



## Parks Along I-25

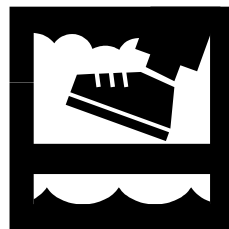
Over the past two years of study on the I-25 corridor, stakeholders have clearly expressed that parks are an important part of the fabric of the Pueblo community. It is also clear that both of project “build” alternatives (include construction) will impact parks along I-25. The extent of these impacts will be evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS). With this point in mind, the project team has engaged the public on several occasions to find out:

- What is the history of the parks along I-25 in Pueblo?
- What elements make a park an asset to the community?
- What are the key functions of these parks?
- Are there any issues or improvements that could be made to area parks?

The series of summary sheets attached provide the information received from project stakeholders regarding

- Mineral Palace Park
- Bennedict Park
- J.J. Raigoza Park
- Runyon Field.

This information provides an overview of each park’s context and issues that will be examined in the DEIS process.





## Mineral Palace Park

1. The park currently works as a community park. This function is very important to Pueblo and needs to be retained.
2. Key elements of the park include:
  - swimming pool
  - flower gardens
  - informal use areas
  - art guild building
  - lake
  - playground
  - picnic areas
  - bicycle and walking paths
  - green houses
  - maintenance facilities
  - tennis courts
  - old shade trees
  - shelter house
3. Key functions of the park include:
  - walking/jogging
  - bicycling
  - lunch breaks for downtown and hospital employees, etc.
  - weddings
  - dog shows
  - swimming
  - kids fishing/not stocked
  - bird watching
  - informal athletic activities
  - special events
  - picnicking
  - passive uses
  - senior citizen access
  - squirrel feeding
  - large summertime use of park
  - leisurely drives through the park
4. Issues in the park include:
  - noise from I-25 and the railroad
  - chain link fence along I-25 R.O.W. is ugly
  - safety of pedestrians on trail along I-25 R.O.W.
  - views into park from I-25 are important to portray the appropriate image to visitors
  - physical loss of park square footage is a problem
  - save the band shell and lake
  - current functions of the park need to be maintained
  - the northeast corner of the park seems to be disconnected from the rest of the park
  - maintain views into the park from the surrounding neighborhoods/buildings
  - connection to the Fountain Creek Greenway



## Benedict Park

1. The park is important to the neighborhoods adjacent to the park. It is the only park that neighborhood kids have to play in. Due to the demand, the park is too small.
2. The park was originally a gift to the City, for the neighborhood, from the church.
3. Key elements of the park include:
  - informal athletic fields
  - playground
  - backstop
  - picnic tables
  - a new basketball court is planned for the future (currently under construction)
  - a new playground is planned for the future (currently under construction)
4. Key functions of the park include:
  - sports team practices
  - recess area for kids from St. Mary's School
  - informal uses
  - Old Timers Ball Game
  - neighborhood kids' informal play area
  - wildlife watching, including deer (due to the relationship to the river)
  - some picnic use (tables get stolen)
5. Issues in the park include:
  - safety issues along the south side of park on Mesa Avenue. A fence has been constructed to keep kids from running into the street.
  - need for parking
  - Poor access to the park due to issues above. Limits use of park by adults/kids.
  - need for shelter house
  - need for shade trees
  - transients along west edge of park and in abandoned houses near the railroad.
  - broken glass, drinking, and drugs
  - lack of park lighting
  - old caves and tunnels for the smelter still exist (adjacent to the park)



## J.J. Raigoza Park

1. The park currently functions very well as a neighborhood park. It is just large enough to accommodate all functions.
2. Before the park, a junk yard existed on the west edge of where the park is now.
3. There use to be a softball field at the south end of the park. Some very competitive CF&I softball games used to occur here. Neighbors complained about the softball field and it was removed.
4. Currently, the City's Parks Department has a tree planting program going on in this park.
5. Key elements of the park include:
  - tennis courts
  - playground (ADA)
  - restrooms
  - picnic area
  - basketball (single basket)
  - team practice and informal use area (not scheduled by the City)
  - park lighting
  - parking on street
6. Key functions of the park include:
  - dog walking
  - kite flying
  - team practice
  - passive uses
  - provide nice views for north-bound traffic on I-25
  - picnicking
7. Issues in the park include:
  - noise from I-25
  - chain link fence along I-25
  - physical loss of park square footage is a problem
  - mosquitoes (from detention pond across I-25 to the southeast?)



## Runyon Field

1. The park currently functions as a regional park.
2. The park is county-owned and operated.
3. The park is at the junction of two major trails; the Thomas Phelps Creek Trail, that connects with the HARP, and the Fountain Creek Greenway Trail.
4. The county wants to develop an indoor practice area for baseball and soccer.
5. An additional ballfield and multi-purpose fields are desired by the county.
6. Potentially, an open-air theater and community center will be added to the park.
7. Key elements of the park include:
  - formal baseball fields
  - formal softball fields
  - lake
  - bicycle and walking paths
  - historic marker/monument
  - parking
  - maintenance facilities
  - plaza area
  - concession area
  - restrooms
  - picnic tables
  - field lighting
8. Key functions of the park include:
  - baseball games/tournaments
  - softball games/tournaments
  - football games/tournaments
  - fishing/stocked
  - picnicking
  - special events
  - walking/jogging
  - bicycling
9. Issues in the park include:
  - access is poor (hard for visitors to find their way to the park)
  - shortage of parking (50% short)
  - no gateway or true entry point to the park
  - rail lines through the park make access to the adjacent trails difficult
  - safety concerns at night along the south edge of the park, minimal lighting