



Parks and Open Space

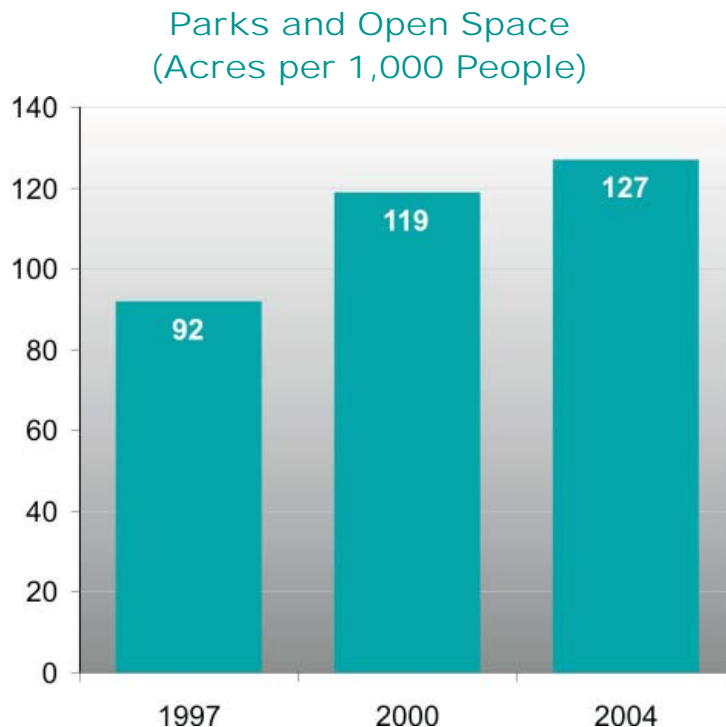
Goal: Establish an integrated, linked, permanent parks and open space system that will include a variety of open space and make appropriate open space accessible to all of our region's population.

Policy: Protect a minimum of 854 square miles of non-federal parks and open space by 2035, which would maintain the region's current (2004) ratio of 127 open space acres per 1,000 people.

Measure: Total square miles of non-federal parks and open space, including land owned by the state or local governments as well as conservation easements and other methods of preserving the long-term open space character.

Conclusions: In 2000, the region had 120 acres of parks and open space (local and state) per 1,000 residents. By 2004 this number increased to 127 acres per 1,000 residents, or a total of 520 square miles. This increase is due in large part to increased numbers of, and revenues from, local sales tax-funded programs.

Protected areas are often located at or beyond the urban edge, however, and are therefore less accessible to residents of the central urban area.



Action Steps: To maintain the current per capita amount of parks and open space as the population grows, our region can take the following actions:

- Continue to act on opportunities for protecting additional open space and work to make future open space acquisition accessible to all of our region's residents.
- Collaborate with organizations such as Great Outdoors Colorado, The Nature Conservancy and local land trusts to increase the amount of parks and open space in the metro area.