

Parks, Recreation and Resources

Parks and Recreation

Parks

- **Parks:** The city owns and maintains seven parks totaling 137 acres of parkland. The Rails to Trails Recreational Path also functions as a park facility with its extended right-of-way.
- **Level of Service:** The city’s park acres/1,000 people ratio is 14 acres/1,000. The recommended national average is generally considered to be 10 acres per 1,000 people (according to National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA)).
- **Natural and Historic Areas:** The city is also home to two significant natural and historic areas: The Riverwalk Area, which is currently in the planning stages and the 1838 Rendezvous Site, which is home to the annual Mountain Man Rendezvous reenactment each July.

PARKS AND NATURAL/HISTORIC AREAS	ACRES	AMENITIES
PARKS		
Aspen Park	0.5	Playground
City Park	10.6	Band Shell, playground, tennis
Jaycee Park	14.4	Playground, baseball
Monroe Park	0.5	Basketball, playground
Rein Park	8.6	Baseball, playground
Sunset Park	8.5	Tennis, playground
Teter Memorial Park	2.5	Playground, basketball, baseball
Rails to Trails Recreational Path	92	Recreation path, arboretum
NATURAL AND HISTORIC AREAS		
Riverwalk Area ¹	140+	
1838 Rendezvous Site	189	

Recreation Paths and Trails

There are approximately 8 miles of recreational paths within the city. A significant portion of this mileage has come from the city’s Rails to Trails program which bisects the community from southwest to northwest and includes an arboretum along its length which showcases tree species suitable to Riverton’s climate. Opportunities for future connections will be identified as part of the master plan process.

¹ The Riverwalk Area is located along the Big Wind on the south end of Riverton. The area is in the process of being transferred to the Riverton Depot Foundation for future development as a natural area for the community offering a range of outdoor activities.



KEY TRENDS

Parks

- The city has highly used and well-maintained park system, however, it does not have a long-range plan for acquisition and expansion.
- The master plan is an opportunity to assess how the parks system as a whole is meeting community needs and to determine facility needs and service levels.

Recreation

- The city is actively pursuing a Capital Facilities tax to fund and build a community recreation center within the next three years.
- The city anticipates hiring a Parks and Recreation Coordinator to help manage existing programs and facilities and plan for future needs.

River and Natural Areas

- The Big Wind River, is a significant asset for the community; although access to the river is currently limited the city is taking an active effort to expand its parks system to include trail connections to the RiverWalk area as well as opportunities for historical interpretation, and passive recreation along the river.

Sources:

City of Riverton, 2008
 Riverton Chamber of Commerce, 2008
 See Existing Land Use Map for park, trail, and facility locations.

Golf

The 18-hole "Riverton" course at the Riverton Country Club facility in Riverton, Wyoming features an 18 hole, semi-private golf course.

Recreation Facilities

- The City of Riverton does not have a full service recreation facility. Several private gyms operate in the community, and Central Wyoming College's recreational facilities are available for community use.
- The city is actively pursuing a Capital Facilities tax to fund and build a community recreation center within the next three years.

Recreation and Events

Events include:

- Wild West Winter Carnival (February)
- Memorial Day Gun & Coin Show (May)
- Native American Powwows (June – Sept.)
- 1938 Mountain Man Rendezvous (July),
- Riverton Rendezvous (July),
- Fremont County Fair & Rodeo (July-August)
- Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Art Show and Sale (September)
- Winter Art Fair (November)

Natural and Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources

- **History/Rendezvous Community:** Riverton is the "rendezvous community" of Wyoming, because for centuries, people have chosen the Wind River Valley as a place to come together. It started with the Native Americans who felt it was a special place. Mountain men, prospectors and homesteaders followed.
- **Fremont County Fair and Rodeo:** The annual county fair is held at the Fremont County Fair Grounds in Riverton. The fair typically brings 25,000 people to Riverton during its two and half-week run every July. The fairgrounds are an important facility in the community and are used for a variety of events throughout the year.
- **Sixth Crossing Mormon Handcart Historical Site:** The Sixth Crossing Historical Site is located approximately 30 miles from Riverton and is one of several in Wyoming where the Martin and Willey handcart companies experienced tremendous trials and were rescued by the saints from Salt Lake City. These sites offer families and youth groups with an opportunity to learn and experience the hardships the handcart pioneers endured. Many visitors travel to this site each year.

Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

- **Mountains and Outdoor Recreation:** Riverton is close to the Wind River and Absaroka mountains, offering a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.



- **Wildlife Resources:** Fremont County and the region has abundant wildlife for viewing and hunting (moose, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, bear, wolves, hawks, and eagles.)
- **Boysen River State Park:** is located 22 miles northeast of Riverton. This reservoir offers camping, fishing, boating, and other water recreation sports.
- **The Big Wind River** is a major asset of Riverton's. The river and riparian forest forms the southern edge of the community, with potential access for open space and recreation, and restoration of natural areas.

Historic Trails

- **Togawatee Trail:** Scenic highway connecting the city to Yellowstone National Park.
- **Sand Creek Massacre Trail**—The Sand Creek Massacre Trail was designated in 2006. The trail is a 600-mile link between the Wind River Reservation and the location of the Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado, where on the morning of November 29, 1864, U.S. Army soldiers brutally killed about 500 mostly women, children and elderly Arapaho and Cheyenne.

Agricultural Resources

To be added