



2026

Norwood Park and Recreation District Master Plan





Norwood Park & Recreation District
PO Box 645
1555 Summit Street
Norwood, CO 81423
www.norwoodparkandrec.org
(970)327-0148

ADOPTION

This Master Plan has been adopted by the Norwood Park and Recreation District Board on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Karl Cody, President

Krys Smith, Vice President

Kelvin Verity, Secretary/Treasurer

Matt Stanger, Director

Executive Summary	5
District History	5
Serving the People of Wrights Mesa	5
Mission	5
Purpose of the Plan	5
The District's Intent	5
Related Planning Efforts in the Region	6
Town of Norwood - Trails, Parks, Open Space Plan Oct. 2022	6
Norwood School District (R-2J) - New School Facility	6
Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre, Gunnison (GMUG) Forest Service - Management Plan June 2024	6
Lone Cone Library District - Site Plan	6
Public Input and the Planning Process	7
What We Have Now	7
Existing Community Parks, Trails, and Programs	7
Inventory of Existing Elements and Facilities	10
Norwood Park and Recreation District Facilities	11
What We Want	12
Gap Analysis	12
Prioritizing Goals and Activities	13
Short Term Goals	13
Long Term Goals	13
Staffing Goals	14
Operational Recommendations	14
Administration and Management	14
Looking to the Future:	14
A. Projecting the Impacts of Growth	14
B. Looking for Opportunities for those Larger Projects	15
C. Networking into State and Federal Programs	15

Executive Summary

[the executive summary goes here](#)

District History

A 3-paragraph recounting of the districts formation and first 15 years

Serving the People of Wrights Mesa

Mission

It is the mission of the Norwood Park and Recreation District to provide diverse year-round recreational and arts opportunities through the creation and maintenance of quality parks, trails, facilities, events, and programs. The benefits of these opportunities are designed to meet the physical, mental, cultural, creative, and social needs of the District residents and visitors, while enhancing the overall quality of life in the District and encouraging long-term stability and growth.

The District's mission supports the West End Vision's goals of having our community be vital and viable, living healthy lives and connecting with neighbors; encouraging a strong economy by ensuring both residents and visitors can enjoy a wide range of options for recreation, pastimes, and maintaining an active lifestyle; helping manage growth by implementing cross-functionality and mixed use of the resources, buildings, and spaces within the District; collaborating with public land managers in providing meaningful educational and recreational opportunities in the region.

Purpose of the Plan

After 15 years, the District has progressed, with completion of a number of its original goals and projects, and the purchase of The NPRD Campus (including The Livery and the Oliver House) at 1555 Summit Street in Norwood. An in-depth community survey in 2024, development of a regional vision for Norwood, Naturita, and Nucla (the West End Vision Plan), and a work session with key community members in 2026 have all contributed to a renewed look at the District's short- and long-term goals.

The Master Plan looks to the future and explores how to wisely spend the tax dollars District citizens have entrusted to the Board. It will continue to serve to help find ways of leveraging those tax dollars in other funding efforts to better serve the District.

This Master Plan will be a useful tool for communicating with other agencies and organizations whose missions overlap with this one. It will help develop and define collaborations as well as provide potential grantors and funders an understanding of strategy and goals of the District.

The District's Intent

The Norwood Park and Recreation District encompasses approximately 418,500 acres in San Miguel County, Colorado, from just west of Placerville, CO to the edge of the Dolores River Canyon. It contains residential and commercial property as well as taxable mineral interests, including oil and gas wells. The population of the District is approximately 1,520 people. The Town of Norwood is the only incorporated town within the District, with a population of 525.

The intent of this District is not to focus on the needs that are already being met, but rather focus on any gaps in recreational and arts opportunities where its citizens feel they may be underserved. Some of the existing recreational options in the area include Norwood Town Parks, San Miguel Basin Fairgrounds, multi-use trails on US Forest Service and BLM public land, and access to fishing and boating along the San Miguel River and at Miramonte Reservoir's Dan Noble State Wildlife Area.

The NPRD Campus provides facilities for classes, programs, and events - both public and private, as well as offices for the District and other community services. The Livery in particular is a venue designed and used for music, dance, theater, celebrations and presentations. These facilities benefit District residents as well as people living in surrounding communities including Redvale, Placerville, Naturita, Nucla, and Paradox.

Related Planning Efforts in the Region

It is important to take into consideration and be in tune with other planning efforts in the region, both on-going and on the horizon. This Master Plan will be most effective as a compliment to other plans and actions, and communication is key.

Town of Norwood - Trails, Parks, Open Space Plan Oct. 2022

- Norwood Town is currently using a development & redevelopment plan completed with assistance from CU-Denver's College of Architecture & Planning to update and upgrade the Town-owned parks and properties. This is in keeping with the Master Plan of 2002. Streets and drainage maintenance and modifications may coincide with the parks being worked on.
- With the purchase of the soon-to-be-Old-School property adjacent to the San Miguel Basin Fairgrounds, the Town will be studying possible future uses of the property once the hazard mitigation and environmental restoration is completed.

Norwood School District (R-2J) - New School Facility

- The Norwood School District is building a completely new facility beginning May 2026. However, the funding does not include construction of the athletic fields. The school will be using the existing fields until such time that new ones can be built on the grounds of the new buildings.

Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre, Gunnison (GMUG) Forest Service - Management Plan June 2024

- The USDA Forest Service adopted the long-term forest management plan for the GMUG District, which includes San Miguel County's National Forests. Their plans will be guided by this, although funding for Forest Service operations in general have been deeply cut since 2025.

Lone Cone Library District - Site Plan

- The new Lone Cone Library, built in 2019, is still in the process of completing the outdoor spaces. The conceptual plan includes a number of publicly accessible features in a park-like setting on its 12-acre lot.

The District and its Board members must also be cognizant of other State and Federal agencies and their planning processes. This includes, but is not limited to to: US Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado State Land Board, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, San Miguel County Parks & Open Space Commission. In addition, other area organizations' plans and intentions must be taken into consideration, including but not limited to: Montrose West Rec, Inc., West End Trails Alliance, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, and other members of the Recreation Roundtable led by San Miguel County.

Public Input and the Planning Process

As previously mentioned, this planning process has been on a continuum, led by Directors and influenced by constituents over the past decade. More recently and directly, the following engagement activities focused on updating the Master Plan.

In March 2024, with assistance from University of Colorado-Denver's College of Architecture and Planning, a community survey was conducted. The results were compiled and shared with the District Board in July 2024. The summary report can be found in Appendix A.

In April 2026, a number of community leaders and representatives from organizations the District works with directly were invited to participate in a day-long work session, focusing on clarifying, retaining, updating, and/or adding goals for the Norwood Park and Recreation District. Meeting notes, compiled by staff and participants, can be found in Appendix B.

Through a 16-month very extensive public engagement process, the West End Vision Plan development (WEVision) culminated in a regional guiding vision in January 2026. It has been adopted by the three town governments and both counties. The conversations and outcomes from the 120+ meetings and gatherings, interacting with 710+ people of the larger community (Norwood, Nucla, Naturita and surrounding area) helped inform the Master Plan Update. This vision and action plan can be found in Appendix C.

What We Have Now

Existing Community Parks, Trails, and Programs

Norwood Town Park - Located adjacent to the Town Hall, Norwood's Town Park contains a picnic pavilion with charcoal grates, playground equipment & swings, tetherball, basketball court, skate pad with mobile ramp & rails, splash pad, pickleball courts, and pump track (currently being revitalized). The Park also has pit toilet public restrooms. The conceptual plan adopted in 2022 includes other features for future development.



Norwood School District Facilities - The current school, located on the northwest side of town adjacent to the County Fairgrounds, has a football field and baseball diamond, both with lights. There is a long-jump pit and discus/shot-put pad. The school grounds also have a recently upgraded playground appropriate for K-12 kids. Indoor facilities include a wrestling room, gymnasium with bleachers and locker rooms, and all-purpose-room with attached kitchen. The

previous cafeteria is now the drama/music room, with small stage area and concession window attached. In the pre-school building, there is an indoor climbing wall: the Charlie Fowler Memorial Climbing Wall.

In 2028, the new school is anticipated opening, with two gymnasiums, commons with stage area, cafeteria, and adjacent music room.

However, there is currently no funding for building athletic fields (Master Plan has a football field with full track, and baseball diamond.) An all-ages playground and separate play space for toddlers will be part of the new school.



San Miguel Basin Fairgrounds - Owned and operated by San Miguel County, the Fairgrounds is located on the northwest edge of Norwood. It hosts two large events: the San Miguel Basin Fair and the CPRA Rodeo. It is also actively used by the Roping Club and Dressage Club throughout the spring and summer. There is an indoor riding arena, outdoor rodeo grounds and horse race track, a covered pad known as the Pig Palace (used for swine pens during Fair week, and in winter becomes the ice rink with the hockey boards set up), restrooms, grandstand, judges/announcer booth. On the north side of the property, there are Little League baseball diamonds with bleachers, restrooms, and playground equipment.



Dan Noble State Wildlife Area - Owned and operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Dan Noble SWA covers 2,192 acres surrounding and including Miramonte Reservoir. It is an area offering fishing, power boating, windsurfing, waterskiing, hunting, camping, and wildlife viewing. The facilities include a dump station, restrooms, boat ramps, picnic shelters, and potable water.

Dry Creek Basin SWA - Colorado Parks and Wildlife also owns and operates the Dry Creek Basin State Wildlife Area, located about 15 miles west southwest

of Norwood including areas on both sides of Highway 141 between Naturita and Slickrock. It encompasses 12,789 acres and provides primarily hunting but also hiking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. There are no facilities.

BLM Recreation Sites and Campsites - These designated recreation sites along the San Miguel River Corridor include facilities and other site amenities. All of these are located along Highway 145 on the Tabeguache Scenic Byway. Day use sites - Norwood Hill Cabin, Beaver Creek boat ramp, Specie Creek boat ramp. Camping sites include - Lower Beaver Creek, Corral, Caddis Flats.

Burn Canyon Trails - This series of loop trails is located about 3 miles west of Norwood. The main trailhead parking with information kiosks is accessed by a graded dirt road. It offers easy to moderate terrain for hiking, mountain biking, and trail riding. The McKee Draw trail can also be accessed from this trailhead.



Thunder Trails - Offering over 20 miles of single-track for hiking, biking, and horseback riding, these daisy-chained trails are located a few miles south-southwest of Norwood on Forest Service land. The loops pass through the ponderosa forest at the edge of Naturita Canyon. The main parking area is accessed by a graded dirt road closed in winter. Camping is allowed in designated spaces along the Thunder Road which runs up the middle of the trail loops. No facilities.

Busted Arm Draw Nordic Trails - Located about 10 miles from Norwood just off the Lone Cone Road (CR 44ZS), the road beyond a large parking area is closed to vehicles in winter, and is groomed for nordic skiing. This offers about 2.5 miles of groomed trail and another 4.5 miles of ungroomed track. In the summer, there are designated camp sites along this road.



Lone Cone Library - The Lone Cone Library is in the town of Norwood. The facility has two study rooms, a conference room, and a multipurpose room that can be divided with an attached kitchen. Outdoors there is an amphitheater space off the south patio, and a loop walking path around the building.



Norwood Community Garden - Situated in one of the Town's small parks, at the corner of Mesa Street and Summit Street, the community garden offers plots for rent for the growing season, as well as benches, picnic table, and outhouse (summer only).

Wrights Mesa Disc Golf Course - Made possible by a license agreement between NPRD and the property owners Town of Mountain Village, the 9-hole disc golf course is located on a 37-acre parcel on the southwest corner of the Town of Norwood.



Inventory of Existing Elements and Facilities

Existing Element or Facility		Location
Baseball Field (regulation, lights)		School District
Baseball/softball Fields (Little League)		Fairgrounds
Outdoor Basketball Court (rough)		Town Park
Pickleball Courts		Town Park
Indoor Courts (basketball, volleyball, pickleball)		School District
Football Field (bleachers, press box, lights)		School District
Wrestling Room		School District
Play Equipment Areas (3)		Fairgrounds, School, Town Park
Splash Pad		Town Park
Picnic Areas (3)		Town Park, Fairgrounds, Community Garden
Skate Park (concrete pad, mobile features)		Town Park
Pump Track (being rejuvenated 2026)		Town Park
Indoor Climbing Wall		School District
Roller/Ice Rink		Fairgrounds
Indoor Riding Arena		Fairgrounds
Outdoor Arena & Race Track		Fairgrounds
Meeting Rooms		County Building, Library, Town Hall, NPRD Campus
Disc Golf Course		in Town
Trailheads with information kiosk, parking		Burn Canyon (BLM), Busted Arm (FS), Thunder Trails (FS)
Recreation Sites (8) - public lands		BLM, National Forest, CPW/SWA

Norwood Park and Recreation District Facilities

Norwood Park and Recreation District Facilities

In 2018, the District purchased The Livery; in 2023, the District was able to purchase the Oliver House and remainder of the property at 1555 Summit Street. With this acquisition, the following elements were added to the public facilities in the District.

- Office space (4) for the District and local service agencies (Oliver House & Livery Loft)
- Conference room with attached kitchen (Oliver House)
- Meeting room/dance hall/gathering space with capacity for 150 people (The Livery)
- Stage with lights and sound system (The Livery)
- Theater/drama materials: set flats, costumes, props
- Projector and screen (The Livery)
- Picnic area (The Yard)
- Outdoor performance area (The Livery Deck)
- Restrooms (The Livery and Oliver House)
- Public space with complimentary wifi access



What We Want

Gap Analysis

With an understanding of the existing recreation and arts opportunities, and with input from the survey, community engagement, and work sessions conducted April and July 2026, potential gaps in activities, programs, and services were identified. This list sets the stage for prioritizing and planning specific projects Norwood Park and Recreation District may pursue in the future.

SHORT TERM

From the original Master Plan:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| - Regulation Softball Field(s) | - Canoeing |
| - Regulation Soccer Field(s) | - Fishing |
| - Regulation Tennis Court(s) | - Sailing |
| - Regulation Basketball Courts | - Nordic Skiing |
| - Racquetball Court(s) | - Open Grassy Areas |
| - Outdoor Volleyball Court(s) | - Landscaped Areas |
| - Ice Skating Rink | - Places to Gather, Sit and Relax |
| - Sledding Zone | - Picnic Areas with Shade Shelters |
| - Complete Town Proposed Norwood Trail | - BBQ Grills in Picnic Areas |
| - Sports Equipment | - Outdoor Amphitheater |
| - New Playground Equipment / Swings | - Indoor Climbing Wall |
| - Ping Pong / Billiards | - Equipment Storage Shed |
| - Checkers / Chess Tables | - Horseshoe Pits |
| - Archery Range | - Youth Education Programs |

From Community Survey:

Norwood Town Loop Trail
Multi-use Trails/Regional Interconnection Trail
Fitness Center
Playground Equipment

From April 2026 Retreat:

Collaborations, i.e. NYO, NPS, LCLibrary	Skate Ramp/Park
Programs for Senior Citizens	Programs for Youth, Safe Space for Kids
Music & Theater Education	Outing Club (hike, bike)
Climbing Gym	Archery Club
Public/School Track & Field	Town Loop Bridle Trail
Disc Golf Course	

LONG TERM

From the original Master Plan:

- Recreation Center with Pool, Fitness Center, Aerobics Room etc...
- Trails & Trailheads in District, with Parking & Restrooms
- Open Space Preservation
- Regional Park

- Senior Center
- Nature Center
- Community Running Track
- Golf Course

From Community Survey:

Recreation Center with pool, fitness center
 Trails & Trailheads within the District
 Community Pool
 Open Space Preservation

From April 2026 Retreat:

Pool and Recreation Center/Gym/Climbing Gym
 Youth Trail Corps, Trail Crew Organization
 Strong & Consistent Communication, Messaging, Public Engagement

Prioritizing Goals and Activities

Setting and prioritizing manageable goals, both short and long term, is a critical component of the success of the District. Although these goals and priorities have been carefully planned, should a unique and desirable opportunity arise, the District should not hesitate to take advantage, even if it falls outside the scope of these goals, as long as contributing to the pursuit of the Mission.

Short Term Goals

1. Goal:
Action:
2. Goal:
Action:
3. Goal:
Action:
4. Goal:
Action:

Long Term Goals

1. Goal:
Action:
2. Goal:
Action:
3. Goal:
Action:

Staffing Goals

Operational Recommendations

Administration and Management

The Norwood Park and Recreation District is governed by a five member Board of Directors. Board members are elected officials and ultimately, the overall administration and management of the District is their responsibility. It should be noted that staff, not the Board Members, will be responsible for the day to day business of the District. Generally speaking, the Board makes decisions on the policy of the District, and the staff will implement that policy

Personnel, Programs, Land Acquisition --

Financial Overview --

The District's mill levy generates a modest income, and the District receives Conservation Trust Funds. It is important to use and leverage these funds in the most valuable ways possible, showing the citizens that their hard-earned tax dollars are going to good use and benefits the community as a whole.

Other sources of funding are needed to accomplish many of the goals of the District. This includes grants from both private and government organizations, through local, regional, state and federal agencies. As many of the grants mandate matching funds, it remains important for the District to manage finances carefully, so that matching funds will be available.

Facility rental fees, program registration fees, and event admissions & concessions generate the revenue needed to cover a portion of related expenses. Donations and collaboration among entities pursuing mutually beneficial projects maximizes use of the resources for the greatest short and long term benefit. It may be necessary to establish Intergovernmental Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding in such pursuit.

Although finances are an important aspect of the District's operation, the most important factor for success is community support. It is very important to maintain the original promise to the people paying the mill levy tax. Demonstrating fiscal responsibility and optimizing outcomes is paramount.

Looking to the Future:

A. Projecting the Impacts of Growth

The Park and Recreation District and the opportunities it creates for its citizens will be important for healthy and sustainable growth in the long term as the population of the District continues to grow. Good recreation amenities provide a huge benefit for bringing in and retaining quality doctors, dentists, and teachers, etc. The Norwood Park and Recreation District will become an outstanding feature of this area as it continues to grow.

B. Looking for Opportunities for those Larger Projects

The large scale projects that the District hopes to implement in the long term will require a great deal of planning and outside funding. The most important opportunities the District will need to keep a consistent watch over are those involving large grants. The Colorado Grant Book, updated annually, is a great place to keep an eye out for the many public grants that are offered. There are also a seemingly infinite number of private grants out there for those willing to seek them out.

C. Networking into State and Federal Programs

Many large scale projects will provide benefits to outside agencies that are in parallel with the Districts goals. If good relationships are fostered, it would not be uncommon for several agencies to join forces and seek funding to complete a project. It will be important for the Board to seek meetings with these agencies, introduce themselves and the District and discuss goals or projects of mutual benefit. Often times these kinds of networking meetings will be one of the best sources for information to have a project realized.

APPENDICES

- —2024 Community Survey & Results
- —April 2026 Retreat - Invite/Attendees/Summary
- —July 27 Worksession minutes?
- —Detailed District Resource Map (updated?)
- —Norwood Town Map (current)
- —Site Plan for new school
- —