



# Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails & River (PROSTR) Master Plan



## Document Organization

- Chapter 1: Overview
- Chapter 2: Plan Purpose and Process
- Chapter 3: Parks and Recreation Department Overview
- Chapter 4: Background
- Chapter 5: Existing Conditions
- Chapter 6: Community Priorities
- Chapter 7: Recommendations
- Chapter 8: Funding and Implementation

This plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 24, 2019 and adopted by City Council on August 27, 2019.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Park Classifications
- Existing Lands and Facilities Inventory
- Descriptions
- Service Areas
- Special Use Facilities
- Programing
- Population Projections
- Level of Service (LOS)
- Park Land Recommendations

**Steamboat Springs currently provides:**

- 38.77 acres of developed parks
  - 211 acres of natural areas
  - 4.72 miles trails
- per 1,000 residents**

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

**TABLE 15. POTENTIAL NEW DU IN THE STEAMBOAT SPRINGS UGB**

POTENTIAL NEW DU WITHIN EXISTING CITY LIMITS	POTENTIAL NEW DU PER THE 2006 WEST STEAMBOAT PLAN	TOTAL POTENTIAL NEW DU WITHIN UGB
4,000	1,850	5,850

- 402 additional acres of developed parks
- 2,186 additional acres of open space
- 48.99 additional miles of trail

**TABLE 16. POTENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH IN UGB BASED ON PERMANENT OCCUPANCY RATES**

OCCUPANCY RATE BY PERMANENT RESIDENTS	NEW DU OCCUPIED BY PERMANENT RESIDENTS AT BUILDOUT	POTENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH (2.53 PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD)	TOTAL POPULATION AT BUILDOUT
52%	3,042	7,696	20,216
60%	3,510	8,800	21,320
70%	4,095	10,360	22,880



#### Key Finding #4

**Steamboat Springs residents highly value the natural environment and the outdoor recreational opportunities available to them, and rates of use have increased.**



# Increased Parks and Recreation Use Over Time



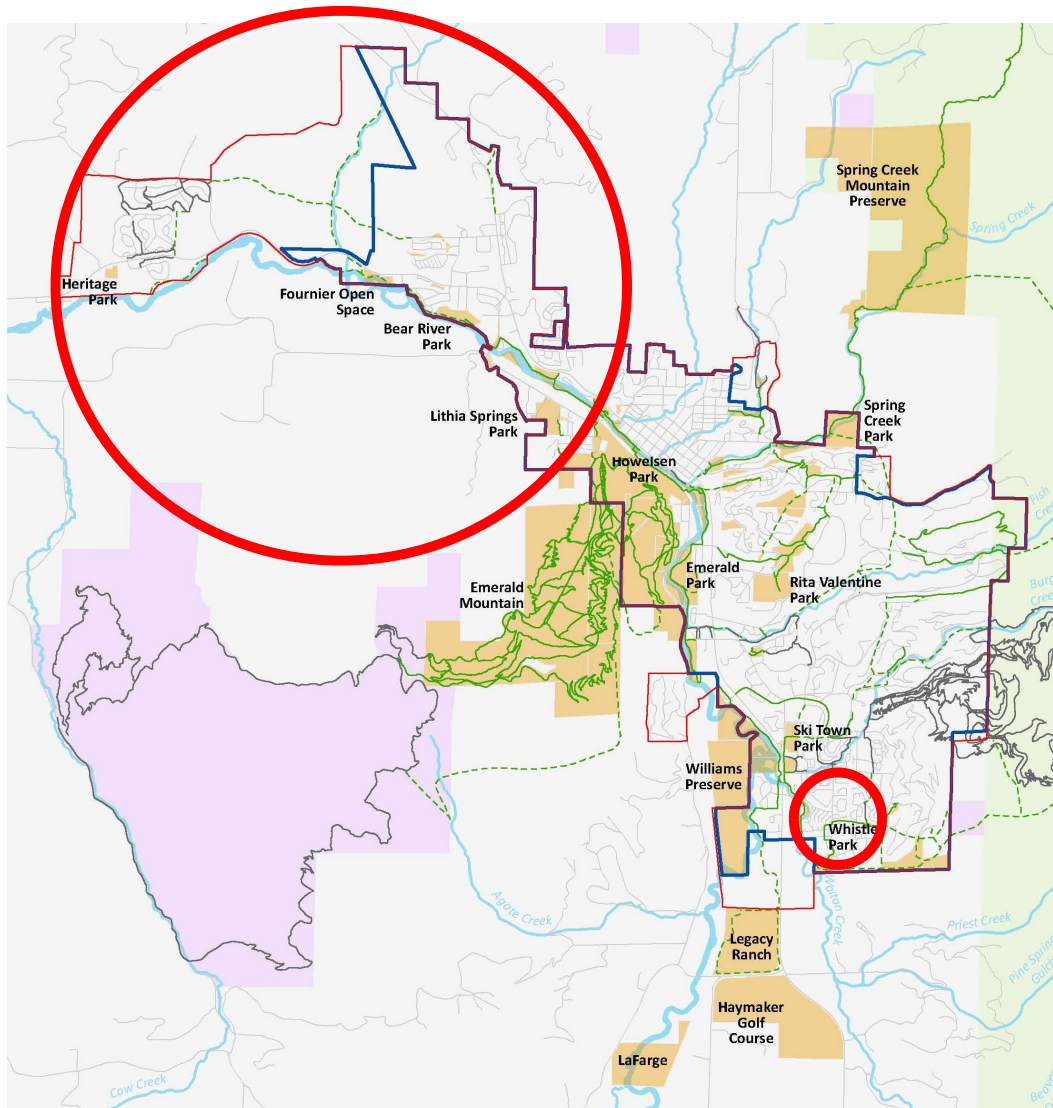
## Compared to 2017...

Increased  
by >20%

- Emerald Mountain winter use
- Emerald Park
- Howelsen Hill alpine area
- Bike parks
- Playgrounds
- Howelsen Hill Nordic area
- City-sponsored adult recreation and sports programs
- Field sports (baseball, softball, soccer, football, etc.)
- Tennis and/or pickleball at Howelsen Hill

Increased  
by 10-20%

- Non-core trail bike and pedestrian paths
- Emerald Mountain summer use
- Neighborhood parks
- Botanic Garden
- Howelsen Hill summer use
- Swimming/wading on the Yampa River
- Tubing on the Yampa River
- Howelsen Rodeo/equestrian facility
- Haymaker Golf Course
- Floating (boat, kayak, SUP) on the Yampa River
- Fishing on the Yampa River
- Howelsen Ice Arena
- Skate parks
- City-sponsored youth recreation and sports programs
- Howelsen Hill jumps area



## 2022 Community Survey

The West Steamboat neighborhood rated Parks and Recreation amenities significantly lower than the other than Old Town, Downtown, and the Mountain Area.



# PROSTR ACTION ITEMS

Vision: Our community will enjoy a well-maintained parks system and a diverse range of core recreation services and facilities that meet community needs and continue to enhance the lives of a growing community.





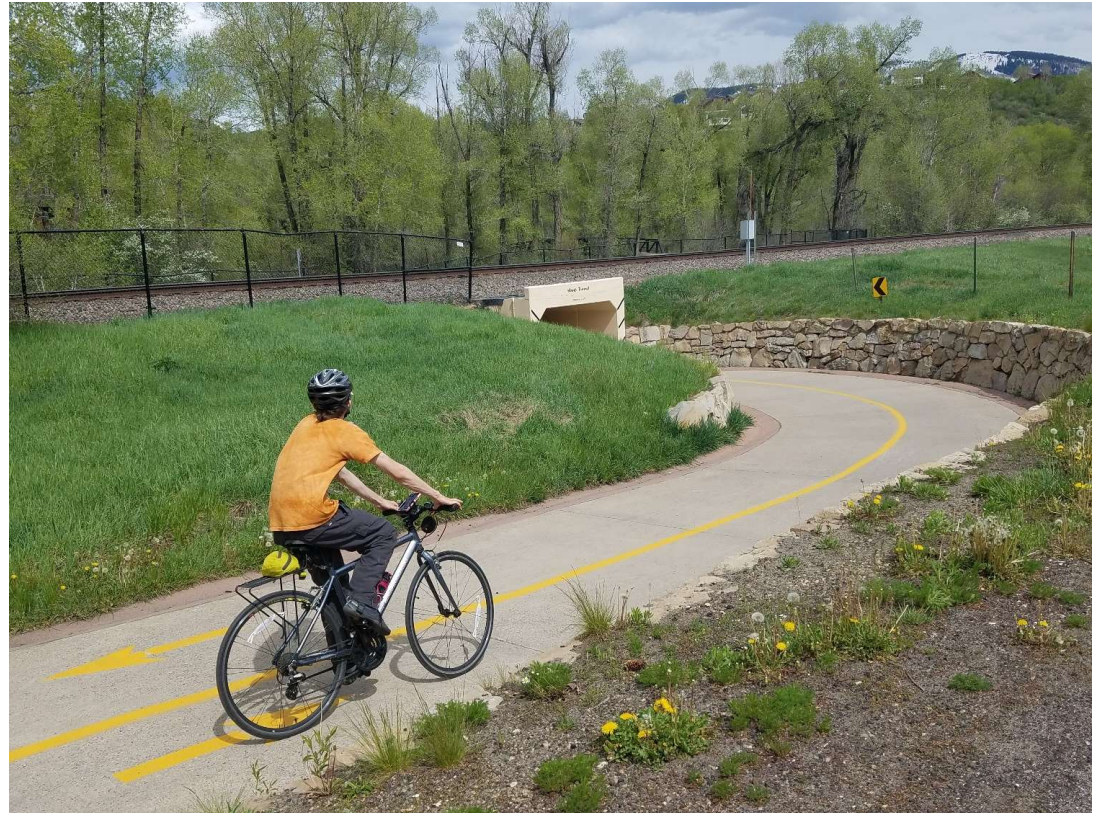
# ACTION ITEMS: TRAILS

#2

- Extend Core Trail west along river corridor with multi-modal connections, north to Slate Creek, connecting Steamboat proper to Steamboat II areas.

P3

- Extend Core Trail south to Legacy Open Space.



# ACTION ITEMS : TRAILS

P3

- Designate Additional directional and single use trails at Emerald Mountain/Howelsen Open Space, and Spring Creek Open Space.

# 4

- Utilize existing facilities, develop a clearly marked trailhead at the base of Howelsen Hill designating entrance of the Blackmer Trailhead within Emerald Mountain trail system, easing congestion of Fairview neighborhood





# ACTION ITEMS: TRAILS



- Continue to improve on-street connectivity by providing bicycle lanes/routes, walks and improved crossings/underpasses at US40. # 9
- Seek opportunities to implement other trail connections where needed or with development and/or road improvements.
- Assess social trails on City owned lands to determine if they should be brought into the system and legitimized or closed and revegetated and be a resource to the community and partners to address social trails on private land.





# ACTION ITEMS: OPEN SPACE

- Expand the open space system by acquiring/preserving additional lands. As the City boundary expands, target open space areas with priority on lands adjacent to existing lands to provide additional trails and habitat connectivity.
- Partner with Yampa Valley Land Trust (updated: Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust), Routt County, and other conservation-oriented groups to conserve land.
- Develop management plans alongside Routt County and other partners, for all open space and natural area properties with the goal of balancing resource values with public use.



# ACTION ITEMS: ADULT REC

- Expand number of sand volleyball courts and upgrade volleyball and tennis court lighting (repair failing service lines, reposition light locations and upgrade to new energy efficient LED bulbs).
- Continue to work with local partners and organizations to obtain indoor gym space to host sports programming during the fall and winter months.
- If funding partners emerge and/or the community supports a funding source that could cover construction and operational cost (after funding other higher priority projects), a multi-purpose indoor facility should be constructed. \* This Action is also referenced in the Tennis Center, Ice Arena, and Adult Sports section.
- Evaluate structure of programming to specifically target and increase involvement of aging and casual adult sports participants.

# ACTION ITEMS: YOUTH

- Proactively take part and collaborate with community groups that are also looking to expand youth/childcare space including, but not limited to, First Impressions and Routt County Youth Services Coalition.
- Collaborate with partners to regularly update City Council, and the community as a whole, on the current childcare landscape so they are aware of capacity issues and facility limitations.
- Explore licensing additional City facilities as they become available to increase City owned programmable space to house current and future programs.
- Consider meeting the communities needs and requests for early childhood care by establishing programs that service youth five years of age and younger.

P3



# ACTION ITEMS: TENNIS



P3

- Increase available indoor space for Pickleball courts.
- Consider if the Ski Town Park Complex is an appropriate location to meet the gym space and indoor fields action referenced in facility section action #8.

P3

- Continue to grow the Tennis Center Endowment fund.

P3

- Offset or reduce maintenance money needed from the City.

# ACTION ITEMS: PARKS



#1

- Implement deferred projects list for existing park improvements (restroom and playground replacements, irrigation systems, shelters, bridge repairs, skate park equipment replacement etc.).
- Heritage Park - Do not let lease expire; request a 1 year extension

P3

#6

- Implement the Bear River Park Master Plan, but focus on river access improvements and maintaining existing facilities in the shorter term.

P3

- While desired, wait to designate additional off-leash dog areas until existing areas can be evaluated over several years for potential impacts (e.g. loss of vegetation, water quality, impact to wildlife).
- Construct at least one fenced dog park.

# ACTION ITEMS: RODEO

P3

- Implement the Rodeo Master Plan.





# ACTION ITEMS: SKI AREA



P3

- Repair or Replace ski lifts and jumps at Howelsen Hill. #8
- Stabilize the Howelsen Hill Ski Area. #5
- Maintain and upgrade existing Howelsen Hill facilities including restrooms, the lodge and concessions, pedestrian and bike connections, pedestrian lighting, aesthetics, landscaping and skate park replacement. #3



# ACTION ITEMS: ICE ARENA

- Develop lobby area at the Howelsen Ice Arena to existing footer, adding an additional 1,140 square feet to build a designated women's locker room.
- Design and develop a second floor addition to the Howelsen Ice Arena to include an additional 2,965 square feet of programmable space.
- Alleviate capacity demands at the Howelsen Ice Arena by installing an outdoor, seasonal, refrigerated ice sheet.
- Alleviate capacity demands at the Howelsen Ice Arena by completion of the Youth Sports Arena addition.
- Continue to expand Howelsen Ice Arena programming during slower seasons of when ice time is available.

P3



# ACTION ITEMS: RIVER



P3

- Lead and partner on designated actions in the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan, including:

- Establishing a native riparian revegetation program
- Improving City-owned diversion structures to increase efficiency and to reduce fish passage barriers
- Participating in the City Stream Team
- Identifying high priority parcels for acquisition for open space
- Restoring streamflow during drought conditions through voluntary, market-based water leases and releases from reservoir storage.

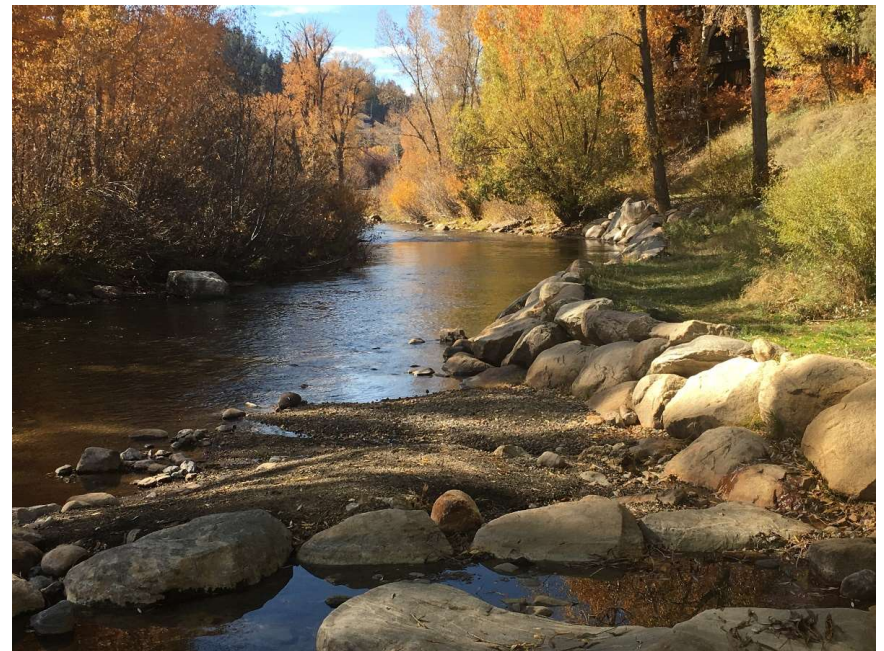
P3

- Work with partners to monitor river health management objectives and indicators identified in the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan.



# ACTION ITEMS: RIVER

- Continue and expand education of river users regarding protecting the riparian and aquatic habitat and exhibiting respectful behavior through the following:
  - Yampa River signage
  - River Ranger Program
  - Friends of the Yampa / Yampa River Clean Up Days
  - Guest education (brochures, videos, local TV ads)
  - City website and social media
- Evaluate the effectiveness and funding costs of the River Ranger program and identify future direction and actions.



# ACTION ITEMS: RIVER

- Establish yearly monitoring program to assess impacts (e.g. increased trash, riparian vegetation damage) of recreation users to determine if management policies should be changed to protect resources (e.g. limits on number of tubers and permits required) and consider increasing commercial tube allowances and promote their use to decrease negative impacts to the river system from private tubers.



# ACTION ITEMS: RIVER

- Continue to implement policy limiting recreational use of the river when habitat and river health could be negatively impacted, in consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (e.g. water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and/or low flows).
- Continue to implement the conceptual recommendations of the Yampa River Structural Plan, and monitor and maintain existing river features for form and function.



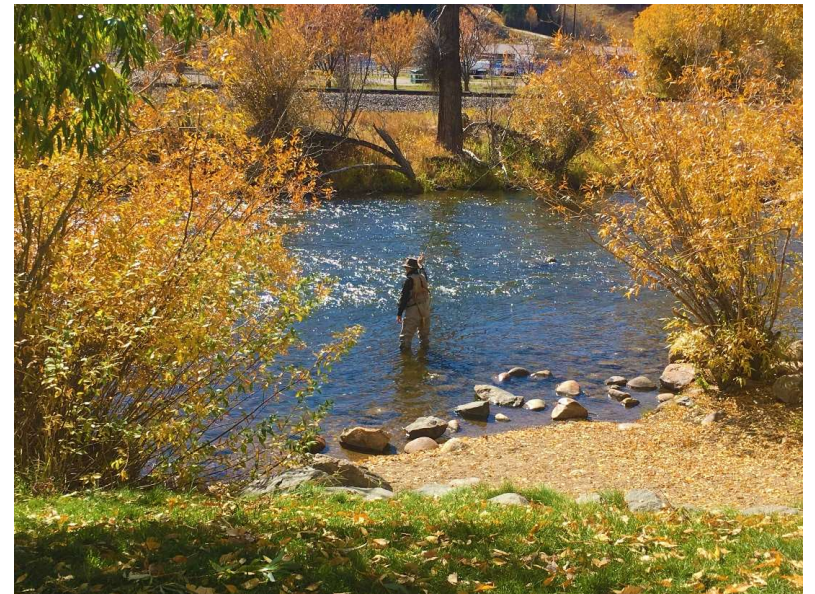


# ACTION ITEMS: RIVER

- Protect the City's Recreational Instream Channel Diversion (RICD) water right by maintaining the C & D Hole structures, and maintaining the 13th Street gauge.
- Monitor and control invasive species.
- Monitor and maintain existing river features for form and function
- Create a boating take-out point at Bear River Park.

#7

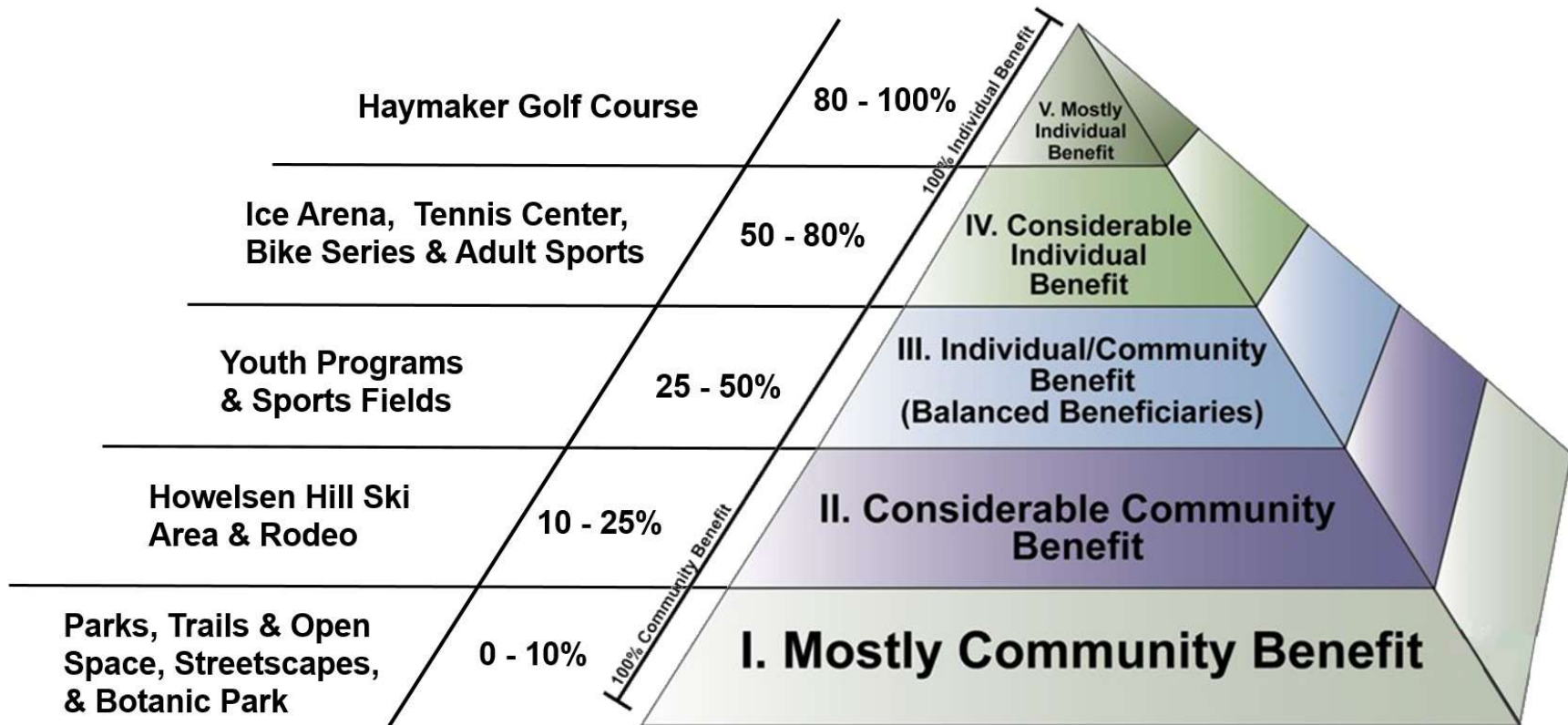
P3



# FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

1. Increase funding that is allocated to maintain existing assets, and do not add elements to the PROSTR system without funding to maintain them.
2. Further explore community support for a tax to fund high priority projects and their operations and maintenance.
3. Maximize partnerships with the school district, Yampa Valley Land Trust, CPW, Triple Crown and others to provide and manage recreational facilities, and conserve and manage public lands.
4. Assess the value Parks and Recreation Department facilities and programs bring to the area's economy through lodging, sales and job creation.

# COST RECOVERY MODEL



© 2001, 2008, 2009 GreenPlay, LLC



# Questions