

## Chapter 7: Implementation

The guidelines in this plan are intended to be flexible so as to respond to changing conditions, shifts in demand and use patterns, and availability of funds. Regular review is essential throughout the implementation of this plan to continuously analyze public needs and insure that those needs are being met.

### Phasing

Implementation of management recommendations should begin immediately and proceed as opportunities allow. Facility recommendations are intended to be implemented in phases over the next several years as staffing and funding allow. Specific phased project steps for the facility recommendations are not listed in this document since its focus is to provide broad policy direction and this type of phasing is more appropriate for the more detailed site planning process. Throughout the planning process however, the public consistently identified certain areas of interest that need to be considered as implementation priorities.

The Glen Alps Trailhead is burgeoning with use since there are many park opportunities available at a single access point. A remedy to this situation should be considered a major implementation priority because of the affect it has on a great number of people and the resources of the park. Additional convenient access to the park in general is a priority but particularly in the Ram Valley and Harp Mountain areas of the Eagle River Unit, and the Stuckagain Heights and McHugh Peak Complex areas within the Hillside Unit. Upgrading and maintaining the existing trail network and providing additional recreational opportunities shall always be a priority.

### Site Planning

Prior to the construction of major facilities proposed in this plan, site planning will need to occur. During the site planning process, a detailed site analysis will be performed which may suggest minor revisions of the numbers and locations of the facilities recommended in this plan.

## Plan Review, Modifications

Due to changes in use patterns and demands, funding realities as well as changes in data associated with specific plan recommendations, adjustments to the plan will have to be made over time. If proposed adjustments are a major departure from the plan's intent, the Director may determine the need to initiate a public review process.

This plan reflects the best efforts of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to analyze the resources of the park and to provide recreational/interpretive opportunities that do not significantly compromise the park's cultural and natural resources or character.

The planned outlook for the document is 20 years, with the realization that intermediate reviews and modifications may be warranted and are appropriate. The Director may initiate a review at any time and it is strongly recommended that the plan be reviewed via a public process at least every 10 years.

The following procedure will be used for plan deviations and modifications:

1. Periodic Review. The Division will coordinate periodic review of the Management Plan when the Director considers it necessary and so directs. The decision to review the Management Plan may be triggered by:

- written public or agency requests for review;
- policy changes within the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation;
- availability of new data;
- availability of new technology; or
- changing social or economic conditions that place different demands on the park or affect the Division's capabilities.

The Management Plan review will include meetings, as appropriate, with the local advisory board, interested groups, the general public, affected agencies, the area superintendent and other Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation personnel. The periodic review will lead to one of the following actions:

- no modification of the plan;
- modification of the plan; or the
- granting of a special exception.

2. Modification of the Plan. Plan modifications are of two types:

- Minor changes – These are changes which, if accomplished, would not cause a deviation from the original intent of the Management Plan. Minor changes may be necessary for clarification, consistency, or to facilitate plan implementation. Minor changes do not require public review but should be coordinated with the area superintendent and appropriate staff.
- Major changes – These are changes which, if accomplished, would cause a deviation from the original intent of the Management Plan. Major changes require public notice and review prior to adoption.

3. Granting of a Special Exception. Exceptions to the provisions of the Management Plan may be made without modification of the plan. Special exceptions shall occur only when compliance with the plan is excessively difficult or impractical, and an alternative procedure can be implemented which adheres to the purposes and spirit of the plan.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation may make a special exception in the implementation of the plan through the following procedure.

- A. The person or agency requesting the special exception shall prepare a written finding which specifies:
  - the nature of the special exception requested,
  - the extenuating conditions which require a special exception,
  - the alternative course of action to be followed, and
  - how the intent of the plan will be met by the alternative.
- B. The Director will review the findings and issue a determination. If warranted by the degree of controversy or the potential impact, the Director will hold a public hearing before reaching a decision.
- C. The decision of the Director may be appealed to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, whose decision will be final.