south to SH 60, one additional lane as well as one auxiliary lane is anticipated
4 in each direction, for a total of six lanes. Three properties would be impacted: Larimer County
5 Fairgrounds, Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area, and McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park.

6 **Larimer County Fairgrounds.** Impacts at this location would result from the addition of the
7 general purpose lane and the auxiliary lane on the eastern side of I-25. These impacts would occur
8 in the non-recreational portion of the Fairgrounds. The new eastern frontage road directly adjacent
9 to the improved highway would impact approximately 1.30 acres of the westernmost edge of the
10 park. Some of the lights adjacent to I-25 could be impacted as a result of the improvement, but the
11 remainder of complex would not be diminished in utility. No indirect effects are anticipated at
12 Larimer County fairgrounds as a result of the proposed improvements.

13 **Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area.** Impacts at this location would result from the addition
14 of the general purpose lane and the auxiliary lane on the west side of I-25 as well as the transition
15 of the ramp from the US 34 interchange south on to I-25. The combined improvements would
16 impact the easternmost edge of the wildlife area. Walls would be placed in this area in order to
17 minimize impact and the area impacted was reduced to 0.11 acres. None of the features or
18 amenities would be impacted as a result, and the remainder of the wildlife area would not be
19 diminished in utility.

20 **Indirect Effects.** Noise impacts to portions of the park would exceed CDOT's criteria for noise
21 abatement. An increase is also anticipated with the No-Action Alternative and the increase would
22 be small but still require an exploration of mitigation. For more detailed information, please refer to
23 **Section 3.6 Noise and Vibration.**

24 **McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park.** Impacts at this location would result from reconfiguration of
25 the US 34 interchange from a fully directional cloverleaf to a three-quarter directional interchange.
26 The northbound off-ramp from I-25 to US 34 would impact the southernmost portion of the park,
27 resulting in 1.21 acres impacted. This impact would result in loss of trails at the park in addition to a
28 number of sculptures.

29 **Indirect Effects.** The elevation of the ramps adjacent to the park would be 20 to 30 feet in the air
30 decreasing visibility to the park and from the park to the Front Range. Since part of the established
31 "purpose" of the park is to "showcase art"; decreased visibility to and from the park could inhibit this
32 function and result in an indirect effect.

33 *Component A-H3: General Purpose Lanes*

34 Improvements associated with this component include the addition of one general purpose lane in
35 each direction on I-25 for a total of six lanes from SH 60 to SH 66 and from SH 52 to E-470 for a
36 total of eight lanes. One property would be impacted by improvements associated with this
37 component: Little Thompson River Corridor.

38 **Little Thompson River Corridor.** Impacts at this location would result from the addition of the
39 general purpose lane and auxiliary lane on the west side of I-25 as well as the transition of the
40 southbound ramp at the newly configured SH 56 interchange. Current access to the recreational
41 area would be removed and replaced with a new access from the south ending at a cul-de-sac at
42 the recreational area. The new right-of-way acquisition required to accommodate the additional
43 lane, the ramp and the new access would result in 2.03 acres of impact adjacent to the west side

1 of the highway. Aside from the new access, none of the features or amenities would be impacted
2 as a result, and the remainder of the recreational area would not be diminished in utility.

3 **Indirect Effects.** West-side property access would be maintained except for the northwest park
4 road connection to the service road. This connection would be severed, but access would still be
5 available to the south. East-side property access would be modified so that recreationists would
6 use the new service road.

7 **Indirect Effects to Other Parks.** Portions of St. Vrain Park would experience noise impacts that
8 exceed CDOT's criteria for noise abatement. Although an increase is also anticipated with the
9 No-Action Alternative, the increase would be small but still require an exploration of mitigation. For
10 more detailed information, please refer to **Section 3.6 Noise and Vibration.**

11 *Component A-H4: Structure Upgrades*

12 There are no parks or recreational resources directly impacted as a result of the proposed
13 improvements associated with this component.

14 **Indirect Effects to Other Parks.** Portions of Willow Brook Park, Civic Center Park, and Thorncreek
15 Municipal Golf Course would experience noise impacts which exceed CDOT's criteria for noise
16 abatement. The increase would be small but still require an exploration of mitigation, for more
17 detailed information, please refer to **Section 3.6 Noise and Vibration.**

18 *Component A-T1: Commuter Rail Fort Collins to Longmont*

19 There are no parks or recreational resources impacted as a result of the proposed improvements
20 associated with this component.

21 *Component A-T2: Commuter Rail Longmont to North Metro*

22 There is one property which would be impacted by the improvements associated with this
23 component. It is Sandstone Ranch.

24 **Sandstone Ranch.** Impacts at this location would result from the new double-tracked commuter
25 rail line proposed to run south of SH 119 to connect from Longmont to the proposed FasTracks
26 North Metro Corridor in Thornton. The new track would impact 2.75 acres at the northernmost
27 edge of the park, adjacent to SH 119. A small portion of the trail in the northwest corner of the park
28 would be impacted, but none of the other features or amenities would be impacted as a result, and
29 the remainder of the park would not be diminished in utility. No indirect effects are anticipated at
30 Sandstone Ranch as a result of proposed improvements.

31 *Component A-T3: Commuter Bus: Greeley to Denver*

32 There are no parks or recreational resources impacted as a result of the proposed improvements
33 associated with this component.

34 *Component A-T4: Commuter Bus: Greeley to DIA*

35 There are no parks or recreational resources impacted as a result of the proposed improvements
36 associated with this component.

3.18.2.3 PACKAGE B

Impacts associated with Package B to parks and recreational resources in the project area are displayed in **Table 3.18-4**. Additional information about the impacts is summarized in the discussion that follows the table, which is discussed by build component.

Table 3.18-4 Impacts to Parks and Recreational Resources Associated with Package B

Component Number	Map ID No.	Parks and Recreation Resource	Original Acreage	Area of Impact (Acres)
B-H2	2	Arapaho Bend Natural Area	269.56	4.94
B-H2	3	Archery Range Natural Area	55.37	0.14
B-H2	6	Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area	48.61	0.24
B-H2	20	Larimer County Fairgrounds	234.00	4.13
B-H4/B-T2	9	Civic Center Park	17.00	1.18
B-H4/B-T2	16	Grant Park	14.23	0.17
B-H3/B-T1	22	Little Thompson River Corridor	100.92	2.78
B-H2/B-T1	25	McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park	4.5	1.21
Total			688.82	14.71

The following discussion summarizes direct and indirect impacts by component.

Component B-H1: Safety Improvements

There are no impacts to parks or recreational areas associated with the safety improvements north of SH 14.

Component B-H2: Tolted Express Lanes

There are 5 properties which would be impacted by the improvements associated with this component. Two properties would be impacted by the addition of the buffer-separated lanes between SH 14 and Harmony: the Archery Range and the Arapaho Bend Natural Area.

Archery Range Natural Area. Improvements in this location would be similar to those associated with Package A except the impact would be slightly larger resulting from the wider footprint associated with the tolled express lanes. The impact would be .14 acres. None of the features or amenities would be impacted as a result, and the remainder of the natural area would not be diminished in utility. Access to the natural area would be improved.

Indirect Effects. Indirect effects associated with noise are the same at this location as those described in Package A. A similar increase is anticipated in conjunction with the No-Action Alternative.

1 **Arapaho Bend Natural Area.** Impacts at this location would be similar to Package A resulting
2 from the expansion of a carpool lot to the north, the addition of the ramp and the bridge
3 modifications at Cache la Poudre. These improvements would impact 9.35 acres which exceeds
4 the easement totaling a net loss of 4.94 acres. None of the features or amenities would be
5 impacted as a result, and the remainder of the natural area would not be diminished in utility.
6 Additionally, access to Harmony would be improved from the existing one lane entrance to a four
7 lane entrance with right in and right out movements only. No indirect effects are anticipated at
8 Arapaho Bend Natural Area as a result of proposed improvements.

9 Between Harmony Road and SH 60, there are two barrier-separated lanes proposed in each
10 direction to accommodate the tolled express lanes, as well as the proposed Bus Rapid Transit
11 (BRT). Three properties would be impacted as a result of these improvements: Larimer County
12 Fairgrounds, Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area, and McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park.

13 **Larimer County Fairgrounds.** Impacts at this location would result from the addition of the two
14 barrier separated lanes on the eastern side of the general purpose lanes. Impacts at this location
15 would occur at the non-recreational portion of the park. In addition, there would be a BRT station
16 in the median with a pedestrian bridge terminating at the eastern side of the highway. The barrier
17 separated lanes in conjunction with the BRT station would impact 4.13 acres of the westernmost
18 edge of the park. Some of the lights adjacent to I-25 could be impacted as a result of the
19 improvement, but the remainder of complex would not be diminished in utility. No indirect effects
20 are anticipated at Larimer County Fairgrounds as a result of the proposed improvements.

21 **Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area.** Impacts at this location would result from the
22 addition of the two barrier separated tolled express lanes on the western side of the general
23 purpose lanes. These lanes would also accommodate the BRT. The combined improvements
24 would impact the easternmost edge of the wildlife area. Walls were placed in this area in order to
25 minimize impact and the acreage impacted was reduced to 0.24 acres. None of the features or
26 amenities would be impacted as a result, and the remainder of the natural area would not be
27 diminished in utility.

28 Indirect Effects. Indirect effects associated with noise are the same at this location as those
29 described in Package A. A similar increase is anticipated in conjunction with the No-Action
30 Alternative.

31 **McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park.** Impacts at this location would be the same as those
32 associated with Package A.

33 Indirect Effects. Indirect effects associated with visual impacts at the sculpture park are the same
34 at this location as those described in Package A.

35 *Component B-H3: Tolled Express Lanes*

36 Improvements between SH 60 and E-470 include the addition of two buffer separated lanes in
37 each direction for a total of six general purpose lanes and two tolled express lanes. BRT would
38 share the tolled express lanes. There is one property which would be impacted by the
39 improvements associated with this component. It is the Little Thompson River Corridor.

40 **Little Thompson River Corridor.** Impacts at this location would be similar to Package A resulting
41 from the right-of-way acquisition required to accommodate the additional lane, the ramp and the new
42 access to the area. Total acreage impacted would be 2.03 acres adjacent to the highway at the west.
43 Aside from the new access, none of the features or amenities would be impacted as a result, and the

1 remainder of the natural area would not be diminished in utility. The difference in acreage between
2 Package A and Package B results from a wider typical section associated with Package B.

3 **Indirect Effects.** Impacts to access at the Little Thompson River Corridor would be the same as those
4 described in Package A.

5 **Indirect Effects to Other Parks.** Portions of St. Vrain Park would experience noise impacts which
6 exceed CDOT's criteria for noise abatement. The increase would be small but still require an
7 exploration of mitigation, for more detailed information. Please refer to **Section 3.6 Noise and**
8 **Vibration.**

9 ***Component B-H4: Tolled Express Lanes***

10 Improvements between E-470 and US 36 include the addition of one buffer separated lane in each
11 direction for a total of six general purpose lanes and two tolled express lanes. BRT would share the
12 tolled express lanes. There are two properties which would be impacted by the improvements
13 associated with this component. They are Thornton Civic Center Park and Grant Park.

14 **Thornton Civic Center Park.** Impacts at this location would result from the addition of two buffer
15 separated express tolled lanes to the existing six general purpose lanes in order to accommodate
16 the BRT and HOV users. The wider cross section required for the combined improvements would
17 impact the westernmost edge of the park. Total acreage impacted at the park would be 1.18 acres.
18 None of the features or amenities would be impacted as a result, and the remainder of the natural
19 area would not be diminished in utility.

20 **Indirect Effects.** Portions of Civic Center Park would experience noise impacts which exceed
21 CDOT's criteria for noise abatement. The increase would be small but still require an exploration of
22 mitigation. For more detailed information, please refer to **Section 3.6 Noise and Vibration.**

23 **Grant Park.** Impacts at this location would result from the addition of one buffer-separated tolled
24 express lane that would be added in each direction, for a total of six general purpose lanes and two
25 tolled express lanes. BRT also would travel exclusively in the tolled express lanes. In order to
26 accommodate drainage associated with the proposed improvements, two water quality ponds would
27 be constructed. One pond would be located north of Grange Hall Creek, entirely in Grant Park, and
28 one pond would be located south of Grange Hall Creek, partially in Grant Park and partially in the
29 CDOT right-of-way. The total impacted area in Grant Park for both ponds would be 0.17 acres. The
30 property that would be converted is at the westernmost edge of Grant Park. None of the features or
31 amenities would be impacted as a result, and the remainder of the park would not be diminished in
32 utility. No indirect effects are anticipated at Grant Park as a result of the proposed improvements.

33 **Indirect Effects to Other Parks.** Portions of Willow Brook Park and Thorncreek Municipal Golf Course
34 would experience noise impacts that exceed CDOT's criteria for noise abatement. The increase
35 would be small but still require an exploration of mitigation. For more detailed information please
36 refer to **Section 3.6 Noise and Vibration.**

37 ***Component B-T1 & B-T2: Bus Rapid Transit: Fort Collins/Greeley to Denver/DIA***

38 Impacts to the Archery Range Natural Area, Arapaho Bend Natural Area, Larimer County
39 Fairgrounds, Big Thompson Ponds State Wildlife Area, and McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park are
40 identical to those described in Component B-H2: Tolled Express Lanes. Impacts to Thornton Civic
41 Center Park and Grant Park are identical to those described in Component B-H4: Tolled Express
42 Lanes.

1 3.18.3 Summary of Impacts

2 *No-Action Alternative*

3 The No-Action Alternative would result in deteriorating access due to increasing congestion
4 throughout the regional study area. Additionally, five properties would incur noise impacts, which
5 would be similar to the impacts incurred with either Package A or Package B.

6 *Package A*

7 Seven properties would incur direct use as a result of implementing Package A. A majority of
8 these impacts could be categorized as minor, leaving the features and attributes of the parks
9 intact and not diminishing any utility to the resource. The exception is McWhinney Hahn
10 Sculpture Park, where the trail is being impacted, as well as a number of the sculptures. This
11 would likely result in a full acquisition of the park.

12 The proposed improvements in Package A would provide increased mobility and access to and
13 from these recreational resources.

14 Indirect effects would occur at a number of properties, including visual impacts at the sculpture
15 park, change in access at one location, and noise impacts at five properties. These same
16 properties would experience similar noise impacts as a result of the No-Action Alternative.

17 Temporary use of the resource would be required since construction of transportation
18 improvements associated with Package A would likely result in the need for haul roads,
19 equipment access, staging areas, batch plants, and/or other construction activities. All impacts
20 resulting from construction are temporary in nature and would not permanently or adversely
21 affect the function or physical aspects of the park or recreational resource.

22 Temporary construction occurring on properties where long segments of highway widening
23 and/or new roadway and associated retaining wall construction, would encompass a full range of
24 construction activities over a prolonged time frame, but would not last the entire duration of the
25 construction project. This may include roadway detours and multiple phases of highway
26 construction. These activities are likely to extend several months. Work zones would
27 continuously change until relatively close to final build-out of that segment of the project.

28 More localized construction activity such as bridge demolition and reconstruction or culvert
29 installations and culvert extensions, represents a more focused effort and require lesser time
30 frames to complete because much of the work requiring the temporary construction easement
31 would be demolition and preliminary infrastructure construction, and occupancy of the easement
32 would be completed before site's highway decking and widening portion of the project were
33 completed.

34 All ground disturbing and debris generating construction process would be contained by erosion
35 and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed as part of approved
36 stabilization and stormwater management plans. All disturbed areas would be returned to their
37 original contour, vegetation and landscape appearance in cooperation with and direction from the
38 resource jurisdictional authorities.

1 *Package B*

2 Eight properties would incur some direct use as a result of implementing Package B. At most of
3 the properties, impacts could be categorized as minor, leaving the features and attributes of the
4 parks intact and not diminishing any utility to the resource. The exception is McWhinney Hahn
5 Sculpture Park, where the trail is being impacted, as well as a number of the sculptures.

6 Indirect effects would occur at a number of properties, including visual impacts at the sculpture
7 park, change in access at one location, and noise impacts at four properties. These same
8 properties would experience similar noise impacts as a result of the No-Action Alternative.

9 The proposed improvements in Package B would provide increased mobility and access to and
10 from these recreational resources.

11 Indirect effects would occur at a number of properties, including visual impacts at the sculpture
12 park, change in access at one location, and noise impacts at five properties. These same
13 properties would experience similar noise impacts as a result of the No-Action Alternative.

14 Package B would have similar temporary use impacts as Package A.

15 **3.18.4 Mitigation Measures**

16 During the development of both Package A and Package B, extensive efforts went into modifying
17 design to avoid and minimize impacts to parkland wherever possible. Additional information
18 about this process is documented in **Chapter 5 Section 4(f) Evaluation**.

19 Once the Preferred Alternative is identified, coordination will occur with the local agencies having
20 jurisdiction at the resources. Any impacts incurred at these resources as a result of proposed
21 improvements would be discussed with the local jurisdictional agencies to determine the
22 appropriate mitigation.

23 All ground disturbing and debris generating construction processes will be contained by erosion
24 and sediment control BMPs designed as part of approved stabilization and stormwater
25 management plans. All disturbed areas will be returned to their original contour, vegetation and
26 landscape appearance in cooperation with and direction from the resource jurisdictional
27 authorities.

28 Some techniques that may be used to mitigate impacts incurred at these areas will include but
29 not be limited to:

- 30 ▶ Coordinating with the local jurisdiction to prepare for construction at the site, including public
31 safety and security measures, and providing signed detour and alternate access information.
- 32 ▶ Replacing vegetation with native grass and shrubs. Mitigation ratios and plant selection and
33 placement will occur through coordination with the local agencies having jurisdiction.
- 34 ▶ Using BMPs to limit erosion during construction. See **Section 3.23 Construction Impacts** for
35 more detail.
- 36 ▶ Compensating for acquisition of the resource. Location of any lost access will be negotiated
37 with park representatives during final design.
- 38 ▶ Rebuilding park features, such as trails, elsewhere on the park site

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