

3.19 SECTION 6(f)

3.19.1 Existing Section 6(f) Resources

For four decades, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program of Assistance to States and Urban Parks (L&WCF) has provided funding for various parks and recreational facilities across the nation. The L&WCF program was established by the L&WCF Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578) which is now codified as 16 USC 460. Under this act, the Secretary of the Interior provides funds to the states to plan, acquire, or develop outdoor recreation facilities. Section 6(f) of the Act states in part that:

What's in Section 3.19?

3.19 Section 6(f)

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“No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accordance with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.”

In the state of Colorado, L&WCF is administered by Colorado State Parks and identification of L&WCF properties for this project was coordinated through Colorado State Parks. Coordination with Colorado State Parks is documented in **Appendix B**.

Three properties within the regional study area were developed with L&WCF grant assistance:

- ▶ Pearson Park near Fort Lupton
- ▶ Grant Park in Northglenn
- ▶ Riverside Park in Evans

Figure 3.18-1 in **Section 3.18 Parks and Recreation** shows the locations of each of these parks.

Pearson Park is located west of US 85 near Fort Lupton on approximately 13 acres. Facilities at the park include a baseball field.

Grant Park is located directly east of I-25 in Northglenn on approximately 14 acres. Facilities include a picnic area and a bicycle and pedestrian path. Grange Hall Creek is located within the park.

Riverside Park is located adjacent to US 85 in Evans on approximately 2.47 acres. Facilities at the park include a lake, trails, softball fields, playground areas, picnic tables, basketball courts, soccer fields, and restrooms.

3.19.2 Environmental Consequences

3.19.2.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

There would be no impacts to any of the 6(f) properties associated with the No-Action Alternative.

3.19.2.2 PACKAGE A

There would be no impacts to any of the 6(f) properties associated with Package A.

3.19.2.3 PACKAGE B

Package B would require the use of a portion of Grant Park. This use is associated with Components B-H4 – Tolloed Express Lanes and B-T4 – Bus Rapid Transit. Tolloed express lanes are proposed along I-25. One buffer-separated tolloed express lane would be added in each direction, for a total of six general purpose lanes and two tolloed express lanes. Bus rapid transit also would travel exclusively in the tolloed express lanes on North I-25.

In order to accommodate drainage associated with the proposed improvements, two water quality ponds would be constructed. One pond would be located north of Grange Hall Creek, entirely in Grant Park, and one pond would be located south of Grange Hall Creek, partially in Grant Park and partially in the CDOT right-of-way. The total impacted area in Grant Park for both ponds would be 0.17 acre.

The property that would be converted is at the westernmost edge of Grant Park. There are no major facilities within the area of conversion that would be impacted, thus the conversion would not negatively impact the remaining park.

3.19.3 Coordination

Once the Preferred Alternative is identified, if Package B were to be selected, coordination would need to occur with the City of Northglenn and the Colorado State Parks Department. The fair market value of the property to be converted would be established and the property proposed for substitution would be of at *“least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.”*

Any impacts incurred at Grant Park as a result of proposed improvements would be discussed with the City of Northglenn to determine appropriate mitigation. At that time, CDOT would work with Northglenn to determine design of the pond, construction details, and a maintenance agreement. Two meetings have been held to date with the City of Northglenn to discuss potential impacts to Grant Park. These meetings occurred on March 30, 2007 and on May 14, 2007. Additional coordination will occur with Colorado State Parks in order to acquire approval on the proposed conversion, if necessary.