

CHAPTER 5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND CORE SERVICES



C7 Well House



VISION

Investments in infrastructure that improve quality of life and support commerce will have a significant economic impact by making it possible for existing businesses to expand and by increasing the overall appeal of Limon to employers. The town will work to provide financially sustainable infrastructure and core services that serve the needs of the community.

Basic infrastructure components such as recreational amenities, trails, sidewalks, and EMS services are fundamental components of day-to-day health and quality of life.

Enhancements to bike and pedestrian facilities will increase transportation and recreation options and entice tourists to get out of their cars and explore. Maintaining the fiscal soundness of the town in current and future economic cycles is of utmost importance for achieving community goals and maintaining health and quality of life. This plan element is centered around these goals:

Goal ICS.1 – Improve existing parks and recreation facilities.

Goal ICS.2 – Expand outdoor recreation.

Goal ICS.3 – Develop an indoor recreation facility that is suited to the level of use expected in Limon and is feasible given the fiscal realities of the town.

Goal ICS.4 – Integrate auto and pedestrian/bike transportation throughout town.

Goal ICS.5 – Pursue economic development investments.

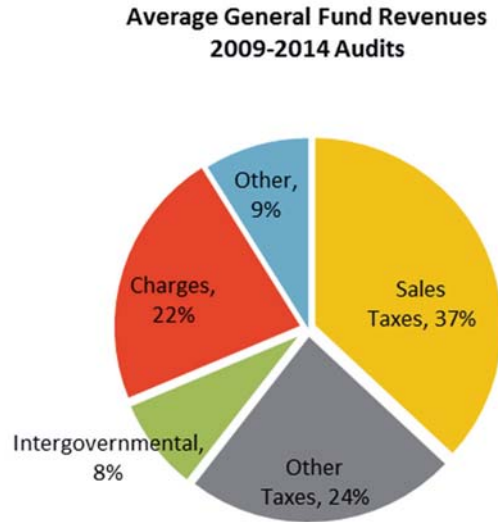
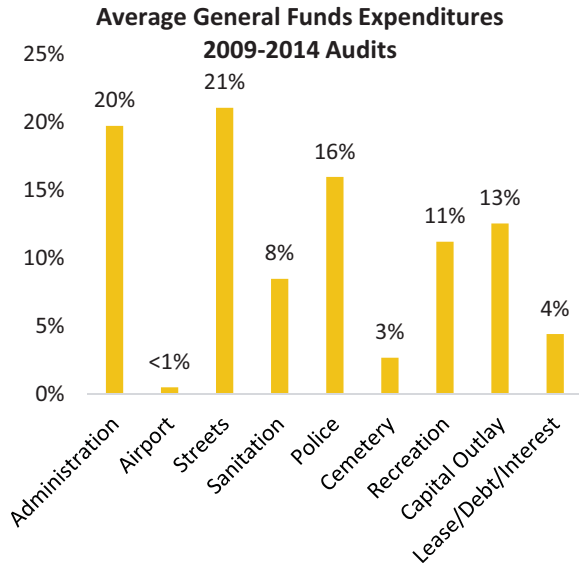
Goal ICS.6 - Ensure that water and wastewater facilities remain compliant with state and federal regulations and that the water and wastewater funds are fiscally sound.

Goal ICS.7 – Maintain the level of service and performance of the Limon Ambulance Service.

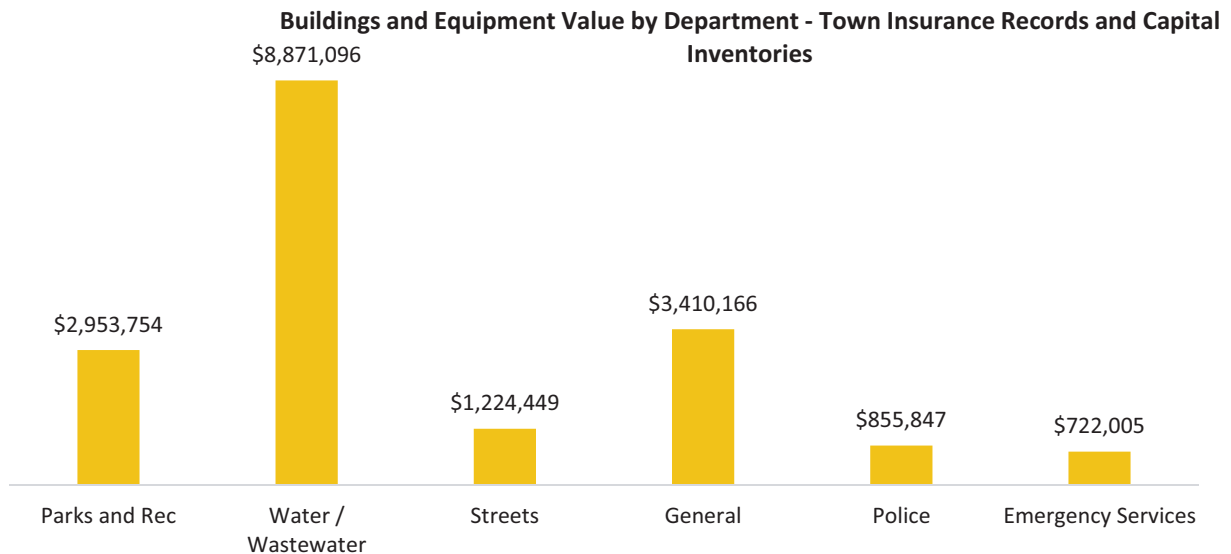
FISCAL BACKGROUND

Most of the town’s general fund revenues originate from taxes. On average, tax collections account for 61% of total revenues. Between 2009 and 2014, the administrative, streets, and police departments accounted for an average of 57% of total town expenditures. These are the only departments that individually account for more than 15% of the total budget. Lease, debt, interest payments, the cemetery and the airport combined account for less than 10% of general fund spending.





Limon uses over \$18 million worth of buildings and equipment to provide services to residents. The buildings and equipment used by the water and wastewater departments account for nearly half of the total value, with the water treatment plant accounting for 19% of town owned buildings and equipment. Administrative/General Departments account for \$3.4 million or 19% of town capital facilities, and the parks and recreation department accounts for \$2.9 million in capital or 16% of town capital facilities. The emergency services, streets, and police departments manage the remaining 16% of capital facilities.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Limon has a number of existing recreation assets including two softball fields, one baseball field, Limon Municipal Pool, four community parks, a skate park, the golf course, Kissel fishing pond and wetlands. Currently the town offers the following youth sports: baseball, softball, junior golf, basketball, football, soccer, volleyball and gymnastics (in Elizabeth, 51 miles from Limon), with a total of 691 youth participants in 2014. The town offers adult softball, volleyball, open gym and men’s, women’s, and senior golf leagues. In 2014 there were 264 adult softball and volleyball participants and 211 open gym users. The town also offers a small number of youth and senior trips each year.

The majority of Limon residents at the Community Vision Event and the Growth Summit were supportive of improving current assets and increasing the recreation opportunities in Limon. Top priorities for outdoor recreation are improved parks and facilities, and more trails and pathways. The top priority for indoor recreation is a recreation center. Increasing recreation opportunities in Limon will benefit not just the residents of Limon, but will also appeal to visitors and potential businesses.

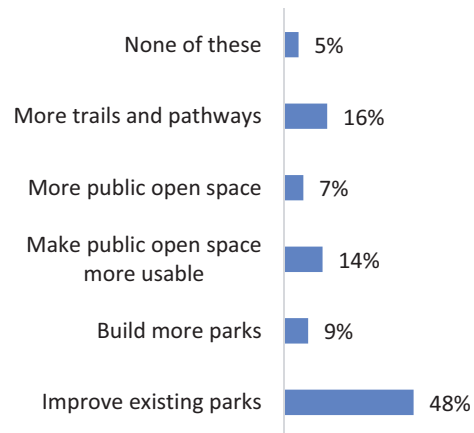
GOAL ICS.1 – IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

Background Information

At the Community Vision Event participants were asked what the highest priority is for Parks and Recreation. 48% of participant identified improving existing parks and facilities as the most important priority for parks and recreation.

Limon has a number of parks and recreation facilities: Limon Softball Complex, Bob Smith Baseball field, Tamarack Golf Course, a community building, a pool/bathhouse, four community parks, a skate park, a fishing pond and wetlands for wildlife viewing, as well as four currently vacant areas that may be suitable for parks and recreation development.

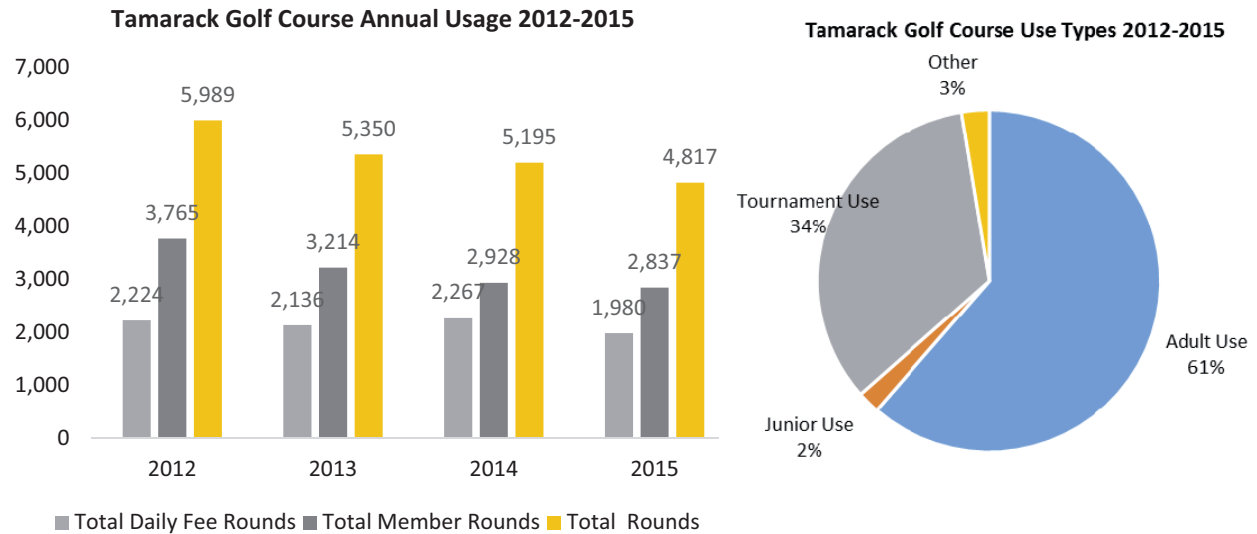
Which is the highest priority for parks and recreation?



The Tamarack Golf Course is south of Limon on Highway 71. The town owns and operates the golf course which has nine holes and a driving range as well as a pro shop and banquet hall. Since 2012 the total rounds of golf played at the course has steadily decreased. In 2012 there were 5,989 rounds of golf played, in 2015 there were 4,817 rounds, a decrease of 1,172 rounds in a total of four years. In 2015 Tamarack members accounted for an average of 60% of total rounds while nonmembers accounted for an average of 40% of total rounds.



Between 2012 and 2015 adults accounted for 63% of total use of the course and tournaments accounted for 34% of total use, junior use made up 2% and the remaining 3% was other use.



Limon Recreation Assets

Tamarack Golf Course	9 Holes, Driving Range, Pro Shop, Banquet Room
Limon Municipal Pool	Pool, Restrooms, Picnic Facilities, Bathhouse, Turf Play Area/Park
Railroad Park	Playground, Pavilion, Heritage Facilities, Outdoor Stage, Pedestrian Trail, Two Sets of Horseshoe Pits-Recently Purchased A Lot Across Street
Skate Park	Skate Park, Basketball Court
Community Building Park	Community Building, Picnic Facilities, Playground, Basketball Court, Turf Play Area, Lighted Tennis Courts (Unused)
South Limon Park	Phase 1 of Upgrade Completed 2015: Playground, Basketball Court, Picnic Table, Shelter; Additional Planned Upgrades Include: Sod, Sprinkler System and Sidewalks
Bob Smith Baseball Park	1 Field, Concessions, Restrooms, Batting Cage
Limon Softball Complex	2 Softball Fields, Batting Cage, Concessions, Restrooms, Turf Play Area, Enclosed Sandbox
Other	Kissel Fishing Pond, Wetlands, Pedestrian Trail
Gun Club	Target Range and Trap Shooting Range



Potential funding sources for park improvements:

- Great Outdoors Colorado
<http://www.goco.org/grant-programs/local-government/applications-forms>
- DOLA Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251594715231>
- DOLA Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251591547558>
- Colorado State Parks Land and Water Conservation Fund
<http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/LWCF/Pages/LWCFHome.aspx>
- KaBoom (for playgrounds)
http://kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/grants
- Tony Hawk Foundation
<http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/skatepark-grants/apply/>

STRATEGIES

Strategy A – Improve the Limon Community Building with a west side addition, kitchen improvements and increased parking.

Strategy B – Build a new outdoor pool and associated improvements or renovate the existing outdoor pool and associated facilities.

Strategy C – Renovate Railroad Park by the addition of landscaping, restrooms, ADA sidewalks and a parking lot. Prepare the park for events such as “Music in the Park”.

Strategy D – Improve the ball fields.

- Complete 2016 budgeted improvements to Bob Smith Baseball Park: new bleacher shade and one set of bleachers.
- Install bleacher pads at the softball complex, dugout for south field (2-4 years) and lights for the north field (6-10 years).
- Upgrade water systems for softball and baseball fields including sprinkler timers and drainage improvements in Bob Smith Baseball Park.

Strategy E – Ensure the fiscal viability of the golf course and continue to promote it as a recreation asset for the region and for visitors.



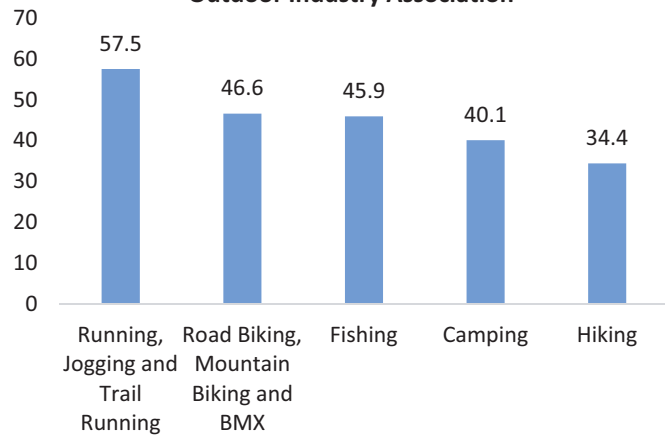
GOAL ICS.2 – EXPAND OUTDOOR RECREATION.

Background Information

There is strong support for increasing outdoor recreation in Limon, 67% of Growth Summit respondents favored expansion of the trail system. In the region surrounding Limon there is a real lack of outdoor recreation opportunities. There is a void of state parks and public lands near Limon, creating an opportunity for Limon to become the center for outdoor recreation in the area.

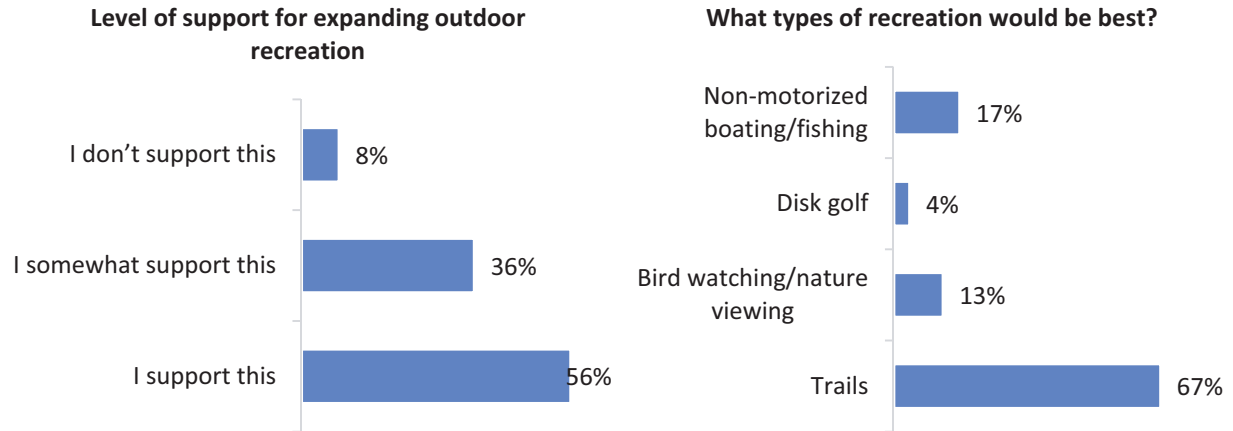
Of Americans age 6 and up, 20% or 57.5 million people participated in running, jogging, and trail running in 2014, making it the most popular outdoor activity in America. 16% or 46.6 million people participated in road biking, mountain biking and BMX, and 12% or 34.4 million people participated in hiking. 24% of outdoor recreation participants in America enjoyed an outdoor activity at least twice a week. In the Four Corners and Northern Rockies States 52% of the population participate in outdoor recreation activities according to the Outdoor Participation Report 2014 by Outdoor Industry Association.

National Outdoor Recreation Participants (Millions)-Outdoor Participation Report 2014, Outdoor Industry Association



There are three main opportunity areas for expanded outdoor recreation in Limon: Big Sandy, along the creeks in town, and around the golf course. A large portion of the Big Sandy property is located on the floodplain making it ideal for trails and open space. The area around and including the golf course is zoned open space and provides an opportunity for a trail around the golf course as well as a trail or sidewalk linking the golf course to downtown Limon. There are also opportunities for expanding the existing trails along the creeks running through town and along Big Sandy Creek (see Trails Map below). Creating a user friendly, accessible trail system throughout Limon will provide recreation opportunities for residents of Limon, the surrounding area, and the 80,000 annual overnight visitors to Limon.





Several funding sources are available for outdoor recreation and trails. Some of these sources include:

- Colorado State Trails Program
<http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/Grants/>
- Great Outdoors Colorado
<http://www.goco.org/grant-programs/local-government/applications-forms>
- Federal Highway Trust Fund
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/>
- Great Outdoors Colorado may be a potential funding source for a public campground.
<http://www.goco.org/grant-programs/local-government/applications-forms>

STRATEGIES

Strategy A – Develop a Trail Network along the Big Sandy Creek.

Strategy B – Improve existing trailheads and trail amenities.

Strategy C– Improve existing trail surfaces.

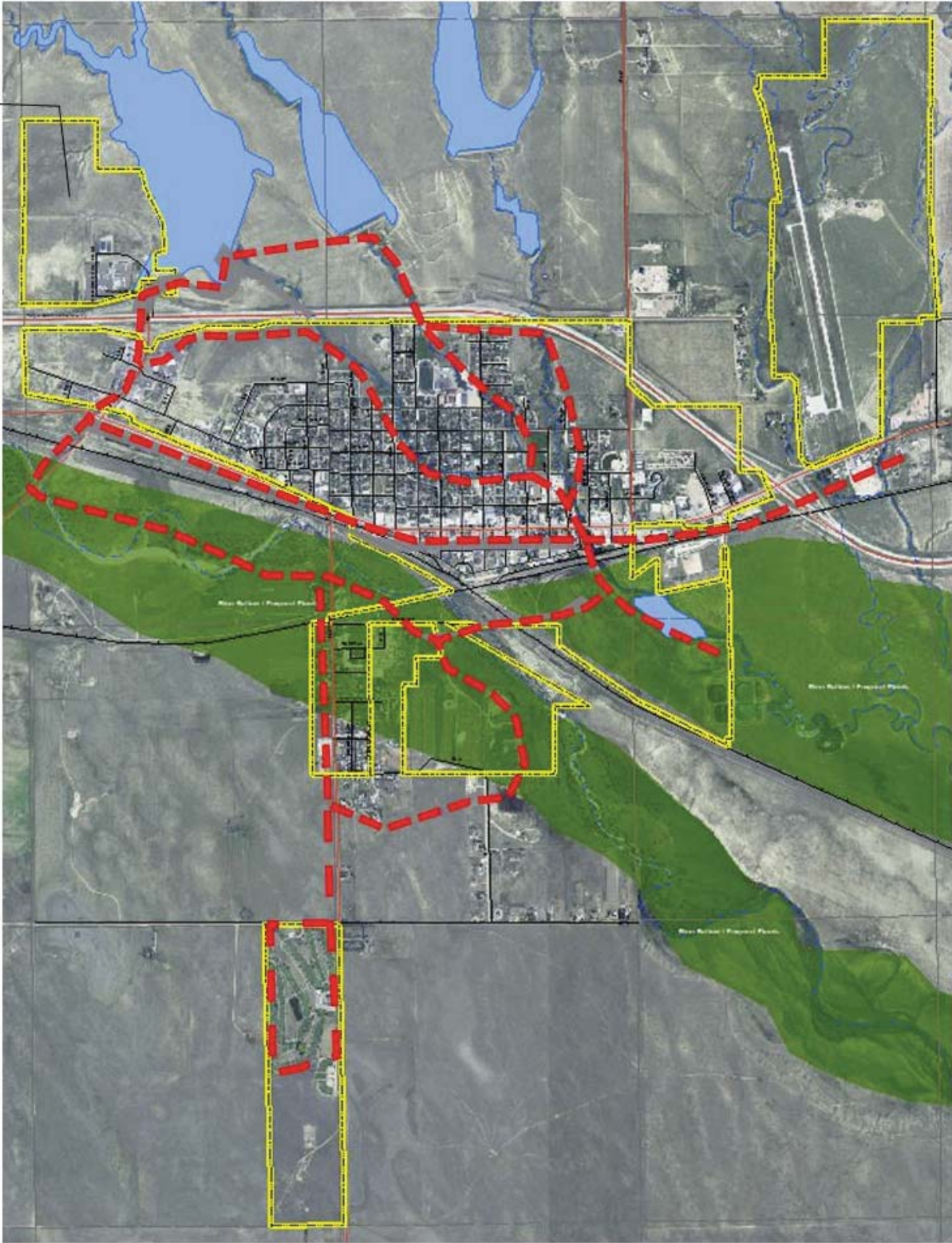
Strategy D – Develop a trail to connect South Limon to the golf course.

Strategy E – Expand trails in town along the drainage ways.

Strategy F – Extend trails to the north of I-70 in the reservoir area.



Conceptual Trails Plan

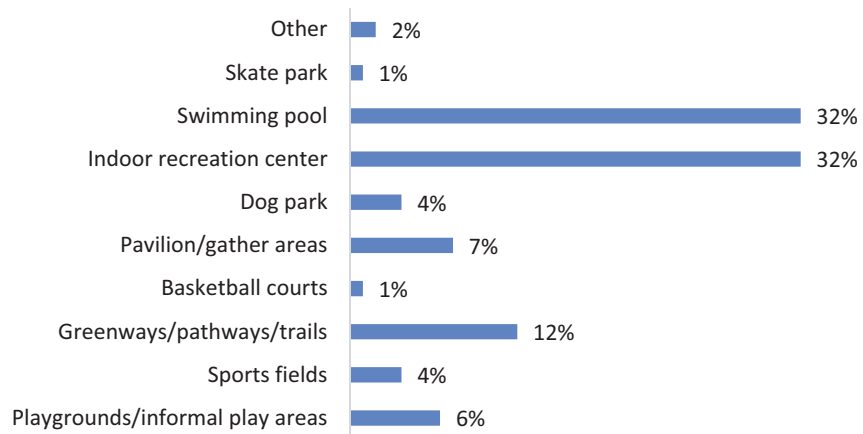


GOAL ICS.3 – INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY.

Background Information

Improving existing parks, expanding the trail system, and making open space more useable are the highest priority improvements. The most favored specific improvements from participants at the Vision Event include a swimming pool, an indoor recreation center, and trails. Building a skate park, basketball courts, dog park, and new sports fields were the least popular improvements receiving less than 5% of the vote. Currently the town uses the school gymnasiums for some of their recreation programs such as open gym and youth and adult basketball and volleyball. Sharing the school gymnasiums requires the town to schedule activities around school events.

What types of parks improvements are most important to you?

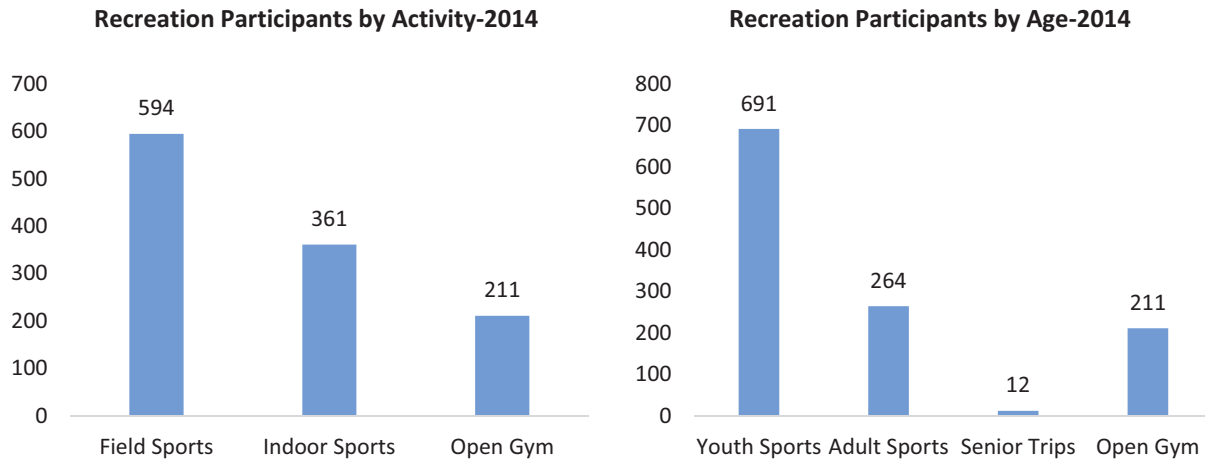


The recreation center and swimming pool were top priorities for Limon residents in a previous survey as well. 43% of respondents to the 2011 Recreation and Cultural Priorities Survey said the town should consider an indoor swimming pool in the future, while 40% said the town should consider a recreation center.

What other facilities would you like us to consider in the future?-2011 Recreation and Cultural Priorities Survey



In 2014, the town’s recreation programs, excluding golf and swimming pool programs, had almost 1,200 participants, 59% of participants played in a youth sports league, 22% of participants played in an adult sports league, 19% were open gym participants and less than 1% were senior trip participants. Half of the recreation participants participated in field/outdoor sports, the remaining half participated in indoor sports and open gym.



Funding sources for a Rec Center

- USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/had-cf_grants.html
- HUD Community Development Block Grants (administered by DOLA) <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251592177272>
- Great Outdoors Colorado – (Outdoor Projects)
- <http://www.goco.org/grant-programs/local-government/applications-forms>
- DOLA Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance program <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251594715231>

STRATEGIES

Strategy A – Establish a “Friends of the Recreation Center” citizens group to support the effort from the grass roots.

Strategy B – Collect public input on the specifics of the recreation center and identify the priority features.

Strategy C – Explore funding sources for the planning/design of the recreation center

Strategy D – Plan, design and get costs for initial construction and annual operations and maintenance.

Strategy E – “Friends of the Recreation Center” launch an outreach program to educate and inform citizens about the plans for a recreation center.

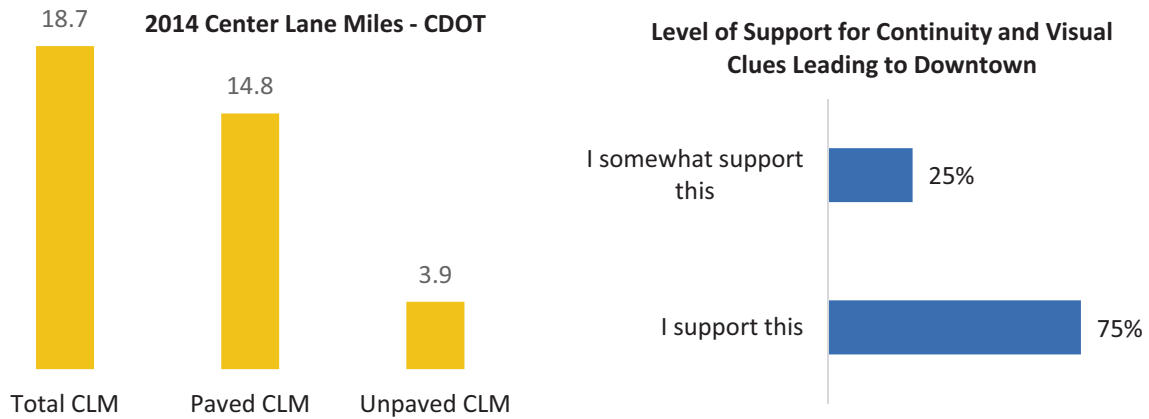


Strategy F – Once the level of public support is sufficiently established, place a sales tax dedicated to building and maintaining the recreation center on the ballot for the voters. This future sales tax could be structured to fund other public facilities and capital investments as well.

GOAL ICS.4 – INTEGRATED AUTO AND PEDESTRIAN/BIKE TRANSPORTATION.

Background Information

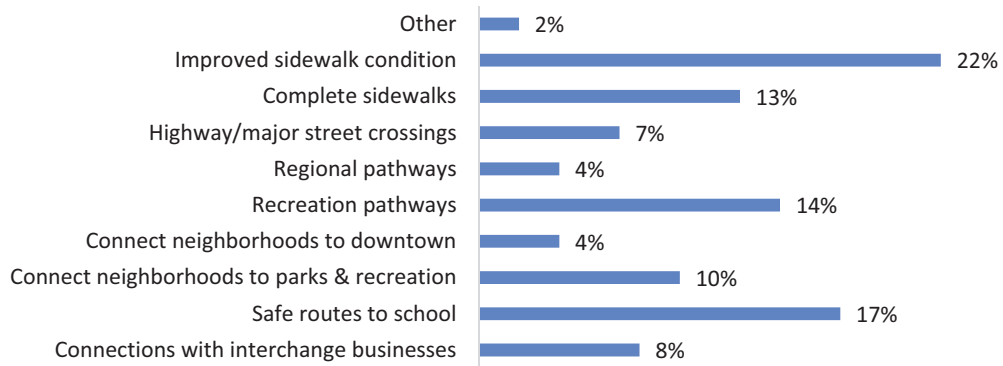
Limon has 18.7 center lane miles of roads, 14.8 miles or 79% are paved, and 3.9 miles are unpaved dirt roads. The Vision Event polling exercise identified improving sidewalk conditions, ensuring safe routes to school, completing sidewalks and creating recreation pathways as top priorities for the town when considering issues related to bikers and pedestrians. All respondents at the Growth Summit supported using visual clues to connect the highways with downtown.



Limon’s historic Downtown already has a distinct orientation towards pedestrians with sidewalks adjacent to buildings, but there is room to expand beyond the historic district. Linking downtown to surrounding neighborhoods, the east and west interchanges, parks, open space and trail networks through continuous sidewalks, bike routes, street crossings, and signage will increase Limon’s pedestrian and bike friendliness. Maintaining the road surfaces and improving signage at the east and west interchanges will make it simpler and more enticing for interchange users to visit downtown.



Which of the following is the top priority for bikes/pedestrians?



STRATEGIES

Strategy A – Make sidewalks continuous and improve the signage from interchanges to Downtown Limon.

Strategy B – Maintain quality driving surfaces and drainage.

Strategy C – Rehabilitate the older and substandard sidewalks.

Strategy D – Create additional safe pedestrian railroad crossings.

Strategy E – If the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is successful in achieving its goal of an alternate north/south four-lane route through Limon, work with CDOT to construct a relief route from I-70 to Highway 71 north of town.

Strategy F – Complete and implement the airport master plan.

GOAL ICS. 5 – CONTINUE TO MAKE TARGETED INVESTMENTS AIMED AT CREATING AND SUSTAINING PRIMARY JOBS

Background Information

Limon is working to expand the livelihoods of its residents and create a diverse and sustainable economy. Limon’s location at the intersection of Interstate 70, and Highways 24, 40, 71 and 287 and its location directly on active rail lines make it a prime location for commerce and the travel and freight industries. The town has made efforts to attract primary industries with Foreign Trade Zone status and partnering with the Ports-to-Plains Alliance. The town owns assets that could be utilized to attract businesses that would diversify the economy or build on the existing economic strengths. The town can also lead community efforts such as marketing Limon’s great assets.

STRATEGIES

Strategy A – Create a brand for strategic marketing of the Town of Limon.

Strategy B – Support new development through town contributions to infrastructure costs.



Strategy C – Lease town land at a discount for new development.

Strategy D – Improved streetscapes and signage from interchanges to Downtown.

Strategy E – Annual contributions to Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC).

Strategy F – Improve and expand internet and cellular phone service.

Strategy G – Improve the look of the east interchange by developing a park area.

Strategy H – Continue to monitor the effectiveness and adapt the tax incentives offered by the Town of Limon.

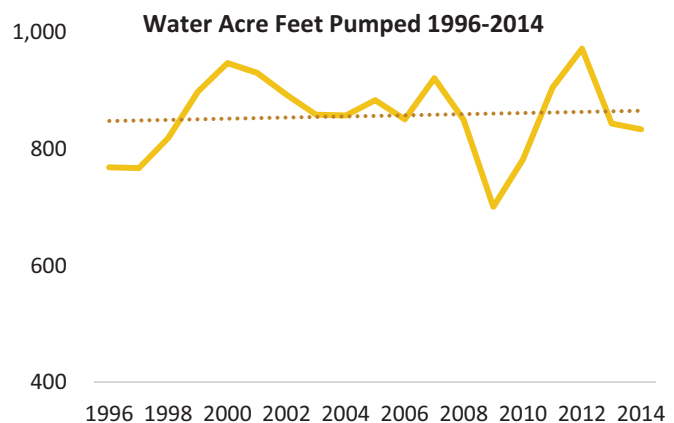
WATER AND SEWER

GOAL ICS.6 - ENSURE THAT WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES REMAIN COMPLIANT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND THAT THE WATER AND WASTEWATER FUNDS ARE FISCALLY SOUND.

Background Information

Since 1996, acre feet of water pumped has remained relatively stable ranging between 701 to 971 acre feet. The town has pumped an average of 856 acre feet per year of water which is only 26% of the total available water rights held by the town. The town has 2,664 acre feet of water available for municipal use, 1,887 of which supply the water system and the remainder of which are reserved for municipal uses not currently connected to the water treatment plant, mainly irrigation. In addition, the town has 558-acre feet for irrigation 268 acre feet of which are reserved for the golf course.

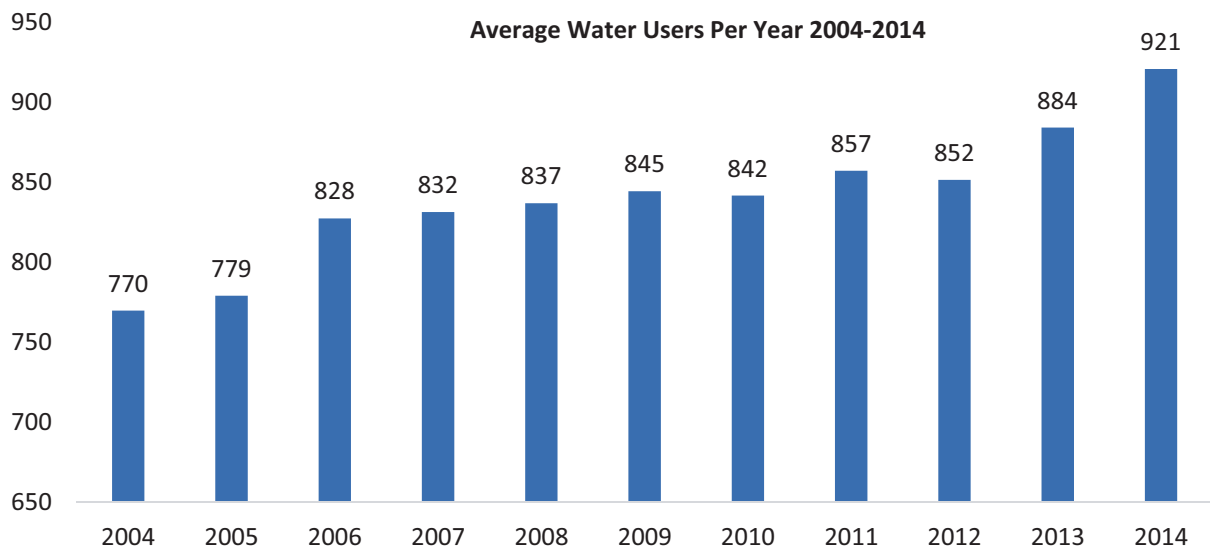
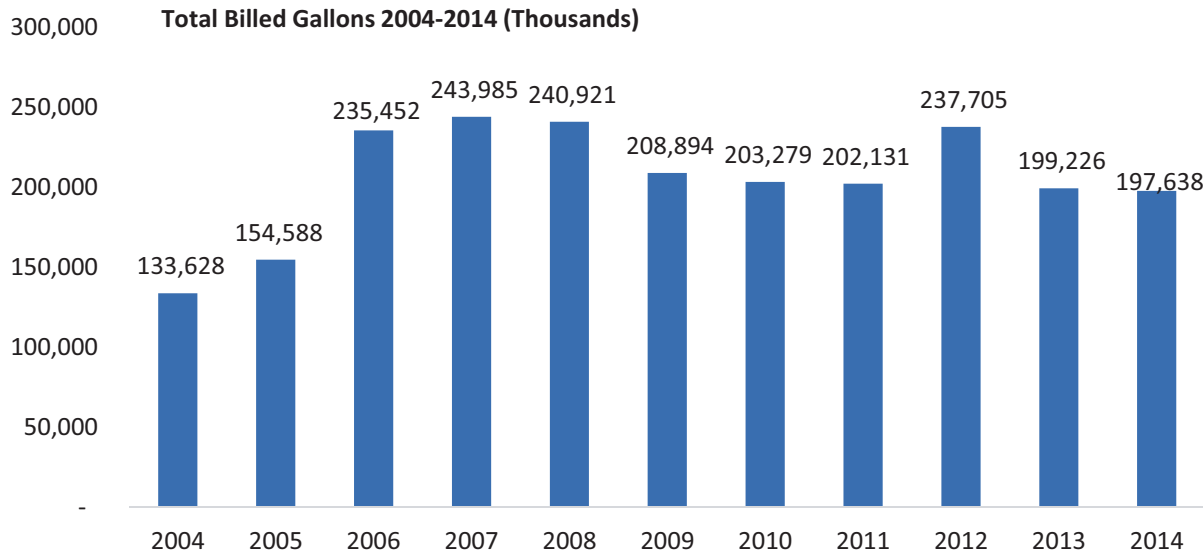
Between 2004 and 2014 the town billed between 133 million and 244 million gallons annually. Unlike total billed gallons which rose and fell between 2004 and 2014, average users have steadily increased since 2004. In 2004 the town provided water service to 770 customers, in 2014 the town provided services to 921 total customers, a 19% increase over 10 years. In order to continue to provide water and sewer for town and resident needs, the town must



	Available Water rights (Acre Feet)
Connected to Water Treatment Plant	1,887
Municipal appropriation	2,664
Irrigation (includes 268 acre feet for golf course irrigation)	558
Total	3,222



maintain fiscally sound water and wastewater funds, prepare for future improvements and continue to ensure that water and sewer monthly rate charges and tap fees are fair and appropriate.



Water and Sewer Funding Sources

- DOLA Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance program
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251594715231>
- DOLA administrative grants for planning & design
- <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251594715231>
- HUD Community Development Block Grants (administered by DOLA)



- <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251592177272>
- Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority State Revolving Loan Funds
<http://www.cwrpda.com/programs/state-revolving-funds>
- Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Planning Grants
<http://www.cwrpda.com/programs/state-revolving-funds>
- Colorado Water Conservation Board loans
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251592177272>
- USDA Rural Development grants
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ProgramsAndOpportunities.html>

STRATEGIES

Strategy A - Keep up to date on changes and anticipated changes to state and federal laws regarding municipal water and wastewater facilities and prepare for the necessary improvements to comply.

Strategy B - Review water and sewer use rate charges and tap fees to ensure that customers are paying for the true cost of the service including operations costs, capital depreciation/replacement costs and upgrades needed to comply with regulations.

Strategy C – Maintain staff with sufficient licensure and training to operate the systems effectively and efficiently.

Strategy D – Monitor alluvial well measurements to assure the sole source of the Big Sandy remains viable and adequate for growth.

EMS/FIRE

GOAL ICS.7 – MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE LIMON AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Background Information

Between 2013 and 2014 95% of calls to Limon Ambulance Service originated from within Lincoln County and 5% were a result of incidents in neighboring service areas. Limon Ambulance Service is the only Advanced Life Support provider in the region that includes Lincoln, Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Washington and Elbert Counties. This signals the need for a regional ambulance service that can extend a higher level of service to this large area.

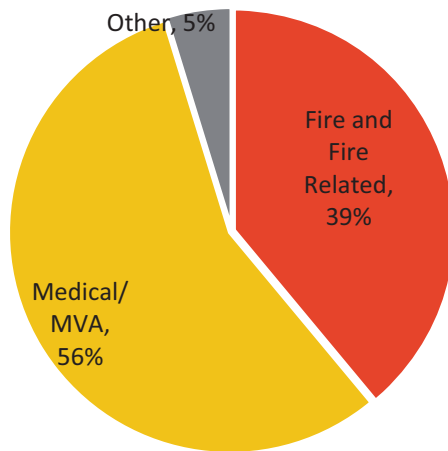
The well maintained fleet is aging ranging from 65,000 miles to 165,000 miles. Several ambulances need to be refurbished in coming years, as do recent purchases. These upgrades are underway but remain on a frequent replacement schedule to maintain reliability.



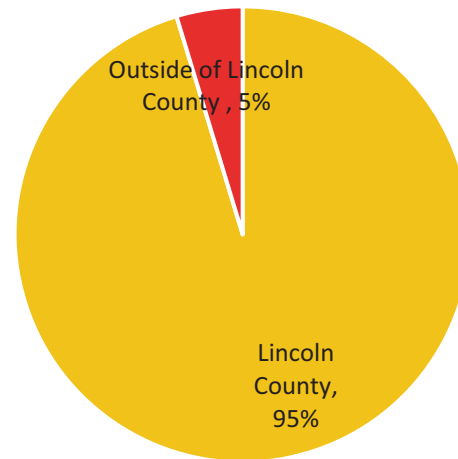
The Limon Ambulance Service conducts detailed analysis of their response records, including response times. The response time for an ambulance is 8 minutes, 13 seconds on average and the target response time is 9 minutes, so they are exceeding standards given the size of the service area.

The Limon Area Fire Protection District covers 397 square miles in and around Limon. The majority of fire district calls between 2012 and 2013 (56%) were auto accidents or medical calls and 39% were fire related. The volume of traffic flowing through Limon increases the demand for motor vehicle accident rescue and support.

Fire District Calls by Type 2012-2013



Ambulance Calls By Location 2013-2014



STRATEGIES

Strategy A – Refurbish the ambulance fleet incrementally starting with one re-chassis and one refurbishment planned for 2016 and additional upgrades in 2017, 2018, and 2020.

Strategy B –Identify grant funding and leverage local funds as cash matches on the grants to refurbish the ambulance fleet and support equipment.

Strategy C – Consider the establishment of a regional EMS service to increase the ambulance level of service for the region.

