

## *Chapter 8*

# *Parks, Recreation, Trails and Environmental Protection*

Delta’s location in a beautiful, verdant valley surrounded by the Grand Mesa, the distant West Elk and San Juan Mountains and the verdant Uncompahgre Plateau, the confluence of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers and as the gateway to the Grand Mesa and the orchards and vineyards of the Gunnison River Valley all contribute to a high quality of life for residents and visitors. This natural setting is enhanced by recreational opportunities at City parks and other facilities, and less structured activities, such as strolling along a trail or relaxing on a park bench.

The City of Delta has great potential to expand recreational opportunities and other leisure pursuits to serve present and future residents and to attract more tourists, thus increasing the City’s economic base. An expanded trail system connecting Delta with nearby public land accessing the Grand Mesa and the Uncompahgre Plateau could make the area a major destination for mountain bikers. The expansive Confluence Park with its existing facilities, new boating opportunities and future riverfront trail linkages could continue to become an important regional facility.

## *National Recreation Park Association Level of Service Standards*

Type	Standard Acres/1,000 population	Low Growth: Additional Parks	Medium Growth: Additional Parks	High Growth: Additional Parks
Pocket Parks	optional			
Neighborhood Parks	1-2 acres/1,000	2	10	18
Community Parks/Schools	5-8 acres/1,000	2	10	18
City Parks	5-10 acres/1000	2	10	18
Linear Parks	no standard			
Open Space	no standard			

### **City of Delta: Growth Projections-Additional Population**

Growth rate	2006-2030	Difference
Low	7,782-9,822	2,040
Medium	7,782-18,544	10,762
High	7,782-25,937	18,155

## ***Inventory of Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities***

The following list highlights cultural and recreation facilities that enhance the quality of life for both residents and visitors and contribute to the tourism sector of the local economy. The facilities are described by general category.

### ***CITY OF DELTA***

#### ***PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES***

The City of Delta owns approximately 885 acres of parks and open space, of which about 143 acres are maintained. The total includes Devil's Thumb Golf Course. Table 8-1 lists parks and open space owned by the city. The City also maintains flower beds and planters at various locations. Other outdoor facilities not maintained by the City but generally available for public use include school playgrounds and ball fields. The City also owns and operates the Bill Heddles Recreation Center. The City maintains a ten mile network of trails, most of which are located in Confluence Park. Most of the trails are gravel/cinder. In addition, the City has designated bike lanes along some of the major streets.



***Confluence Park***

**TABLE 8-1  
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE LAND OWNED BY THE CITY**

<b>Park/Open Space Name</b>	<b>Size (# acres)</b>	<b>General Location</b>	<b>Existing Facilities</b>
Opera House Park	0.01	Main and 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Art project, plantings
Mini Park	0.03	W 3 <sup>rd</sup> St. & Main	Benches and plantings
Centennial Park	0.04	Main & 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	Benches, picnic table and plantings
Holly Park	0.1	1 <sup>st</sup> St. & Palmer St.	Picnic table/shelter & historic display
Bob Jay (Westside) Park	1.3	4th & Columbia Streets	Playground, picnic tables and outdoor basketball court
Emerald Hills Park	2.5	19 <sup>th</sup> & Forest Way	Small playground
Welcome Park	3.5	US 50 & Gunnison River Dr.	Information kiosk
Cottonwood Soccer Fields	6.5	H75 Rd.	Part of former golf course
Tamarac Park	7.5	12th & Bluff Streets	A formal as well as natural setting located under the Garnet Mesa Bluff.
Cleland Park	11	8th & Howard Streets	Oldest park in the city with huge shade trees, large group pavilion, restrooms, tennis courts, playground.
Delta Cemetery	24	E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street	
Mountain View Park	39.5	F25 Road	Softball & baseball fields, playground, restrooms, volleyball court, picnic shelters.
Cottonwood Open Space	59.5	H75 Rd.	Former golf course