

Appendix D - Boulder Community Profile

To prepare this master plan, the department considered the city's community profile, including demographic trends that have implications for our parks and recreation future. Demographic sources include *City of Boulder: A Demographic Profile* (City of Boulder Department of Housing and Human Services, April 2004), *City of Boulder Census 2000: Populations, Households, and Housing* (prepared by the Boulder Planning Department), and *the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)*.

Demographic Trends

Increase in population. The city grew by 13.6 percent from 1990 to 2000, the largest growth since 1970. Boulder's population including college students was 101,547 in January 2004, according to DRCOG. Boulder's 2030 projected population is 124,400 (Areas I and II).

Aging of population. The number of city residents ages 45-59 increased from approximately 15 percent to approximately 22 percent between 1990 and 2000. The population over age 65 remained stable at 10.8 percent (excluding college students), or about 7,500 people in 2000. The number of seniors is expected to increase in the future as Baby Boomers age and live longer. Boulder's median age without university students was 35 in 2000, and is expected to peak at 51 in 2030.

Fewer families, many single-parent families, and many parents in the labor force. Families declined from 46 percent of all households in 1990 to 42 percent in 2000. Nearly one in four families with children under 18 are single-parent families. Most single parents (83 percent) are in the labor force. For children in two-parent households, 60 percent have both parents in the labor force.

Fewer children. The percentage of children ages 14 and under decreased slightly between 1990 and 2000. The percent of the population under age 18 decreased slightly also, from 20.9 percent in 1990 to 19.9 percent in 2000, representing approximately 14,000 children in 2000.

High level of education. Overall, Boulder's population is highly educated and becoming more so. In 2000, over two-thirds of residents had a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree, compared to national estimates of 26 percent with at least a bachelor's degree. About 5 percent of Boulder's population had less than a high school diploma.

High median income. Boulder's median income continues to be higher than the state and the nation, and trends toward becoming even wealthier. The median family income for Boulder/Longmont in 2002 was \$87,900, compared to the Colorado median of \$58,000 and U.S. median of \$53,700, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

More poverty. Boulder also had a higher poverty rate than the nation. The national poverty rate was estimated at 11.7 percent in 2001. In 2000, the most recent year the U.S. Census studied, about 14 percent of Boulder's population, excluding college students, had incomes below the poverty level.

Growth of Latino population. Boulder's Latino population (Spanish-speaking, also called Hispanic by the U.S. Census Bureau) nearly doubled between 1990 and 2000, increasing from 4.5 percent to 8.2 percent. About half of Boulder's Latino residents were born outside the U.S. Two-thirds of foreign-born residents have arrived since 1990; about 85 percent are from Mexico. Over 26 percent were under 18, compared to 20 percent of the general population. About one-third of the Latino population reported not speaking English well or at all.

Five Key Community Trends

Five trends that will help determine priorities for the parks and recreation system:

More active seniors. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the age-65 and older population will more than double from 34 million in 2000 to 70 million in 2030. Compared to previous generations, seniors are more likely to be active and in good health, with higher education and income levels. Boulder's Baby Boomer population is aging, and the city continues to attract many seniors who have relocated for healthy, active lifestyles. The department does not track program participants by age, except for recreation center memberships. The popularity of senior classes in yoga, weight-training, and other activities continues to grow.

More single-parent and two-parent families working. This has implications for children as well as parents. Parents may have budget limitations and little time to engage in fitness activities and programs, which could reduce participation levels in fee-based programs. With many children experiencing some period of single parenting, and schools reducing subsidized activity programs, public and private community programs that provide skills-based activities such as sports and the arts will continue to grow. Children of affluent parents can also be at risk.

More at-risk children. Boulder's higher-than-average poverty rate actually improved somewhat for children and youth, from 14.3 percent in 1990 to 12.8 percent in 2000. But among Latino children and youth, the poverty rate is higher—27 percent of Latino families had incomes below poverty level in 2000.

A 2004 survey of 1,960 Boulder County youth conducted by the Boulder Public Health Department and the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain school districts found that almost half of high school students drank alcohol, and about a third were binge drinkers. More than half of local high school seniors had tried marijuana and had sex, and 16 percent had attempted suicide.

The trend toward leaving children unsupervised for larger periods of time is one factor in Boulder's increasing number of at-risk youth. There is a growing need for activities for children and youth that could mitigate at-risk behavior, such as recreational programs, after-school activities, and programs that help build self-esteem.

More Latino/limited-English-speaking residents. Outreach and services to residents with limited English skills may be quite different than outreach to the general population because of language and cultural differences. The needs and uses of parks and recreation facilities may be different, as well. For the growing number of Latino youth, recreation programs could provide healthy after-school, evening, or weekend activities.

Increasing competition from other municipal and private fitness/recreation centers. One factor in a recent loss in user fees is competition from private and other municipal facilities, especially those in communities whose tax revenues are increasing and provide more subsidy for programs and facilities.